

Sunday, Jun 21, 2026

A gift list for dads

Fathers, instead of raking in the gifts this year on your special day, how about committing to doling them out? Give encouragement to the child who needs a boost. Or give a challenge if your child would benefit from that. Compliment each of your children sincerely and specifically today about a character trait you admire in them. It can range from their bravery, to their great humor, to their tenderness, to their ability to keep things stirred up in the family. You play an important role in the life of your family. Give the best gift of all: Show up for your family as the man you were meant to be.

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; FATHER'S DAY

Jeremiah 20:10-13; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33 (94).
"What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light."

Monday, Jun 22, 2026

Tend to your knitting

There aren't many things that get Jesus' goat, but hypocrisy is one of them, particularly when we judge others to feel superior. Most of us have all fallen into this trap at some point: mistakenly believing that we rise when we put others down. Ironically, the flaw we recognize so easily in another is often the very flaw we can't see in ourselves. Avoid provoking the ire of Jesus today and stay focused on what needs fixing in yourself. Indeed, "This is the very perfection of a man," says Saint Augustine, "to find out his own imperfections."

2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Matthew 7:1-5 (371). *"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye?"*

Tuesday, Jun 23, 2026

The least deserve our greatest love

Today, designated International Widows' Day by the United Nations, is a good day to remember all families that have lost a loved one—especially families who are most vulnerable and faced with poverty, injustice, and social stigma. As Pope Benedict XVI affirmed in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, "love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind is as essential" to the church "as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the gospel." How can you be Christ's hands and feet today and help provide sustenance to hurting families to lessen their suffering?

2 Kings 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Matthew 7:6, 12-14 (372).
"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you."

Wednesday, Jun 24, 2026

"God's gift" prepares us for love

The name John means "God's gift," and such was the Baptist. From the moment he came on the preaching scene, he proved himself a powerful, captivating herald of God. His bold, dramatic, austere, and uncompromising style is actually what people had in mind when they hoped for a Messiah. But John understood that his role was to prepare the way for the One who was to come. His prophetic witness and commitment to his call are his legacy to us. Share in his gift by being true to your own Christian calling.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80 (587). *"He will be called John."*

Thursday, Jun 25, 2026

God would like a word with you

Ancient philosophers thought that reason governed the universe. They called this reason the *logos*, Greek for "word." In the Hebrew Bible the "word of God" was not only the way God communicated with human beings but it also had its own creative power. The New Testament, especially the beginning of the Gospel of John, says this creative power became human in Jesus. All this history testifies to the "word" being the way to God's guidance in the real world. God can be known—and wants to be known. All you have to do is listen to God's word—and follow it.

2 Kings 24:8-17; Matthew 7:21-29 (374). *"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."*

Friday, Jun 26, 2026

Keep it clean

No one quite knows where the expression "cleanliness is next to godliness" comes from. It may be an ancient Hebrew saying. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, used it in a homily in 1791 as if it were common wisdom. It had a practical value, because being clean helped combat disease. Religions have made cleanliness a sign of God's favor—not only the absence of dirt but also to say that one is in the right way with the divine. In his healing ministry, Jesus, though almost constantly "unclean" because of his contact with "undesirables," also made people clean, restoring them to health and the community. To whom can you reach out a healing and welcoming hand?

2 Kings 25:1-12; Matthew 8:1-4 (375). *"A leper approached, did him homage, and said, 'Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.'"*

Saturday, Jun 27, 2026

Words matter

In 2011, the revised Roman Missal (the U.S. translation of the Mass) underwent a number of changes. One of the more noticeable changes was in the Eucharistic Prayer: "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you . . ." became "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof . . ." The new wording echoes the gospel story of Jesus healing the centurion's servant from a distance. It was Christ's word and the centurion's faith that healed. Perhaps as we participate in the Mass these words are a good reminder that the words we use are powerful—filled with faith and capable of miracles.

Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Matthew 8:5-17 (376). *"Jesus said to the centurion, 'You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.'"*

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



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