

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

O GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER.

— LUKE 18:13 —



— SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025 —

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The one who serves God willingly is heard;
his petition reaches the heavens. (Sir 35:20)

Psalm:

The Lord hears the cry of the poor. (Ps 34)

Second Reading:

The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat
and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.
To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. (2 Tm 4:18)

Gospel:

"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
(Lk 18:14)

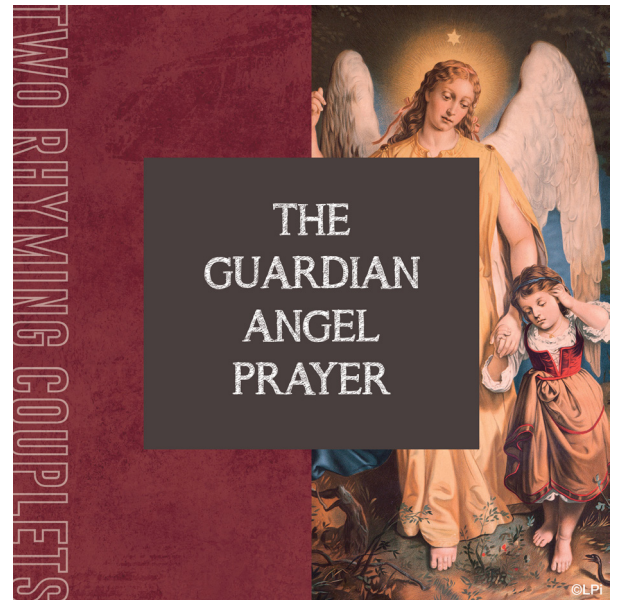
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Pharisee took such pride in his good deeds that he forgot to ask God for forgiveness; the tax collector acknowledged his many sins, and went home justified. Remember that we are saved not by our own merit, but by the mercy of God.

Observances for the week of October 26, 2025

Sunday:	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
Friday:	All Hallow's Eve
Saturday:	All Saints
Next Sunday:	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day); Daylight Saving Time Ends



Devotions, *Explained!*

Often one of the first prayers taught to children, the Guardian Angel Prayer consists of two rhyming couplets invoking the protection of one's guardian angel. Its exact authorship is unknown, but it originated in the medieval period.

Prayer of Praise

Dear God,
As we look to the week ahead,
help us to remember that You will
accompany us at every moment
— You who greet us with mercy
anew every morning, and grace in
abundance each night.
Amen.

Readings for the week of October 26, 2025

Sunday:

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23
(7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14

Monday:

Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21/
Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday:

Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16

Wednesday:

Rom 8:26-30/Ps 13:4-5, 6/Lk 13:22-30

Thursday:

Rom 8:31b-39/Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31/
Lk 13:31-35

Friday:

Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 14:1-6

Saturday:

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

Next Sunday:

Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Rom 5:5-
11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Every now and then readers of these reflections write letters in which they object to something. Years ago, this Gospel of Luke 18 prompted such an email. A man wrote to me: “I find it deeply offensive that you suggest we are still sinners once we are God’s sons and daughters.” His objection stirred in me a profound awareness of the paradox at the heart of our faith. Are we sinners or beloved children of God?

In this Gospel (Luke 18:9-14), a tax collector appears as one who has missed the mark. His sins have isolated him. His breast-beating is not an act of self-flagellation for pride’s sake but a heartfelt admission of his failure and unworthiness. Remarkably, Jesus honors the candid humility of the parable’s penitent. Why? Because we are always in need of mercy, always. But even more, perhaps because on the cross, Jesus will fully embrace a similar place of humiliation and rejection. He will enter into the most shameful, offensive place of the sinner so that we might “go home justified.”

There is a sacred tension in admitting that we are sinners and yet have profound hope. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, growing precisely through our honest acceptance of failure. When we cry, “Have mercy on us,” during Mass or when we repeat the “Jesus Prayer” in quiet moments, or in the confessional, we embrace our imperfections as fertile ground for divine grace. In doing so, we follow Christ’s example — finding true exaltation in the humble acknowledgment of our human frailty.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The Pharisee did the right thing sometimes. He fasted. He tithed. But he gazed so long at his own holiness that he became blinded by it. He stood before God, and he could only think of what he had done right.

Tunnel Vision

There are some parents on the playground I really can't stand.

You know them, probably, if you're a parent, or if you're not, you know a different version of them. They'll tell you about how their little Brayden is a bilingual violin prodigy who sleeps through the night and only ever asks to snack on vegetables. But as soon as Brayden starts to chase your screaming kid with a stick, they're conveniently scrolling on their phone, unaware.

You're not irritated that their kid is smarter than yours and likes veggies (well, maybe you are, a little). You're irritated that they have tunnel vision. In striving for perfection, they have become unable to acknowledge imperfections.

If you're reading this, you're probably in church. If you're in church, you're probably someone who is concerned with what is right and what is wrong. I've got news for you: that might just make you (and me) more at risk of being like Brayden's parent than the people who stayed home today.

Unclutch your pearls! It was good of you to come to Mass. Definitely keep doing that. That's the right choice. Just don't forget that in making the right choice, we don't *become righteous*.

Look, I'm not going to lie to you. Sometimes, it's my kids who are doing the chasing with the stick. They're kids, and kids do dumb things, just like everyone else. And maybe it's because they hate vegetables and sleep terribly that I'm less reluctant than Brayden's mom to admit their mistakes. It's a hard fall from the pedestal.

If we're churchgoing followers of Christ, we are hopefully people who earnestly want to do the right thing. Maybe, sometimes, we do exactly that. The Pharisee did the right thing sometimes. He fasted. He tithed. But he gazed so long at his own holiness that he became blinded by it. He stood before God, and he could only think of what he had done right.

We need to stay vigilant, folks. Just when you look away, that's when Brayden grabs the stick.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we kneel at Mass?

Answer:

Since the beginnings of the Church, kneeling has been a key posture of prayer. We see Sts. Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles kneeling in prayer. Early in the 4th century, the Council of Nicea prohibited kneeling on Sundays and special feasts. Kneeling began more as a posture of penance for our sins, but in the history of the Church, it has become more a posture of reverence and solemn prayer.

You will notice that the times we kneel at Mass are tied to the consecration of the holy Eucharist. We kneel in both anticipation of what will occur and then in awe of what has taken place: Jesus Christ becomes truly present to us under the guise of bread and wine. The profoundness of this event has over time led the Church to mandate in the current General Instruction of the Roman Missal that kneeling is the only posture allowed during this time. The sheer awesomeness of the holy Eucharist leads us to fall to our knees in wonder and thanksgiving.

“But the tax collector stood off at a distance... and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- Lk 18:13a, 13c-14

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Sirach teaches us that God cares deeply about our desire for justice. Can you think of a time when you fought against an unjust situation?

Second Reading:

As Paul nears the end of his life, he shares with Timothy how he fought hard for the faith, ever grateful for the Lord's support. As you look back on your life, can you see where God has been present?

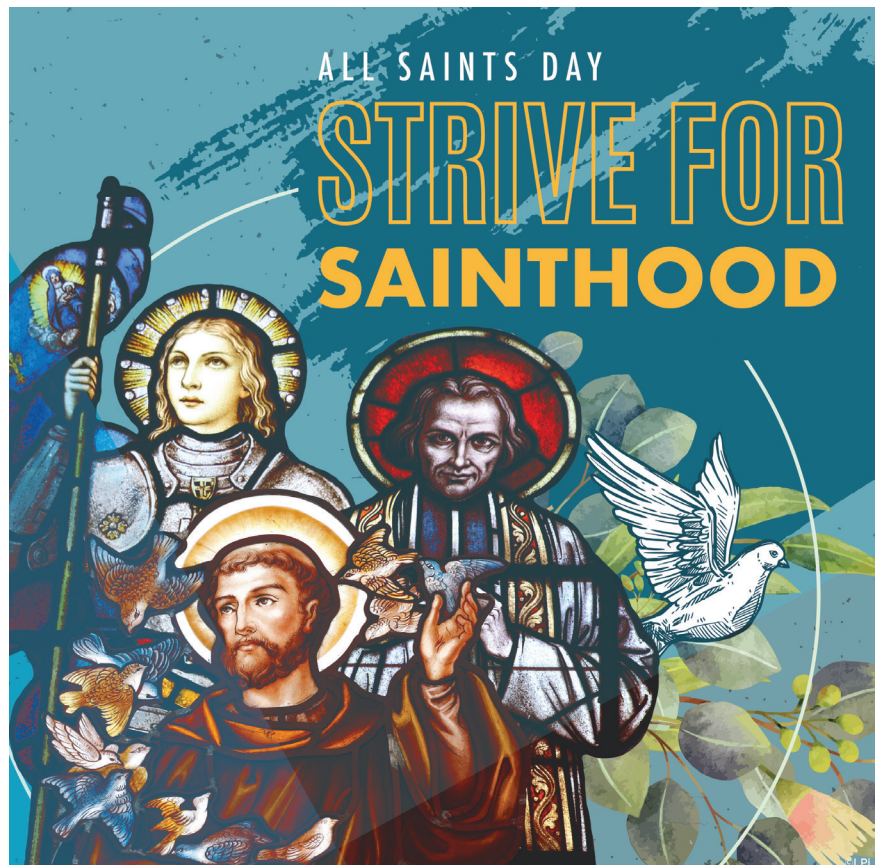
Gospel:

Jesus teaches the crowds about the importance of humility. Does humility come to you naturally or do you have to work at it?



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“But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” - Lk 18:13-14

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Prayer

Lord, please forgive me.

Draw the star square by square.



Mission for the Week

I will ask God for forgiveness morning, noon, and night.

Sharing the Gospel

During Mass you will hear the priest and people say, “Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.” It means, “Lord, forgive me.” You are human. You will make mistakes. God is proud when you are honest and admit that you did something wrong. He smiles when you forgive yourself and others. He frowns when you talk and act like you are better than others. God wants you to do right.

Now color the picture!

