

Sunday, Aug 30, 2026

Grace found in suffering

Not long after Peter's moment of glory came his first hour of defeat. This pattern is familiar to all of us who know how quickly our circumstances can change. Peter beamed when Jesus praised him for his inspired declaration, "You are the Son of the living God!" But soon he made the mistake of refusing Jesus' prediction of the suffering that was to overtake him in Jerusalem. "God forbid!" Peter shouted. Poor Peter. He couldn't bear the thought of his friend being harmed, and he didn't have the imagination to perceive how suffering might be turned into grace by the will of God. Surrender any present suffering to God's transforming touch.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27 (124).

"Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me."

Monday, Aug 31, 2026

A challenge worth accepting

One of the distinctive features of biblical prophets is that they do not possess any special power. It is not they who choose to speak for God; rather, God chooses to speak through them.

Furthermore, those God chooses would often prefer to run the other way! That's because they know, then as now, that God's prophetic message is not often received with enthusiasm, especially when it challenges our most cherished assumptions. As 20th-century peace activist Philip Berrigan observed: "The poor tell us who we are. The prophets tell us who we can be. So we hide the poor and kill the prophets." Are you open to a prophetic challenge in your own life? Listen for it!

1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Luke 4:16-30 (431). *"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."*

Tuesday, Sep 01, 2026

When you know, you know

The so-called demons of the gospels seem to have an edge. They claim to know who Jesus is while the disciples do not. It is true: The disciples, like the rest of us, struggle to understand who Jesus is and what his radical message of love means for us. Saint Augustine helps answer our questions: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see the misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." Now it is up to us to be Christ for others.

1 Corinthians 2:10b-16; Luke 4:31-37 (432). *"I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"*

Wednesday, Sep 02, 2026

Love beyond boundaries

As Christians, we believe in God, who created us out of love for love. Unfortunately, we don't always love wisely or well. The good news is God forgives us for our shortcomings and offers us a chance to reconcile ourselves by following Christ, which is the path of self-giving love. Jesus felt compelled to proclaim this Good News to any who would listen. We are required to do nothing less. Our compassion and generosity mustn't stop at our front

doors, or at the parish boundaries, or at our national borders. The Good News—the incredible, saving news of Jesus Christ—belongs wherever and with whomever we find ourselves. Prepare yourself: You've got a lot of loving to do.

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-44 (433). *"To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God."*

Thursday, Sep 03, 2026

Go fish

There are commercial fishermen who make a tough living on the treacherous waters of the sea and sports fishermen hoping to land a trophy to mount. Some fish with nets, others with baited lines or with lures and flies. There is no one way or reason to fish. This holds true for each of us commanded by Jesus to catch and bring people to the Lord. "To be 'fishers of men,'" says Carmelite Bishop Silvio José Báez, "is to be builders of men, that is, people who approach others, seeking their good, serving them, helping them to move forward, supporting them in their difficulties, and above all, imparting hope and the joy of believing." Who can we "hook" today with a little kindness, a helping hand, a word of encouragement, an act of compassion, a forgiving heart?

1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Luke 5:1-11 (434). *"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."*

Friday, Sep 04, 2026

Out with the old

Hearing Christ's message for the first time can be troubling because it is so new. We want what is comfortable and familiar. Saint Thomas Aquinas understood the challenges that come with discipleship. He prayed: "O Lord my God, make me submissive without protest, poor without discouragement, chaste without regret, patient without complaint, humble without posturing, cheerful without frivolity, mature without gloom, and quick witted without flippancy." Compose your own prayer filled with the old ways of living that you hope to replace with the new ways of life in Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 5:33-39 (435). *"New wine must be poured into fresh wineskins."*

Saturday, Sep 05, 2026

Peace is with us

"The moral right to conscientious objection is recognized in the 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church (sect. 2311), but it is in no sense mandatory," noted St. Thomas University Professor Scott Wright in an issue of *St. Thomas Magazine*. "Still, as a form of Christian witness, pacifism—the opposition to all war—has also had a long and distinguished tradition." This tradition is rooted in Jesus' Beatitudes and the gift of peace he leaves with his disciples; it is further sustained by Saint Paul's admonishment to the church in Corinth to be fools for Christ—and bless when reviled, endure when persecuted, and speak kindly when slandered. Peace be with you today and every day following.

1 Corinthians 4:6b-15; Luke 6:1-5 (436). *"When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we respond gently."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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