

JULY
5
2020

Jesus said,
“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.”

Matthew 11:29

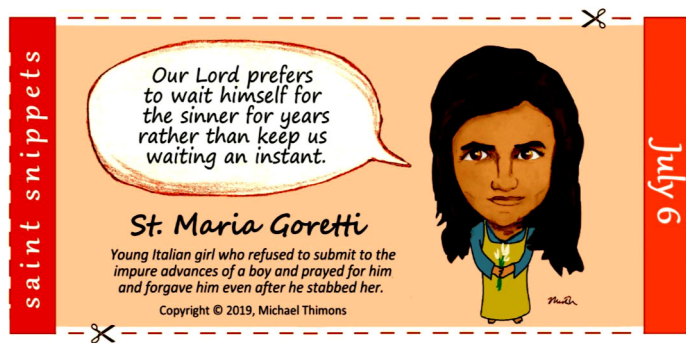
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

Saint Maria Goretti (1890-1902)

July 6

Does anything match a mother's pride in her children? First Communions, confirmations, graduations, weddings: how these delight a mother's heart! Imagine, then, Assunta Goretti, the only mother ever to attend her child's canonization! In poverty-stricken rural Italy, widowed Assunta tended fields for the Serenelli family, whose eighteen-year-old son, Alessandro, propositioned her barely twelve-year-old Maria; then, when she resisted, crying, "It is a sin! God forbids it!" he stabbed her fourteen times. As she lay dying, Maria assured the attending priest, "Yes, I forgive Alessandro! I want him to be in Paradise with me someday." Imprisoned, unrepentant, Alessandro changed after dreaming that a radiant Maria had offered him fourteen lilies. "I've kept my promise," she smiled. "You'll be here with me someday." Upon release, he rushed to beg Assunta's forgiveness. "Jesus has forgiven you," she replied, "my Maria, too. How can I refuse?" Next morning, mother and murderer walked arm in arm to church and knelt side by side for Communion.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Share The Burden

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). These words of our Savior seem to be in stark contrast to the previous chapter from the same Gospel, when we were told that if we do not take up our crosses, we are not worthy of Christ. Connecting these two messages might help us on our faith journeys. Being a follower of Christ surely means that we must embrace the cross, in its mystery of both suffering and triumph. This is something that we need not do alone, for the burden is often too heavy for us to carry by ourselves. Who, then, do we turn to? We can turn to the Body of Christ—the community of disciples gathered for worship. When we find the burden too heavy, let us remember that we can share that burden with our Christian sisters and brothers, who can help bring us rest. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Readings for the Week

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Monday: | Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Ps 145:2-9; Mt 9:18-26 |
| Tuesday: | Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115:3-10; Mt 9:32-38 |
| Wednesday: | Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105:2-7; Mt 10:1-7 |
| Thursday: | Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mt 10:7-15 |
| Friday: | Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17; Mt 10:16-23 |
| Saturday: | Is 6:1-8; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mt 10:24-33 |
| Sunday: | Is 55:10-11; Ps 65:10-14; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23 [1-9] |



Saints and Special Observances

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday: | Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Monday: | St. Maria Goretti |
| Thursday: | St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions |
| Saturday: | St. Benedict |

Today's Readings

First Reading — Rejoice heartily, O Jerusalem! For see, your savior comes (Zechariah 9:9-10).

Psalm — I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God (Psalm 145).

Second Reading — The one who raised Christ from death will give life to your mortal bodies also (Romans 8:9, 11-13).

Gospel — Come, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:25-30).

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Fourteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time July 5, 2020

**“Come to me, all you who labor and are
burdened, and I will give you rest.”
—Matthew 11:28**

Treasures From Our Tradition

With the Reformation, some early Protestants, including the “Anabaptists,” rejected infant baptism in favor of “believer’s baptism.” Against Orthodox and Catholic practice, which favored baptism as soon as possible for a newborn, these movements desired that the candidate for baptism speak for him- or herself at a mature age, not through godparents as an infant. Today, it is clear that they were rejecting a very ancient practice (even as early as the second century) of baptizing children of all ages. Children came first in ancient baptismal ceremonies, and someone would speak for them. Gregory of Nazianzen wanted to delay the baptism of children to three years of age, since at that age they could retain at least some impression of the liturgy. He made an exception for the very ill, who were to be baptized ahead of the annual Easter baptism. That means that infants and children were normally baptized together with adults, and that everyone received confirmation and the Eucharist.

The tone of the early bishops’ writings is generous and compassionate, and seeks to build up the eucharistic assembly by widely celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit. If a priest celebrated baptism, then the gift of the Spirit was postponed for the bishop, but with no regard for the person’s age. So, until the fifth century, confirmation was for infants, too.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Many years ago, there was a very popular Christian poster that did nothing but list names for God from the scriptures. While it included powerful names like “Lion of Judah” and “Wonderful Counselor,” as a whole it was a sharp contrast to the simple and beautiful images present in our scriptures today. The prophet Zechariah prefigures the Christ coming in meekly and mildly on an ass—the vision we might have of Palm Sunday. In Romans Saint Paul reveals to us our truer selves, calling us to embrace the Spirit of Christ, put aside our fleshly beings, and live more fully in Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus bypasses the learned, and God reveals things to the childlike. We are presented with a simple, straightforward approach to God, and to finding God.

Our Complicated Lives

We live in an age and a society that has never been more educated or had a higher standard of living, yet never have we carried as much debt. Many are living beyond their means. We have so many resources and time-saving devices at our hands, yet our lives are more complex than ever. While many people may not engage in extreme manual labor we rarely escape our jobs. Many are connected through phones and constantly receive calls, texts, and emails. Others spend hours in traffic on their daily commutes or pack on the frequent flyer miles.

We spend hours binge-watching our favorite shows. Many children are accustomed to being in front of a screen all the time and no longer know how to play creatively. The

statistics for those who continue to leave the Church and all forms of organized religion also continue to rise.

While there is no such thing as a “good old days” to return to, there was something to be said for sleeping soundly after putting in a good day’s work, and for a family gathering around the table for a shared meal. For many, this model for eucharist rarely exists. Jesus knows and feels our pains, and calls out, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”

It’s Not Rocket Science

So how do we declutter? Downsize? Devote ourselves again to Christ and live out our gospel calling? Sign up for a liturgical ministry, or volunteer to help with a religion program. Join a small faith group. Volunteer at a food pantry or Habitat for Humanity. Become involved as an individual, or a family. Meanwhile, back at the house, make a commitment to go through one drawer a day, and take things to your local St. Vinnie’s or secondhand store. Remember meal and bedtime prayers. Find a minute to read the daily scriptures. Take many baby steps. It’s not rocket science. It is a continual commitment to bring ourselves as we are, and to respond to Jesus’ call to “Come.”

Today’s Readings: Zec 9:9–10; Ps 145:1–2, 8–9, 10–11, 13–14; Rom 8:9, 11–13; Mt 11:25–30

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Sunday Readings
July 5, 2020
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1
Zec 9:9–10

Thus says the LORD:
Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion,
shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king shall come to you;
a just savior is he,
meek, and riding on an ass,
on a colt, the foal of an ass.
He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim,
and the horse from Jerusalem;
the warrior's bow shall be banished,
and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.
His dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 145:1–2, 8–9, 10–11, 13–14

R. (cf. 1) I will praise your name for ever, my king
and my God.
or:
R. Alleluia.
I will extol you, O my God and King,
and I will bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my
God.
or:
R. Alleluia.
The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.
R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my
God.
or:
R. Alleluia.
Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.
R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my
God.
or:
R. Alleluia.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and holy in all his works.
The LORD lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my
God.
or:
R. Alleluia.

Reading 2
Rom 8:9, 11–13

Brothers and sisters: You are not in the flesh; on the
contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of
God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit
of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of the
one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life
to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that
dwells in you. Consequently, brothers and sisters, we
are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the
flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will
die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of
the body, you will live.

Gospel
Mt 11:25–30

At that time Jesus exclaimed: “I give praise to you,
Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you
have hidden these things from the wise and the
learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes,
Father, such has been your gracious will. All things
have been handed over to me by my Father. No one
knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows
the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the
Son wishes to reveal him.
“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and
learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is
easy, and my burden light.”

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Prayer of the Faithful

**Let us present our needs and the needs of the world to
God who gives us rest from our burdens.**

**For our Church as we continue to reveal
God's saving message to God's least and lowliest,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For the people of our nation who work to
lift the burdens of those who are weighed
down among us,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For an end to racism and systems of privilege in our country,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For the young people in our midst who need
employment, encouragement, and guidance,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For those who serve in our armed forces, and
for their families and loved ones,
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.**

**O God,
your Son proclaims peace to the nations.
Grant that peace to our world today,
and hear all these our prayers
which we lift up in Jesus' name.**

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