

## Sunday, Sep 27, 2026

### Love indeed

Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) advised his followers: "Love consists in sharing what one has and what one is with those one loves." Who are the people you love? Family, friends, God? Do you share what you have and who you are (warts and all) with these people? Do you make yourself vulnerable and available to others? Observe a cross section of the apparent sinners and saints you run across each day. Who is showing their love for others in deeds rather than words? They are the true disciples of Christ. Emulate them.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11 or Philippians 2:1-5;  
Matthew 21:28-32 (136). *"The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go."*

## Monday, Sep 28, 2026

### If I had a thousand lives ...

Saint Lawrence Ruiz, patron saint of the Philippines and the first canonized Filipino martyr, died in 1637 and was elevated to sainthood in 1987. A Dominican-educated altar boy who grew up to become a clerk, marry, and have children, he was falsely accused of murder and fled on a ship to Japan in the company of missionaries. Once there, he was arrested and tortured for being a Christian, but he refused to recant his faith and was executed, saying, "Had I a thousand lives, all these to Him shall I offer."

What sacrifices are you willing to make for your faith?

MEMORIAL OF LAWRENCE RUIZ AND  
COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50 (455). *"Whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."*

## Tuesday, Sep 29, 2026

### What angels do

According to Saint Augustine, the word *angel* is not a description of the creature, it's a description of the job these spirits do—that is, serve as messengers of God's purposes. They are reliable messengers, says Jesus, because they "always behold the face of my father in heaven." We can trust such messengers because they do not lose sight of God. Today we celebrate the feast of three archangels—Michael, who spoke regularly to the prophets; Gabriel, who announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus; and Raphael, whose name means "God has healed." Let's learn from them to keep our eyes on God.

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL,  
ARCHANGELS

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; John 1:47-51 (647). *"You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

## Wednesday, Sep 30, 2026

### Spiritual family first

Jesus didn't exactly embrace the concept of the traditional family. Rather he preferred to call "family" those who followed him and spread his gospel—in other words, his disciples. For example, when a would-be disciple said he had to first perform the sacred duty of burying his deceased father, Jesus replied, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Harsh words, but it was his way of saying that those who did not completely respond to his call were dead—not physically

like the father, but spiritually. In honor of Saint Jerome, renowned translator of scripture whose feast we celebrate today, spend time with the good book and understand more about your spiritual heritage.

Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62 (457). *"I will follow you wherever you go."*

## Thursday, Oct 01, 2026

### Find your match

When we hear the word *vocation*, especially in church, we tend to think of people interested in priesthood and religious life, of which we hear, rightly, there are too few. But vocation begins further back than that. It is, in the words of author John Neafsey, not only "what makes me happy" or "what I am good at." It is "what the world needs from us, what kind of contribution we might be able to make for the betterment and redemption of this troubled world we live in." The world—the church included—needs the best leaders it can get. Whatever you do, look for the match between your gifts and the needs of the community.

Job 19:21-27; Luke 10:1-12 (458). *"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."*

## Friday, Oct 02, 2026

### Someone to watch over us

"See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared" (Exodus 33:20). Is there a more comforting thought than that each of us has an angel whose job it is to guard us on our way? This long-cherished truth has been largely dismissed in our literal, scientific society. Nevertheless, it is a scientific fact that whatever we turn our attention toward, we notice. The shirt you're wearing right now, for instance, or the bird outside your window. Today let's be aware of the subtle guidance, that gentle nudging toward the good—and follow it. Could that be our angel?

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (459/650). *"Do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."*

## Saturday, Oct 03, 2026

### Lessons in perspective

The long-suffering Job is a biblical character many of us can admire from a distance but few would take the opportunity to imitate up close. Sometimes, however, all of us get to taste some of what Job experienced. His story invites us to examine a central question: In whom or what do I place my trust? In a time of crisis, we're invited to dig down to a deeper truth underneath the shifting conditions—the unconditional love of God for all of us. In the opening of Vatican II Saint John XXIII asked that the faithful: "Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do." That's good advice to remember during trying times.

Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10:17-24 (460). *"I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eye has seen you."*

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



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