

IMPACT

Bring faith to life.

Find life in faith.

Impact this Month

Pray with this passage from the letter to the Philippians this month. Use the questions below to guide your reflection.

Brothers and sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also everyone for those of others. (Philippians 2:1-5)

What strikes you in this passage?

What is most challenging?

What is described that you feel is a strength for you?

How does this passage describe what Jesus did and what Christ calls you to do?

Called to Jesus' heart of love



**For my thoughts are
not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways,
says the Lord.**

Who do you aspire to be?

Who do you admire? What is your goal in life? If we are honest with ourselves, most of us can admit that we look up to those who are successful in the eyes of others. The powerful, prosperous, sought-after. The voice of the world tells us our goal should be to be more like them. Even those of us who in our hearts do not seek worldly success may dream of financial security or a life of ease. Consciously or not, we spend much of our lives looking for a way to be admired and secure. Jesus shows us a different way.

Jesus' way is a heart of love. From this immense love of God flows compassion, mercy, forgiveness, humility. Jesus lived as one among us, showing us how to follow his way. He sought out the poor and lonely, attended to the sick and vulnerable, forgave sinners, and responded to suffering with compassion. Jesus literally put his life on the line for the sake of others. In Christ, power is found in love. In Jesus' way, the most prosperous among us are the ones who value the last and the least. To follow Jesus is to find security not in worldly possessions but in the very heart of God.

Is it any wonder that Jesus so confounded the people of his time, or that the gospel continues to challenge people today? How will you be filled with and follow Jesus' heart of love?

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BRING FAITH TO LIFE

Sometimes it is difficult to think about God's will. Our fierce human independence balks at the idea of someone else's will being important, even if it is *God* whose will we are considering. Yet each of us has moments in which we sense what we are called to do: dreams of making a contribution in the life of another; a simple act of kindness that could make a real difference; a sense of purpose or fruitfulness in which we may

find meaning in life; a desire to show compassion, share mercy, forgive another, or give of ourselves in a new and substantial way.

St. John XXIII understood these interior promptings that are glimmers of the will of God: "Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."



For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Is 55:8-9

LIVE FOR THE LORD

Throughout the autumn, we focus on the **demands of discipleship** - what it means to commit ourselves to Christ with our mind, body, and spirit.

Baptized into Christ's life, we are called to live for the Lord, in all of the circumstances of daily life.



What does it mean to live for the Lord? Our Sunday readings this month give us insight into all we are called to be and to do, **to make Christ's mission our mission**, to make the Lord's presence more abundantly known in the world:

Love: The commandments...are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (9/6)

Be Good: Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard other as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others. (9/27)

Forgive: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (9/13)

Sacrifice: I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. (9/3)

Be Generous: Are you envious because I am generous? (9/20)

Be Merciful: The Lord is kind and merciful. (9/13)