

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING: Exodus 22:21-27.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 18.

RESPONSE:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength;
O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. **R**
2. My God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.
I cry out, 'Praised be the Lord!' and see, I am saved from my foes. **R**
3. The Lord lives, and blest be my Rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! If a man loves me, he will keep my words, says the Lord, and my father will love him, and we will come to him. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-40.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

We will ring out our joy at your saving help, and exult in the name of our God.

Redemptorist PARISH MISSION

A parish mission – or retreat – is a time of renewal, evangelization, and conversion, rooted in the very identity of the Church. From her earliest days, the Church has gathered the faithful to rekindle faith, deepen prayer, and renew the spirit of discipleship.

Typically, a mission includes:

- Morning Mass
- Midday Novena & Exposition
- Evening Mission Service
- Confession

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 26 Oct Liturgy of the Day

Ephesians 4:32-5:8; Psalm 1; Luke 13:10-17

"Hope is a quality of aliveness. It does not come at the end, as the feeling that results from a happy outcome. Rather, it lies at the beginning, as a pulse of truth that sends us forth." – Cynthia Bourgeault

Tue 27 Oct Liturgy of the Day

Ephesians 5:21-33; Psalm 128; Luke 13:18-21

God asks each of us, by our words and our example to plant seeds of love, and so spread the good news of the Kingdom to those around us. Jesus, allow me to be both seed and sower to those who need you.

Wed 28 Oct SS SIMON & JUDE, As

Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 19; Luke 6:12-19

Holiness does not depend on human merit, culture, personality, effort, or achievement. Only God can create his divine life in human beings. And God wills to do so, for all of us.

Thu 29 Oct Liturgy of the Day

Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm 144; Luke 13:31-35

"Mercy is like the mystery of forgiveness. By definition, mercy and forgiveness are unearned, undeserved, and not owed. ... I believe with all my heart that mercy and forgiveness are the whole gospel." – Richard Rohr

Fri 30 Oct Liturgy of the Day

Philippians 1:1-11; Psalm 111; Luke 14:1-6

Our God is tender, loving and forgiving, but we are also told to fear the Lord. All this really means is that we have a healthy respect for who God is and what God can do.

Sat 31 Oct Liturgy of the Day

Philippians 1:18-26; Psalm 42; Luke 14:1.7-11

Pray today for the grace of humility, to be aware of your shortcomings and the need for God's mercy. Humbly express that need in Confession, giving your heart to God.

Sun 1 Nov ALL SAINTS

Revelation 7:2-4.9-14; Psalm 24; Matthew 5:1-12

True peace and fulfillment are found in communion with God. "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." – St Augustine of Hippo

KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
As=Apostles

Catholic Link

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND WATCHFUL FAITH

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A
Divine Office: Week II • 25 October 2026



Interfaith Peace

Lyrics of a popular hymn are attributed to St Francis of Assisi: "Make me a channel of your peace. / Where there is hatred, let me sow your love...." More important than whether he wrote the words or not, is that he lived them.

In 1219, during the terrible Crusades, St Francis of Assisi travelled to Damietta, Egypt, crossed battle lines, and met Sultan Malik al-Kamil. He went there to halt the bloodshed: He wanted to negotiate an end to the brutal violence and loss of life caused by the Crusades. And to bring the power of the Gospel to a loveless situation.

Recalling this, Pope John Paul II invited world religious leaders together in Assisi, Italy – Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and others – for the first time on 27 October 1986 for the historic World Day of Prayer for Peace. By gathering spiritual leaders of diverse faiths, the Pope sought to promote interreligious dialogue and demonstrate that, despite doctrinal differences, humanity shares a fundamental desire for peace and harmony. Pope John Paul II wanted to promote the role of faith and prayer in confronting global violence, divisions, and the threat of war. Religion should be a force for peace rather than conflict.

Pope John Paul II presided over two further interfaith peace gatherings in Assisi, in 1993 to pray specifically for peace during the war in the Balkans. And in 2002 after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the twin towers in New York. As the Pope stated, "We did not come to pray together, but we came to be together to pray." Note the subtle difference, respecting

diversity. The Pope added: "It is the result of prayer, which, in the diversity of religions, expresses a relationship with a supreme power that surpasses our human capacities alone. Genuine religious belief is a source of harmony. There is no peace without justice, there is no justice without forgiveness."

Think again of the hymn and peace prayer by St Francis of Assisi. We live in dangerous times, which must not be fuelled by religion.

When Pope Benedict XVI convened the next interfaith summit in Assisi in 2011, for the first time he invited non-believers, agnostics, and atheists of goodwill to the summit. He described them in their way as "pilgrims of truth," arguing that their sincere search for truth serves as a rebuke to religious extremism.

Pope Francis convened one major global interfaith summit in Assisi in 2016. It was a massive world day of prayer called "Thirst for Peace", with over 500 religious leaders present on October 3, 2020. As Pope Francis described it, "Our meeting is the message."

Recalling St Francis' visit to Egypt, Pope Francis met with Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Cairo's Al-Azhar Mosque. Together they signed a global appeal to completely reject the use of God's name to justify violence, terrorism, or extremism, in an historic "Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together".

Note the word fraternity. That would appear later in Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* – "Brothers and Sisters All", signed in Assisi on 3 October 2020 at the tomb of St Francis and released the following day, 4 October, the Feast of St Francis.



Redemptorist
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SouthAfrica

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