

# **CELEBRATE SABBATH**

## **Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Simplicity makes it possible for you to be who you are  
and to be that very well.**

### **Amos 6:1, 4-7**

The first verse of this excerpt cites the complacency of those who lived in luxury and reminds them of what would happen to them if they don't change their ways. In the days of Amos, the Prophet, Israel had become rich and affluent and began to take the Lord for granted and become unmindful of the poor and the marginalized in their world. Amos gives us a graphic description of the way the rich lived and enjoyed themselves, eating and drinking and anointing themselves with rich oils while the poor struggled for survival. Amos reminded the rich that their lifestyle was an affront to the justice of God.

**Today, we live in a nation that is one of the most privileged in our world. Let us be grateful and let our gratitude make us mindful of those who are less privileged, the poor, the orphans, the suffering, the neglected and the marginalized in our world.**

### **Psalm 146**

The Psalmist calls us to praise God, not just for an hour in song.....but with the whole of our being at all times and in all places. Because as the last verse says. "the Lord reigns forever" and His reign can be trusted. To reign is govern and to govern is to care - verses 8-9 proclaims this confidence. **God is a God who keeps "faith" forever - He is the living God.** Therefore, God is worthy of our trust. He calls all people to do what God does and that is the way we are to praise God. We are to learn to be like Him and do what He does. Amen.

**Blessed is he who keeps faith forever,  
Secures justice for the oppressed,  
Gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the captives free.**

### **I Timothy 6:11-16**

Paul instructed Timothy to treasure and to teach sound doctrine, seek virtue, avoid evil and persevere in following the way of Jesus..... "Man of God that you are.....seek after integrity, piety, faith, steadfastness and a gentle spirit. Fight the good fight of faith." Paul instructed Timothy to be faithful, to bear witness to Christ and to give honor and glory to God just as Christ gave honor and glory to God.

**Cultivate virtues: integrity, fidelity, steadfastness, gentleness, mindfulness.....**

## **Luke 16:19-31**

The story of Lazarus and the rich man announced a “reversal” of fortunes – those who were seemingly “unblessed” became blessed and those who seemed “blessed” became “unblessed”. The system, nice and neat and comfortable and predictable, became upsetting and unsettling to those who were perceived as enjoying God’s favor and those who were in the inner circle of God’s chosen ones. The dishonored and the unclean and the poor and sinner became included among the saved and blessed.

Lazarus, the beggar was welcomed, the rich man found himself in torment, excluded from all that gave him joy. The rich man was unmindful of Lazarus. He did not abuse the poor beggar neither did he throw him out or insult him. He just didn’t even acknowledge the presence of Lazarus. Lazarus was passed over, not included but ignored.

**This story calls forth a reordering of social systems, to do justice to the poor and the oppressed, to include all people into our circles and be very mindful of those who are less privileged....reorder life according to the principles of compassion, mercy, loving kindness, steadfast love.....God’s all-embracing, unfailing love.**

## **Saint of the day, September 25 - St. Louis Martin and Azélie Guérin and 29 other saints are remembered this day**

Louis Joseph Aloys Stanislaus Martin was born on August 22, 1823 in Bordeaux, Gironde, France. Although Louis intended to become a monk, wishing to enter the Augustinian Great St. Bernard Monastery, he was rejected because he did not succeed at learning Latin. Later he decided to become a watchmaker and studied his craft in Rennes and in Strasbourg.

Azélie-Marie Guérin was born in Gandelain, Orne, France on December 23, 1831. She wanted to become a nun, but was turned away by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul due to respiratory difficulties and recurrent headaches. She later decided to become a lacemaker, manufacturing Alençon lace.

Louis and Azélie met, fell in love and got married in 1858. Azélie's business became so successful that, in 1870, Louis sold his watchmaking business to go into partnership with her. They were blessed with nine children, though two sons and two daughters died in infancy.

Azélie died from breast cancer in 1877 and Louis then moved the family to Lisieux to be near his brother and sister-in-law, who helped with the education of his five surviving girls. His health began to fail after his 15-year-old daughter entered the Monastery of Mount Carmel at Lisieux in 1888. Louis died in 1894, a few months after being committed to a sanitarium.

The home that Louis and Azélie created nurtured the sanctity of all their children, but especially their youngest, who is known to us as Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Louis and Azélie were canonized by Pope Francis on October 18, 2015.

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