

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Table of Contents

October 1, 2025.....	3
October 2, 2025.....	7
October 3, 2025.....	12
October 4, 2025.....	17
October 5, 2025.....	21
October 6, 2025.....	26
October 7, 2025.....	32
October 8, 2025.....	37
October 9, 2025.....	42
October 10, 2025.....	47
October 11, 2025.....	51
October 12, 2025.....	55
October 13, 2025.....	60
October 14, 2025.....	65
October 15, 2025.....	70
October 16, 2025.....	75
October 17, 2025.....	79
October 18, 2025.....	83
October 19, 2025.....	87
October 20, 2025.....	92
October 21, 2025.....	96
October 22, 2025.....	100
October 23, 2025.....	104
October 24, 2025.....	109
October 25, 2025.....	114
October 26, 2025.....	119
October 27, 2025.....	124
October 28, 2025.....	128
October 29, 2025.....	132
October 30, 2025.....	137
October 31, 2025.....	141



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 1, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, October 1st, 2025

Reading 1, Nehemiah 2:1-8

1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, since I was in charge of the wine, I took the wine and offered it to the king. Now, he had never seen me looking depressed before.

2 So the king said to me, 'Why are you looking depressed? You are not sick! This must be a sadness of the heart.' Thoroughly alarmed by this,

3 I said to the king, 'May the king live for ever! How can I not look depressed when the city where the tombs of my ancestors are lies in ruins and its gates have been burnt down?'

4 The king then said to me, 'What would you like me to do?' Praying to the God of heaven,

5 I said to the king, 'If the king approves and your servant enjoys your favour, send me to Judah, to the city of the tombs of my ancestors, so that I can rebuild it.'

6 The king -- with the queen sitting beside him-said, 'How long will your journey take, and when will you come back?' Once I had given him a definite time, the king approved my mission.

7 I then said to the king, 'If the king approves, may I be given orders for the governors of Transeuphrates to let me pass through on my way to Judah?'

8 Also an order for Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, to supply me with timber for the beams of the gates of the citadel of the Temple, for the city walls and for the house which I am to occupy?' These the king granted me because the kindly hand of my God was over me.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept at the memory of Zion.

2 On the poplars there we had hung up our harps.

3 For there our gaolers had asked us to sing them a song, our captors to make merry, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.'

4 How could we sing a song of Yahweh on alien soil?

5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand wither!

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

6 May my tongue remain stuck to my palate if I do not keep you in mind, if I do not count Jerusalem the greatest of my joys.

Gospel, Luke 9:57-62

57 As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'

58 Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.'

59 Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.'

60 But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

61 Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say good -- bye to my people at home.'

62 Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 1, 2025

1. In our first reading we heard an excerpt from the second chapter of the Book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah receives permission from the King to go and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, the holy City of God's chosen people, Israel, which had been seized and laid in ruin. The book opens with news of the exile of the Jews from Jerusalem and the horrible condition of the wall surrounding the city of God. Nehemiah is the "cupbearer", to the Persian King in 444 BC. He is a man of deep prayer. Prayer which moves the heart of the Lord to use Him for a wonderful task, aiding in the restoration of Jerusalem.

An historic event, which shows the love the Lord had for His Chosen people Israel - and how he used men of faith to accomplish his purposes. But the book also lends itself to allegorical treatment. Especially for those who are Christians, part of the New Jerusalem of the Church in this current urgent hour. A time in which the Church needs to be restored and is in disarray. We are invited to help rebuild the walls of the Church. After inspecting the walls, Nehemiah designs a plan which ends up posting men at the wall to pray and intercede. Other men to hold back the attacking enemies with swords. Others to rebuild the walls. So, it is in our time. Are we responding to the Lord's call in this hour of Church history to join in the mission?

2. Our Psalm response continues the theme. David the Psalmist mourns the captivity of the Jewish people who had been dispersed from their land and oppressed under a foreign regime. They are encouraged by the Prophet and psalmist David to reflect on Jerusalem, the greatest of joys, and to trust the Lord.

So, it should be with each one of us. Even as we see the Church which we love, besieged by struggles within and hostility without, we know the Lord will never abandon His Church. We are called to be His instruments as He moves by His Holy Spirit to purify and rebuild the Church. Are we willing to do so?

3. In the Gospel appointed for today we heard the closing verses of the 9th chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke. Jesus, travelling with His disciples to Jerusalem, and preaching the Kingdom of God, has just left a Samaritan Village where the residents would not allow Him to pass through because He was on the way to Jerusalem. Samaritans worshipped on Mount Gerizim. His disciples wanted Him to cast down fire upon them for their actions.

But Jesus has another Way to offer them, and to offer us, the Way of the Cross. He tells His disciples He has nowhere to lay His Head. And those who choose to follow Him must decide to forsake all, including burying the dead and keeping their homes, if they want to join in His Mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God. "No-one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" he says. Where do we stand? We are His contemporary disciples. Is He first in our lives?



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 2, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Thursday, October 2nd, 2025

Reading 1, Exodus 23:20-23

20 'Look, I am sending an angel to precede you, to guard you as you go and bring you to the place that I have prepared.

21 Revere him and obey what he says. Do not defy him: he will not forgive any wrong-doing on your part, for my name is in him.

22 If, however, you obey what he says and do whatever I order, I shall be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes.

23 My angel will precede you and lead you to the home of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, whom I shall exterminate.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 91:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 10-11

1 You who live in the secret place of Elyon, spend your nights in the shelter of Shaddai,

2 saying to Yahweh, 'My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust!'

3 He rescues you from the snare of the fowler set on destruction;

4 he covers you with his pinions, you find shelter under his wings. His constancy is shield and protection.

5 You need not fear the terrors of night, the arrow that flies in the daytime,

6 the plague that stalks in the darkness, the scourge that wreaks havoc at high noon.

10 No disaster can overtake you, no plague come near your tent;

11 he has given his angels orders about you to guard you wherever you go.

Gospel, Matthew 18:1-5, 10

1 At this time the disciples came to Jesus and said, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?'

2 So he called a little child to him whom he set among them.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3 Then he said, 'In truth I tell you, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

4 And so, the one who makes himself as little as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.

5 'Anyone who welcomes one little child like this in my name welcomes me.

10 'See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 2, 2025

1. In our first reading, we are told that the Israelites shall be guided to the promised land, and they are to obey God's instructions to get there. The Lord sent an ANGEL to lead them and guard them. The word angel means "one going" or "one sent". Angels "go" for God. They carry His word and initiate His actions. We could also call them messengers and ministers. Angels are mentioned throughout the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible. They are also found throughout the Christian Tradition and the teaching of the Church.

Can we encounter God in our own daily lives? Does God still visit men and women? Does he still send "angels" or messengers to reveal His plans? Does he send them to us to speak His words to specific people? The answer to all these questions is "Yes"!

God wants His people Israel to follow His instructions. He sends an Angel. He wants us to do the same. The public life, ministry and words of Jesus Christ are filled with references to the Angels. Even more present are the tales of their actions. They ministered to the Lord Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, where He suffered his anguish before the final act of selfless love at Calvary. They attended to Him in the Victory of the Resurrection and announced the meaning of the event to His followers who came to the empty tomb.

In the earliest account of the New Testament Christian community called the "Acts of the Apostles" and in the letters to the early Churches, found after the Gospel accounts in the New Testament, the presence and actions of the angels are everywhere.

Finally, in the last Book of the Bible, the Book of the Revelation, they are woven throughout the Biblical texts and in a very unique way their territoriality is explained and revealed. For example, there are Angels delegated for each one of the early Churches. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains:

328 The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition.

And later on,

336 From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God."

Do what God tells you. And ask Him to send His angels to help you. Watch what happens!

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

2. Our responsorial psalm is one of the most beautiful Psalms. It celebrates God's protection of His faithful. One of the most important things to understand about our relationship with God, is that He is always looking out for us. The entire Bible is filled with God's instruction and the story of His effort to bring us all to His loving embrace. Let us understand and appreciate this as we celebrate this day.
3. Our Gospel tells us how we are "to be". Not just what we are to do. How "to be" is a profound challenge. There is an entire branch of philosophy called ontology which studies this question, the nature of things. Who are we? But we do not need to earn an academic degree to find the answer, for Jesus has provided it. We are to be to God the Father, as these children are to Jesus. Trusting! Giving ourselves unreservedly to God. We were made by Him for a relationship with Him.

Throughout the Bible, we find examples of ordinary, uneducated people, who are called to greatness. And their path is always the same, they trust and follow God. Consider David, who was a shepherd boy. What could he have known of statecraft? Yet through God, he became a great king. Or look at Mary, a teenage girl, visited by an Angel and asked to be the Mother of the Lord. She became the Mother of God, giving her simple, faith filled "Yes"

Our world tells us that greatness comes from extraordinary talent, or educational attainment, or business acumen. But the Bible tells us that genuine greatness comes from living faith. No person became a saint because of an academic degree or an athletic performance. We become saints by following Jesus Christ.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 3, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, October 3rd, 2025

Reading 1, Baruch 1:15-22

15 You must say: Saving justice is the Lord's, we have only the look of shame we bear, as is the case today for the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

16 for our kings and princes, our priests, our prophets, and for our ancestors,

17 because we have sinned before the Lord,

18 have disobeyed him, and have not listened to the voice of the Lord our God telling us to follow the commandments which the Lord had ordained for us.

19 From the day when the Lord brought our ancestors out of Egypt until today we have been disobedient to the Lord our God, we have been disloyal, refusing to listen to his voice.

20 And we are not free even today of the disasters and the curse which the Lord pronounced through his servant Moses the day he brought our ancestors out of Egypt to give us a land flowing with milk and honey.

21 We have not listened to the voice of the Lord our God in all the words of those prophets he sent us;

22 but, each following the dictates of our evil heart, we have taken to serving alien gods, and doing what is displeasing to the Lord our God.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 79:1-2, 3-5, 8, 9

1 [Psalm Of Asaph] God, the pagans have invaded your heritage, they have defiled your holy temple, they have laid Jerusalem in ruins,

2 they have left the corpses of your servants as food for the birds of the air, the bodies of your faithful for the wild beasts.

3 Around Jerusalem they have shed blood like water, leaving no one to bury them.

4 We are the scorn of our neighbours, the butt and laughing-stock of those around us.

5 How long will you be angry, Yahweh? For ever? Is your jealousy to go on smouldering like a fire?

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

8 Do not count against us the guilt of former generations, in your tenderness come quickly to meet us, for we are utterly weakened;

9 help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name; Yahweh, wipe away our sins, rescue us for the sake of your name.

Gospel, Luke 10:13-16

13 'Alas for you, Chorazin! Alas for you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

14 And still, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the Judgement than for you.

15 And as for you, Capernaum, did you want to be raised high as heaven? You shall be flung down to hell.

16 'Anyone who listens to you listens to me; anyone who rejects you rejects me, and those who reject me reject the one who sent me.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 3, 2025

1. The Book of Baruch gives us an insight into the life of the Jewish people, God's chosen people, during the Babylonian exile. The author is presumed to be a scribe and companion of the prophet Jeremiah. In this portion of the first chapter, the people are being called to confess their sins to the Lord. One of those sins, was their refusal to listen to - and obey - the Word of the Lord. We are warned against our own refusal to listen to the Word of the Lord.

Such a refusal now only offends God, it has disastrous results in our lives. Notice the lament over the disasters that have befallen those people who have sinned against God. Indeed, on more than one occasion, the whole of Israel suffered for the wrongdoing of the people. The precepts of the Lord are given to protect us and to lead us to true freedom and human flourishing. God loves us and wants us to love Him in return. His ways are the right ways. When we disobey them, we experience these kinds of difficulties. We bring consequences upon ourselves. The same happens to nations, when they disobey.

If you feel your life has many problems, consider how you are living. Are you following the Ways of the Lord. Do you welcome His instruction?

2. In our responsorial psalm, we see find another example of how we should approach the Lord. By turning to God, and away from sin, or disobedience to His Ways, we can petition Him for mercy. He then gives to us the grace we need to live in accord with His ways. This is the path to freedom. All around us are those who do not keep the Lord's commandments. But that does not mean we have to be caught up in their sins. Take time today to turn toward God in prayer, ask for salvation, and for the strength to keep His ways. God is REAL. He hears us and responds to heartfelt petitions. After all, He is Our father
3. In today's Gospel, Jesus is warning the people in two places, where they actually witnessed miracles, yet still refused to believe. Jesus warns, it will be better for Sodom than for the people who ought to know better. As Christians, we have not only witnessed miracles, we have been given miracles in our own lives! Yet, some among us still reject the evidence of their eyes, ears and reason, and follow another path. This is a dangerous path, one filled with frustration and consequences.

Our first duty is to pay attention to the path we are on. Do we dwell as unbelievers? Do we behave as if there is no God, or as if we have no responsibilities toward one another? Have we put God first in our lives? If we have, or if we have not - now is the time to turn around. That is what conversion is all about, turning away from sin and turning toward the Lord.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

By God's grace, given to us in Jesus Christ, we are not only set free from sin, we are set free for - a new way of life as a Christian, a follower of the Christ. One who makes the Risen Jesus Christ present in the stuff of daily life, for ourselves and for others. The process of conversion in the life of a follower of Jesus involves the exercise of human freedom through the capacity of human choice. What we choose not only changes the world around us, it changes us. Choose the Lord Jesus Christ!



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 4, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, October 4th, 2025

Reading 1, Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29

5 Take courage, my people, memorial of Israel!

6 You were sold to the nations, but not for extermination. You provoked God; and so were delivered to your enemies,

7 since you had angered your Creator by offering sacrifices to demons, and not to God.

8 You had forgotten the eternal God who reared you. You had also grieved Jerusalem who nursed you,

9 for when she saw God's anger falling on you, she said: Listen, you neighbours of Zion: God has sent me great sorrow.

10 I have seen my sons and daughters taken into captivity, which the Eternal brought down on them.

11 I had reared them joyfully; in tears, in sorrow, I watched them go away.

12 Do not, any of you, exult over me, a widow, deserted by so many; I am bereaved because of the sins of my children, who turned away from the Law of God,

27 Take courage, my children, call on God: he who brought this on you will remember you.

28 As by your will you first strayed from God, so now turn back and search for him ten times harder;

29 for as he has been bringing down those disasters on you, so will he rescue you and give you eternal joy.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 69:33-35, 36-37

33 For God listens to the poor, he has never scorned his captive people.

34 Let heaven and earth and seas, and all that stirs in them, acclaim him!

35 For God will save Zion, and rebuild the cities of Judah, and people will live there on their own land;

36 the descendants of his servants will inherit it, and those who love his name will dwell there.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Luke 10:17-24

17 The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,' they said, 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.'

18 He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven.'

19 Look, I have given you power to tread down serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you.

20 Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice instead that your names are written in heaven.'

21 Just at this time, filled with joy by the Holy Spirit, he said, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children. Yes, Father, for that is what it has pleased you to do.'

22 Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'

23 Then turning to his disciples he spoke to them by themselves, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see,

24 for I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 4, 2025

1. In today's first reading, from Baruch, the preceding verses remind Israel that the Lord gave her the Law of Moses and the commandments so that she might live and shine her light to all the Nations, leading them to God. These are words of encouragement. In fact, this portion of the book is called a poem of consolation. The scribe is telling the people of God that although they have brought judgement upon themselves, the Lord also remembers them and shall rescue them.

Today, we know that the Lord kept this promise, in its fullness, by sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save all people. We who now follow Jesus Christ, must take heart! Although our collective sins have brought despair and discouragement, God has also sent His Son to save us, and to show us the way to the fullness of salvation as we continue to respond to grace - and grow in holiness of life.

2. Our responsorial psalm celebrates God's pledge to save His people and tells us that He will rebuild His cities for those who love His name. Let us rejoice that we are invited to dwell in those cities even now, spiritually, and, in the world to come when Jesus returns to establish the New Heaven and New Earth. Let us live each day with the hope that God will restore all that is lost to us, and much, much more. Let us love His name and begin, today, to acclaim His name in all that we do. We are called to be a people of praise.
3. In the Gospel, we find the disciples of Jesus have returned from their mission, filled with rejoicing. The Lord did indeed give them the power to cast out demons, heal the sick, and proclaim deliverance. This is a happy moment, but Jesus uses it to teach them a lesson about what should be the real cause of their joy, and what should help them to grow in the virtue of humility. Jesus explains that the learned and clever people of this world, even kings, are blind and deaf to truth. How can this be?

Childlike humility is essential to faith. Children understand they have much to learn, so they soak up knowledge like sponges. But the learned are often full of themselves, often comparing themselves to others, and seeing themselves surrounded by fools. They suffer from hubris, the idea that they know better than others. Such a person cannot learn because they believe they know it all.

This is why Jesus Christ modeled humility for us. He did not exalt Himself or take on a lofty title. Likewise, we must be humble, listening instead of speaking so we too may come to know the fullness of Truth and walk in HIM.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 5, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, October 5th, 2025

Reading 1, Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4

2 How long, Yahweh, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry, 'Violence!' in your ear while you will not save?

3 Why do you make me see wrong-doing, why do you countenance oppression? Plundering and violence confront me, contention and discord flourish.

2 Then Yahweh answered me and said, 'Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read.

3 For the vision is for its appointed time, it hastens towards its end and it will not lie; although it may take some time, wait for it, for come it certainly will before too long.

4 'You see, anyone whose heart is not upright will succumb, but the upright will live through faithfulness.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

1 Come, let us cry out with joy to Yahweh, acclaim the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, acclaim him with music.

6 Come, let us bow low and do reverence; kneel before Yahweh who made us!

7 For he is our God, and we the people of his sheepfold, the flock of his hand. If only you would listen to him today!

8 Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as at the time of Massah in the desert,

9 when your ancestors challenged me, put me to the test, and saw what I could do!

Reading 2, Second Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

6 That is why I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess through the laying on of my hands.

7 God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power and love and self-control.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

8 So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to our Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but share in my hardships for the sake of the gospel, relying on the power of God

13 Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

14 With the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, look after that precious thing given in trust.

Gospel, Luke 17:5-10

5 The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.'

6 The Lord replied, 'If you had faith like a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

7 'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal at once"?

8 Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper ready; fasten your belt and wait on me while I eat and drink. You yourself can eat and drink afterwards"?

9 Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told?

10 So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are useless servants: we have done no more than our duty." '



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 5, 2025

1. In our first reading from Habakkuk, we find the prophet lamenting the moral collapse of Israel. We are presented with what is called a "pericope" in biblical language. We have the first two verses of the first chapter in the book, immediately followed by verses 2-4 of the second chapter. The verses in between give us the context. This is a long dialogue between the prophet and the Lord. In the first chapter he is brutally honest with the Lord, complaining about the response he is getting from the Lord. From his perspective it is no response. yet, he perseveres in his prophetic mission.

Yet Yahweh assures Habakkuk that the "vision presses on to fulfillment" and calls him to "wait for it". A very popular bible verse. Justice will come, and the upright will survive the trial.

This should be a reminder to us as we look around. Yes, we see a world in an advanced state of moral decay, but we also see the Church in desperate need of repentance, clergy who have sinned, faithful who are losing their faith... We need to know that the Lord sees it all as well. And, He has a rescue and restoration plan for the Church. We must not give in to despair. Hope is a Cardinal Virtue. The responsorial Psalm for the Liturgy also reminds us not to harden our hearts. We have already seen what God can do! So, let us rejoice that our God is a just and powerful God who works miracles for those who believe in Him and place their trust in His salvation.

2. The second reading, a letter from the Apostle Paul to Timothy, offers a key for how we can continue to have hope and persevere, even when it seems that nothing is changing. Even, at times, when it even seems that when we pray, God is silent. We need to pray MORE at those times. To "fan into a flame the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us", in a special way, in the Sacrament of Confirmation. And, for those who were, like Timothy, ordained, the gift given when the hands of the Bishop were imposed upon them. The Holy Spirit, the very power that raised Jesus from the dead, the very breath and fire of the Living God, the "dunamis" in Greek, the dynamite power of God, needs to be rekindled within us. In the words of St Paul "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of
3. Our Gospel reading teaches a valuable lesson about what it means to be a faithful Christian, to believe in the power of faith and to embrace the call to be as servant of the SERVANT, Jesus Christ. Jesus uses the image of the mustard seed, a seed so small, it can barely be seen. Yet, it becomes the greatest of trees. He also uses the image of leaven in other passages to communicate the same truth.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

The power to effect redemptive change in the world comes from living faith. It involves recognizing the life of God within us, yielding to its transformative effects, and allowing Jesus Christ to live His Life in and through us. It is amazing how little leaven it takes to raise a loaf of bread. That is because within those little particles of yeast is found the power to ferment, to change the lump of wet dough into a loaf of aromatic, tasty, nourishing bread. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

The man or woman with living faith also knows the call of discipleship is a call to serve. To serve is to place oneself in a position of humility. Like the servant in the parable, there is much work to do, and when we have finished the task before us, we should not ask for a reward. Instead, Jesus instructs that we must look to the next task, and the next, recognizing that even if we did all the work to be done in the world, it would never be enough to repay what Jesus has done for us.

Therefore, when we give of ourselves, we should not ask for thanks or reward. For we have already been rewarded by Christ's sacrifice. Our talents, and all the things of this world that are entrusted to us belong to God and should be used for His service. This is our duty as Christian servants. And, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with living faith, we can participate in the ongoing redemptive mission of Jesus Christ.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 6, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Monday, October 6th, 2025

Reading 1, Jonah 1:1--2:1, 11

1 The word of Yahweh was addressed to Jonah son of Amittai:

2 'Up!' he said, 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and proclaim to them that their wickedness has forced itself upon me.'

3 Jonah set about running away from Yahweh, and going to Tarshish. He went down to Jaffa and found a ship bound for Tarshish; he paid his fare and boarded it, to go with them to Tarshish, to get away from Yahweh.

4 But Yahweh threw a hurricane at the sea, and there was such a great storm at sea that the ship threatened to break up.

5 The sailors took fright, and each of them called on his own god, and to lighten the ship they threw the cargo overboard. Jonah, however, had gone below, had lain down in the hold and was fast asleep,

6 when the boatswain went up to him and said, 'What do you mean by sleeping? Get up! Call on your god! Perhaps he will spare us a thought and not leave us to die.'

7 Then they said to each other, 'Come on, let us draw lots to find out who is to blame for bringing us this bad luck.' So they cast lots, and the lot pointed to Jonah.

8 Then they said to him, 'Tell us, what is your business? Where do you come from? What is your country? What is your nationality?'

9 He replied, 'I am a Hebrew, and I worship Yahweh, God of Heaven, who made both sea and dry land.'

10 The sailors were seized with terror at this and said, 'Why ever did you do this?' since they knew that he was trying to escape from Yahweh, because he had told them so.

11 They then said, 'What are we to do with you, to make the sea calm down for us?' For the sea was growing rougher and rougher.

12 He replied, 'Take me and throw me into the sea, and then it will calm down for you. I know it is my fault that this great storm has struck you.'

13 The sailors rowed hard in an effort to reach the shore, but in vain, since the sea was growing rougher and rougher.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

14 So at last they called on Yahweh and said, 'O, Yahweh, do not let us perish for the sake of this man's life, and do not hold us responsible for causing an innocent man's death; for you, Yahweh, have acted as you saw fit.'

15 And taking hold of Jonah they threw him into the sea; and the sea stopped raging.

16 At this, the men were seized with dread of Yahweh; they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows to him.

1 Now Yahweh ordained that a great fish should swallow Jonah; and Jonah remained in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

11 Yahweh spoke to the fish, which then vomited Jonah onto the dry land.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 2:2, 3, 4, 5, 8

2 Kings of the earth take up position, princes plot together against Yahweh and his anointed,

3 'Now let us break their fetters! Now let us throw off their bonds!'

4 He who is enthroned in the heavens laughs, Yahweh makes a mockery of them,

5 then in his anger rebukes them, in his rage he strikes them with terror.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give you the nations as your birthright, the whole wide world as your possession.

Gospel, Luke 10:25-37

25 And now a lawyer stood up and, to test him, asked, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

26 He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?'

27 He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.'

28 Jesus said to him, 'You have answered right, do this and life is yours.'

29 But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

30 In answer Jesus said, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of bandits; they stripped him, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead.

31 Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

32 In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan traveller who came on him was moved with compassion when he saw him.

34 He went up to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him onto his own mount and took him to an inn and looked after him.

35 Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper and said, "Look after him, and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have."

36 Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the bandits' hands?'

37 He replied, 'The one who showed pity towards him.' Jesus said to him, 'Go, and do the same yourself.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 6, 2025

1. Our first reading recounts the call of Jonah to preach to the inhabitants of Nineveh of the judgement of God that is to come upon them if they do not repent. Yet, Jonah tries to run from his prophetic assignment. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire. The Assyrians were terrible conquerors who ruled by fear and intimidation, and they greatly persecuted the people of Israel. Yet, God in His mercy saw fit to send a prophet to warn them of their impending judgement. But Jonah, chose to run away from his vocation!

In running from God, Jonah almost caused a catastrophe. But through a miracle, God intervened and saved all involved. Jonah cried out to God from the belly of the whale and was delivered. The Lord sent Jonah once again to preach repentance, after he spent three days in the belly of a whale. When the Prophet followed the Lord's direction and finally preached repentance to Nineveh, the city repented. Jesus speaks of the conversion of the Ninevites and the sign of Jonah. We read this in Matthews Gospel (Mt. 12:38-41)

Here is one lesson. No matter who we are, no matter how ordinary we are, our talents belong to God. And we are called to use those talents in a specific way to serve God. This is our vocation, which means to hear a voice. The Lord calls us with a mission. Once we discern what it is, we must be faithful. When we are, miracles still happen. Our duty is to listen for the voice of God in our lives, and to follow the path He has set for us. God once we are on that path, God will provide everything we need. Yet, if we refuse, if we run from God, we invite ruin.

2. Our responsorial psalm warns against the folly of rebelling against God. Since the beginning of time, people have rebelled against the God and accused God of binding people with fetters. Yet, this is ridiculous, since we know God is a God of freedom, and His ways are the ways of freedom. It is the Lord who sets captives free. When we sin, we construct our own chains. Only a Savior, sent from God, could pay the penalty for our sin and set us free. God sent just such a Savior, Jesus Christ.
3. Our Gospel reading is the story of the Good Samaritan, the unwelcome outsider whose ethics and true charity are an example of how one should really be. The parable was told to lawyers who sought to limit its implications by asking the Lord to define "who is my neighbor". The Lord used their arrogance and trickiness to teach an extraordinary lesson.

Ethics are the moral principles that which dictate how one should behave in a given situation. In this case, the Samaritan overlooked his status as an outsider and instead treated the injured man as his neighbor. And this is how we are to be.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Even though we are Christians, we are called to treat all people with love and compassion. It does not matter if they are of a different denomination, or a different belief, or even if they disbelieve or are enemies. We are called to love everyone.

By showing love where most show apathy or hostility, we demonstrate that we follow a different way. The Way of the One who is Himself, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Jesus the Christ.

The parable of the "Good Samaritan" presents a litmus test for any Nation which boasts of concern for our "neighbors." By relegating an entire class of persons, our youngest neighbors in the first home of the whole human race, to the status of property to be disposed of, we commit a continuing egregious evil. It must stop!



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 7, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

Reading 1, Jonah 3:1-10

1 The word of Yahweh was addressed to Jonah a second time.

2 'Up!' he said, 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it as I shall tell you.'

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of Yahweh. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare; to cross it took three days.

4 Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city and then proclaimed, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh will be overthrown.'

5 And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his robe, put on sackcloth and sat down in ashes.

7 He then had it proclaimed throughout Nineveh, by decree of the king and his nobles, as follows: 'No person or animal, herd or flock, may eat anything; they may not graze, they may not drink any water.'

8 All must put on sackcloth and call on God with all their might; and let everyone renounce his evil ways and violent behaviour.

9 Who knows? Perhaps God will change his mind and relent and renounce his burning wrath, so that we shall not perish.'

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which he had threatened to bring on them, and did not bring it.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 7-8

1 [Song of Ascents] From the depths I call to you, Yahweh:

2 Lord, hear my cry. Listen attentively to the sound of my pleading!

3 If you kept a record of our sins, Lord, who could stand their ground?

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

4 But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

7 let Israel hope in Yahweh. For with Yahweh is faithful love, with him generous ransom;

8 and he will ransom Israel from all its sins.

Gospel, Luke 10:38-42

38 In the course of their journey he came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.

39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking.

40 Now Martha, who was distracted with all the serving, came to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.'

41 But the Lord answered, 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things,

42 and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part, and it is not to be taken from her.'



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 7, 2025

1. In our first reading from the Book of Jonah, a remarkable thing has happened. The Assyrian king has proclaimed a fast and ordered repentance to save the city from destruction. He heard the words of warning God spoke through Jonah, and he responded.

There is something extraordinary happening. The Assyrians are not believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the true God, the God of Israel. In fact, they were polytheistic, worshipping angry, bloodthirsty false gods. They certainly understood destruction, having used it themselves to subjugate their enemies.

But God, the true God, is always merciful, even to those who do not believe in Him. He calls all people to repentance and salvation, regardless of who they are, or where they are, or from whence they've come. And those who turn toward the true God will find salvation, no matter their past. Do we believe this? If so, do we regularly repent?

2. Our responsorial psalm is a reminder that God does not keep a record of our sins. Once we avail ourselves of His mercy, we enjoy forgiveness and need not fear eternal punishment. Knowing this, let us be frequent users of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is always a path to begin again.

3. The story of Martha in the Gospel of Luke is meant to be a warning for those who busy themselves, and miss the most important things, worshipping and loving God, with the wrong things. Martha wanted everything to be perfect for Jesus' visit, so she busied herself with service. Now the chores she set out to do were important. They had to be done. But she was doing them, at the expense of listening to Jesus. This is the heart of true prayer.

How many times have we skipped Mass because we had another obligation? How many times have we refrained from spending time with our Lord in prayer or contemplation because we had too many other things to do? In those moments, we are Marthas, working diligently when perhaps we should take a rest and listen to what is more important.

We will not be judged for how clean our house was, or for how many times we worked on a Sunday. We will be judged for how well we kept God's commandments and followed His way. If we find that our business is interfering with the practice of our faith, let us remember the words of Jesus, 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part, and it is not to be taken from her.' When I was a young man, I had a wonderful spiritual father, a Franciscan priest named Fr Michael Scanlan. He regularly told me, when I told him I was "too busy" to pray more, "No time for prayer, no faith in God".

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

When I told him there were not enough hours in the day to increase my time of prayer. He said, "We all get 24 hours, it must be enough". He also assured me that if I would put worship, prayer and communion with the Lord FIRST, there would always be enough time. Too many people draw a separation between prayer and action which can fail to understand the integrated Christian Way of Life. The two should not be separated. The two cannot be separated.

There is a little Martha and Mary in each one of us. Let Mary's choice inform our use of time.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 8, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, October 8th, 2025

Reading 1, Jonah 4:1-11

1 This made Jonah very indignant; he fell into a rage.

2 He prayed to Yahweh and said, 'Please, Yahweh, isn't this what I said would happen when I was still in my own country? That was why I first tried to flee to Tarshish, since I knew you were a tender, compassionate God, slow to anger, rich in faithful love, who relents about inflicting disaster.

3 So now, Yahweh, please take my life, for I might as well be dead as go on living.'

4 Yahweh replied, 'Are you right to be angry?'

5 Jonah then left the city and sat down to the east of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, to see what would happen to the city.

6 Yahweh God then ordained that a castor-oil plant should grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head and soothe his ill-humour; Jonah was delighted with the castor-oil plant.

7 But at dawn the next day, God ordained that a worm should attack the castor-oil plant -- and it withered.

8 Next, when the sun rose, God ordained that there should be a scorching east wind; the sun beat down so hard on Jonah's head that he was overcome and begged for death, saying, 'I might as well be dead as go on living.'

9 God said to Jonah, 'Are you right to be angry about the castor-oil plant?' He replied, 'I have every right to be angry, mortally angry!'

10 Yahweh replied, 'You are concerned for the castor-oil plant which has not cost you any effort and which you did not grow, which came up in a night and has perished in a night.

11 So why should I not be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, to say nothing of all the animals?'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10

3 take pity on me, Lord, for to you I cry all the day.

4 Fill your servant's heart with joy, Lord, for to you I raise up my heart.

5 Lord, you are kind and forgiving, rich in faithful love for all who call upon you.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

6 Yahweh, hear my prayer, listen to the sound of my pleading.

9 All nations will come and adore you, Lord, and give glory to your name.

10 For you are great and do marvellous deeds, you, God, and none other.

Gospel, Luke 11:1-4

1 Now it happened that he was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'

2 He said to them, 'When you pray, this is what to say: Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come;

3 give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,

4 for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 8, 2025

1. In today's first reading, we find Jonah angry with God, for a rather strange reason. Jonah has just finished preaching to the Assyrian city of Nineveh. He has warned them they must repent, or God will destroy their city. Now, he has gone outside the city to sit and watch the destruction.

The Assyrians were enemies of Israel and had committed great atrocities. Yet, when Jonah called them to repentance, they did exactly that. And so, God spared the city. But this angered Jonah. He wanted to see the city punished anyway.

There's a lesson here. God has mercy for all people, including those who have not heard of Him. He wants all people to be saved, even those who cannot tell right from wrong, because they do not have a properly informed conscience.

Our thirst for revenge is a sin. Instead of seeking the destruction of our enemies, we should seek their salvation. This is precisely why the Christian church flourishes under persecution because our response isn't to meet violence with violence, but with love. And when others see this response, it has a persuasive effect that goes far beyond words.

2. Our responsorial psalm for today is a call for God to come and hear our prayers. Just as God heard the repentance and prayers of even the Assyrians at Nineveh, He hears our prayers as well. Let us remember that God is always listening, and He does not forget those who love Him.
3. Today's Gospel teaches us the origin of the Our Father, the wonderful prayer taught to us by Jesus Christ Himself. From this, and the other accounts of the same exchange, we have been given the beautiful form prayer we were taught as children. It is the prayer we pray at every Holy Mass, the Our Father. However, Jesus is teaching us all much more than one form of prayer, he is revealing to his friends and followers the relationship which is itself the very heart of prayer.

Jesus sets forth the relational framework within which life itself can become an ongoing dialogue of prayer. The Our Father reveals the path for every one of us to living in a continual communion with God.

Following this account, Jesus tells the disciples a parable concerning one type of prayer, persevering prayer for needs. (Luke 11:1-13) He instructs them throughout His public ministry concerning various types of prayer. However, He Himself is Prayer. In His continual communion with the Father, He opens the Way to the Father. His entire time with the disciples is an instruction in Prayer.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

He shows them the pattern of living in such a continual communion with the Father. He then invites them - and he invites us - into that communion of love which He has with the Father, in the Holy Spirit. This is prayer.

Through His saving Incarnation, His Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus also removes the impediment to our being able to enter into that communion. He capacitates us to begin living in that communion in the here and now, by cultivating lifestyles of prayer leading us into this communion. Through prayer he shows us the path to the peace we long for, even in the midst of the turbulence which is so common in daily life; a peace which comes from such a communion with the Father - Our Father - in the Son and through the Holy Spirit.

What Jesus is teaching us in this Gospel account from Luke is a Way of Life. We can have the same relationship Jesus has with the Father, the intimate communion the disciples witnessed when they came upon Him prayer. The same relationship they witnesses as they walked with Him daily. We also walk with Him daily. Lord, teach us to Pray.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 9, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

catholiconline.school



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

4 How different the wicked, how different! Just like chaff blown around by the wind

6 For Yahweh watches over the path of the upright, but the path of the wicked is doomed.

Gospel, Luke 11:5-13

5 He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves,

6 because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him;"

7 and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you."

8 I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

9 'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives; everyone who searches finds; everyone who knocks will have the door opened.

11 What father among you, if his son asked for a fish, would hand him a snake?

12 Or if he asked for an egg, hand him a scorpion?

13 If you then, evil as you are, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 9, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of Malachi is a reminder that God remembers those who fear Him and keep His ways. There is also a warning; those who reject God will be as stubble, cast into a glowing furnace. Evildoers may enjoy their evil and escape justice for a time, but there will be a reckoning.

We must not despair when we see those who seem to have rejected God, even those who actually do evil, seem to enjoy the fruits of their misdeeds. With each sin, these people are making a choice to abuse their freedom and to worship something other than the true God. Unless they repent, God will remember and respect their choice. This is what it means to have free will. It means we have the freedom to choose to follow what we like, even if it is not God. But remember! All choices have consequences, and at the time of judgement, there are no exceptions.

So, our choices not only change the world around us, they change us. Part Three of the Catholic Catechism, a section devoted specifically to a discussion of Moral theology is entitled "Life in Christ." The Section treats the vocation of man to beatitude, the Greek can also be translated as happiness. It articulates a clear Moral theology of choice by considering the morality of human acts, the role of the passions, proper formation of the conscience and the cultivation of the virtues accompanied by the rejection of sin.

In its explanation of the morality of human acts, The Catechism offers a sobering insight concerning a wrong exercise of freedom: "Mortal sin is a radical possibility of human freedom, as is love itself." It properly insists that authentic Human Freedom cannot be realized in decisions made against God and against what is good because it is "patterned on God's freedom."

2. Our responsorial psalm continues the lesson, teaching that those who follow God are blessed, but the wicked are blown like chaff. Indeed, the Gospel is like a stream, and we are the trees planted nearby. The grace of God ensures we flourish, bearing fruit all of our days.
3. Our Gospel is a lesson about how we should pursue that which God has in store for us. In the reading, a man is asking his neighbor for bread with great persistence, despite the late hour. Because he is not deterred by excuses, he will have what he's asking for.

Likewise, we must be persistent in our search for grace. To be persistent means prayer and setting aside time for contemplation. It means attending Mass and listening to God's voice in our hearts. It means living and sharing the Gospel.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Jesus connects persevering in prayer and living faith for good reason. Prayer is a direct consequence of such living faith, a sign that we truly believe that the Lord really hears our prayers and cares about us. Do we? We need to grow in our understanding of the ways of prayer, including this kind of persevering prayer of which the Lord speaks.

In an age of fast food, fast cars and fast internet, we seem to be running all the time. Yet, even with our digital calendars, we risk missing the most important meeting of all, our appointment with the Lord. We place our very selves at risk when we do so.

Yesterday's relationship with the Lord is not sufficient for today. Yesterday's prayer cannot keep us in the presence of the Lord. We need to cultivate an ongoing relationship with the Lord if we hope to see clearly with the eyes of living faith. We need to regularly and continually talk to Him. When we have a need, we need to present that need to the One who is not only a just Judge, but a loving Father.

When I was a young man, I had a wonderful Franciscan priest who taught me much about persevering prayer. Newly married, I thought I had the worries of the world flooding upon me. When I did not see quick answers to my prayer; I grew confused as to whether I should even continue asking. He told me, with such practical wisdom, "Pray until what you seek is given, or the Lord changes your mind about what you are asking".

Jesus persevered in prayer. In His Sacred humanity in that Garden called Gethsemane, we witness the greatest example of perseverance. We also witness the perfect fruit of surrendered love which embraces the Father's Will out of loving trust. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we read that he offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears. (Hebrews 5:7)

Sometimes we do not ask for the things which we really need. But God, the loving Father which he is, loves to hear from his sons and daughters. He welcomes all our requests. However, He gives us what we truly need to flourish and find our way home. The best prayer transforms our desire into His desire. We move from our will to His Will. As we learn to turn our human freedom toward His Loving Will, we find it fulfilled and perfected.

We are all called to persevering prayer, no matter what our state in life or vocation. Preparing ourselves for such prayer means learning to silence the clamor of the age, stop the ever-accelerating pace of the futile quests that so often occupy our hearts, and live in the eternal now by surrendering ourselves - and even our best aspirations- to the One who created us -and now re-creates us- in His Son Jesus Christ.

It is there, in the emptied place, in the stillness of the eternal now, where we prepare a room for the King of all hearts. And, in that encounter, we will find the longing of our heart fulfilled. Let us persevere, let us be persistent! And we shall have the eternal life with God for which we ask.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 10, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, October 10th, 2025

Reading 1, Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2

13 Priests, put on sackcloth and lament! You ministers of the altar, wail! Come here, lie in sackcloth all night long, you ministers of my God! For the Temple of your God has been deprived of cereal offering and libation.

14 Order a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly; you elders, summon everybody in the country to the Temple of Yahweh your God. Cry out to Yahweh:

15 'Alas for the day! For the Day of Yahweh is near, coming as destruction from Shaddai.'

1 Blow the ram's-horn in Zion, sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let everybody in the country tremble, for the Day of Yahweh is coming, yes, it is near.

2 Day of darkness and gloom, Day of cloud and blackness. Like the dawn, across the mountains spreads a vast and mighty people, such as has never been before, such as will never be again to the remotest ages.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9

2 I rejoice and delight in you, I sing to your name, Most High.

3 My enemies are in retreat, they stumble and perish at your presence,

6 the enemy is wiped out -- mere ruins for ever -- you have annihilated their cities, their memory has perished. See,

8 he will himself judge the world in uprightness, will give a true verdict on the nations.

9 May Yahweh be a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble!

16 Yahweh has made himself known, given judgement, he has ensnared the wicked in the work of their own hands. Muted music.

Gospel, Luke 11:15-26

15 But some of them said, 'It is through Beelzebul, the prince of devils, that he drives devils out.'

16 Others asked him, as a test, for a sign from heaven;

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

17 but, knowing what they were thinking, he said to them, 'Any kingdom which is divided against itself is heading for ruin, and house collapses against house.

18 So, too, with Satan: if he is divided against himself, how can his kingdom last? - since you claim that it is through Beelzebul that I drive devils out.

19 Now if it is through Beelzebul that I drive devils out, through whom do your own sons drive them out? They shall be your judges, then.

20 But if it is through the finger of God that I drive devils out, then the kingdom of God has indeed caught you unawares.

21 So long as a strong man fully armed guards his own home, his goods are undisturbed;

22 but when someone stronger than himself attacks and defeats him, the stronger man takes away all the weapons he relied on and shares out his spoil.

23 'Anyone who is not with me is against me; and anyone who does not gather in with me throws away.

24 'When an unclean spirit goes out of someone it wanders through waterless country looking for a place to rest, and not finding one it says, "I will go back to the home I came from."

25 But on arrival, finding it swept and tidied,

26 it then goes off and brings seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and set up house there, and so that person ends up worse off than before.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 10, 2025

1. Our reading from the Book of Joel describes the sorrow Israel faced after a series of disasters. Locusts and drought have caused a famine, and the people recognize that judgement is at hand. Notice their response. They acknowledged their responsibility. They repented.

We know judgement is coming. Whether we live to see the Second Coming of Christ, or we pass away before it matters little, for we will all face the day of judgement in what is called the Particular judgment. But how do we regard this news? Does it cause us to tremble and cower in fear? Or do we rush to repent of our sins, so when the day comes, we will be ready?

2. In our responsorial psalm for today, we see what shall happen to the enemies of God in view of the upright. We will all witness the judgement of the wicked so we will know god's judgement is righteous and just. Blessed are we who are prepared at all times, doing right in word and deed, and ready for Our Lord's return.
3. In our Gospel passage, taken from the Luke's account, onlookers have accused Jesus, the Incarnate Word of the Father, the very Son of God, the Messiah, of being in league with Satan, because He has cast out a mute demon. According to some at that time, a demon could only be cast out if the exorcist knows its name, and if a victim is mute, then the name cannot be known. Others were simply so blinded by their own pride that they actually attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to the work of the devil!

But of course, Jesus could perform such a miracle, because He is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Lord.

Jesus asked, how can I be in league with the devil, if I am undoing his work?

And so, Jesus explains, those who are not with Him, those who do not seek Him, end up being against Him.

This is a powerful reminder that there are only two choices. God, and Satan. If we are not seeking God, then what, or who are we seeking? If we are not serving Christ and His Church, then who or what are we serving? We may think we are serving our own ambition and self-interest. But, in reality, without the Lord, we end up walking in darkness.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 11, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, October 11th, 2025

Reading 1, Joel 4:12-21

12 'Let the nations rouse themselves and march to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit in judgement on all the nations around.

13 Ply the sickle, for the harvest is ripe; come and tread, for the winepress is full; the vats are overflowing, so great is their wickedness!

14 Multitude on multitude in the Valley of Decision! For the Day of Yahweh is near in the Valley of the Verdict!

15 Sun and moon grow dark, the stars lose their brilliance.

16 Yahweh roars from Zion, he thunders from Jerusalem; heaven and earth tremble. But Yahweh will be a shelter for his people, a stronghold for the Israelites.

17 'Then you will know that I am Yahweh your God residing on Zion, my holy mountain. Jerusalem will then be a sanctuary, no foreigners will overrun it ever again.'

18 When that Day comes, the mountains will run with new wine and the hills will flow with milk, and all the stream-beds of Judah will run with water. A fountain will spring from Yahweh's Temple and water the Gorge of the Acacias.

19 Egypt will become a desolation, and Edom a desert waste on account of the violence done to the children of Judah whose innocent blood they shed in their country.

20 But Judah will be inhabited for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation!

21 'I shall avenge their blood and let none go unpunished,' and Yahweh will dwell in Zion.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

1 Yahweh is king! Let earth rejoice, the many isles be glad!

2 Cloud, black cloud enfolds him, saving justice and judgement the foundations of his throne.

5 The mountains melt like wax, before the Lord of all the earth.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

6 The heavens proclaim his saving justice, all nations see his glory.

11 Light dawns for the upright, and joy for honest hearts.

12 Rejoice in Yahweh, you who are upright, praise his unforgettable holiness.

Gospel, Luke 11:27-28

27 It happened that as he was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, 'Blessed the womb that bore you and the breasts that fed you!'

28 But he replied, 'More blessed still are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 11, 2025

1. Our first reading from the Book of Joel is a promise of what will come, judgement and salvation. The wicked will be crushed underfoot, as the righteous will be saved. God will avenge the aggrieved.

Sadly, we don't always see justice in our lifetime. Many who do evil seem to escape justice because they are clever, or worse, because their evil is considered lawful. But we must take heart in the knowledge that God's laws are not subject to earthly opinion.

Those who do evil may escape human justice, but never God's justice.

2. Our responsorial psalm is a reminder that justice and judgement are the foundations of Yahweh's throne. If it seems we speak often of justice, it's because we do. Much like today, Israel was a small nation, surrounded by enemies. Worse yet, the people themselves often perpetrated evil upon one another.

The faithful often suffered under persecution from both without and within. But at all times, God has pledged to the faithful they will see justice. This pledge applies to all His faithful, including us, so be encouraged. We serve the Lord of the entire Universe. And He is just and loving.

3. Our short Gospel reading recounts the moment when a woman in a crowd blessed Mary for being the Mother of Jesus. To this, Jesus replied that it is even better for those who keep the Word of God.

Jesus' words did not in any way diminish Mary's unique role in God's plan for our salvation. However, the entire purpose of her "fiat," her saying yes to God's plan, was so that we could all hear the Word of God and keep it.

No devotion to Mary or the saints has any meaning if it does not direct us to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, and the salvation He offers. The Catholic Catechism reminds us:

"What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines, in turn, its faith in Christ. "God sent forth his Son", but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free co-operation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, "a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary" (Lk. 1:26,27).(CCC#487, 488)



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 12, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, October 12th, 2025

Reading 1, Second Kings 5:14-17

14 So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

15 Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and, presenting himself, said, 'Now I know that there is no God anywhere on earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.'

16 But Elisha replied, 'As Yahweh lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused.

17 Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, since your servant will no longer make burnt offerings or sacrifice to any god except Yahweh.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 [Psalm] Sing a new song to Yahweh, for he has performed wonders, his saving power is in his right hand and his holy arm.

2 Yahweh has made known his saving power, revealed his saving justice for the nations to see,

3 mindful of his faithful love and his constancy to the House of Israel. The whole wide world has seen the saving power of our God.

4 Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth, burst into shouts of joy!

Reading 2, Second Timothy 2:8-13

8 Remember the gospel that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David';

9 it is on account of this that I have to put up with suffering, even to being chained like a criminal. But God's message cannot be chained up.

10 So I persevere for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they, too, may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

11 Here is a saying that you can rely on: If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

12 If we persevere, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us.

13 If we are faithless, he is faithful still, for he cannot disown his own self.

Gospel, Luke 17:11-19

11 Now it happened that on the way to Jerusalem he was travelling in the borderlands of Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he entered one of the villages, ten men suffering from a virulent skin-disease came to meet him. They stood some way off

13 and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.'

14 When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed.

15 Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice

16 and threw himself prostrate at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.

17 This led Jesus to say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they?

18 It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.'

19 And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 12, 2025

1. There are numerous stories concerning lepers in the Bible. In the Second Book of Kings in the Old Testament we read of a leper named Naaman, a Syrian army commander, who encountered the Prophet of God, Elishah and was cured. This cure drew Naaman to faith in the True God. He proclaimed: "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel". (2Kings 5:14-17)

This story is our first reading at Mass today. The physical cure brought an even greater gift to Naaman, the revelation of the meaning of his existence. He was in a relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Among the many lessons taught here is the importance of humility and gratitude. Naaman was healed because he had the humility to submit to God and the instructions of His prophet, Elisha. And once he was healed, Naaman offered his thanks.

Let us remember how important humility and gratitude are and let us make time to give thanks to God for the miracles and blessings we have received.

2. Our responsorial psalm is a reminder that Yahweh has made known His power to save. If we need salvation, let us ask for it. Salvation is, in a sense, a process. The Lord has reached out to us, and we are invited to continually respond to His invitations of grace. So, a Catholic Christian can say, "I am saved", by the Lord grace given to me at Baptism when I was freed from original sin. "I am being saved", as I continue in the life of grace, growing in holiness and being "perfected" by grace. "I hope to be saved", as I persevere in the Christian life and stay faithful to the One who is always faithful. Let us give thanks.

This is what the Apostle Paul is explaining to his disciple, Timothy, in the excerpt from his second letter. He calls the young Bishop to persevere, and he quotes what might have been an early song from Christian liturgies, "If we have died with him, then we shall live with him. If we persevere, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us. If we are faithless, he is faithful still, for he cannot disown his own self." The Lord is always faithful. Are we?

3. In the Gospel, we hear St. Luke's account of the healing of the ten lepers. (Luke 17: 11-19). They all stood at a distance in the presence of Jesus. This was the requirement of the Jewish Law. Leprosy was highly contagious and deeply scorned in the days when Jesus walked among us in the flesh. Some believed it was punishment for sin. However, these lepers met Mercy and Love Incarnate on this glorious day of their healing.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

These lepers cried out the prayer which should echo in our heart: Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. This prayer is the bedrock of the tradition of prayer in Eastern Christianity called the Jesus Prayer. In its simplicity it reveals who the Lord is - and who we are in relationship to Him.

In that Sacred Name - Jesus - we encounter the Mercy of a God who loves us so much that he always comes to save. It also reveals the truth of who we are, always dependent upon His mercy. We discover the path to our freedom as we follow His commands of love.

The lepers all teach us the way of prayer as petition. However, one of them points us toward a way of living in ongoing relationship with Mercy Incarnate. They were all corrupted in their flesh by a disease which threatened their ability and would, unless cured, take their life. They knew that only Mercy could cure them. Only one came back to give thanks.

In the Christian tradition, sin has been analogized to a kind of spiritual leprosy. It corrupts the inner person. It can only be healed through sincere repentance and the application of the balm, the medicine, the Mercy of God. That mercy is poured out through the sacraments, the mysteries, of the Church. The Church is the Body of Christ, the Risen Jesus continues His redemptive mission in His Body, of which we are members.

After they encountered the Mercy of God, they were sent to verify their cure. We read in the Book of Leviticus (14:2) the LORD said to Moses, this is the law for the victim of leprosy at the time of his purification. He shall be brought to the priest, who is to go outside the camp to examine him. If the priest finds that the sore of leprosy has healed in the leper, he shall order the man who is to be purified, to get two live, clean birds, as well as some cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop.

The Gospel account tells us that it was in their response that the Mercy they received bore its most lasting fruit in their lives. As they did what they were invited to do by Jesus, they were made new. This reveals wisdom for us to take in today. We are a forgiven people - now sent to participate in the Lords continuing work of Mercy for all men and women. As we respond to His Mercy - and go to tell - we are transformed by that Mercy - and become bearers of Mercy for others.

However, we must also learn to return and give thanks!

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 13, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Monday, October 13th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 1:1-7

1 From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle,

2 set apart for the service of the gospel that God promised long ago through his prophets in the holy scriptures.

3 This is the gospel concerning his Son who, in terms of human nature

4 was born a descendant of David and who, in terms of the Spirit and of holiness, was designated Son of God in power by resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ, our Lord,

5 through whom we have received grace and our apostolic mission of winning the obedience of faith among all the nations for the honour of his name.

6 You are among these, and by his call you belong to Jesus Christ.

7 To you all, God's beloved in Rome, called to be his holy people. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 [Psalm] Sing a new song to Yahweh, for he has performed wonders, his saving power is in his right hand and his holy arm.

2 Yahweh has made known his saving power, revealed his saving justice for the nations to see,

3 mindful of his faithful love and his constancy to the House of Israel. The whole wide world has seen the saving power of our God.

4 Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth, burst into shouts of joy!

Gospel, Luke 11:29-32

29 The crowds got even bigger and he addressed them, 'This is an evil generation; it is asking for a sign. The only sign it will be given is the sign of Jonah.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

30 For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of man be a sign to this generation.

31 On Judgement Day the Queen of the South will stand up against the people of this generation and be their condemnation, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, look, there is something greater than Solomon here.

32 On Judgement Day the men of Nineveh will appear against this generation and be its condemnation, because when Jonah preached they repented; and, look, there is something greater than Jonah here.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 13, 2025

1. In the first chapter of his powerful letter to the Christians in Rome, the Apostle Paul reaffirms his own calling as an apostle, "set apart for the service of the Gospel". The word Gospel means "good news". His Charge is to ensure that this "Good News" is properly conveyed and lived among the early Christians. The reason, so that the whole world can encounter the Risen Jesus Christ in their words and their way of life.

He reminds the early Christians that they are called to be saints. the word means, set apart for God. To be "holy". These words apply to you and I today. The Christians in Rome were living in a culture given over to depravity and pagan ways. Their call was to proclaim the Gospel in order to free their neighbors from the chains of sin and lead them to true liberation through the Saving life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We live, particularly in the West, in a sort of "new Rome", a culture which has thrown off its Christian foundations and embraced new forms of depravity, a kind of new paganism. We must proclaim, live and explain the Gospel today. In the letter to the Hebrews, we read "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) The message we are called to proclaim and live, is still Good News. And the world of our day needs to hear it and see it.

2. The Psalmist David understood the truth that knowing God, really knowing God, gives rise to a "new song" in every man and woman. He was far from a perfect man. David sinned greatly. But he also repented greatly and, after he had fallen, got up and began again, learning the lessons of failure. What was the key to his resiliency? He was a man of continuous prayer and praise. We are called to the same way of life, as men and women. We are called to a lifestyle of prayer and praise.
3. Our Gospel text for today's Holy Mass is taken from the 11th chapter of St Luke's account. In this chapter Jesus has taught his disciples how to pray, and how to persevere in prayer. He has cast out the demons of hell, only to have some so called "religious leaders" actually attribute this powerful work of God to the devil! And, right before this passage, he has told those listening to His teaching, that anyone who hears the word of God and keeps it are members of His new family. But some listening heard none of it. It was to them that he addressed the sobering words in today's Gospel.

No sign will be given to them except the "sign of Jonah". They were all familiar with the story of Jonah spending three days in the belly of the whale because of his disobedience to the call of the Lord. He is warning them that their own actions are incurring the very wrath of God. And he is pointing to another three-day event. When he, after voluntarily offering Himself on the Cross, would be placed in the belly of the earth, until His Resurrection.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Who are we in this chapter? These words of Jesus are eternally relevant. Are we living lives of prayer, fidelity and discipleship? Are we following Him as He continues his redemptive mission? Are we obeying His word and living as members of His family, the Church? Or are we questioning whether He is really moving among us? The choice is ours.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 14, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Tuesday, October 14th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 1:16-25

16 For I see no reason to be ashamed of the gospel; it is God's power for the salvation of everyone who has faith -- Jews first, but Greeks as well-

17 for in it is revealed the saving justice of God: a justice based on faith and addressed to faith. As it says in scripture: Anyone who is upright through faith will live.

18 The retribution of God from heaven is being revealed against the ungodliness and injustice of human beings who in their injustice hold back the truth.

19 For what can be known about God is perfectly plain to them, since God has made it plain to them:

20 ever since the creation of the world, the invisible existence of God and his everlasting power have been clearly seen by the mind's understanding of created things. And so these people have no excuse:

21 they knew God and yet they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but their arguments became futile and their uncomprehending minds were darkened.

22 While they claimed to be wise, in fact they were growing so stupid

23 that they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for an imitation, for the image of a mortal human being, or of birds, or animals, or crawling things.

24 That is why God abandoned them in their inmost cravings to filthy practices of dishonouring their own bodies-

25 because they exchanged God's truth for a lie and have worshipped and served the creature instead of the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5

2 day discourses of it to day, night to night hands on the knowledge.

3 No utterance at all, no speech, not a sound to be heard,

4 but from the entire earth the design stands out, this message reaches the whole world. High above, he pitched a tent for the sun,

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

5 who comes forth from his pavilion like a bridegroom, delights like a champion in the course to be run.

Gospel, Luke 11:37-41

37 He had just finished speaking when a Pharisee invited him to dine at his house. He went in and sat down at table.

38 The Pharisee saw this and was surprised that he had not first washed before the meal.

39 But the Lord said to him, 'You Pharisees! You clean the outside of cup and plate, while inside yourselves you are filled with extortion and wickedness.

40 Fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside too?

41 Instead, give alms from what you have and, look, everything will be clean for you.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 14, 2025

1. Our first reading contains one of the themes of Paul's Letter to the Romans, faith. The justice of God is based on faith, and those who are faithful shall be saved. Paul goes on to explain that this should be obvious, because God has revealed Himself, in the created order, and in its fullness, in Jesus Christ. But some people cannot see the obvious because they have darkened their minds by worshipping the creature and the creation rather than the creator, and the One whom He sent to save us, Jesus Christ.

Those who repent and turn to the Lord are given the grace to see the truth, and to overcome the disordered affections, and passions, which are the bad effects of sin. With the eyes of living faith, and the help of grace, they begin to recognize the signs of God's presence every day. They experience His mercy. They grow in holy boldness and are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. But for those without this kind of living faith, after a while, they do not even see God in the beauty of His creation. They succumb to the bad effects of unrepented sin and begin to worship false gods, either their disordered appetites or any number of idols.

Let us continue to grow in grace. Let us ask the Lord, in prayer, for more of the Holy Spirit so we can learn to exercise our living faith in the choices we make every day. Let us enjoy the knowledge that the beauty of creation reveals the Creator. And, it has been created for God's glory and our benefit. Let us recognize that the gifts we have been given belong to God and are to be used for His purposes. And let this living faith, and the works it inspires and informs, lead us on the ongoing path conversion and salvation.

2. Our responsorial psalm echoes what Paul explained in our first reading, that the design of all creation testifies to God's glory. As we now know, thanks to science, the universe is perfectly tuned to suit us, and our existence on Earth. We exist not by chance, but by design. Let us rejoice and be glad that God cares so much for us, He has bestowed us with creation itself.
3. Our Gospel reading is a reminder that what is within our hearts is more important than our external appearance, or compliance with custom. We can look nice at church, we can speak kindly to others, but if our unseen behavior isn't also virtuous, then we are like a cup whose outside is clean, but the inside is filthy.

It has been said that integrity is doing what is right when nobody is looking. Let us ask the Lord for the grace we need to live with integrity. The danger of Phariseism is very real. I have a priest friend who reminds me that not ALL the Pharisees were so blinded by their self-righteousness that they failed to recognize that the One whom they so often sought to correct was God Incarnate. And he is correct.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

They were a genuine religious reform movement which sought to bring faithful Jews back to living the fullness of the Law of Moses in order to witness to the truth.

However, the ones which the evangelists who penned the four Gospels use to communicate a danger which can afflict all of us were certainly blinded by their own self-righteousness. They are given to us as tutors, to point us away from succumbing to the danger which so often tempt believers, the temptation toward self-righteousness.

The Pharisee stands as a warning to anyone of us who succumb to that temptation. It is a daily struggle. They prided themselves on their strict adherence to the Law - and believed they were being devout. Yet, they had become incapable of seeing the Source and Fulfillment of the Law, even as He lived in their midst. We can easily become those kind of men and women, if we fail to stay in a fresh and ongoing intimate communion with the Lord.

This seems to be a particularly dangerous temptation for those who consider themselves devout. It is an easy trap to fall into. A trap we need to always be on the lookout for in our own lives. And fall is the operative word. The real crux of the problem is we may not know it is even happening before we find ourselves awakened to its corrosive effects through the bad fruit within and around us.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 15, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, October 15th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 2:1-11

1 So no matter who you are, if you pass judgement you have no excuse. It is yourself that you condemn when you judge others, since you behave in the same way as those you are condemning.

2 We are well aware that people who behave like that are justly condemned by God.

3 But you -- when you judge those who behave like this while you are doing the same yourself -- do you think you will escape God's condemnation?

4 Or are you not disregarding his abundant goodness, tolerance and patience, failing to realise that this generosity of God is meant to bring you to repentance?

5 Your stubborn refusal to repent is only storing up retribution for yourself on that Day of retribution when God's just verdicts will be made known.

6 He will repay everyone as their deeds deserve.

7 For those who aimed for glory and honour and immortality by persevering in doing good, there will be eternal life;

8 but for those who out of jealousy have taken for their guide not truth but injustice, there will be the fury of retribution.

9 Trouble and distress will come to every human being who does evil -- Jews first, but Greeks as well;

10 glory and honour and peace will come to everyone who does good -- Jews first, but Greeks as well.

11 There is no favouritism with God.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 62:2-3, 6-7, 9

2 he alone is my rock, my safety, my stronghold so that I stand unshaken.

3 How much longer will you set on a victim, all together, intent on murder, like a rampart already leaning over, a wall already damaged?

6 He alone is my rock, my safety, my stronghold, so that I stand unwavering.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

7 In God is my safety and my glory, the rock of my strength. In God is my refuge;

9 Ordinary people are a mere puff of wind, important people a delusion; set both on the scales together, and they are lighter than a puff of wind.

Gospel, Luke 11:42-46

42 But alas for you Pharisees, because you pay your tithe of mint and rue and all sorts of garden herbs and neglect justice and the love of God! These you should have practised, without neglecting the others.

43 Alas for you Pharisees, because you like to take the seats of honour in the synagogues and to be greeted respectfully in the market squares!

44 Alas for you, because you are like the unmarked tombs that people walk on without knowing it!

45 A lawyer then spoke up. 'Master,' he said, 'when you speak like this you insult us too.'

46 But he said, 'Alas for you lawyers as well, because you load on people burdens that are unendurable, burdens that you yourselves do not touch with your fingertips.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 15, 2025

1. Our first reading discusses a common pitfall for many Christians, our tendency to judge others, and fail to shine the light of truth in the areas of our own failure to do what the Lord has called us to do.

How often do we look upon others and say they are wrong or unfaithful and congratulate ourselves on being different? The time and energy we spend criticizing others is time and energy we ought to spend working on ourselves. We cannot save the wicked by condemning them. But we can save ourselves by looking to our own sins, repenting of them and correcting them.

We are called to do battle with the disordered appetites and passions which are a bad fruit of the effects of sin in our own life - so that we can be set free, made new, and filled afresh with God's Divine Life and Love. Sin is a reality in all of our lives. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in its discussion on the Fall of our first parents, original sin and grace, explains:

"Although it is proper to each individual, original sin does not have the character of a personal fault in any of Adam's descendants. It is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it, subject to ignorance, suffering and the dominion of death, and inclined to sin - an inclination to evil that is called concupiscence". Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ's grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle."

In a further explanation, commenting on St Paul's letter to the Romans, the Catechism explains the consequences of our own sins as an abuse of freedom:

"The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to "the slavery of sin." (Romans 6:17) CCC #1739

So, rather than look to judge the faults of others, we should be serious about growing in holiness.

2. Our psalm is a reminder that only God is constant and steadfast, and all the people and things of this world are weak and prone to failure. We must take care where we place our trust and where we take our guidance. For if our trust and direction is in men, we will surely fail. But if our trust and direction is in the Lord, then we will be able, as David sings, to stand unwavering. He is a Rock of refuge.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3. In today's Gospel, Jesus is once again condemning the hypocrisy of some of the Pharisees and lawyers. Here are people who claim to be virtuous and honorable, yet they think only of themselves, and neglect others. In fact, they make life for others difficult, and for what reason other than to serve their own greed and ego?

As Christians, we sometimes behave like the lawyers and the Pharisees. We should know how to be and how to treat others. Are we using the talents we have been given to create burdens? Or are we using them to alleviate suffering and help others to meet and follow the Lord to new life?

In addressing those scribes and pharisees who had succumbed to self-idolatry and sin, the Lord wanted to communicate a danger which can afflict all of us, the temptation of succumbing to self-righteousness and pride. The Pharisee in these Gospel accounts stands as a warning to anyone of us who can so easily succumb to that temptation. It is a daily struggle. They prided themselves on their strict adherence to the Law - and believed they were being devout.

Yet, instead, they became incapable of seeing the Source and Fulfillment of the Law, even as He walked and taught in their midst. We can become such men and women, even without knowing it. People do not decide to be a Pharisee voluntarily. It subtly happens. The greatest defense we have is to stay in a fresh and ongoing intimate communion with the Lord.

This is a particularly dangerous temptation for those who consider themselves to be devout. It is an easy trap to fall into. And, fall is the operative word. The problem is, we may not know it is even happening to us before we find ourselves awakened to its corrosive effects through the bad fruit it bears, within and around us. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us who are sinners.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 16, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Thursday, October 16th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 3:21-29

21 God's saving justice was witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, but now it has been revealed altogether apart from law:

22 God's saving justice given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

23 No distinction is made: all have sinned and lack God's glory,

24 and all are justified by the free gift of his grace through being set free in Christ Jesus.

25 God appointed him as a sacrifice for reconciliation, through faith, by the shedding of his blood, and so showed his justness; first for the past, when sins went unpunished because he held his hand;

26 and now again for the present age, to show how he is just and justifies everyone who has faith in Jesus.

27 So what becomes of our boasts? There is no room for them. On what principle- that only actions count? No; that faith is what counts,

28 since, as we see it, a person is justified by faith and not by doing what the Law tells him to do.

29 Do you think God is the God only of the Jews, and not of gentiles too? Most certainly of gentiles too,

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 [Song of Ascents] From the depths I call to you, Yahweh:

2 Lord, hear my cry. Listen attentively to the sound of my pleading!

3 If you kept a record of our sins, Lord, who could stand their ground?

4 But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

5 I rely, my whole being relies, Yahweh, on your promise.

6 My whole being hopes in the Lord, more than watchmen for daybreak; more than watchmen for daybreak.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Luke 11:47-54

47 'Alas for you because you build tombs for the prophets, the people your ancestors killed!

48 In this way you both witness to what your ancestors did and approve it; they did the killing, you do the building.

49 'And that is why the Wisdom of God said, "I will send them prophets and apostles; some they will slaughter and persecute,

50 so that this generation will have to answer for every prophet's blood that has been shed since the foundation of the world,

51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the Temple." Yes, I tell you, this generation will have to answer for it all.

52 'Alas for you lawyers who have taken away the key of knowledge! You have not gone in yourselves and have prevented others from going in who wanted to.'

53 When he left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began a furious attack on him and tried to force answers from him on innumerable questions,

54 lying in wait to catch him out in something he might say.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 16, 2025

1. In our first reading, Paul explains how we obtain salvation.

Salvation is a free gift from God. It is offered to us, and we may accept or refuse it. But there is nothing we can do of our own accord to gain this gift. We cannot build or craft our own salvation. We cannot mine it or grow it, or discover it somewhere for ourselves, with our own effort. We can only accept the salvation offered to us in Jesus Christ. He did for us what we could never do for ourselves. He paid the debt and took the judgment which our sins deserved. Yet, He was the sinless one. He defeated death by His own death and opened heaven for each one of us.

Since our salvation is a gift, and nothing we do can earn it for us, then there is no room for self-congratulation or boasting. The only thing is to do what one should always do when in receipt of a gift, and that is to give thanks, receive it, open it and live it. Then, share it with others.

2. Today our psalmist is watching for the Lord, as the watchmen do for daybreak. Of course, today we know the daybreak has come with the rising of God's Son, Jesus Christ. So, let us give thanks that Jesus has risen, and that thanks to Him, we are saved. Let us become watchmen, and watch women, always looking for the Lord. For He still comes to those who have their eyes fixed on Him.
3. In today's Gospel, Jesus is once again condemning the hypocrisy of some of the scribes and Pharisees. While both claim to honor the prophets, they scheme against Jesus and His disciples. And in fulfillment of Jesus' words, some of the same people would not only crucify Him, but they would also persecute His followers. Indeed, as the Gospel explains, they began scheming against Him almost immediately.

The people of Jesus' time were no different that we are today. If we want to know who we would be in the time of Jesus, we have only to look at who we are today. When we hear the teachings of Christ and His Church, do we become indignant? Do we reject these teachings or argue among ourselves to convince one another that Jesus and His Church are wrong?

Let us consider how we are today, and if we find we are behaving more as these scribes and pharisees, then let us instead change and become a new creation in Christ. Let us be as the disciples were in the days when Jesus physically walked among us, even if it means we shall be persecuted. He is alive and He continues his redemptive mission. We are called to follow Him.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 17, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, October 17th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 4:1-8

- 1 Then what do we say about Abraham, the ancestor from whom we are descended physically?
- 2 If Abraham had been justified because of what he had done, then he would have had something to boast about. But not before God:
- 3 does not scripture say: Abraham put his faith in God and this was reckoned to him as uprightness?
- 4 Now, when someone works, the wages for this are not considered as a favour but as due;
- 5 however, when someone, without working, puts faith in the one who justifies the godless, it is this faith that is reckoned as uprightness.
- 6 David, too, says the same: he calls someone blessed if God attributes uprightness to that person, apart from any action undertaken:
- 7 How blessed are those whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is blotted out.
- 8 How blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no guilt.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11

- 1 [Of David Poem] How blessed are those whose offence is forgiven, whose sin blotted out.
- 2 How blessed are those to whom Yahweh imputes no guilt, whose spirit harbours no deceit.
- 5 I made my sin known to you, did not conceal my guilt. I said, 'I shall confess my offence to Yahweh.'
And you, for your part, took away my guilt, forgave my sin.
- 11 Rejoice in Yahweh, exult all you upright, shout for joy, you honest of heart.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Luke 12:1-7

1 Meanwhile the people had gathered in their thousands so that they were treading on one another. And he began to speak, first of all to his disciples. 'Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees -- their hypocrisy.

2 Everything now covered up will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear.

3 For this reason, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in hidden places will be proclaimed from the housetops.

4 'To you my friends I say: Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.

5 I will tell you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has the power to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, he is the one to fear.

6 Can you not buy five sparrows for two pennies? And yet not one is forgotten in God's sight.

7 Why, every hair on your head has been counted. There is no need to be afraid: you are worth more than many sparrows.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 17, 2025

1. In our first reading, the Apostle Paul is teaching the Christians in Rome -and all of us - that is faith which justifies us, not our works. Because we have faith, we act differently. Salvation is offered to all men and women in Jesus Christ.

It is faith which justifies. But not "faith alone", the faith that works through love. Faith has not annulled the Law, but it confirms and brings it to "perfection" which, in the biblical sense means completion.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that faith "is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him" (153) through the sacrament of baptism. But Faith requires "Faith is a personal act - the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself." (166)

2. The Psalmist David continues this theme. With him, as we responded, we acknowledged our offenses, our sins. And we ask for and receive the forgiveness we require from the Lord. Sin separates us from God. It is grace which liberates us and faith which reunites us.
3. In the Gospel appointed for today's Holy Mass, we encounter Jesus' warning thousands who had gathered to hear him teach to beware of the "yesrt" of the Pharisees. In the previous chapter he had reproached the scribes and the Pharisees with very harsh words for their hypocrisy. In this passage he warns first his disciples, and then the whole crowd, that their duplicity, saying one thing and doing another, must be exposed and opposed or it will spread.

Then he instructs them, and all of us, not to be afraid of those who will persecute or oppose us for proclaiming and living our faith. He knows us and even the hairs on our heads are numbered. Rather, fear the evil one. We need to hear these words today and take them to heart. We are living in challenging times for faithful Catholics, and other Christians. We must remain faithful. The Lord will help us.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 18, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, October 18th, 2025

Reading 1, Second Timothy 4:9-17

9 Make every effort to come and see me as soon as you can.

10 As it is, Demas has deserted me for love of this life and gone to Thessalonica, Crescens has gone to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia;

11 only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you; I find him a useful helper in my work.

12 I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

13 When you come, bring the cloak I left with Carpus in Troas, and the scrolls, especially the parchment ones.

14 Alexander the coppersmith has done me a lot of harm; the Lord will repay him as his deeds deserve.

15 Be on your guard against him yourself, because he has been bitterly contesting everything that we say.

16 The first time I had to present my defence, no one came into court to support me. Every one of them deserted me -- may they not be held accountable for it.

17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed for all the gentiles to hear; and so I was saved from the lion's mouth.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18

10 All your creatures shall thank you, Yahweh, and your faithful shall bless you.

11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingship and tell of your might,

12 making known your mighty deeds to the children of Adam, the glory and majesty of your kingship.

13 Your kingship is a kingship for ever, your reign lasts from age to age. Yahweh is trustworthy in all his words, and upright in all his deeds.

17 Upright in all that he does, Yahweh acts only in faithful love.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

18 He is close to all who call upon him, all who call on him from the heart.

Gospel, Luke 10:1-9

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself would be visiting.

2 And he said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to do his harvesting.

3 Start off now, but look, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

4 Take no purse with you, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road.

5 Whatever house you enter, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!"

6 And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you.

7 Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house.

8 Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is put before you.

9 Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you."

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 18, 2025

2. Our first reading describes Paul's condition near the end of his life, after giving all he had in service to the Lord. Paul is imprisoned in Rome. He is without friends, and all those who were previously close to him have abandoned him. He doesn't have his books to read, or even a cloak.

Yet, Paul recognizes the truth of the situation. Although he is poor, imprisoned, and abandoned he has no doubt about his purpose. He has and will continue to faithfully proclaim the Gospel. Paul knows that his treasures are stored in heaven.

Many people abandon God when they face difficulties. They mistakenly assume that God will protect them from Earthly troubles, and mortal aches and pains. But we know this is false, for look at how much Jesus suffered! No man has been more innocent!

In these moments of difficulty, we face a choice. Shall we be as Paul's former companions who abandoned him? Or shall we be as Paul, faithful in the knowledge that the pain we suffer for following Christ can be a source of grace for us and others.

2. In today's responsorial psalm we are invited to join all the creatures of the Earth in thanking Yahweh. Let us rejoice that Yahweh is our God, and that his kingship is eternal.
3. In today's Gospel, Jesus is sending out the seventy-two with instructions for how to behave as they announce His coming. Notice how Jesus instructs them to take nothing with them, to be singular in their purpose, and to accept only that which kind people provide.

This is the rule for religious today who take vows of poverty. It is also why we fast. We empty ourselves of things, and of earthly cares, so that we may be filled with grace. By eliminating distractions, we can focus on our purpose, and become more effective witnesses of the Gospel.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 19, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, October 19th, 2025

Reading 1, Exodus 17:8-13

8 The Amalekites then came and attacked Israel at Rephidim.

9 Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick some men and tomorrow morning go out and engage Amalek. I, for my part, shall take my stand on the hilltop with the staff of God in my hand.'

10 Joshua did as Moses had told him and went out to engage Amalek, while Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

11 As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek.

12 But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, with Aaron and Hur supporting his arms on each side. Thus his arms remained unwavering till sunset,

13 and Joshua defeated Amalek, putting their people to the sword.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

1 [Song of Ascents] I lift up my eyes to the mountains; where is my help to come from?

2 My help comes from Yahweh who made heaven and earth.

3 May he save your foot from stumbling; may he, your guardian, not fall asleep!

4 You see -- he neither sleeps nor slumbers, the guardian of Israel.

5 Yahweh is your guardian, your shade, Yahweh, at your right hand.

6 By day the sun will not strike you, nor the moon by night.

7 Yahweh guards you from all harm Yahweh guards your life,

8 Yahweh guards your comings and goings, henceforth and for ever.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Reading 2, Second Timothy 3:14--4:2

14 You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were,

15 and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures -from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is inspired by God and useful for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be upright.

17 This is how someone who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

1 Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I charge you, in the name of his appearing and of his kingdom:

2 proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, give encouragement -- but do all with patience and with care to instruct.

Gospel, Luke 18:1-8

1 Then he told them a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart.

2 'There was a judge in a certain town,' he said, 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for anyone.

3 In the same town there was also a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!"

4 For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Even though I have neither fear of God nor respect for any human person,

5 I must give this widow her just rights since she keeps pestering me, or she will come and slap me in the face." '

6 And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say?

7 Now, will not God see justice done to his elect if they keep calling to him day and night even though he still delays to help them?

8 I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 19, 2025

1. In today's first reading, we hear how the Israelites defeated their enemies in battle, but it required a curious act on the part of Moses. It was necessary for him to keep his arms raised. But why? Moses's arms were raised in prayer, and it was his constant intercessory prayer that helped the Israelites to prevail. This is a direct testament to the power of prayer. And notice the powerful image of who stood with him, holding his arms up, Aaron and Hur. This is a powerful symbol of how we assist one another, by praying with each other and supporting the leaders whom the Lord has raised up.

Often, our secular society dismisses prayer as nothing more than wishful thinking. We are accused of only praying without acting. There is truth, that prayer also requires action, but prayer itself is action. Too many people draw a separation between prayer and action which can fail to understand the integrated Christian Way of Life. The two should not be separated.

God holds nothing back from those whom He loves. He gives us the Holy Spirit, His life and energy. Living faith mediates the mystery of God's loving plan. Prayer opens our spiritual eyes to behold the Divine Design in our own lives. We see that we walk with Him, and He that guide our path along a plan and a pattern.

For the Christian, the center from which the Divine design proceeds - and through which we discern the beauty of God's perfect plan - is the Cross of Jesus Christ. It is the central patch of cloth from which the pattern of true human progress proceeds. It is also where the pattern returns. However, seeing this pattern requires ongoing conversion. We need the renewed vision that comes through such living faith to stay on the path.

Prayer makes that all possible because prayer is the lifeblood of Christian action. God listens to prayers. The prayers of others are powerful intercession, why else do we ask others to pray for us in our moments of need? And the prayers of the saints are especially powerful. Never let anyone tell you that prayer is just wishful thinking, or that it has no effect. Prayer is the first and most essential tool we have at our hands, and we MUST live lives of prayer which informs all our action.

2. In our responsorial psalm, the psalmist is petitioning God through prayer for help. And what is the answer to this prayer? Yahweh helps. He saves the foot from stumbling and guards us from all harm. Let us raise our hearts and minds to God in constant prayer, in the assurance that God hears us and will answer.

Prayer leads us into a life of communion. It is our fuel, the wind in our sails. We who have been baptized into Jesus Christ are now called and enabled to live our lives in Him, by living them in His Body, the Church, of which we are members. (1 Cor. 12:27)

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

This call to live in Him engages our freedom and invites our continual response to His grace. It is the fuel of our action; or it should be.

The intimate communion the disciples witnessed when they came upon Jesus in prayer can become our experience. We are adopted sons and daughters of "His Father and Our Father". (John 20:17). The ongoing instruction which they received as they walked with Him daily can become ours when we walk with Him daily.

The Jesus who instructed them in these accounts is alive with us today. He has been raised from the dead. We need the eyes of faith to see Him - and the Spirit fueled courage to accompany Him on the way. Through Jesus we are made capable of living an entirely new way of life, beginning now.

3. In the words of the Apostle Peter, we become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1). Jesus persevered in prayer. In His Sacred humanity in that Garden called Gethsemane, we witness the greatest example of perseverance. We also witness the perfect fruit of surrendered love which embraces the Father's Will out of loving trust. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we read that he offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears. (Hebrews 5:7)

Sometimes we do not ask for the things which we really need. But God, the loving Father which he is, loves to hear from his sons and daughters. He welcomes all our requests. However, He gives us what we truly need to flourish and find our way home. The best prayer transforms our desire into His desire. We move from our will to His Will. As we learn to turn our human freedom toward His Loving Will, we find it fulfilled and perfected.

We are all called to persevering prayer, no matter what our state in life or vocation. Preparing ourselves for such prayer means learning to silence the clamor of the age, stop the ever-accelerating pace of the futile quests that so often occupy our hearts, and live in the eternal now by surrendering ourselves - and even our best aspirations- to the One who created us -and now re-creates us- in His Son Jesus Christ.

It is there, in the emptied place, in the stillness of the eternal now, where we prepare a room for the King of all hearts. And, in that encounter, we will find the longing of our heart fulfilled.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 20, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Monday, October 20th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 4:20-25

20 Counting on the promise of God, he did not doubt or disbelieve, but drew strength from faith and gave glory to God,

21 fully convinced that whatever God promised he has the power to perform.

22 This is the faith that was reckoned to him as uprightness.

23 And the word 'reckoned' in scripture applies not only to him;

24 it is there for our sake too -- our faith, too, will be 'reckoned'

25 because we believe in him who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus who was handed over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

Responsorial Psalm, Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75

69 and he has established for us a saving power in the House of his servant David,

70 just as he proclaimed, by the mouth of his holy prophets from ancient times,

71 that he would save us from our enemies and from the hands of all those who hate us,

72 and show faithful love to our ancestors, and so keep in mind his holy covenant.

73 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,

74 that he would grant us, free from fear, to be delivered from the hands of our enemies,

75 to serve him in holiness and uprightness in his presence, all our days.

Gospel, Luke 12:13-21

13 A man in the crowd said to him, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.'

14 He said to him, 'My friend, who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?'

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

15 Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for life does not consist in possessions, even when someone has more than he needs.'

16 Then he told them a parable, 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land,

17 thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops."

18 Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them,

19 and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time."

20 But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?"

21 So it is when someone stores up treasure for himself instead of becoming rich in the sight of God.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 20, 2025

1. Today's first reading refers once again to Abraham, our father in faith. The Apostle Paul tells us he "drew strength" from faith, to do God's work. God's promises motivated him. Living faith leads to action in the life of a believer. In fact, faith, in a sense, Faith is a verb - it must be exercised in real life - in the real world. By living in the heart of the Church for the sake of the world, we continue the redemptive mission of the Lord Jesus. Living in this way we can help to bring the world back to God. This kind of missionary mindset has inspired great missionary ages in the past and brought extraordinary changes to entire cultures.

The Father wants to bring the entire human race back into a relationship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Those of us who live in Christ are now sent on mission into the world. We are to bring all men and women into the new world of the Church.

The seed of the kingdom, the living Word, has been planted within us. And now, we become the seed, the salt and the leaven for the Divine Sower who continues His redemptive mission in a world waiting to be reborn in Him. He now spreads us in the field of the world to bear a harvest for the Kingdom to come. We are called to live at the crossroads of that world and become missionaries of the new world, of which the Church is a seed and sign. Are we motivated by God's promises? Does our faith sustain us?

2. Our responsorial psalm is a reminder that God promised a saving power to us, in the form of Jesus Christ, His Son. Isn't it remarkable that even hundreds of years before Christ, His coming was foretold many times in scripture? This is more evidence of God's power, that in what the Apostle Paul wrote was "the fullness of time", God sent His Son to save us from sin and to deliver us from our enemies.
3. In our Gospel, Jesus reminds us that the storing up of wealth for the sake of being materially wealthy is a mistake.

The wealth entrusted to us, in fact, any of the goods of the earth we possess are not ours. The things of this Earth belong to God. Like the rich master in the Gospel, God has entrusted us with wealth according to His plan and our ability. We are stewards. But it is our responsibility to multiply that wealth by investing it in God's work. If we simply store it up for ourselves, then at death it will pass from us to another steward, who will perhaps do better than we.

There is nothing wrong with having wealth. But when we have it we must recognize that it belongs to God and it has been entrusted to us for a reason. In finding our proper relationship to the goods of the earth — not utterly rejecting them, craving them, or turning them into an idol — we can find true and lasting freedom. Let us then use what gifts we have in service of Our Lord, so on the day of reckoning we will become truly and eternally wealthy.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 21, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Tuesday, October 21st, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21

12 Well then; it was through one man that sin came into the world, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

15 There is no comparison between the free gift and the offence. If death came to many through the offence of one man, how much greater an effect the grace of God has had, coming to so many and so plentifully as a free gift through the one man Jesus Christ!

17 It was by one man's offence that death came to reign over all, but how much greater the reign in life of those who receive the fullness of grace and the gift of saving justice, through the one man, Jesus Christ.

18 One man's offence brought condemnation on all humanity; and one man's good act has brought justification and life to all humanity.

19 Just as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience are many to be made upright.

20 When law came on the scene, it was to multiply the offences. But however much sin increased, grace was always greater;

21 so that as sin's reign brought death, so grace was to rule through saving justice that leads to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 17

7 then I said, 'Here I am, I am coming.' In the scroll of the book it is written of me,

8 my delight is to do your will; your law, my God, is deep in my heart.

9 I proclaimed the saving justice of Yahweh in the great assembly. See, I will not hold my tongue, as you well know.

10 I have not kept your saving justice locked in the depths of my heart, but have spoken of your constancy and saving help. I have made no secret of your faithful and steadfast love, in the great assembly.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

17 Poor and needy as I am, the Lord has me in mind. You, my helper, my Saviour, my God, do not delay.

Gospel, Luke 12:35-38

35 'See that you have your belts done up and your lamps lit.

36 Be like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks.

37 Blessed those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. In truth I tell you, he will do up his belt, sit them down at table and wait on them.

38 It may be in the second watch that he comes, or in the third, but blessed are those servants if he finds them ready.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 21, 2025

1. Today's first reading explains the gift that is God's grace. In fact, that is what the word grace means - gift. Paul explains in his letter to the Romans that sin entered the world through Adam's choice. And sin was increased when the law was given because, so few people were upright. Yet this tremendous accumulation of sin was wiped away by a single act of grace, redemption through Jesus Christ!

Grace is always greater than sin. The trough cannot overcome the wave! Let us have faith that God's redemptive power is greater than all the sins ever committed in the world. Knowing this, we should run to the confessional and to the altar for communion. God is so good to us. He desires our freedom...and in Christ Jesus, He makes that freedom attainable, through our cooperation with grace.

2. Our responsorial psalm is an encouragement to speak up, and not to hold our tongues about the matter of God. Today, we live in a world where it is considered inappropriate to talk about God. But can God really ever be inappropriate? Instead, it is the world that is wrong! Speak boldly about God and share His Gospel with all who will listen. Our salvation is not a secret to be kept, but good news to be proclaimed at all times.
3. Our Gospel has a simple lesson, be ready at all times. We do not know when Christ will return. Nor do we know when our soul will be called to reckoning. It can come at any moment. So, the instruction from Jesus is to always be ready.

What does this mean? Does it mean we should make arrangements and ruminate on our earthly mortality? Of course not, that is the wrong focus. Instead, it means we must be baptized, obtain reconciliation often, and receive Communion. We must avail; ourselves of every grace offered to us.

We must also be faithful and steadfast in our commitment to the Lord. And we must treat all people in such a way that if Christ were beside us, He would approve. And when we fall short of this standard, we must accept responsibility and reconcile.

This is what it means to be ready. It does not mean to think constantly about our last day, but to live each day in the closest possible communion with Jesus Christ. For, while we wait for His final coming, He is always coming, to those who are ready for Him.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 22, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 6:12-18

12 That is why you must not allow sin to reign over your mortal bodies and make you obey their desires;

13 or give any parts of your bodies over to sin to be used as instruments of evil. Instead, give yourselves to God, as people brought to life from the dead, and give every part of your bodies to God to be instruments of uprightness;

14 and then sin will no longer have any power over you -- you are living not under law, but under grace.

15 What is the implication? That we are free to sin, now that we are not under law but under grace? Out of the question!

16 You know well that if you undertake to be somebody's slave and obey him, you are the slave of him you obey: you can be the slave either of sin which leads to death, or of obedience which leads to saving justice.

17 Once you were slaves of sin, but thank God you have given whole-hearted obedience to the pattern of teaching to which you were introduced;

18 and so, being freed from serving sin, you took uprightness as your master.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 124:1-3, 4-6, 7-8

1 [Song of Ascents Of David] If Yahweh had not been on our side -- let Israel repeat it-

2 if Yahweh had not been on our side when people attacked us,

3 they would have swallowed us alive in the heat of their anger.

4 Then water was washing us away, a torrent running right over us;

5 running right over us then were turbulent waters.

6 Blessed be Yahweh for not letting us fall a prey to their teeth!

7 We escaped like a bird from the fowlers' net. The net was broken and we escaped;

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

8 our help is in the name of Yahweh, who made heaven and earth.

Gospel, Luke 12:39-48

39 You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house.

40 You too must stand ready, because the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

41 Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?'

42 The Lord replied, 'Who, then, is the wise and trustworthy steward whom the master will place over his household to give them at the proper time their allowance of food?

43 Blessed that servant if his master's arrival finds him doing exactly that.

44 I tell you truly, he will put him in charge of everything that he owns.

45 But if the servant says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming," and sets about beating the menservants and the servant-girls, and eating and drinking and getting drunk,

46 his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

47 'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has got nothing ready and done nothing in accord with those wishes, will be given a great many strokes of the lash.

48 The one who did not know, but has acted in such a way that he deserves a beating, will be given fewer strokes. When someone is given a great deal, a great deal will be demanded of that person; when someone is entrusted with a great deal, of that person even more will be expected.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 22, 2025

1. Today's first reading explores the use of our human freedom, which reflects the very Image of God in us, and sin, which is an abuse of freedom, choosing against God, against what is good and true and beautiful and noble. God has given us the freedom to choose, but with choice comes the option to abuse our freedom and sin. In this particular position of Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, he is focusing on the abuse of our bodies and disordered passions. Our bodies are us. We are meant to be a composite, body, soul and spirit, a person. But original sin separated us, from God, from one another and within. And every sin leads to further separation. But God's grace, fully given in the Paschal Mystery, the saving birth, life, saving death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, reunites us.

When we give ourselves to God, that is to become Christians, we are called to take full advantage of our freedom by choosing to live in grace, cooperating with God, rather than sin, rebelling against Him. In fact, we are obligated to do so. This is what it means when Paul explains, we have chosen uprightness as our master. In choosing to serve the Lord, we have realigned our freedom with the truth, and we find it once again.

2. Our responsorial Psalm makes it clear; the saving power of God is what preserved the nation of Israel when it was under attack by its enemies. Indeed, the nation of Israel continues to be restored and saved, despite the threats around it. Likewise, we are the same. We are surrounded by all kinds of danger, and if not for God's protection, we would not be able to withstand it. Let us be thankful that God looks after us, for without Him, we can do nothing.
3. Today's Gospel is another warning, from the Lord, explaining to us how we must live, precisely because we are stewards, chosen by the Lord, entrusted with His creation and the ongoing mission of the Church. We are no longer our own, as the Apostle Paul was fond of saying, we were "bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:20, 1 Cor. 7:23) As Christians, we are entrusted to properly use what God has given us for the benefit of all people. We do not know when we will be called to give an accounting for our decisions, so we must always be ready to do so.

Let us keep the Commandments, loving God above all others, and loving all others as ourselves. Let us receive the goods of the earth as entrusted to us and bear fruit that remains. Let us live this way, so when the Master does arrive, He finds us doing exactly what He asked and we can hear those words for which our hearts long "Well done, good and faithful servant, welcome into the joy of your Master". (Matthew 25:21)

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 23, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 6:19-23

19 I am putting it in human terms because you are still weak human beings: as once you surrendered yourselves as servants to immorality and to a lawlessness which results in more lawlessness, now you have to surrender yourselves to uprightness which is to result in sanctification.

20 When you were the servants of sin, you felt no obligation to uprightness,

21 and what did you gain from living like that? Experiences of which you are now ashamed, for that sort of behaviour ends in death.

22 But, now you are set free from sin and bound to the service of God, your gain will be sanctification and the end will be eternal life.

23 For the wage paid by sin is death; the gift freely given by God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6

1 How blessed is anyone who rejects the advice of the wicked and does not take a stand in the path that sinners tread, nor a seat in company with cynics,

2 but who delights in the law of Yahweh and murmurs his law day and night.

3 Such a one is like a tree planted near streams; it bears fruit in season and its leaves never wither, and every project succeeds.

4 How different the wicked, how different! Just like chaff blown around by the wind

6 For Yahweh watches over the path of the upright, but the path of the wicked is doomed.

Gospel, Luke 12:49-53

49 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!

50 There is a baptism I must still receive, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!

51 'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

52 For from now on, a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three;

53 father opposed to son, son to father, mother to daughter, daughter to mother, mother-in-law to daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law to mother-in-law.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 23, 2025

1. In today's first reading, Paul reminds his readers who they were before they came to the Lord and came understand what it meant to be Christians. He mentions they were servants of immorality, servants of sin. Some translations use the words slave.

This image of being bound without choice is accurate. When we follow a different path besides the one of Christian freedom and salvation, we are slaves to sin. And the reward paid by sin for our service is death.

The only way to be free is to embrace Jesus Christ, as Savior - to accept His sacrifice and to become servants of God, instead of sin. Let us ask ourselves which of these masters we serve, and if we serve the wrong one, let us do whatever it takes to break the chains that confine us so we may be free to serve the Lord.

2. Our psalm for today is a reminder that we are blessed when we avoid wrongly associating with the wicked, to be wrongly influenced by them, led into sin, rather than to help them to renounce their wickedness and sin. When we avoid sin and temptation, when we properly relate to those who seek evil instead of good, we save ourselves from trouble, and help to save them from the judgement which sin incurs. Thus unburdened, we can flourish like a tree, planted next to a stream. And we can bear fruit, in helping to save other souls for the Lord.

3. In today's Gospel from Saint Luke, we hear a sobering message. Jesus does not come to bring peace, but division.

To be Christian is to order one's priorities with a view toward God and the life to come, instead of this life. Those who do not share our view often find it difficult to understand. This causes division.

As Christians, we pay a price for being different. We can be criticized, outcast, or even persecuted. Jesus knew this would happen, so He made it clear to His disciples, that their lives would not be filled with peace, at least as a lack of opposition but with division.

We also have real enemies opposing our walk with, in and for the Lord. The world, Not the created order, but the system which has no room for God. The Flesh, not the body, which is good, but disordered passions. And, YES, the Devil, who is real and hates God. Therefore, he also hates us because we love God. We are in a spiritual war.

But Jesus does give true Peace. In fact, in John's Gospel we read His words: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." (John 14:27)



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

It is the peace that comes from being in an intimate communion with the Lord. The peace which the Apostle Paul explains is a "fruit of the Holy Spirit".

"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."
(Galatians 5: 22- 25)



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 24, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, October 24th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 7:18-25

18 And really, I know of nothing good living in me -- in my natural self, that is -- for though the will to do what is good is in me, the power to do it is not:

19 the good thing I want to do, I never do; the evil thing which I do not want -- that is what I do.

20 But every time I do what I do not want to, then it is not myself acting, but the sin that lives in me.

21 So I find this rule: that for me, where I want to do nothing but good, evil is close at my side.

22 In my inmost self I dearly love God's law,

23 but I see that acting on my body there is a different law which battles against the law in my mind. So I am brought to be a prisoner of that law of sin which lives inside my body.

24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body doomed to death?

25 God -- thanks be to him -- through Jesus Christ our Lord. So it is that I myself with my mind obey the law of God, but in my disordered nature I obey the law of sin.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94

66 Teach me judgement and knowledge, for I rely on your commandments.

68 You are generous and act generously, teach me your will.

76 Your faithful love must be my consolation, as you have promised your servant.

77 Treat me with tenderness and I shall live, for your Law is my delight.

93 I shall never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

94 I am yours, save me, for I seek your precepts.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Luke 12:54-59

54 He said again to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud looming up in the west you say at once that rain is coming, and so it does.

55 And when the wind is from the south you say it's going to be hot, and it is.

56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the face of the earth and the sky. How is it you do not know how to interpret these times?

57 'Why not judge for yourselves what is upright?

58 For example: when you are going to court with your opponent, make an effort to settle with him on the way, or he may drag you before the judge and the judge hand you over to the officer and the officer have you thrown into prison.

59 I tell you, you will not get out till you have paid the very last penny.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 24, 2025

1. In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that he is aware of what is good and has the desire to do the good, yet what this translation calls his "natural self" sometimes fails. He falters and sins. Here Paul expresses a reality we all experience, this struggle within. Another translation says, "the things I want to do I don't do, I end up doing the things I hate". This is called concupiscence in Catholic Moral teaching, an inclination to sin. It is one of the results of what is called the original sin in Catholic Teaching. The Catholic Catechism explains:

"Although it is proper to each individual, original sin does not have the character of a personal fault in any of Adam's descendants. It is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it, subject to ignorance, suffering and the dominion of death, and inclined to sin - an inclination to evil that is called concupiscence". Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ's grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle." (CCC # 405)

We are called to struggle against sin, to fight this "inclination. And thank God, we have been given the grace to do so. Thank the Lord the Apostle answers his own question "Who can save me"? Jesus Can. Jesus has. Jesus continues to do so. But we need to cooperate with the grace which comes to us through Him. That grace, which is a participation in Divine Life, comes to us through the Sacraments, and most especially the Holy Eucharist.

When we fall, when we abuse our freedom, and sin, we have recourse to the Sacrament of new beginnings, Confession or Penance. Grace also comes to us through the Word of God. Grace comes to us through the Power of the Holy Spirit, given to us in Baptism and Confirmation. But we are in a struggle against sin. And, against the enemies of our progression in holiness, the world, the flesh and the devil. That struggle is part of our Christian life and Paul explains it well. We need to take it up, daily.

2. Our responsorial psalm asks for God to teach us His ways. How fortunate we are to be taught! God has sent us His teachings, including His commandments. He has sent the prophets, and in the fullness of time, He sent us His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the Teacher. In His words and His saving life, death and resurrection, He shows us the Way of Salvation. He has established the Church and given it a teaching office. Let us rejoice, that we are taught the ways of the Lord.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3. In today's Gospel, Jesus is expressing frustration that people cannot seem to appreciate the situation they face. They can interpret the weather, but they cannot interpret what is being explained to them. They just don't get it.

This is a problem, even in our time. Despite all the teachings, all the questions and answers, all the clarification and education, few people seem to get the message. We are children of God. We are created for Him. And we have a new life in Him, if we follow His ways. However, if we abuse the freedom we have, if we lead unrepentant lives of sin, we will perish.

There is literally no more important message than this. There is no activity, no project more important than this one. Yet, how many of us devote our energy to everything but this?



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 25, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, October 25th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 8:1-11

1 Thus, condemnation will never come to those who are in Christ Jesus,

2 because the law of the Spirit which gives life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

3 What the Law could not do because of the weakness of human nature, God did, sending his own Son in the same human nature as any sinner to be a sacrifice for sin, and condemning sin in that human nature.

4 This was so that the Law's requirements might be fully satisfied in us as we direct our lives not by our natural inclinations but by the Spirit.

5 Those who are living by their natural inclinations have their minds on the things human nature desires; those who live in the Spirit have their minds on spiritual things.

6 And human nature has nothing to look forward to but death, while the Spirit looks forward to life and peace,

7 because the outlook of disordered human nature is opposed to God, since it does not submit to God's Law, and indeed it cannot,

8 and those who live by their natural inclinations can never be pleasing to God.

9 You, however, live not by your natural inclinations, but by the Spirit, since the Spirit of God has made a home in you. Indeed, anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10 But when Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin but the spirit is alive because you have been justified;

11 and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead has made his home in you, then he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 [Psalm Of David] To Yahweh belong the earth and all it contains, the world and all who live there;

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

2 it is he who laid its foundations on the seas, on the flowing waters fixed it firm.

3 Who shall go up to the mountain of Yahweh? Who shall take a stand in his holy place?

4 The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose heart is not set on vanities, who does not swear an oath in order to deceive.

5 Such a one will receive blessing from Yahweh, saving justice from the God of his salvation.

6 Such is the people that seeks him, that seeks your presence, God of Jacob.

Gospel, Luke 13:1-9

1 It was just about this time that some people arrived and told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them,

2 'Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than any others, that this should have happened to them?

3 They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell, killing them all? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem?

5 They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

6 He told this parable, 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none.

7 He said to his vinedresser, "For three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?"

8 "Sir," the man replied, "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it:

9 it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down." '

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 25, 2025

1. In our first reading, Paul is teaching the Roman Christians about living by the Holy Spirit. He explains the transformation that can come about in the life of a Christian believer through the grace given in Jesus Christ. In the Jerusalem bible translation, which we use for the readings, the phrase "natural inclinations" is contrasted with "living by the Spirit". A better translation of the Greek would use the word "flesh". Not referring to the body, but to "sarx", disordered passions. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we move from lives led by "the flesh", to lives led by "the Spirit".

One of the ways we know if we have been transformed is to consider what occupies our thoughts, what we desire.

If we live by what Paul calls, "natural inclinations," or "the flesh" we think only about our human desires and passions. We may think about other people, but only as instruments for fulfilling our own immediate needs and wants. In short, we live for ourselves, not the Lords. But to live by the Spirit is to have the mind of Christ, to live as He lived, because we live in Him and He lives in and through us, by the Holy Spirit. We think about spiritual things. We think about God, and His plan for us, and His love for others. We listen for the Holy Spirit, and we spend time working out our vocation and living in accordance with Gods loving plan.

We are called to this new life, to a new way of being, to literally be a new creation. To change the very way we think, feel and live.

2. Our responsorial psalm asks, who shall go up to the mountain of Yahweh? Only those with pure hearts. It's another way of asking, what must we do to purify our hearts, minds and lives? In short to be saved from sin and saved for holiness. Today, we know the answer. We must accept Jesus Christ as our Lord, loving God with all our heart, and our neighbors as ourselves. By doing this, keeping the Commandments, reading, studying and living the Word of God, and obtaining the grace God has provided us in the Sacraments, God will invite us to ascend the mountain and stand in eternal communion with Him.
3. Our Gospel passage from St Luke is about being prepared. Jesus referred to two events which were well-known at the time. In the first, it is believed Pilate arranged for the murder of some well-meaning people. In another, a disaster caused eighteen to die. In both cases, the demise of the victims was unexpected. And some attributed it to their own sin. That it was a judgment. But the Lord tells those whom He is addressing that unless they repented, they will suffer the consequences. A serious warning to all, including each one of us. The warning is that our own death may come at any time. Are we ready? Have we repented of our own sin?

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

As for the parable of the fig tree, the owner of the vineyard is disappointed in his tree, which has not borne fruit. But his vinedresser asks for another chance for the tree, and mercifully the man grants it. But he makes clear, this is the last year. We are the tree. Some of us have not yet borne fruit, and while we may be granted another chance, someday, perhaps unexpectedly, our last chance will arrive.

Let us work to bear fruit now, while we can, for we do not know when our hour shall come.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 26, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, October 26th, 2025

Reading 1, Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

12 for the Lord is a judge who is utterly impartial.

13 He never shows partiality to the detriment of the poor, he listens to the plea of the injured party.

14 He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her complaint.

16 Whoever wholeheartedly serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds.

17 The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds: and until it does, he is not to be consoled,

18 nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the upright and delivers judgement.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23

2 I will praise Yahweh from my heart; let the humble hear and rejoice.

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of Yahweh, let us acclaim his name together.

17 They cry in anguish and Yahweh hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

18 Yahweh is near to the broken-hearted, he helps those whose spirit is crushed.

19 Though hardships without number beset the upright, Yahweh brings rescue from them all.

Reading 2, Second Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

6 As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to depart.

7 I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith;

8 all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

16 The first time I had to present my defence, no one came into court to support me. Every one of them deserted me -- may they not be held accountable for it.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed for all the gentiles to hear; and so I was saved from the lion's mouth.

18 The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel, Luke 18:9-14

9 He spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being upright and despised everyone else,

10 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like everyone else, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here.

12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get."

13 The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

14 This man, I tell you, went home again justified; the other did not. For everyone who raises himself up will be humbled, but anyone who humbles himself will be raised up.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 26, 2025

1. In our first reading, we hear of God's impartiality. This was an important message in a time when the poor had a difficult time getting justice. While human judges are partial and can be swayed and corrupted, failing to provide justice, God is infallible and impartial. God cannot be swayed. Human justice will disappoint, but God's justice is perfect.

We are called to be persistent in seeking God's justice, for He will hear our plea and acquit the upright, while delivering judgment to the evil. We are invited to a posture in prayer, and a way of life, which is humble and wholehearted. Prayers from men and women who are humble and wholehearted pierce the clouds, the wise sage explains. May we choose today, by God's grace, to become those types of men and women who humble ourselves and storm heaven with our prayers. The English word humility" has at its root a word that means grounded or from the earth. A humble man or woman lowers themselves in order to honor God and others.

2. In our responsorial psalm, David celebrates the fact that God hears the cry of the anguished and rescues them from troubles. The Lord is near to the broken hearted. It is a good reminder that no matter what problems we face, God will deliver us from them all. In his second letter to his disciple Timothy, the great Apostle Paul explains that his life has been poured out like a libation. That is the posture before God which the Psalmist describes. Paul is reaching the end of his life. he has "fought the good fight" and finished the race.

In another of his letters, the one to the Philippians, he tells them they are to be like Jesus who "empties Himself". The word is "kenosis" in Greek. It also means to be poured out. When we are emptied of ourselves, our own self love and self-concern, empties of sin, we can be filled up with the very life of God and be used by Him to set others free. That is the call of every Christian. That is our call.

3. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about two very different men. Notice who he is addressing. The text is clear: "JESUS spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being upright and despised everyone else."

The first man is a Pharisee, who prides himself on his own self perceived righteousness, the other was a tax collector, who laments his sin and begs for mercy. The problem with the Pharisee is he just doesn't get it. He thinks he is a good man because he pays his tithes, yet he fails to see the sin in his prideful judgment of his neighbor.

This is a pitfall for many Christians who are otherwise faithful. How often do we look at others who may seem to be acting in a manner which we think is "less faithful than we" and judge them? Let us understand that no person is without sin, and we all fall short of the glory of God.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

As Paul explained to the Romans "The wages of sin is death". But, he continued, "the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord". (Romans 6:23)

There is no justification for us to feel we are "better" than another. Rather, we are all sinners, we all need redemption, and not one of us is more deserving than another of salvation. The best defense against being filled with pride is living a life of penance and prayer. Emptying ourselves of ourselves in order to be filled up with the very life of God.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection October 27, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Monday, October 27th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 8:12-17

12 So then, my brothers, we have no obligation to human nature to be dominated by it.

13 If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the habits originating in the body, you will have life.

14 All who are guided by the Spirit of God are sons of God;

15 for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you received the Spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, 'Abba, Father!'

16 The Spirit himself joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God.

17 And if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, provided that we share his suffering, so as to share his glory.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 68:2, 4, 6-7, 20-21

2 You disperse them like smoke; as wax melts in the presence of a fire, so the wicked melt at the presence of God.

4 Sing to God, play music to his name, build a road for the Rider of the Clouds, rejoice in Yahweh, dance before him.

6 God gives the lonely a home to live in, leads prisoners out into prosperity, but rebels must live in the bare wastelands.

7 God, when you set out at the head of your people, when you strode over the desert,

20 This God of ours is a God who saves; from Lord Yahweh comes escape from death;

21 but God smashes the head of his enemies, the long-haired skull of the prowling criminal.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Luke 13:10-17

10 One Sabbath day he was teaching in one of the synagogues,

11 and there before him was a woman who for eighteen years had been possessed by a spirit that crippled her; she was bent double and quite unable to stand upright.

12 When Jesus saw her he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are freed from your disability,'

13 and he laid his hands on her. And at once she straightened up, and she glorified God.

14 But the president of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, and he addressed all those present saying, 'There are six days when work is to be done. Come and be healed on one of those days and not on the Sabbath.'

15 But the Lord answered him and said, 'Hypocrites! Is there one of you who does not untie his ox or his donkey from the manger on the Sabbath and take it out for watering?

16 And this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan has held bound these eighteen years -- was it not right to untie this bond on the Sabbath day?'

17 When he said this, all his adversaries were covered with confusion, and all the people were overjoyed at all the wonders he worked.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 27, 2025

1. In our first reading from the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Romans, our translation says, "human nature". That is not the best translation. The Greek word is better translated "The flesh" and it does not mean the body. The flesh (in Greek, sarx) that the scripture warns of is not our body but our tendency to sin. It includes the disordered passions which can lead us to sin.

The Apostle is teaching the early Christians - and each one of us- that by the Holy Spirit we can overcome the temptations of the flesh and find true freedom. We are now sons and daughters of God. By cooperating with grace, we can overcome unhealthy habits and find freedom. But we need to be willing to do so and to ask the Holy Spirit to help us.

2. The Psalmist tells us that the Lord gives the lonely a "home", it can also be translated family. He invites us to sing to God and play music to His Name. Do we believe that doing so honors God and sets us free? It does. Try it. Every day. And watch what happens. We are not alone. We are joined to Jesus, and, in Jesus, to His Mystical Body, the Church.

3. The Miracle performed by Jesus, that of setting this woman who had been possessed by a spirit for eighteen years was a sign of the Kingdom of God breaking through. Yet, the President of the synagogue was so blinded by his misguided approach to the Law, that he failed to recognize what was happening.

Fortunately, the faithful did not fail to see it. They rejoiced. That woman was weighed down, unable to stand. Sometimes, the worries and cares of this world weigh us down and we become spiritually and emotionally crippled. The same Jesus who performed this wonderful miracle is with us today. Ask Him to heal and deliver you. He wants to do so.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 28, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Tuesday, October 28th, 2025

Reading 1, Ephesians 2:19-22

19 So you are no longer aliens or foreign visitors; you are fellow-citizens with the holy people of God and part of God's household.

20 You are built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, and Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone.

21 Every structure knit together in him grows into a holy temple in the Lord;

22 and you too, in him, are being built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5

2 day discourses of it to day, night to night hands on the knowledge.

3 No utterance at all, no speech, not a sound to be heard,

4 but from the entire earth the design stands out, this message reaches the whole world. High above, he pitched a tent for the sun,

5 who comes forth from his pavilion like a bridegroom, delights like a champion in the course to be run.

Gospel, Luke 6:12-16

12 Now it happened in those days that he went onto the mountain to pray; and he spent the whole night in prayer to God.

13 When day came he summoned his disciples and picked out twelve of them; he called them 'apostles':

14 Simon whom he called Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew,

15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon called the Zealot,

16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot who became a traitor.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 28, 2025

1. In our first reading, Paul addresses the Ephesians and is explaining to them what has happened through their Baptism where they were buried with Christ and raised up with Him, being incorporated into His Body, the Church. They have become members of the household of the Lord. In other words, we are not outsiders, but members of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. There is now unity where there once was separation. Jews and Gentiles are now one in Jesus Christ. A few verses before the ones selected for our first reading, he explains that the "dividing wall of hostility" has now been broken down and they are now one in Jesus Christ.

Sin separates. Grace liberates. Living faith integrates. In Jesus Christ, all men and women are called to be united, through Him, with the Father, and in Him with one another. We should regard one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord. There are no more outsiders. We must treat all Christians with love, even if we do not know their names, for they are no less our brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. In our responsorial psalm David, as he often does, Points to the evidence for God in nature. It is obvious that our universe and our world is designed. Recognizing this, how can we doubt the greatness of God? Just as He has provided for all the things of the universe, placing the Sun and Moon with care, and providing for all the animals of the Earth, so too has God prepared this place for us. Let us rejoice and be the good stewards He asks us to be.

3. In our Gospel, Jesus must make an important decision, choosing the twelve. Prior to the decision, Jesus spent an entire night in prayer. Once again, Jesus has modeled how we should approach important moments in our life, that is with prayer. But do we?

Prayer allows us to listen to the Lord, and to ensure our will is aligned with His. To make an important decision is no less foolhardy than to leap without looking. Jesus, the Son of God, prayed mightily. In His Sacred humanity, he shows us how we are to live in our own humanity, which is being sanctified in Him. The intimate communion the disciples witnessed when they came upon Jesus in prayer can become our experience. We are adopted sons and daughters of "His Father and Our Father". (John 20:17). The ongoing instruction which they received as they walked with Him daily can become ours when we walk with Him daily.

The Jesus who instructed them in these accounts is alive with us today. He has been raised from the dead. We need the eyes of faith to see Him - and the Spirit fueled courage to accompany Him on the way. Through Jesus we are made capable of living an entirely new way of life, beginning now. In the words of the Apostle Peter, we become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1).

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

It is by learning to live in the full communion of the Church that we come to receive this divine life. It is mediated through the Sacraments. It forms us through the Word of God and the wisdom of the teaching office of the Church. It recreates us into the Image and likeness of God, as fully revealed in Jesus Christ, and being replicated in each of us as we yield our freedom to God's loving plan.

Through prayer, daily life can become a classroom of communion. In that classroom we can learn the truth about who we are - and who we are becoming - in Jesus. Through prayer, we receive new glasses through which we will see the true landscape of life. Through prayer, darkness can be dispelled, and the path of progress illuminated.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 29, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 8:26-30

26 And as well as this, the Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness, for, when we do not know how to pray properly, then the Spirit personally makes our petitions for us in groans that cannot be put into words;

27 and he who can see into all hearts knows what the Spirit means because the prayers that the Spirit makes for God's holy people are always in accordance with the mind of God.

28 We are well aware that God works with those who love him, those who have been called in accordance with his purpose, and turns everything to their good.

29 He decided beforehand who were the ones destined to be moulded to the pattern of his Son, so that he should be the eldest of many brothers;

30 it was those so destined that he called; those that he called, he justified, and those that he has justified he has brought into glory.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 13:4-5, 6

4 Or my foe will boast, 'I have overpowered him,' and my enemy have the joy of seeing me stumble.

5 As for me, I trust in your faithful love, Yahweh. Let my heart delight in your saving help, let me sing to Yahweh for his generosity to me, let me sing to the name of Yahweh the Most High!

6 But I trust in your mercy, Grant my heart joy in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt bountifully with me!

Gospel, Luke 13:22-30

22 Through towns and villages he went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem.

23 Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them,

24 'Try your hardest to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

25 'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself standing outside knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us," but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from."

26 Then you will start saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets,"

27 but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from; away from me, all evil doers!"

28 'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrown out.

29 And people from east and west, from north and south, will come and sit down at the feast in the kingdom of God.

30 'Look, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 29, 2025

1. In our first reading from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. The Holy Spirit actually prays within us. Also, that the Lord turns all things to good. To HIS GOOD, which sometimes, we don't, at least at first, understand. I am frequently asked what I think is the greatest need in the Church today. Because of my work - and much of my writing - people presume how I will answer. They expect me to be what they call "action oriented" and "practical." My answer is simple. "The greatest need in the Church today is more people who really pray", I respond.

One of my favorite Catholic Bishops, Blessed Alvaro del Portillo, once wrote, The so-called "practical people" are not really the most useful in the service of Christ's Church, nor are those who merely expound theories. Rather it is the true contemplatives who best serve her; those with the steady, generous and passionate desire of transfiguring and divinizing all creation with Christ and in Christ. It may sound paradoxical, but in the Church of Jesus Christ, the mystic is the only practical person"

Jesus was a man of prayer. We often think that He prayed the way He did only because He was Divine. However, in his sacred humanity he reveals the fullness of our own humanity, as it is being redeemed and recreated in Him. The Fathers of the 2nd Vatican Council reminded us of this:

The truth is that only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light. For Adam, the first man, was a figure of Him Who was to come, namely Christ the Lord. Christ, the final Adam, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear. (Gaudium et Spes #22)

In Jesus, we find a new way of being human revealed and opened up to each of us, beginning right now. He Himself is the Way, the Truth and the Life. (Jn. 14:16) By His Incarnation - His Saving Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension- we are capacitated, made capable, by grace, to live differently. We can become what spiritual writers have long called "sons (and daughters) in the Son." No matter what our state in life, job or even specific lifestyle within the one call to discipleship, we are all called into communion with God through prayer.

The prayer of Jesus opened the heavens, brought provision to the hungry, gave Him clarity for making decisions and brought the glory of heaven to earth and earth to heaven. Prayer still does all of this, and more, for all who will learn how to live their lives immersed in God as He did. Through prayer we recover the capacity for a communion of love with the living God and learn how to plunge ourselves into its embrace. Through prayer we cry out with - and in - Jesus, "Abba Father."

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

No longer alienated from God, we participate in the inner life of God. God dwells in us and we dwell in Him through His Spirit. This is prayer. It is not so much about doing or getting but rather about being, receiving, giving, and loving. Through prayer, daily life takes on a new meaning. It becomes a classroom of communion. In that classroom we learn the truth about who we are - and who we are becoming - in Jesus.

Through prayer we receive new glasses through which we see the true landscape of life and find the way to walk. Through prayer darkness is dispelled and the path of true progress is illuminated.

2. The Psalmist reminds us we will have foes, enemies. It may happen that we stumble, and our enemies will rejoice. As Christians, we are certain to have enemies, drawn from those who prefer evil to good. And it can be embarrassing when these people delight. But we should not worry about how we appear in the eyes of others. Instead, let us recognize that the Lord saves His faithful. God is generous and good, and he will deliver us, in the sight of our enemies.
3. In our Gospel passage we meet a person trying to draw Jesus into a debate over who and how many will be saved. Will all be saved? Or just a few? But Jesus uses the question to instruct. In a sense, he turns the question, advising the person to make sure they are saved. He uses the analogy of a narrow gate to make his point.

A narrow gate is not so much something that absolutely excludes, instead it is difficult to enter when encountered. In other words, a person cannot enter a narrow gate if they are carrying too many things to which they are attached. A person who is attached to the things of this world will have difficulty getting through the gate. And, to pass through the gate requires effort. We are given the grace we need to make it through, but we need to cooperate with that grace.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. All are called to holiness: "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (CCC #2013) Christians are saved from sin, death and separation from God, through Jesus Christ. We are saved FOR holy living.

We are to live differently - beginning right now- because we live our lives now in Jesus Christ. We are to love differently, because we are capacitated by grace to love in Jesus Christ, and with His Love. And all of this is made possible, as we cooperate with grace. We should regularly ask ourselves if we are ready to pass through that narrow gate. Are we attached to the things of this world? Are we truly striving for salvation so we may make it through the gate when the time comes?

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 30, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Thursday, October 30th, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 8:31-39

31 After saying this, what can we add? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 Since he did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for the sake of all of us, then can we not expect that with him he will freely give us all his gifts?

33 Who can bring any accusation against those that God has chosen? When God grants saving justice

34 who can condemn? Are we not sure that it is Christ Jesus, who died -- yes and more, who was raised from the dead and is at God's right hand -- and who is adding his plea for us?

35 Can anything cut us off from the love of Christ -- can hardships or distress, or persecution, or lack of food and clothing, or threats or violence;

36 as scripture says: For your sake we are being massacred all day long, treated as sheep to be slaughtered?

37 No; we come through all these things triumphantly victorious, by the power of him who loved us.

38 For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power,

39 nor the heights nor the depths, nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31

21 Yahweh, treat them as your name demands; as your faithful love is generous, deliver me.

22 Poor and needy as I am, my wounds go right to the heart;

26 Help me, Yahweh my God, save me as your faithful love demands.

27 Let them know that yours is the saving hand, that this, Yahweh, is your work.

30 With generous thanks to Yahweh on my lips, I shall praise him before all the people,

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

31 for he stands at the side of the poor, to save their lives from those who sit in judgement on them.

Gospel, Luke 13:31-35

31 Just at this time some Pharisees came up. 'Go away,' they said. 'Leave this place, because Herod means to kill you.'

32 He replied, 'You may go and give that fox this message: Look! Today and tomorrow I drive out devils and heal, and on the third day I attain my end.'

33 But for today and tomorrow and the next day I must go on, since it would not be right for a prophet to die outside Jerusalem.

34 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you refused!

35 Look! Your house will be left to you. Yes, I promise you, you shall not see me till the time comes when you are saying: Blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord!'



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 30, 2025

1. Our first reading from the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans contains a powerful encouragement. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Now this does not mean we will not have enemies. It means that if we are in Christ, then nobody can triumph against us. God is a giver. He gave His Son to die for our sins. If He is willing to do that, then how much more is He willing to give us what we need for, what the Apostle calls "life and godliness".

But gifts need to be received, opened and used. So it is with grace. The word means gift. We must receive it and walk in it. If we are in Christ, then God will give us all good things. Even if we face enemies and peril, even if we are persecuted, the final victory will belong to those who are in Christ, so we have no reason to despair.

2. Our responsorial psalm reminds us of what the Apostle Paul explained in our first reading. No matter what wounds we suffer, God delivers us, heals us, and will sustain us. Therefore, we should generously give thanks to the Lord, who saves all those who choose to walk with Him. We are all poor, and His riches are freely given when we ask.

3. In today's Gospel, Jesus is warned that He should flee Jerusalem because Herod wanted to kill Him. Jesus' reply showed that He was unafraid of Herod. In fact, He knew that he was sent to die, to give His life as a ransom for many. Jesus had more important work to do than to worry about Herod, who was sly and cunning, but weak

Jesus was, and is, on a mission to save all people, to gather them together against the real dangers, sin and the devil. To do so as a mother hen protects her brood from enemies. However, Jesus was frustrated that the people He was trying to save were hostile, and uncooperative in hearing His message. They failed to understand their need for salvation.

We must ask the Holy Spirit, continually, to open our hearts to the Lord. We must continually ask for the grace we need to always hear, and embrace, to the full message of Jesus Christ. We must not become like those who stoned the prophets. Jesus has worked to gather us all together, and in Him we will find safety from those who wish us harm. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

October 31, 2025



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, October 31st, 2025

Reading 1, Romans 9:1-5

1 This is the truth and I am speaking in Christ, without pretence, as my conscience testifies for me in the Holy Spirit;

2 there is great sorrow and unremitting agony in my heart:

3 I could pray that I myself might be accursed and cut off from Christ, if this could benefit the brothers who are my own flesh and blood.

4 They are Israelites; it was they who were adopted as children, the glory was theirs and the covenants; to them were given the Law and the worship of God and the promises.

5 To them belong the fathers and out of them, so far as physical descent is concerned, came Christ who is above all, God, blessed for ever. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

12 Praise Yahweh, Jerusalem, Zion, praise your God.

13 For he gives strength to the bars of your gates, he blesses your children within you,

14 he maintains the peace of your frontiers, gives you your fill of finest wheat.

15 He sends his word to the earth, his command runs quickly,

19 He reveals his word to Jacob, his statutes and judgements to Israel.

20 For no other nation has he done this, no other has known his judgements.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Luke 14:1-6

1 Now it happened that on a Sabbath day he had gone to share a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely.

2 Now there in front of him was a man with dropsy,

3 and Jesus addressed the lawyers and Pharisees with the words, 'Is it against the law to cure someone on the Sabbath, or not?'

4 But they remained silent, so he took the man and cured him and sent him away.

5 Then he said to them, 'Which of you here, if his son falls into a well, or his ox, will not pull him out on a Sabbath day without any hesitation?'

6 And to this they could find no answer.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for October 31, 2025

1. In our first reading for today's Holy Mass, the Apostle Paul is dealing with an important question in the early church, how can justification through faith in Jesus Christ be compatible with the promises the Lord had made to Israel. Remember, the Apostle Paul, prior to his conversion, was Saul - an ardent persecutor of the "the New Way" - which is what the early followers of Jesus were called until Antioch.

He is a Jew, called now to preach to the Gentiles the message of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. He loves the Jewish people and acknowledges that the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. But he underscores in all of his teaching, that the Lord's loving plan, to reach out, through Israel, to all the Nations, is now accomplished in Jesus Christ.

The "true Israel" is not descended from Abraham "according to the flesh", but descended from Abraham, according to the Spirit. Christians are now sons and daughters of Abraham as well. Abraham is referred to in the Bible and in our liturgy as our "father in faith". The plan of God to reach all men and women is now continuing, through the "New Israel", the Church, and the Jewish people are a part of that plan. Indeed, they have a privileged place in God's universal plan.

2. This special role of Israel in the Lord's loving plan is also revealed in the canticle, the Psalm of David, which forms our response today for Holy Mass "He reveals his word to Jacob, his statutes and judgements to Israel. For no other nation has he done this, no other has known his judgements." God chose Israel to reveal Himself for all the Nations.
3. In the Gospel for today's Holy Mass, we hear of one more confrontation between Jesus and some of the leading Pharisees. Jesus was invited to one of their homes to share a meal. Or so it seemed. The real reason was so they could observe his behavior. Already, blinded by their own spiritual pride, they had determined to "catch him" "working" on the Sabbath. Their intent was to turn the people against Him, and to undermine His Messianic mission.

Isn't it wonderful that the Lord took advantage of every such situation in order to redeem souls, heal the sick, cast out demons and speak of the Kingdom? Not only does he heal the man with dropsy, he confronts the blindness of the Pharisees, with the hopes of opening their eyes so that they can see who He is and have the scales fall from their spiritual eyes.

Jesus responds to all of our invitations to come into our own lives. But we must have the spiritual eyes to see Him. Let us ask the Lord for that grace today.