



Bringing Home the Word

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

November 16, 2025

The Day Is Coming

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Who does not get excited when they know that the day is coming? Which day? A wedding day, the birth of a child, the last day of school, the first day of retirement. We all look forward to special days.

Ancient Israel looked forward to the day of the Lord—that day when everything would be set right. Enemies would be scattered; the sick would be healed; the poor would know comfort; and all people would experience peace. Even though Israel had suffered terribly, God had made promises to their ancestors, and God always keeps

promises. Initially, the people expected that day to be one of punishment and retribution for their enemies while they would enjoy vindication and blessing. Today's first reading asserts that Israel will enjoy no preference. If they sin, they also will face the righteous anger of God.

In the gospel passage, Jesus describes the terrifying events that will precede the destruction of the temple. This was probably less a prophecy of a future event than it was a warning of the suffering they might have to endure as his followers. Such suffering would pave the way for the fearful day of the Lord. If they persevered, such affliction would be purifying for them rather than punishing. Though the reading does not include mention of the day of the Lord, it would have been in the minds of those who heard Jesus' words. Many would believe that God's ancient promises were about to be fulfilled. †



***God had made promises
to Israel's ancestors,
and God always keeps
promises.***

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Relations between the Catholic Church and Muslims have been marked by a growing commitment to dialogue and fraternity, fostered by esteem for these, our brothers and sisters.... This approach, based on mutual respect and freedom of conscience, is a solid foundation for building bridges between our communities.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 19, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Am I aware that I will meet God face to face?
- What can I adjust in my life to be better prepared for that day?

Sunday Readings

Malachi 3:19–20a

For you who fear my name, the sun of justice will arise with healing in its wings.

2 Thessalonians 3:7–12

We wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us.

Luke 21:5–19

[Jesus] said, "All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone."



Running on Empty? Try Prayer

James McShane

Imagine you're familiar with the following scenario. It's 6:30 a.m., and you become conscious of the bleeping alarm replacing that dream you were having about something weird and wonderful. The duvet feels warm and comforting, and, although you placed your running kit on the chair by the bed last night in preparation, you really don't want to get up! Now you have to make a decision, a choice—either stay where you are and drift back into delicious sleep or get up, put your kit on, close the front door behind you, and run. The more often you make the choice to run, the more often you'll make the choice to run in the future. In other words, the choice to run becomes easier.

If we apply what I've written about running to prayer, the parallels are obvious: to benefit from prayer, it has to be regular, it has to be consistent, and it requires discipline. Like running, prayer is a *choice*—nobody is forced to pray. The choice to pray stems from a desire to know God more intimately, to deepen the relationship we have with him.

In the Christian tradition, we know God as "Father," a term that implies relationship and intimacy. We know what it is to have parents, and we know what it is to have a relationship with our parents: we talk to them; we listen to them; we want to tell them our worries and concerns; we want to share our joys with them. It's in prayer that we establish and maintain an intimate relationship with God our Father. God desires that intimate relationship with us: he created us; he gave us life, and, therefore, we are his children. If God is truly our Father, then it makes sense to have a relationship with him, and this relationship, like any relationship, is sustained and deepened through communication, which is simply what prayer is: talking and listening to God. †

**God gave us life,
and we are his
children.**

From *The Spirituality of Running: A Runner's Guide to Physical and Spiritual Wellbeing* by James McShane, © 2025, Redemptorist Publications (316450). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Saint Carlo Acutis: From Coding to Canonization"

When you enter the gates of heaven, you become a saint—and people on earth won't know a thing about it. A canonized saint is someone whom the Church officially recognizes as being in heaven and about whom the pope makes a definitive statement that he or she lived a life of extraordinarily heroic Christian virtue, was either martyred or can be personally linked to two miracles rendered by God through his or her intercession, and is worthy of veneration. Saints are not divine. They are human beings, and because saints are familiar and approachable, nearly every land, ethnicity, profession, and even hobby has a patron saint to turn to for aid.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Faithful God, help us to believe in your promises and, when doubt assails us, be with us and show us the way. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 17–22

Monday, St. Elizabeth of Hungary:

1 Mc 1:10–15, 41–43, 54–57,
62–63 / Lk 18:35–43

Tuesday, Weekday:

2 Mc 6:18–31 / Lk 19:1–10

Wednesday, Weekday:

2 Mc 7:1, 20–31 / Lk 19:11–28

Thursday, Weekday:

1 Mc 2:15–29 / Lk 19:41–44

Friday, Presentation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary:

1 Mc 4:36–37, 52–59 / Lk 19:45–48

Saturday, St. Cecilia:

1 Mc 6:1–13 / Lk 20:27–40

Bringing Home
the Word 

November 16, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Leo XIV quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.