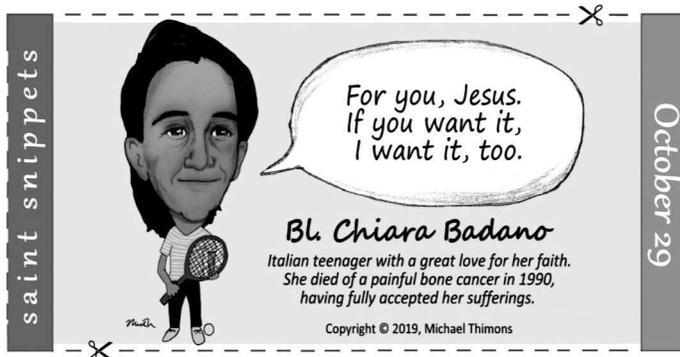


Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

October 28

Saint Jude, apostle and . . . Hollywood success story? Indeed! Beyond Simon's being a "Zealot" for Israel's liberation and Jude's question about Jesus revealing himself (John 14:22), no historic facts are known about either saint. But Saint Jude's well-known patronage of lost causes and hopeless cases is largely due to a desperate vow made just before World War II by a struggling entertainer, the son of Arab-American immigrants, Danny Thomas. Unemployed, his wife about to give birth, Danny, attending Mass, impulsively donated his last seven dollars to the collection, promising: "Saint Jude, if you help me find my way in life, I will build a shrine in your honor!" Older Americans remember well Danny's long, successful movie and television career. Grateful parents worldwide know the miracles that have taken place for fifty years at his Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, where needy children are cared for regardless of race, religion, or financial resources, and monumental advances continue in healing and preventing pediatric cancers and catastrophic childhood diseases. A living, life-giving partnership is this "Communion of Saints": Simon, Jude, Danny Thomas—us!
—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Living Justly

"You give that back right now!" How many of us have heard that line, probably more than once, as we were growing up? We come home with the trophy of what we thought was a really sweet deal, only to have our parents undo our profits by making us return the spoils. They had a different idea of what constituted a "fair trade agreement." Justice in our dealings with others continues to be an important measure of our character, and like a good parent, God cares very much about how we treat each other and about how others treat us. God hears the cry of the poor, and answers the call of the oppressed. God's beloved children are not to behave like bullies.
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Readings for the Week

Monday: Eph 4:32 — 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
Thursday: Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35
Friday: Phil 1:1-11; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 14:1-6
Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wednesday: Ss. Simon and Jude
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; Halloween

Born to Love

We were born to love, we live to love, and we will die to love still more.
—Joseph Cafasso

Character

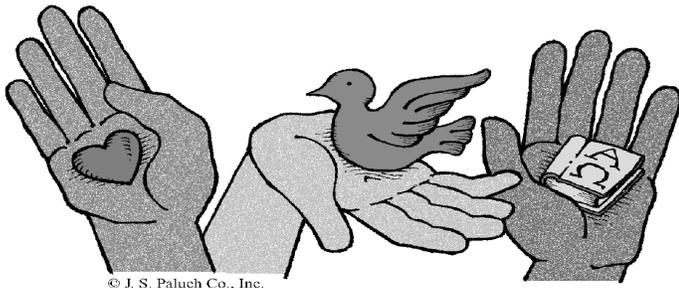
Character is much easier kept than recovered.
—Thomas Paine

Halloween

Bring forth the raisins and the nuts—
Tonight All-Hallows' spectre struts
Along the moonlit way.
—John Kendrick Bangs

Today's Readings

First Reading — You shall not oppress an alien, for you yourselves were once aliens in Egypt (Exodus 22:20-26).
Psalms — I love you, Lord, my strength (Psalm 18).
Second Reading — You became imitators of the Lord, so that you became a model for all believers (1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10).
Gospel — You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:34-40).
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Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 25, 2020

“You shall love the Lord, your God,
With all your heart,
With all your soul,
And with all your mind.”

—Matthew 22:37

Treasures From Our Tradition

There is a show on public television in which people search their attics for heirlooms, dust them off, and trek them downtown for ruthless evaluation by teams of antique experts. Occasionally the owners are surprised to learn they have been harboring priceless artifacts: a Tiffany bowl used to catch the car keys, a Van Gogh in the downstairs bathroom. What they lugged downtown in a paper bag, they carry home in bubble wrap and receiving blankets.

It's the same way with treasures in Church life. Lots of things were lugged up into the attic years ago, and it was inevitable that some treasures ended up in the trash. Many Catholics tucked the sacrament of penance away in a dusty corner. We know it's there if we need it, but it is not the weekly routine it once was, like the Saturday bath “whether I need it or not.” Today, especially in Lent and Advent or as part of personal preparation for marriage, ordination, or other life transitions, the sacrament of penance is a treasure of the Christian life waiting to be discovered. What's in your attic?
—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

The secret to our Sunday readings lies in today's Gospel Acclamation: “Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him” (John 14:23). That single line from John's Gospel gets right to the heart of today's readings, reminding us of the intimate relationship between the law (“keeping God's word”) and God's love. While human nature tends to resist burdensome rules, our readings show us the wisdom of God's plan that guides us with the rule of law. In Exodus, the law boldly prevents injustice, protecting the most vulnerable members of society. In Thessalonians, the law elevates our behavior and saves us from “the coming wrath.” In Matthew's Gospel, the law swaddles us in God's compassion. In loving God, neighbor, and self, we imitate God and bring blessing to a fractured world.

The Rule Of Law

Anyone who has read the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) from beginning to end appreciates the massive influence of the law on our ancestors in faith. In fact, what Christians call the Pentateuch (Greek for “five books”), Jewish tradition calls the Torah (“teaching” or “law”). In the first five books of the Bible, there is no escaping the law, its meticulous detail and relentless regulations, decrees, and pronouncements from God to Moses and Aaron. Also common in these books, alas, are stories of God's chosen people going astray. The predominance of the law reminds us that we are creatures with a tendency to sin;

God provides the law to us beloved children to regulate our behavior and help us live more peacefully on earth.

Imitating God

Laws would be entirely unnecessary if we lived perfect lives. As we know all too well, however, we often fall short of the good intentions that we cherish in our hearts. Perhaps the law would even be unnecessary if we lived alone, isolated from other people. After all, what hermit in a cave actually needs a commandment to charge no interest on a loan? But God's design for humanity includes togetherness. And when we live together, we tend to step on each other's toes. Thank God for laws that help us to live in community with justice and compassion. Underlying every one of God's laws is an eternal longing for fairness and fullness. What's more, God's own self—a vibrant community of Father, Son, and Spirit—reveals the deep joy of living in peace with self and neighbor. The Trinitarian nature of God—three persons in one God—astonishes us with its commitment to fruitful love. Love is gratuitous and lavish, constantly producing and giving of itself. The more generously we love God, self, and neighbor, the more we will know that, as Saint Paul says, “love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10).

Today's Readings: Ex 22:20–26; Ps 18:2–3, 3–4, 47, 51;
1 Thes 1:5c–10; Mt 22:34–40

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Sunday Readings
October 25, 2020
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1

Ex 22:20–26

Thus says the LORD: “You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.

“If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate.”

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:2–3, 3–4, 47, 51

R. (2) I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, O LORD, my strength,

O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

My God, my rock of refuge,

my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!

Praised be the LORD, I exclaim,

and I am safe from my enemies.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

The LORD lives and blessed be my rock!

Extolled be God my savior.

You who gave great victories to your king
and showed kindness to your anointed.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

Reading 2

1 Thes 1:5c–10

Brothers and sisters: You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in

great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

Gospel

Mt 22:34–40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

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Prayer of the Faithful

**God is our rock and our refuge. Let us pray now to
our God on behalf of our world in need.**

**For God's holy Church as we proclaim Christ
to the world by our love for each other and our neighbors,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For citizens of the world to look out for and
support one another, especially caring for refugees
and migrants,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who labor tirelessly for the benefit of
others, especially those who work in shelters
for people who are homeless,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For those who are orphaned and widowed, and
for all who are in need of compassion and love,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For those who strive for racial justice and who work to
root out systemic racism in the institutions
that govern our lives,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who are sick, for all who suffer
from COVID-19, and for all who have died,
especially N., N., and N.,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all the prayers that we hold in the silence
of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**God of love,
you hear the cry of the poor.
Graciously listen to these our prayers
and grant them according to your will,
through Christ our Lord.**