

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GO AND TAKE THE LOWEST **PLACE.**

— LUKE 14:10 —

— SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025 —

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find favor with God. (Sir 3:18)

Psalm:

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.
(Ps 68)

Second Reading:

You have not approached that which could be touched
and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness. (Heb 12:18)

Gospel:

“For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Lk 14:11)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

“When you hold a banquet, invite the poor,”
Jesus instructs. “Blessed indeed will you be
because of their inability to repay you.” Each
of us has our own banquet to offer, our own
gifts to share. Who will we invite?

Observances for the week of August 31, 2025

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Labor Day
- Wednesday:** St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day



Devotions, *Explained!*

Imago divina (Latin for “divine image”) is an extension of the ancient practice of *lectio divina* (literally, “divine lesson”). *Imago divina* is, in a sense, praying with one’s eyes, using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God.

Prayer for Humility

Dear God,
Mold my heart after Yours.
Help me to see myself as You
see me: surrounded by Your
love. Help me to see others as
You see them as well. Give me
knowledge of your ways, today
and always.
Amen.

Readings for the week of August 31, 2025

Sunday:

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

Monday:

1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday:

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday:

Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday:

Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11

Friday:

Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday:

Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday:

Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: **“When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table” (Luke 14:10).** This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

— *Father John Muir*



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: I think, if we're being really honest, we all expect "payment" for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

What Did You Expect?

Moms have a lot of jobs, and it's usually the case that none of them pay very well.

My work as a chef? Zero compensation, and my clientele are very rarely pleased with my efforts. My role as a teacher, a maid, a chauffeur, a therapist — same deal. Ironically, these jobs consume so much of my time that I am constricted in my work as a writer — the only sphere where I do actually garner any earnings.

It is so easy to grumble about all of this, and I do it all the time. Because despite the fact that I know better, I expect repayment for my good deeds. Deep in my soul, I expect it.

That's a huge problem.

In my defense, I don't think this is a very uncommon thing. I think, if we're being really honest, we all expect "payment" for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. We want our day to go smoothly. We expect these things as a matter of course; we feel entitled to them, and we become grumpy when we are denied them. *I worked so hard. I gave so much. What was it all even for?*

But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

When you hold a banquet, Jesus said, invite those who cannot return the favor. Give not just without the expectation of repayment, but without the possibility of it.

Think about that for a minute. What does that even *look* like — no possibility of payment?

I know what that looks like in my own life. It's giving more to the literal poor, yes, but it's also giving more — and more happily, more lovingly — when I cook and clean and drive and write and console. It's not lamenting that no one appreciates me — it's actually hoping no one does.

It's learning to love the lowest place at the table. Because in the lowest place, we are closest to God.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Does chewing gum break the fast before Communion?

Answer:

If you look in Canon Law or in the Catechism, there is no mention of chewing gum. I guess it does not rate the attention of the universal church! The Church requires us to fast for one hour before we receive the Eucharist. Basically, we are to refrain from food and drink, not including water or medicine. There are also exceptions for people who are ill. Overall, the fast is intended for us to prepare ourselves to receive the Eucharist and in some small way to literally as well as spiritually hunger for what we are about to receive. Chewing gum, while not really food, does at least break the spirit of the fast. Besides that, it is a distraction and rude. What do you do with the gum when it is time to receive Communion? People have actually come to the altar chewing away, oblivious to what they were doing or Who they were receiving. At best, it is distracting and irreverent. At worst, it adds a barrier to giving our best to receiving God's best.

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” - Lk 14:13-14

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Sirach speaks of the virtue of humility and the wisdom of knowing one's limits. Can you think of a time when you needed to depend on others?

Second Reading:

The author of Hebrews speaks of our direct access to God through the new covenant established by Jesus. How might we take advantage of such a gift?

Gospel:

With the parable of the wedding banquet, Jesus teaches the Pharisees to be open and even inviting to the poor and marginalized. How might you exercise this virtue in the coming week?



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“Do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited...and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place.” - Lk 14:8bc, 9

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Prayer

Dear God, help me to be a good friend.

Mission for the Week

When you sit down with your family for dinner tonight, ask if you can serve the food. You may surprise your parents and get some pretty big smiles from them.

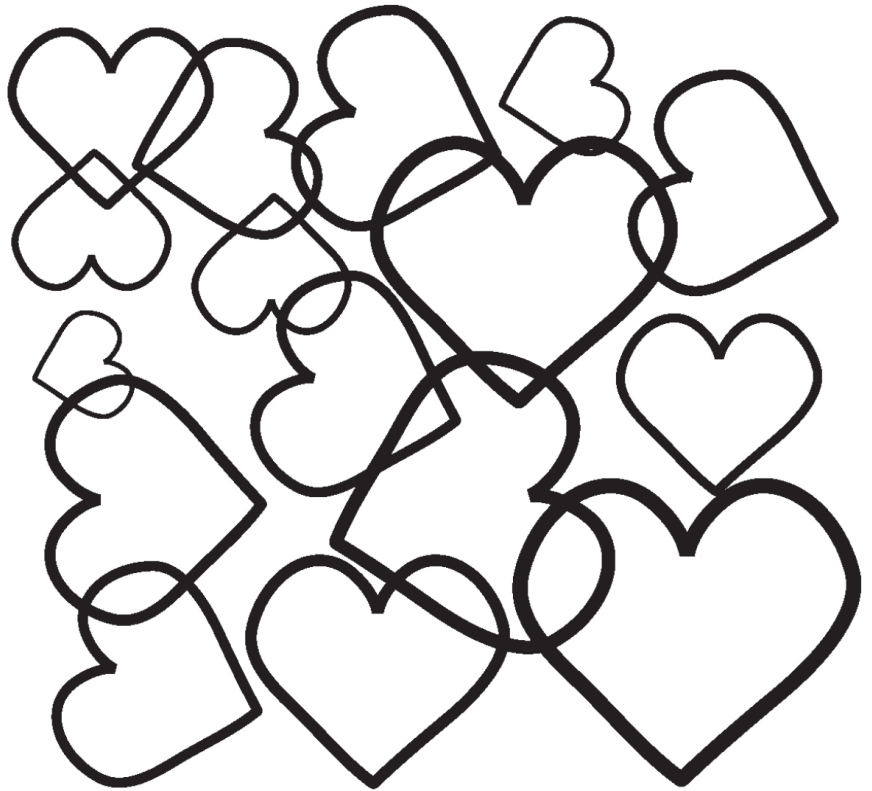
Sharing the Gospel

If you act bossy, you might get your way, but you won't make many friends. Jesus shared a secret about making friends. When you treat other kids with kindness, they will want to be your friends. Instead of telling other kids what to do, ask other kids to choose a game. If you want to play tag with other kids, offer to be "it" first. If it is time to line up to go outside, offer to go to the back of the line and let other kids in front of you.

Now color the picture!



How many hearts can you count?



The answer is sixteen.

