

## Sunday, Jan 03, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### Bless this new year of grace

Some things are worth taking the time to do. After enduring the manifold burdens of this past year, few of us will need persuading that the annual Epiphany Blessing of the Home is a ritual worth investing in. Gather your housemates if living with others.

Download a home blessing ritual or create one yourself, using symbols especially meaningful to your participants. Which household items became especially significant during the pandemic and call for a special blessing? A cloth mask, a bar of soap, and Netflix may be featured as items of peculiar yet holy purpose in this year's rites everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). *"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

## Monday, Jan 04, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

### Preserve the legacy

Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first U.S.-born saint, started the country's first Catholic girls' school in Maryland, where she also founded the first American women's religious community, the Sisters of Charity. All those "firsts" multiplied into an incredible legacy of parochial education and religious life benefiting women that ripples to today. At Seton's beatification, Pope John XXIII said, "she sowed a seed in America which by Divine Grace grew into a tree." Perhaps you yourself are a beneficiary of her legacy. In the words of Pope Paul VI at her canonization, "Rejoice for your glorious daughter. Be proud of her. And know how to preserve her fruitful heritage."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:22—4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). *"He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom."*

## Tuesday, Jan 05, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

### Parishes for the people

What would U.S. parishes look like without John Neumann, the first naturalized U.S. citizen and bishop who was canonized? As a seminarian in his native Bohemia, John cherished Saint Paul's missionary epistles from the Bible and longed to serve the United States as a missionary. His wish was granted. After John's 1835 ordination he began to set up parishes and a network of parochial schools in New York. He served Germans and Native Americans and also learned Gaelic and Italian to better serve parishioners in Baltimore and Philadelphia. He introduced the Forty Hours devotion and set up parish missions for Lent. Ask John to pray for your parish today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). *"They were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things."*

## Wednesday, Jan 06, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

### Open the door to new life

So many have said that 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, marked by a pandemic that has taken lives and so much more, and a national election that challenged the U.S. belief in a united nation with liberty and justice for all. Though a new year is only the turn of a calendar page, it allows and encourages

new life, new perspective, new hope, and new energy. Let the life of the gentle and humble Saint André Bessette—who spent many years as a doorman for his monastic community—be our inspiration. May compassion and love of neighbor guide us into this new year.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). *"If God so loved us, we also must love one another."*

## Thursday, Jan 07, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

### And now for an announcement . . .

Even in an age when people are bombarded with messages, announcements can have particular cachet. They appear over and over in the gospels, from angels announcing Christ's birth to Jesus' announcement in today's gospel that he came to fulfill the words of Isaiah. The church continues to make plenty of announcements, from the calendar items announced at Mass to "announcements" in the form of pastoral letters and encyclicals about how to live contemporary Christian life. You probably announced your faith in a formal way at your Confirmation. How can you "announce" Christ today through your words and actions?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22a (215). *"He said to them, 'Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.'"*

## Friday, Jan 08, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

### Out of stillness, creation

As the Christmas season draws to a close, some treasure its highlights, others dread the January "blahs," and all of us could do well to follow Jesus' model in the gospel. After he cures a leper, the crowds and the demands on him increase. Many of us would plough into the need, then the adulation. Instead, he withdraws and retreats. This wintry season offers a time to withdraw and reflect. Think, for example, of the solitude necessary to create the kind of sacred art that Giotto was known for. He died on this day in 1337, so perhaps you can bring him to mind as you channel your own inner artist in the winter stillness. Create something new today!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). *"But he would withdraw to deserted places to pray."*

## Saturday, Jan 09, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

### Make space for Christ

This is the final day of the Christmas season. But it's always Christmas, every day of the year. Christ comes in our humanity, born into our human flesh. We are always united with Christ in a communion of divinity and humanity, realized in Jesus, shared with us. We celebrate that communion in the central act of our worship: We eat and drink the Real Presence of Christ in us. But like John the Baptist proclaims in today's gospel, that presence of Christ must increase in us as our own egos decrease. This is the way to fulfillment. Let Christ lead you today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). *"He must increase; I must decrease."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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## Sunday, Jan 10, 2021

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### Do justice

We sometimes imagine it's about collecting sacraments. Or stockpiling mountains of prayers. Writing fat checks to charities. Or being nice to people we don't like. But the prophets relentlessly insist that what God desires from us is a just world. Where there's a privileged class, abominable wage gaps, racist systems, and deeply disproportionate outcomes for a nation's citizens, the peaceable reign of God can't gain a foothold. Contemplate categories of injustice—education, health care, employment opportunities, criminal justice—to name a few. Make one your special cause, learn all you can, and educate others about it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-11 or Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; 1 John 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11 (21). *"A smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth."*

## Monday, Jan 11, 2021

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

### Nothing ordinary about the reign of God

Today is the first weekday of Ordinary Time—that period in the church's liturgical year after the close of the Christmas season that stretches until Ash Wednesday (and then picks up after Pentecost until Advent begins again). This time after the holidays can indeed seem "ordinary," when all the commotion dies down and all the decorations are put away. Some people, especially those who live with long, cold winters, might even feel a little blue. But while sacred seasons are important, getting down to business is too. After all, there's a reign of God to help build. Think about everything Jesus did between the bookends of his life that we celebrate—and roll up your sleeves for some extraordinary work.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20 (305). *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

## Tuesday, Jan 12, 2021

### The power of a name

The Holy Name of Jesus is a devotion that was championed by Saint Bernardino of Siena in the 1400s—with the Holy Name Society dating to the 1200s. As a feast day, it's been celebrated during the first week of January by various Christian denominations and by Catholic religious orders, most notably the Jesuits, who use a monogram of the name (IHS) as their emblem. For Catholics, the entire month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. Pray the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus today, recalling how even the unclean spirits of Jesus' day recognized his name.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306). *"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"*

## Wednesday, Jan 13, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Be gracious in your disagreements

Catholics of the 21st century profess the belief that Jesus is both human and divine every time we recite the Nicene Creed at Mass. However, that profession of faith was challenged mightily in the fourth century when followers of Arius argued that Jesus was a great man—but not God. The conflict involved bishops and

emperors on both sides and it went on for years. Hilary of Poitiers converted to Christianity at the age of 35 and was elected a bishop three years later. Hilary was a friendly and courteous man who persistently championed belief in Jesus' divinity. Even exile did not silence his voice. In our own times of conflict and division, Saint Hilary, guide us to God's grace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307). *"For this purpose have I come."*

## Thursday, Jan 14, 2021

### Reach out and touch an outcast

Jesus heals a leper in today's gospel. Leprosy is relatively rare now in most regions of the world, so it's hard to understand the fear and revulsion that people with this disease triggered at one time. Even someone as close to God as Saint Francis struggled to be comfortable with touching a leper. Every age has its outcasts, and the Christian challenge has always been to learn to accept those others find unacceptable, love those others find unlovable. Prisoners, poor people, those with dark skin or foreign accents, the homeless—the list of modern lepers is long. Who do you avoid? Acknowledging your aversion is a step toward acceptance.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308). *"He . . . touched the leper, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"*

## Friday, Jan 15, 2021

### Color blind no more

Today in Guatemala, a major religious procession honors an image of Christ on the cross carved from dark wood and renowned throughout the region as the "Black Christ of Esquipulas." The statue was commissioned by Spanish colonial leaders looking to convert the indigenous people who worshipped a dark-skinned deity. Today the image affirms the fact that in Latin America there has been a certain "fluidity between races through inter-marriage and more blending of cultures and religions when compared to the experience of Native Americans and African Americans," as El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz wrote in a remarkable pastoral letter on the history of racism, *Night Will Be No More*. Today would be a good day to dip into this document for insights into the history and persistence of racism, regionwide. May the Black Christ be a symbol of hope!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309). *"They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this.'"*

## Saturday, Jan 16, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Be present to the Presence

The great paradox of God's kingdom is often expressed in the teachings of Jesus: The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the last are first, the dead live. The first and most profound paradox is that the Virgin conceives. Our Blessed Mother experienced the coming Kingdom in her own body. She shares that experience with us in our communion with the Lord. We carry the Real Presence of the Savior in our own bodies. The ongoing paradox is that the Lord calls us, who are sinners, to be the vessels of his presence in the world. Express that presence today by lifting up the lowly.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310). *"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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## Sunday, Jan 17, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Lifestyles of the brave and mobile

Media coverage is thick concerning the lifestyles of the rich and famous. The lives of the truly heroic, on the other hand—faithful spouses, conscientious parents, the working poor, folks who turn their lives around after addiction or costly misdirection—are mostly hidden from view. Faithful discipleship requires effort, quiet persistence, and most of all, movement in the spirit. Followers don't stand still, unchangeable in opinions or behaviors. Growth is required. The terms of the deal are as follows: "Come—and see."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42 (65). "*Rabbi . . . where are you staying? He said to them, 'Come and you will see.'*"

## Monday, Jan 18, 2021

### Abide your time this week

For more than 100 years, Christians around the world have been observing annually the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25). For Catholics, this week is an opportunity to also ponder the Decree on Ecumenism from Vatican II. Is your diocese or parish participating in this healing effort? For resources, visit the World Council of Churches at Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. As you pray, call to mind this year's theme: "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit."

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 2:18-22 (311). "*Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?*"

## Tuesday, Jan 19, 2021

### Pray the pope's prayer for peace

Exactly 60 years ago tomorrow, John F. Kennedy gave an inaugural address that quoted Romans 12:12, reminding citizens to be "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation." One year later, Pope John XXIII became a secret intermediary between Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, speaking a message of peace to the entire world during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Haunted by the experience, he penned his final encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, stressing the church's Christian duty to address international issues of peace and human rights—speaking to all persons "of good will," not only Catholics. Pray for peace and the perseverance of hope.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28 (312). "*Hold fast to the hope that lies before us.*"

## Wednesday, Jan 20, 2021

MEMORIAL OF FABIAN, POPE, MARTYR

### Be open to the Spirit of surprise

In the year 236, Fabian left his farm and headed to Rome. He wanted to be in town for the election of a new pope. The furthest thing from his mind, or anyone's mind, was that he would be elected. Legend holds that as clergy discussed worthy candidates, a dove landed on the head of bystander Fabian. Thinking it was a sign from the Holy Spirit, the crowd elected Fabian by acclamation. A kind and capable administrator, he had the respect of both the faith community and three different emperors

in a period of rare peace. Although that peace eventually ended and persecution cost him his life, Fabian's legacy endures. Be open to unexpected visitations of the Holy Spirit!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6 (313). "*Come up here before us.*"

## Thursday, Jan 21, 2021

MEMORIAL OF AGNES, VIRGIN, MARTYR

### Draw inspiration from women of faith

Today we honor both Saint Agnes, virgin and martyr, and, in some places, Our Lady of Altagracia, protectress of the Dominican Republic. The devotion to both grew from grassroots popularity; that is, ordinary Christians were moved by their stories and lifted them up for veneration. Saint Agnes was executed for her faith in the fourth century. Our Lady of Altagracia is an image of Mary in the Dominican Republic that, according to legend, kept mysteriously moving to an orange grove until a church was built there. Centuries later memories of both women continue to inspire the faithful. Take a moment to reflect on women of faith who inspire you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 7:25—8:6; Mark 3:7-12 (314). "*Jesus is always able to save those who approach God through him.*"

## Friday, Jan 22, 2021

### Embracing your inner apostle

How many apostles did Jesus call? If you said 12, well, you are sort of correct. Indeed, Jesus appointed 12 followers to be his close companions, to learn from him, and to preach the Good News. But it doesn't stop at 12. Jesus continues to call forth apostles in the church. We have bishops who continue the mission via the tradition of apostolic succession. We also have every single person in the church, including you! "The whole church is apostolic, in that she remains . . . in communion of faith and life with her origin: and in that she is 'sent out' into the whole world," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church. How will you respond to your call to apostleship?

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 8:6-13; Mark 3:13-19 (315). "*Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him.*"

## Saturday, Jan 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF MARIANNE COPE, RELIGIOUS

### Remarkable, two times over

Imagine leaving all that is familiar to minister in a far-off land. Now imagine doing it twice! German-born Marianne Cope came to the United States as a young woman and, as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse, New York, became a founding leader of St. Joseph's Hospital in the city, one of the first general hospitals in the country. Then in 1883 she relocated with six other sisters to Hawai'i to care for persons suffering leprosy and to help develop the medical infrastructure of the island chain. Pray today for an ounce of the courage and sacrifice she modeled for us all.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14; Mark 3:20-21 (316). "*Jesus came with his disciples into the house.*"

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## Sunday, Jan 24, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

### Celebrate, study, share

The timing seemed right. In September 2019, on the 1,600th anniversary of scripture scholar Saint Jerome's death, Pope Francis launched a new observance on the church calendar. Today's "Sunday of the Word of God" is deliberately placed within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All who follow Jesus are invited to unite around the happy gift of our sacred story contained in the Bible's pages. On this occasion, we celebrate, study, and spread these good words we never possess merely for ourselves. Enthroned the Bible in your home—and heart.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20 (68). *"The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel."*

## Monday, Jan 25, 2021

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE

### Turn things around

It is arguably the biggest about-face in history: Paul goes from passionately persecuting Christians to converting to Christianity and becoming one of its most important champions. And it's a hard-to-beat conversion story: falling off a horse and encountering the risen Lord. But it's a story that happens in the hearts of Christians all the time: Life knocks you down while going the wrong way, and you're not ready, willing, or able to see the truth—and then somehow Jesus changes everything. By the grace of God, it happens to you again and again. Paul is proof that it's never too late, that you've never made too many mistakes, that you're never too far gone to keep turning yourself around.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18 (519). *"Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

## Tuesday, Jan 26, 2021

MEMORIAL OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS

### Seek good companions for the journey

We honor Timothy and Titus one day after the conversion of Saint Paul. For Paul, once converted, wasted no time in spreading the gospel and relied on many to help with his missionary work. Few of his companions were as key—or as beloved—as Timothy and Titus. Paul gave them the toughest assignments, and his letters to them are the only ones addressed to fellow missionaries that are included in the Bible. In those epistles, Paul refers to them as "my dear child" and "my true child in our common faith"—reminders that all become brothers and sisters through Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Timothy 1:1-8 OR Titus 1:1-5; Mark 3:31-35 (520; Gospel 318). *"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

## Wednesday, Jan 27, 2021

### Never forget

On this day in 2005, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp, the United Nations established International Holocaust Remembrance Day. With firm resolve to educate future generations about the horrors of the Holocaust, this annual event is a clarion call never to forget the Nazi atrocities that claimed the lives of 6 million Jews and millions more others. U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres warns that

it would be a "dangerous error to think of the Holocaust as simply the result of the insanity of a group of criminal Nazis." It happened because of the "millennia of hatred, scapegoating, and discrimination targeting the Jews." Pray today for grace to choose love rather than hate, to choose inclusion rather than discrimination.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 10:11-18; Psalm 110; Mark 4:1-20 (319). *"Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool."*

## Thursday, Jan 28, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Let your light shine

How apt that the gospel on today's memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas encourages us to let our light shine. This saint's light was his powerful intellect, and it still shines brightly today. His theological writings, particularly *Summa Theologiae*, continue to have tremendous impact on the church. One of his lasting insights is that faith and reason both come from God, and Christian doctrine is not at odds with rational thought. In honor of this doctor of the church with his relentlessly probing mind, take time to sharpen your own understanding of a faith-related issue.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 10:19-25; Mark 4:21-25 (320). *"Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket . . . and not to be placed on a lampstand?"*

## Friday, Jan 29, 2021

### Make an offer

"Offer it up" is a phrase that seems baked into our Catholic tradition. Often it comes out at times when we are at a loss from the complexities and pain of suffering, which can leave us hopeless, scared, and lonely. After months of social distancing, mourning deaths, job and school closures, and holidays spent alone, we are all in a kind of personal and corporate space of suffering. We are invited to truly *offer*, that is, to *give* ourselves into the care of others and into the loving embrace of Jesus the Christ who also has known suffering intimately. What do you need to offer up and how can you lovingly embrace others' offerings of themselves?

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34 (321). *"We are not among those who draw back and perish, but among those who have faith and will possess life."*

## Saturday, Jan 30, 2021

### All that I have is yours

Inheritance is a big deal in the Bible. Not so much legal inheritance, though that is mentioned, but theological inheritance, the gifts God bestows on the community of faith—the people of Israel—and later, in the New Testament, to the followers of Christ. We all share in that inheritance, that "holy ground" promised so long ago to Abraham and his descendants. How will you put your inheritance to use? Will you pass it on to others, or will it end with you? How you invest your time, talent, and treasure will determine the answer to that question.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Mark 4:35-41 (322). *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance."*

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## Sunday, Jan 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Strengthen the partnership

The relationship between parishes and schools is long and intimate—important to note at the start of Catholic Schools Week. After the first Catholic diocese was established in the United States in Baltimore, pastors lobbied at once for schools and religious to staff them. Frontier pastors vowed to build the school first and the church later. They understood that without proper religious education, the parish venture would certainly fail. Today, celebrate this essential partnership with a holy hour, candlelight prayer vigil, or special project in the parish for young people and their supporters.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28 (71). *"What is this? A new teaching with authority."*

## Monday, Feb 01, 2021

### Example is the best education

Each day of Catholic Schools Week is the celebration of a component of Catholic education. Today we look at the experience of community. Through the relationships and interactions of service activities in the community and class trips to other environs, students get to practice the values they learn in their Catholic education and experience what it feels like to be making the world a better place. Plus they get a chance to observe others in community service and come to appreciate how they can continue caring for others their entire lives. Today, be an example of service to others.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20 (323).  
*"[A]nnounce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you."*

## Tuesday, Feb 02, 2021

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

### Teach a faith that grows on you

Mary and Joseph bring their beloved firstborn to the temple at the appointed time, so Jesus can enter into the covenant with Yahweh that Jews have revered since Abraham. Not unlike infant Baptism today, it was—among other things—a powerful ritual of belonging that put the child on the right path to growing in faith. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week—with the focus today being squarely on “the student”—may we never forget or neglect the promise of every young soul, so receptive to our efforts to plant the seeds of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524). *"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."*

## Wednesday, Feb 03, 2021

### One nation, under God

Catholic schools have made a unique contribution to the nation, and today we can recognize and celebrate that contribution. At their very best, Catholic schools train students to grow both as members of the Catholic church and as productive citizens of the nation. By “rendering to Caesar and to God,” Catholic schools in the United States have managed to achieve that rare combination in world history, the development of a relatively harmonious

church-state relationship that has endured for centuries. See the NCEA website for suggestions on how to celebrate the nation during Catholic Schools Week.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6 (325).

*"Many who heard him were astonished. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him?'"*

## Thursday, Feb 04, 2021

### Line things up

Catholic schools prepare students to discover their vocation, so they can grow to use their gifts in service of church and world. Over the years, our notion of “vocation” has broadened significantly. A word that once designated those who take religious vows or are ordained into ministry is now used more broadly. No one defined vocation better than essayist and theologian Carl Frederick Buechner: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Are the two aligned in your life? And if not, how can you bring them into alignment?

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13 (326).

*"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two."*

## Friday, Feb 05, 2021

### Thank those who opened your mind

Where would any of us be without our teachers? They did everything from helping us with our “three R’s” to opening our minds to new ways of seeing the world. The really great teachers taught us how to learn for ourselves and thus set us up for a lifetime of discovery and fulfillment. When was the last time you thanked a teacher? Today is the day Catholic Schools Week pays special attention to the faculty, staff, and volunteers that make it possible for these great schools to function. See the NCEA website for suggestions on how to give thanks and recognition.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29 (327). *"The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid."*

## Saturday, Feb 06, 2021

### Make faith a family affair

We close Catholic Schools Week by recognizing the central role in Catholic education played by the family. The Second Vatican Council called the family “the domestic church” because it is in the home that faith is first formed and nurtured. Whether you live alone or with others, your home can be a sacred space of prayer and spirituality. Creating sacred space in your home includes prayer and scripture readings at meal times and before bed; praying the Rosary; placing a crucifix in a prominent place; and family traditions based on the liturgical seasons. Look for ways to recognize the family’s role in Catholic education and also ways to make your home a domestic church. Have at it!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34 (328).

*"The Apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught."*

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