

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
JESUS ENTERED  
A VILLAGE  
WHERE MARTHA  
**WELCOMED HIM.**

LUKE 10:38



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

They asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?"  
He replied, "There in the tent."  
One of them said, "I will surely return to you about  
this time next year,  
and Sarah will then have a son." (Gn 18:10)

### Psalm:

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. (Ps 15)

### Second Reading:

It is Christ in you, the hope for glory.  
It is he whom we proclaim. (Col 1:27-28)

### Gospel:

The Lord said to her in reply,  
"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried  
about many things.  
There is need of only one thing.  
Mary has chosen the better part  
and it will not be taken from her." (Lk 10:42)

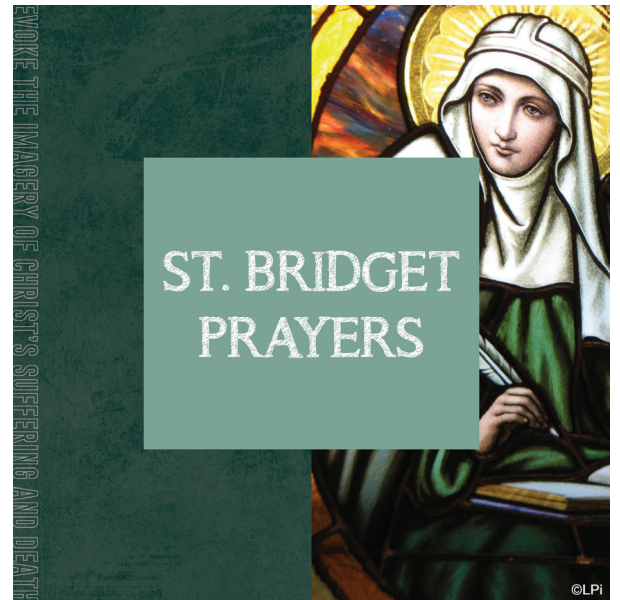
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

In life, there are so many "Marthas" — people and situations that distract us from God. But if we imitate Mary and sit calmly at the feet of Jesus, his Word will guard our hearts from the anxiety of the world.

## Observances for the week of July 20, 2025

- Sunday:** 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** St. Lawrence of Brindisi,  
Priest and Doctor of the Church  
**Tuesday:** St. Mary Magdalene  
**Wednesday:** St. Bridget, Religious  
**Thursday:** St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest  
**Friday:** St. James, Apostle  
**Saturday:** Sts. Joachim and Anne,  
Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Next Sunday:** 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Devotions, *Explained!*

The St. Bridget Prayers evoke the imagery of Christ's suffering and death, plead for the forgiveness of the supplicant's sins, for a happy death, for fear and love of the Lord, and for a renunciation of worldly desires.

## Prayer for Focus

Lord, help me to remember what matters and who matters.  
And then help me to prioritize  
rightly and wisely, with Your  
heaven as my guide.  
Amen.

## Readings for the week of July 20, 2025

### Sunday:

Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 (1a)/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42

### Monday:

Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6/  
Mt 12:38-42

### Tuesday:

Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4,  
5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

### Wednesday:

Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26,  
27-28/Mt 13:1-9

### Thursday:

Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55,  
56/Mt 13:10-17

### Friday:

2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5,  
6/Mt 20:20-28

### Saturday:

Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/  
Mt 13:24-30

### Next Sunday:

Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 (3a)/  
Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One of my close friends is a hermit priest who lives on a desert mountain. Recently I found myself in a group conversation about him. One vehemently objected, “What does he do up there all day? Nothing! Priests are down here working, running parishes, making a difference, and he... he is doing nothing! What a waste.” The words dripped with indignation and resentment. Most of the group quietly nodded in silent agreement. Were they correct?

No! To see why, consider a similar scenario in this week’s Gospel. Jesus visits his friends Martha and Mary. A hardworking and exasperated Martha complains to Jesus that her sister is attending to him rather than to urgent household tasks. Our Lord, rather than praising hospitality, explicitly celebrates the less-productive sister for doing the **“one necessary thing.”** He praises her for she **“has chosen the better part” (Luke 10:42).** Mary is busy doing what matters.

Before we freak out like Martha, consider that all work — domestic, manual, professional, ministerial, contemplative — is done to help us (sooner or later) to experience the love that makes us happy. We should be thankful for those who focus on the “better part” of radical, ceaseless prayer. They invite us to remember the purpose of all work is the enjoyment of love. Contemplatives, hermits, anyone fervently committed to prayer—they invite us to cast aside our forgetful, resentful, and self-aggrandizing attitudes in exchange for hearts ready to do what is finally necessary.

— *Father John Muir*



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## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Are you anxious about many things? Then you need to be right where Mary is: at the feet of Jesus, with all your burdens.

### Martha's Burdens

It's time to admit it: I've been unfair to Mary in the past. Been a little catty about her. *Oooh, Mary, she's so holy.* Well, do you like to eat, Mary? Who made your lunch? Yeah, that's right: it was Martha. Because you know what? It's the Marthas who get things done in the world while the Marys lounge around reading Aquinas and attending silent retreats and going to Eucharistic Adoration whenever they want.

And there you have it, folks: my bitterness on full display! I tend to identify with Martha, not with Mary, and I need to stop doing that.

Because I am not Martha instead of Mary. I am both. We are all both.

Mary was a woman; she was expected to do the serving, too. She shared that burden; she wasn't abandoning it, heaping her portion on Martha. And it's so wrong to assume that Mary didn't have the same cares and anxieties as Martha — perhaps she even had more!

Here's the difference: Mary, unlike Martha (and me, I guess) knew where to go with them.

We typically see our burdens as an impediment to a relationship with Christ. *I'm so busy. I'm so overwhelmed. There are so many demands on me, on my time, on my person, on my finances. Take a number, Jesus. Get in line.* But we're thinking the wrong way. Burdens aren't an obstacle that stands between us and Christ. Burdens are the straightest path to his feet.

God knows about burdens, okay? Aside from being all-wise and all-knowing, he basically completed a doctorate in suffering, taking on a human form (itself kind of a burden, if you think about it) and for 33 years lived among the hardest and heaviest burdens this world has to offer.

Why did he do this? Well, part of the reason was so that we could finally understand that our burdens aren't a barrier between us and God. On the contrary, they connect us to him.

Are you anxious about many things? Then you need to be right where Mary is: at the feet of Jesus, with all your burdens.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

July 22 is the feast of Mary Magdalene. I've heard a lot of stories about her, but who was she really?

### Answer:

Mary Magdalene has been the subject of speculation and scholarship over the last 2,000 years. Mary Magdalene makes her first named appearance in Luke 8:2. She is one of several women following Jesus. Luke specifically mentions that Mary had previously been delivered from demonic possession. Whatever her life looked like before she met Jesus, it wasn't good! Because of this association with being a repentant sinner, Mary Magdalene has been associated with other similar stories in the Gospel, such as the woman caught in adultery or the woman who bathes Jesus' feet with her tears.

Mary Magdalene shows up again by name at the end of the Gospels, when she stands with the Blessed Virgin Mary at the foot of the Cross. Mary is also present in the garden of the resurrection. She is one of the women who goes to bring spices to Jesus' tomb, where they find the stone rolled away. Mary stays in the garden weeping, believing his body has been stolen. Jesus approaches her and calls her by name, and she becomes the first witness to the resurrection! While many of the details of Mary Magdalene's life have been lost to time, she is an example of powerful conversion, deep faith, and intimate love for Christ.



The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

- Lk 10:41-42

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

Abraham’s treatment of the three strangers modeled the value of hospitality in the ancient world. What are some ways you show kindness and warmth to others?

### Second Reading:

Paul found reasons to rejoice despite suffering for his faith in Christ and his mission to the Gentiles. How do you find joy and hope in difficult situations?

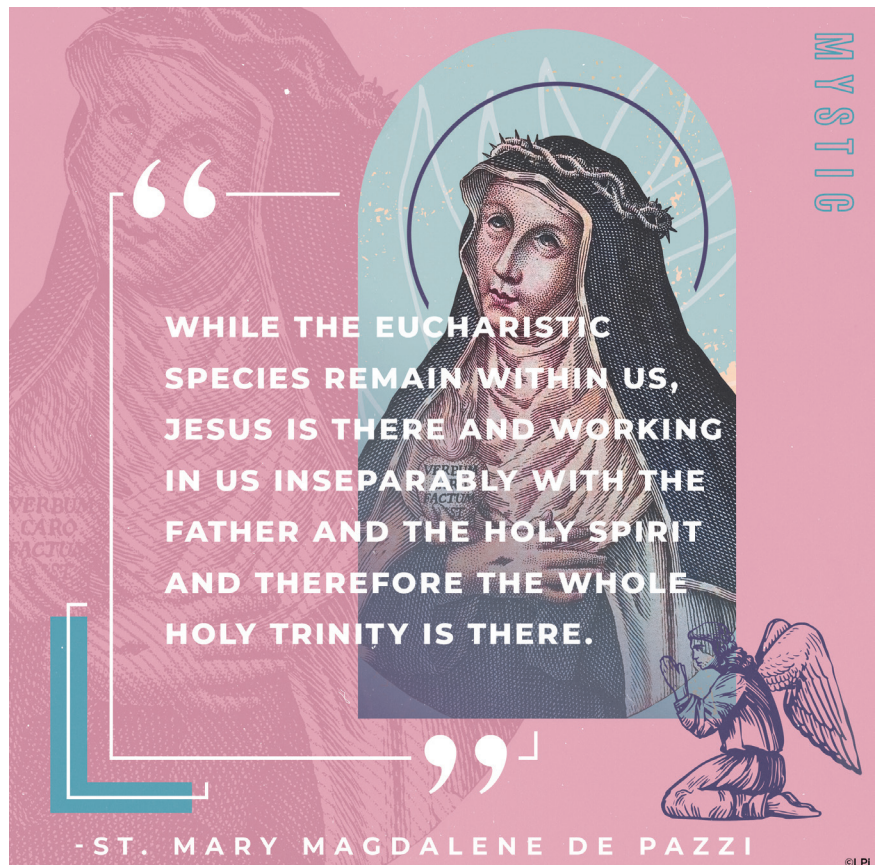
### Gospel:

Jesus teaches Martha that her anxiety and worry can be calmed by listening to his words. How can you be present this week to an anxious friend or co-worker?

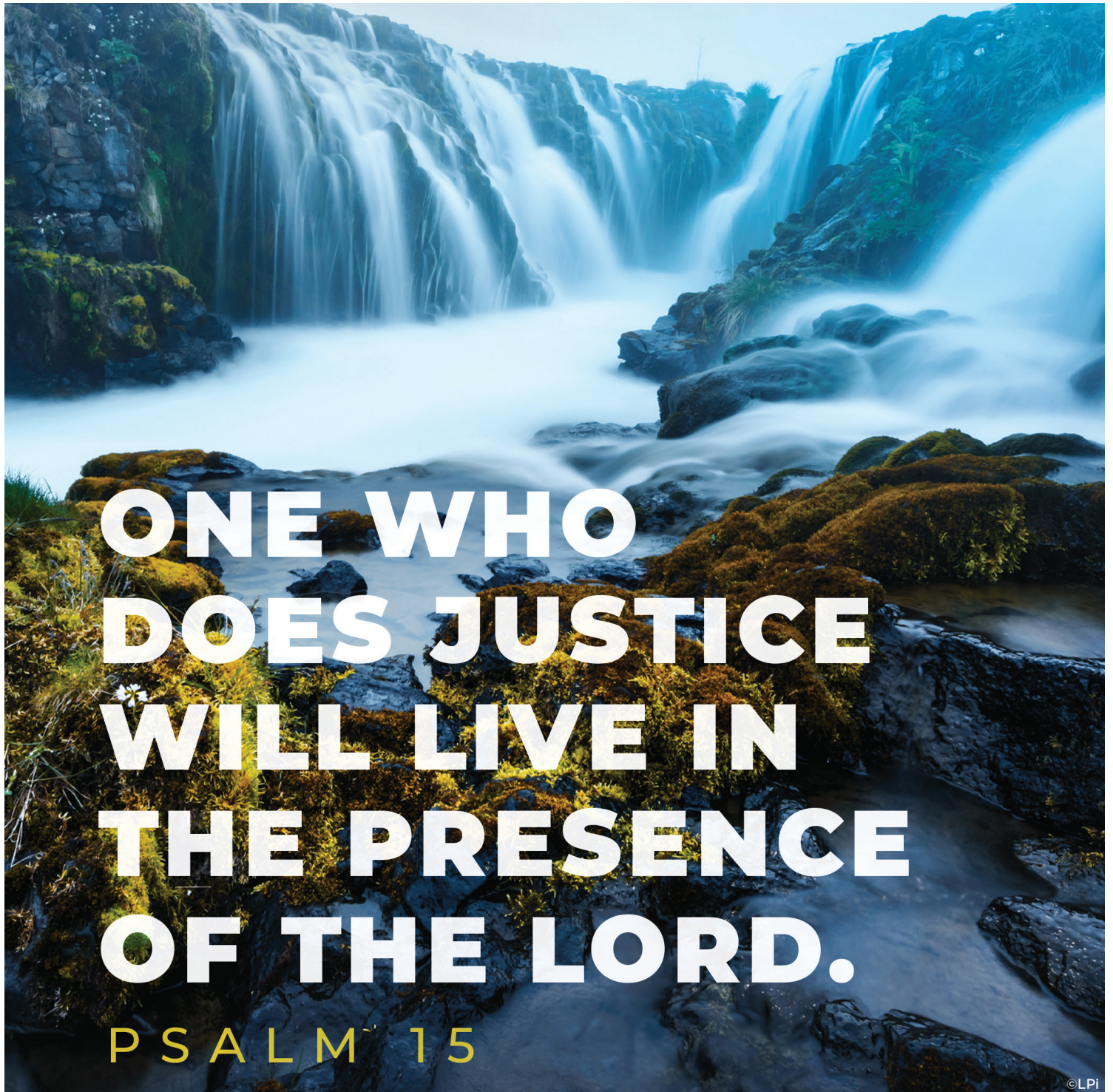


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Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me."

- Lk 10:38-40

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Circle the things Martha worried about.

## Prayer

Lord, I want to stop working to listen to my visitors.

## Mission for the Week

I will sit on the front doorstep and talk with Jesus every morning.

## Sharing the Gospel

When company came, Martha hurried to get the house ready. She made sure the food was cooked. She set the table with cups, dishes, and silverware. She put clean sheets on the beds. She emptied the trash. Mary didn't worry about all that. She stopped everything to listen to her visitor. If your house is neat all the time, you can relax and talk with your guests. Then you can cook dinner together.

**Now color  
the picture!**

