

## Readings for the week of October 5, 2025

### Sunday:

Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/  
2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

### Monday:

Jon 1:1-2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk 10:25-37

### Tuesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8/  
Lk 10:38-42

### Wednesday:

Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10/Lk 11:1-4

### Thursday:

Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/  
Lk 11:5-13

### Friday:

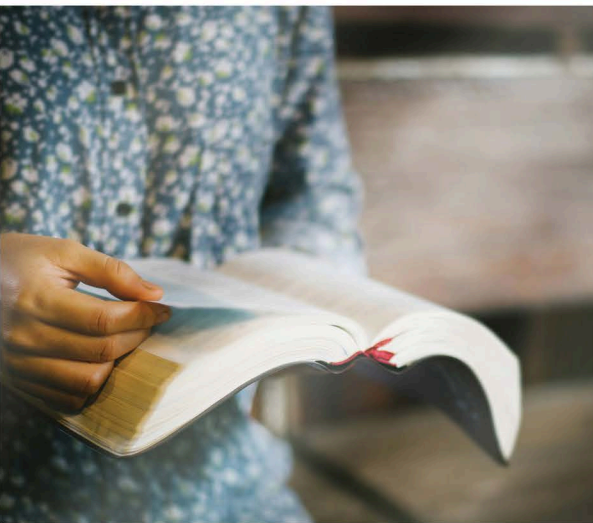
Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9/  
Lk 11:15-26

### Saturday:

Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk 11:27-28

### Next Sunday:

2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/  
2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest friend of mine received a call from a family whose elderly mother was dying. Within thirty minutes, he was at her bedside, offering the consolation of the sacraments, anointing her with the oil of the sick, and commending her soul to God. She passed not long after, and for months, her family spoke of their deep gratitude for his presence. When I phoned him to commend his faithful ministry, he simply said, “I was just doing my job.”

His words brought to mind Jesus’ teaching this week in Luke 17:10: **“So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”** In a world that often seeks recognition and applause, the Lord invites us into a different mindset — one of humble service. The priest did not see his response as extraordinary; he saw it as a grace to fulfill his vocation.

How tempting it is to seek affirmation for doing what I ought to do! Yet Jesus reminds us that true discipleship is not about grandstanding but about quiet faithfulness. It is enough to have served. It is enough to have loved. It is enough to be grateful that we were given the chance to do our duty in the first place. Whether in priesthood, parenthood, or any vocation, what peace-soaked freedom there is in simply doing what is asked of us. No more, no less. Jesus, that is how you quietly love us.

— *Father John Muir*

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** “Increase my faith.” I’ve said it to God plenty of times, imagining a prayer life that is effortless and a sacramental life that is uncomplicated. Easy faith — that’s what I’m asking for, and lots of it, please. But easy faith isn’t faith at all.

### The Father Who Knows What You Want

It’s easy to give your kid what he’s asking for. It’s hard to give him what he wants.

If a kid asks to eat an ice cream cone, there’s nothing wrong with giving him one. But if he’s grumpily demanding an ice cream cone at 7:45 in the morning, what he wants — whether he realizes it or not — is some protein and whole grains and a little encouragement to get him going on his day.

So you give him eggs and toast, and you watch him struggle to accept it. Sometimes he does and sometimes he doesn’t, but either way, you’ll be here. You’ll forgive him for whatever names he calls you and you’ll put the healthy breakfast in the fridge, waiting for him when he’s ready to eat it.

“Increase my faith.” I’ve said it to God plenty of times, imagining a prayer life that is effortless and a sacramental life that is uncomplicated, an acceptance of truth that is unshakeable. Easy faith — that’s what I’m asking for, and lots of it, please.

But easy faith isn’t faith at all, and faith that you aren’t strong enough to hold will break your arms. And what God will never do is say, “Sure, kiddo, here you go,” and pass off a false gift as the real thing, just to make us both feel good. He won’t hand me something I’m not strong enough to hold.

That would be a classic lazy-father move. That would be an ice-cream-cone-at-7:45 a.m. move.

Instead, He watches carefully while I navigate the bumpy terrain of the spiritual life, ready to whisper directions in my ear. He holds his breath while the challenges of this world create deep grooves in my soul — and then He irrigates those grooves with the life-giving waters of grace, transforming them into valleys of consolation and respite.

Sometimes I call Him names. Sometimes I refuse what He’s offering. It’s not what I asked for, after all.

But it’s what I want. Luckily, He knows that better than me.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

### Answer:

The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the “Via Dolorosa” (“The Way of Suffering”) or the “Via Crucis” (“The Way of the Cross”), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of “The Way of the Cross” were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The rash one has no integrity;  
but the just one, because of his faith, shall live. (Hb 2:4)

### Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

### Second Reading:

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice  
but rather of power and love and self-control. (2 Tm 1:7)

### Gospel:

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,  
you would say to this mulberry tree,  
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,'  
and it would obey you." (Lk 17:6)

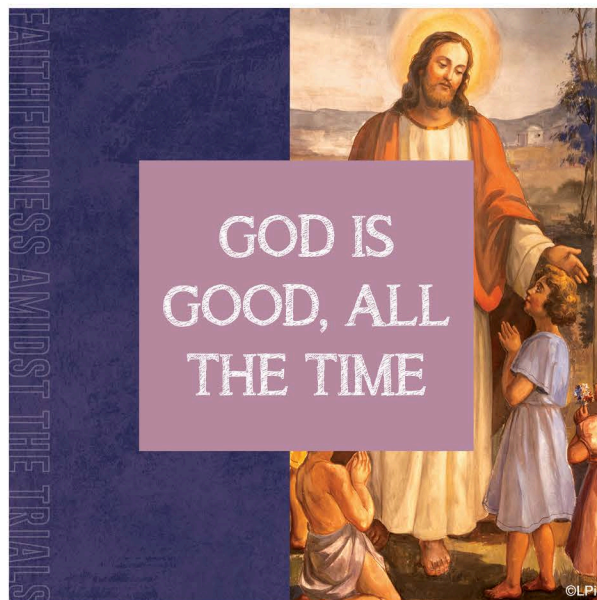
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Apostles beg Jesus for increased faith, but they don't really want faith. They want a magical feeling of certainty that requires no effort. Real faith must grow and sprout roots in fertile soil. Real faith requires attention and work. Are we willing to work?

## Observances for the week of October 5, 2025

- Sunday:** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Respect Life Sunday
- Monday:** St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher,  
Virgin
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of the Rosary
- Thursday:** St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs;  
St. John Leonardi, Priest
- Saturday:** St. John XXIII, Pope
- Next Sunday:** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Devotions, *Explained!*

This popular phrase is an affirmation of God's faithfulness amidst the trials of life, a theme that is presented again and again in Scripture: come what may, God will be with us.

## Prayer to Respect Life

Dear God,  
Help us to hear Your voice,  
especially when You speak on  
behalf of the voiceless,  
the overlooked, and the forgotten.  
Keep our ears attuned, and work  
through us in a way that loves,  
blesses, assures, supports, and  
strengthens LIFE.  
Amen.

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” The Lord replied, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

- Lk 17:5-6

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

The prophet Habakkuk is encouraged to be patient and trust in the Lord’s timing. Is patience one of your virtues?

### Second Reading:

Paul urges Timothy to live his life of faith with courage and self-control, especially in difficult situations. How might you support a family member or friend struggling this week?

### Gospel:

Jesus taught the Apostles that one way to increase your faith is to have the attitude of a servant. How would you describe your attitude most days?



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“Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.’” - Lk 17:9-10

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