



**JUST A GUY IN THE PEW**  
**THE NARROW ROAD.**  
OCTOBER 2021 | PERSEVERANCE

*In loving memory of Bill Platten.  
A leader, a mentor, a friend.*



# **THE NARROW ROAD**

THE EVERYDAY GUIDE FOR THE EVERYDAY GUY



**NOT YET A MEMBER OF “THE NARROW ROAD”?**

LEARN MORE ABOUT IT, PLUS SIGN UP AT  
[JUSTAGUYINTHEPEW.COM/THE-NARROW-ROAD](https://justaguyinthepew.com/the-narrow-road)

OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

WELCOME	6
OPPORTUNITY FOR GRACE CHART	8
REFLECTION ON THE VIRTUE OF PERSEVERANCE	10
VIRTUE PLAN FOR THE MONTH	12
REFLECTION: PERSEVERANCE AND GOD	13
WEEK 1	15
REFLECTION: PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE	29
WEEK 2	31
REFLECTION: PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN	45
WEEK 3	47
REFLECTION: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR	61
WEEK 4	63
HELPFUL PRAYERS	83

# WELCOME

Brothers in Christ,

I am so excited to deliver this resource to you. As I look back over the years at what God has had us doing at Just a Guy in the Pew, it has become obvious that His goal for our ministry is to help men become virtuous. Jesus didn't ask us to be merely "good" men, no He called us to be great men. In order for this to happen we need to leave vice and selfishness behind and trade it in for virtue and selflessness. That is what will help us achieve the goal that Christ has for us all. That goal is holiness. In the words of St. Gregory of Nyssa, "The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God." What is God? He is holy and that's what we should hope to become as well.

The *Catechism* defines virtue in this way: "A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions." (CCC1803) Did you catch that? It says in order to be virtuous we need a habitual and firm disposition. This is where I think most men struggle. Most of us desire to do good. We desire to BE good. The problem is we don't have a system in place to form the necessary habits that shore up our will. Almost every man I have worked with over the years falls prey to this. We have the intention of being virtuous, but the road to hell is paved with good intentions, as they say. As men, we need structure and accountability to help us practice and live out virtue in our lives. Put pieces of wood for building a desk in front of a guy without directions or tools and the wood will soon be pushed to the side with a promise of getting to it later. Put that same wood in front of a guy with directions and a screw gun and he will build it in an hour. You see, the desire is there, we just need good directions.

That is what I hope these books can be for you every month. In them, you will be able to practice a singular virtue over 30 days in the different relationships of your life. This will help you dial your focus in on one virtue each month and will help keep you from feeling overwhelmed. Feeling overwhelmed is what makes most guys put something down. That's why we have made each day as simple as possible for you. We have even included the daily Gospel reading for you to read and reflect on what God is sharing with you personally that day. That in itself will help transform your life.

You also will have the opportunity to list out the ways in which you have practiced that month's particular virtue in the four different relationships in your life. Those are your relationship with God, your relationship with your spouse, your relationship with your children, and your relationship with your neighbor. These are the places

God wants us to grow in virtue. He uses the very people He puts in front of you each day as opportunities to grow in virtue and holiness. If you are not married and do not have children use those two weeks to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.

The last piece we have included is the Opportunity for Grace Chart. This is not a commitment sheet but is exactly what it is called. It's an opportunity for grace. It is a list made up of simple yet powerful practices you can begin to put into place in your life. These are opportunities you can seek out throughout the month to receive God's grace or pass it along to your family or others. Most guys beat themselves up for what they don't do. This is an opportunity to shine light on the progress you are making each week in your spiritual life. It's a chance to see the positive instead of the negative.

It is my hope and prayer that you will find this simple yet powerful tool helpful. I hope that you will use this book each day to help continue on the path to holiness. If your goal is to be the man that God created you to be, then this will get you going in the right direction. I look forward to walking this journey towards becoming virtuous men beside you.

**In Christ,  
John**

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRACE

DAY	MORNING PRAYER	THE NARROW ROAD	DAILY MASS	CONFESSION	ADORATION	TIME WITH WIFE	TIME WITH KIDS	NIGHT PRAYER/ EXAMEN	SUNDAY MASS
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									



DAY	MORNING PRAYER	THE NARROW ROAD	DAILY MASS	CONFESSION	ADORATION	TIME WITH WIFE	TIME WITH KIDS	NIGHT PRAYER/ EXAMEN	SUNDAY MASS
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									
26									
27									
28									
29									
30									
31									

# THE VIRTUE OF PERSEVERANCE

Brothers in Christ,

The journey of a Christian is a long one. The promise we make to give our lives fully to Jesus at our baptism or confirmation is a lifelong promise. It is about more than just a momentary experience of conversion or a temporary feeling of closeness to Jesus. Conversion is a lifelong process, and it is one we must constantly work towards. In order to live this promise out, we need God's grace. That grace comes to us in the form of the virtue of perseverance.

Perseverance is defined as "having persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success." By that definition, you can see why learning to persevere is so vital to our faith. Each and every day, we are met with difficulties and struggles in our life. We face them at work, in our families, and with our neighbors. The world, the flesh, and the devil set snares and temptations for us as men at every turn. Many of these temptations and struggles can really wear a man down over time. They wish to lead us away from God and the things that we know we need to do in our lives to grow in our relationship with Him. Oftentimes, they can even lead us to a place of desolation; a place where we can't even feel God's presence in our lives. Our faith isn't about feelings, though. It's about fidelity. It's about persevering in our faith through every struggle and challenge that is laid before us. Jesus speaks of this in Luke 21:19 when he says, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives." He spoke these words right after he told the disciples they would be persecuted and hated for following him. Today, as modern-day disciples, we can expect the same thing. That means we will also have to heed Christ's words in our need for the virtue of perseverance in order to "secure" our eternal lives.

When I think of the virtue of perseverance, I think of great saints like St. Teresa of Calcutta. This may come as a surprise to many of you, but Mother Teresa claimed that she was in a desolation for over 50 years. She told people she was deprived of feeling the presence of God for most of her life and described this as a darkness. Each day, she felt God less and less in prayer, in spiritual direction, and in worship. Despite all the darkness and the feelings of abandonment, Mother Teresa continued to pray. She continued to run a religious order while living in poverty and helping thousands of the most downtrodden people on the streets of Calcutta. She remained faithful and steadfast. Even though she was met with silence in prayer and in her relationship with Jesus, she pursued Him and His will for her life each day. Mother Teresa knew that God loved her, and she persevered all those years even though she didn't feel it.

Men, we have to learn from great saints like St. Teresa. We have to learn from those in the Early Church who faced persecution, physical harm, and even death in their

pursuit of Jesus. If we are going to become and continue to be the men God calls us to be, then we are going to have to learn to persevere through all things. In the words of St. Jose Maria Escriva, "To begin is for everyone. To persevere is for saints." Our goal and our mission in life for ourselves and those around us is to become saints. This month let's meet all the trials, temptations, and tribulations head-on with our eyes on the cross. Jesus was able to persevere through all His trials throughout His passion. Through His strength, we will be able to persevere through ours. I will be praying for the grace to persevere right alongside you all this month, my brothers. Remember, you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

**In Christ,  
John**

# VIRTUE PLAN FOR THE MONTH

## VIRTUE: PERSEVERANCE

---

### MOTTO:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."  
— 2 Timothy 4:7

### ROOT SINS:

Slothfulness/indifference

### WHERE DO I SEE THESE SINS IN MY LIFE?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### PLAN TO FORM COURAGE

WEEK 1: Perseverance and God

WEEK 2: Perseverance and My Wife

WEEK 3: Perseverance and My Children

WEEK 4: Perseverance and My Neighbor

### PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe in You as my God and my Savior. Make me more faithful to Your Gospel and commandments. By sharing in the Eucharist, may I come to live more fully in the life You have given me. Keep Your Love alive within my heart and soul so that I may become worthy of You. Teach me to value and be thankful for all Your gifts. Help us to strive for eternal life.

**WEEK 1 REFLECTION:**

---

# **PERSEVERANCE AND GOD**

God loves you. Make no mistake about that. Sometimes, though, we can find ourselves questioning that. There are times in our lives where He feels distant, and we can feel abandoned by Him. These are the times when it is hard to stay on track with our faith and our spiritual practices. These times are called periods of desolation and can often be very difficult to get through. That is why we must be well-versed in the virtue of perseverance.

Through the course of our lives, we are going to have difficulties. We are going to have trials and tribulations that are very challenging for us. It is just a part of life. How we handle these challenges makes all the difference in the world. We can allow them to beat us down and choose to give up, or we can keep our eyes firmly on Christ and persevere through them with His strength. St. Paul chose to do the latter. There is a call to persevere all throughout St. Paul's letters. He implores people to endure whatever they have to for the love of God. He tells the Galatians, "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up." (Gal 6:9) He tells the Corinthians, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Cor 10:13) Paul didn't just speak about it, though. He lived it. Think of all the dangers Paul faced in his life. Think of all the trials he went through. He was blinded, shipwrecked, beaten, bruised, and eventually beheaded. I am sure through a lot of that Paul didn't feel like continuing on. He even begged God to remove "the thorn from his side" three times. That thorn he described was the feeling of abandonment. He even admits that he was allowed to feel it so he wouldn't become too elated with the grace God was bestowing upon him. Paul didn't want to feel the way he did in that moment, so he asked God to remove the feeling. He figured out though, that faith isn't about feelings. It is about doing the will of God no matter what. It's about persevering through the times of desolation that will surely come in our lives. If we allow our level of engagement in the faith to be governed by feelings, then we will find our faith waning. That is the danger in giving into the feelings we have in the desolate times. God calls us to depend on Him even more in those moments, whether we feel Him or not. It is in these times that we need to pray longer, harder, and more frequently. If we persevere the way Paul did, then great fruit will come from our efforts in the same way they did from his.

My brothers, even Jesus fell three times while carrying the cross. It is guaranteed we are going to fall while carrying ours. It's not about how many times we fall. It's about how many times we get back up. That's what Paul did. He got back up time and time again. That's what Christ did while carrying His cross. If we are going to be a saint, then we have to learn to persevere. Then, at the end of our life we can share in these words of St. Paul, "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." (2 Tim 4:7)

## WEEK 1: PERSEVERANCE AND GOD

# OCTOBER 1, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Archangels may the Lord give us perseverance in faith and in all good works in order that we may attain the glory of Heaven. Amen.”

— Taken from the Chaplet of St. Michael

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 10:13-16

MEMORIAL OF SAINT THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN  
AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

---

“Woe to you, Chora'zin! woe to you, Beth-sa'ida! for if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it shall be more tolerable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Caper'na-um, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. “He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TODAY?

[illegible]



## WEEK 1: PERSEVERANCE AND GOD

# OCTOBER 2, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen."

— St. Thomas Aquinas

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

MT 18:1-5, 10

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

---

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me. See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven."

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TODAY?

[illegible]

## WEEK 1: PERSEVERANCE AND GOD

# OCTOBER 3, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Don't worry to the point of losing your inner peace. Pray with perseverance, with faith, with calmness, and serenity."

— St. Padre Pio

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

MK 10:2-16

---

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to put her away." But Jesus said to them, "For your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

## WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ACTS OF PERSEVERANCE

HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 1: PERSEVERANCE AND GOD

# OCTOBER 4, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up."

— Galatians 6:9

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 10:25-37

MEMORIAL OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

---

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

## WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## ACTS OF PERSEVERANCE

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 1: PERSEVERANCE AND GOD

# OCTOBER 5, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and the perseverance of our will to overcome them.”

— C.S. Lewis



SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 10:38-42

---

Now as they went on their way, he entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

## WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ACTS OF PERSEVERANCE

HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WEEK 1: PERSEVERANCE AND GOD

# OCTOBER 6, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness and difficulty, persevere in it for this very reason. God often desires to see what love your soul has, and love is not tried by ease and satisfaction.”

— **St. John of the Cross**

 **SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE**

## GOSPEL

**LK 11:1-4**

---

He was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive every one who is indebted to us; and lead us not into temptation.”

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TODAY?

[illegible]

## WEEK 1: PERSEVERANCE AND GOD

# OCTOBER 7, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Indeed we call blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of the perseverance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, because "the Lord is compassionate and merciful."

— James 5:11

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 11:5-13

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

---

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 2 REFLECTION:

---

# PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE

*\*If you are not married and do not have children, use this week to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.*

I have news for you guys. My wife and I don't always get along. My wife and I sometimes fight. I know that must come as a huge surprise to all of you being that you all have perfect marriages. Hahaha! All kidding aside, though, I think somewhere inside we all think we are supposed to have perfect marriages. Most of us probably have some idea of what the perfect marriage would look like, and you probably think everyone else but you has one. That's just not the case. Marriage isn't supposed to be perfect. There have only ever been two perfect things in this world - Jesus and his mother, Mary. No, marriage is a dance. It is a constantly changing dance that we have to put time into to learn. Sometimes you and your spouse are in perfect step together, and other times you are out of rhythm and stepping on each other's toes. It is in those times where you are out of rhythm that you need to be able to persevere.

When I was growing up, my parents had arguments. They had disagreements and differing opinions. Sure, there were some heated moments, but there was never a time that I could tell when either one of them ever truly thought of giving up on the other. It is so different today. Marriage is becoming a thing of the past to a lot of young people, and the ones who do decide to stick their toes in the waters of marriage look at it as a short-term lease with an exit clause. The words "I do" have become more of a "we'll see". That is not what marriage is meant to be. Those wedding vows are meant to be taken seriously. They are a promise to your wife and to God. Those vows were one of the only reasons my marriage survived through my addictions and mistakes. The other reason is that I have a wife that took them seriously.

No one is pretending marriage isn't difficult. Anyone who tells you that it isn't probably isn't telling you the truth. There are going to be challenges. There are going to be heated moments and times of great stress. Through it all, though, we must remember God led us to our wives. We have to remember that God wanted us to be with that person and has given her to us to nurture, care for, and protect. He was there the day we took those vows, and He is there in the difficult moments. We just have to remember the part about dying to self. We have to make the hard decision to be selfless instead of selfish. We have to be willing to put the other and what is important to them first. We must die to self. No one likes dying to self. Not getting what you want when you want it isn't fun. However, here is where we can learn the virtue of perseverance. We can learn to pick our heads up and keep moving forward. We can choose to love even though we might not feel like it at the time. We have to look at our spouse as a partner and not the opposition. When you start to look at sacrifice as an act of love for the benefit of a loving partner, your perspective begins to change. You find yourself wanting to persevere because you understand what is at stake.

The devil hates your marriage. The devil hates the family. Destroying both of them is his mission in this world. This is how he seeks to hurt God. We cannot allow ourselves to be a puppet in his play. We have to remember how much our wives mean to us and persevere together through all the things he throws at us. As Catholic men, we need to be the example of what marriage should be like. It starts with us never giving up and always persevering no matter the difficulty.

## WEEK 2: PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE

# OCTOBER 8, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.”

— Fr. Walter Elliott

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 11:15-26

---

But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Be-el'zebul, the prince of demons”; while others, to test him, sought from him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Be-el'zebul. And if I cast out demons by Be-el'zebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace; but when one stronger than he assails him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoil. He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places seeking rest; and finding none he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A HUSBAND TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WEEK 2: PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE

# OCTOBER 9, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Do everything with love. Thus, there will be no little things: everything will be big. Perseverance in little things in love is heroism."

— St. John Paul II

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 11:27-28

---

As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A HUSBAND TODAY?

[illegible]

## WEEK 2: PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE

# OCTOBER 10, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"What toil we must endure, what fatigue, while we are attempting to climb hills and the summits of mountains! What, that we may ascend to heaven! If you consider the promised reward, what you endure is less. Immortality is given to the one who perseveres; everlasting life is offered; the Lord promises His Kingdom."

— St. Cyprian of Carthage

### SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### MK 10:17-30

---

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth." And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." At that saying his countenance fell, and he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A HUSBAND TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 2: PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE

# OCTOBER 11, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him.”

— James 1:12

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 11:29-32

---

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the men of Nin'evah, so will the Son of man be to this generation. The queen of the South will arise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nin'evah will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A HUSBAND TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 2: PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE

# OCTOBER 12, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Faithless is the one that says farewell when the road darkens."

— J.R.R. Tolkien

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 11:37-41

---

While he was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him; so he went in and sat at table. The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of extortion and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you."

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A HUSBAND TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WEEK 2: PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE

# OCTOBER 13, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Suffering as it were contains a special call to the virtue which man must exercise on his own part. And this is the virtue of perseverance in bearing whatever disturbs and causes harm. In doing this, the individual unleashes hope, which maintains in him the conviction that suffering will not get the better of him, that it will not deprive him of his dignity as a human being, a dignity linked to awareness of the meaning of life."

— St. John Paul II

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 11:42-46

---

"But woe to you Pharisees! for you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! for you love the best seat in the synagogues and salutations in the market places. Woe to you! for you are like graves which are not seen, and men walk over them without knowing it." One of the lawyers answered him, "Teacher, in saying this you reproach us also." And he said, "Woe to you lawyers also! for you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers."

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A HUSBAND TODAY?

[illegible]

## WEEK 2: PERSEVERANCE AND MY WIFE

# OCTOBER 14, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Persevere in prayer. Persevere even when your efforts seem barren. Prayer is always fruitful."

— St. Jose Maria Escriva

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 11:47-54

---

Woe to you! for you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. So you are witnesses and consent to the deeds of your fathers; for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechari'ah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it shall be required of this generation. Woe to you lawyers! for you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering." As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard, and to provoke him to speak of many things, lying in wait for him, to catch at something he might say.

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A HUSBAND TODAY?

[illegible]

## **WEEK 3 REFLECTION:**

---

# **PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN**

*\*If you are not married and do not have children, use this week to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.*

Fatherhood is one of the most rewarding things a man can ever experience in his life. To become a father is one of the greatest gifts God bestows upon a man. All of that being said, fatherhood can also be hard. Fatherhood doesn't come with a manual that takes you step by step through the things you need to know. More often than not, our education comes from on-the-job training. You can rest assured there will be mistakes along the way, but the important thing is learning from them and persevering through them.

I remember when my first child was born. I was so excited to meet Jacob. I had always dreamed of being a dad, and I had always desired to have a son. My wish was granted in October of 2009. I recall being so jazzed up the day of the scheduled C-section. I couldn't wait to put my eyes on our little boy. I can remember like it was yesterday when the nurse handed him to me all swaddled up in that blanket. He was looking at me, and I was looking at him. The rush of pure joy that came over me was indescribable. It was one of the happiest moments of my life. Later that day in the hospital, I remember holding him again. That same joy was there, but this time there was a new feeling as well. It was a feeling of fear. I remember thinking I had no idea what I was doing. I began to look at my life and how young I still was. I started thinking about how I didn't do a very good job of taking care of myself. I was in the throes of my addictions to drugs and alcohol as well. How in the world was I going to take care of this little human being? All I could think about was messing up and letting him down. For a while, I did. I let him, his sisters, and my wife down for a number of years early on in my fatherhood. Thanks to the grace of God, the love of my wife, and the virtue of perseverance I was able to right that ship.

My brothers, we are going to make mistakes as fathers. We are going to lose our tempers and our cool sometime. There are going to be some things and situations we wish we had handled differently. No father, other than our heavenly Father, is perfect. Fatherhood isn't about being perfect, though. It's about persevering in love. It's about asking God for guidance and help in being the best father you can be. It is about putting in the work in your life to learn to love the way you are called to love. It's about constantly seeking to better yourself and your faith so that you can be the example to your children you are called to be. It's about never giving up and never losing faith when things get hard. It's about taking the blows from the devil in order to protect the ones you love. It's about fulfilling your God given role as the spiritual leader of your family and getting your kids to heaven no matter the cost. That is the role of a father.

Always remember God made you a father because He knew you were up to the task. Even when it doesn't feel like you are, you are. What an honor it is to be a father. Never forget that—especially on the hard days. God doesn't give us more than we can handle. Persevere through the mistakes and the hard times and be the father God knows you can be.

## WEEK 3: PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN

# OCTOBER 15, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“Take courage, persevere in prayer. Jesus is always by our side.”

— Pope Francis

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 12:1-7

MEMORIAL OF SAINT TERESA OF JESUS, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

---

In the meantime, when so many thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they trod upon one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A FATHER TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WEEK 3: PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN

# OCTOBER 16, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"I pray to God to give me perseverance and to deign that I be a faithful witness to Him to the end of my life for my God."

— St. Patrick

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 12:8-12

---

"And I tell you, every one who acknowledges me before men, the Son of man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but he who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. And every one who speaks a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious how or what you are to answer or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A FATHER TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 3: PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN

# OCTOBER 17, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."

— St. Catherine of Siena

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

MK 10:35-45

---

And James and John, the sons of Zeb'edee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A FATHER TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 3: PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN

# OCTOBER 18, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“To begin is for everyone. To persevere is for saints.”

— St. Jose Maria Escriva

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 10:1-9

FEAST OF SAINT LUKE, EVANGELIST

---

After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A FATHER TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 3: PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN

# OCTOBER 19, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“Cheerfulness strengthens the heart and makes us persevere in a good life. Therefore, the servant of God ought always to be in good spirits.”

— St. Philip Neri

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 12:35-38

MEMORIAL OF SAINTS JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS,  
AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

---

“Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants!

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A FATHER TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WEEK 3: PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN

# OCTOBER 20, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“When we listen to the word of God, we obtain the patience and perseverance to offer the best of ourselves to others.”

— Pope Francis

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 12:39-48

---

But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an unexpected hour.” Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master’s will, but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A FATHER TODAY?

[illegible]

## WEEK 3: PERSEVERANCE AND MY CHILDREN

# OCTOBER 21, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved."

— Matt 24:13

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 12:49-53

---

"I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED AS A FATHER TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **WEEK 4 REFLECTION:**

---

# **PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR**

Jesus commanded us to love one another. In fact, He asked us to love one another as we love ourselves. He even told us to love our enemies. Let's be honest, though. In today's world, this can be a lot harder than it sounds.

Today's world doesn't really subscribe to the love your neighbor thing. Just the other day, a lady bit my head off for holding the door for her. She asked me if it looked like she couldn't open a door on her own. I couldn't believe it. I was just trying to be a gentleman. That is the turn the world has taken though, right? It has become a dog eat dog place where people look out for themselves for the most part. The majority of the world is hurting and is sensitive about everything. In this post-Christian society, it can be very difficult to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ. The world sees us as outdated relics of a different time. They have no use for the morals that in their mind existed to imprison them.

However, no matter what the world is like we are called to be different. We are called to stand out. We need to be the light of the world. Being that light in the darkness is going to attract the attention of those around you. That's the purpose of it. Some of those it attracts will be friendly people seeking to know what it is you have that they don't. They will be open to you sharing the Gospel with them. Others, though, will not be. Some will ridicule you, judge you, and seek to extinguish your light. Some will do everything in their power to prove you wrong or change your view of the faith. Jesus told us this when he said the world would hate us because it hated Him. Being a Catholic isn't always the easy thing to be in the world today. It was never about being easy, though. It was about persevering through everything the world, the flesh, and the devil throws at us.

No matter how hard it gets to live the Christian life in the world today we cannot turn back. We know the truth of Jesus Christ and his Church. The world needs strong men of faith now more than ever. It needs men who aren't afraid to stand up and exemplify the teachings of Jesus by the way they live their life. We were commanded to go and make disciples. There will be weeds among the wheat. There will be wolves among the sheep. The devil will be waiting around every corner for you to fail. He will do everything in his power to get you to turn back and give up. That is because he is scared of what he knows will happen when the men of God start to rise up. He knows the ground he is going to lose. That's why we have to persevere through all the trials, hardships, persecutions and difficulties. We are Jesus' hands and feet in the world. We are Jesus's foot soldiers. There is a battle raging all around us each and everyday. We all have a crucial role to play in it. This is why we can't lay down. We can't let our guard down. The devil is going to try every trick in the book. We have to be aware of that, and we have to persevere through it all with a strength that comes from Jesus Christ.

## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 22, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“By their patience and perseverance God’s children are truly known from hypocrites and dissemblers.”

— St. Augustine

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 12:54-59

---

He also said to the multitudes, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the very last copper.”

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 23, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Vigils, prayer and patient acceptance of what comes constitute a breaking that does not harm but benefits the heart, provided we do not destroy the balance between them through excess. He who perseveres in them will be helped in other ways as well; but he who is slack and negligent will suffer intolerably on leaving this life."

— St. Mark the Ascetic

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 13:1-9

---

There were some present at that very time who told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Silo'am fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

## WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ACTS OF PERSEVERANCE

HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 24, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Miracles happen. But prayer is needed! Prayer that is courageous, struggling and persevering, not prayer that is a mere formality."

— Pope Francis

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### MK 10:46-52

---

And they came to Jericho; and as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude, Bartimae'us, a blind beggar, the son of Timae'us, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; rise, he is calling you." And throwing off his mantle he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Master, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

## WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ACTS OF PERSEVERANCE

HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 25, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“Though the path is plain and smooth for men of good will, he who walks it will not travel far, and will do so only with difficulty, if he does not have good feet: that is, courage and a persevering spirit.”

— St. John of the Cross

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 13:10-17

---

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.” Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?” As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 26, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"So blessed are you if you persevere in doing good, neither seeking nor desiring any consolation, for as St. Bernard says: To serve God is nothing else than to do good and suffer evil, and the rule of the true servant of Christ is never to receive consolation except in time of great necessity. This is the secure way; for whoever wants to go to God through sweetness and consolation is deceived."

— St. Catherine of Bologna

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 13:18-21

---

He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

[illegible]



## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 27, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"We must pray incessantly for the gift of perseverance."

— St. Philip Neri

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### LK 13:22-30

---

He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. And some one said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us.' He will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!' There you will weep and gnash your teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves thrust out. And men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

## WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ACTS OF PERSEVERANCE

HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 28, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"You think it very hard to lead a life of such restraint unless you keep your eye of faith always open. Perseverance is a great grace. To go on gaining and advancing every day, we must be resolute, and bear and suffer as our blessed forerunners did. Which of them gained heaven without a struggle?"

— St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 6:12-16

FEAST OF SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

---

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles; Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

[illegible]

## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 29, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

“Though perseverance does not come from our power, yet it comes within our power.”

— St. Francis de Sales

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 14:1-6

---

One sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath, or not?” But they were silent. Then he took him and healed him, and let him go. And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well, will not immediately pull him out on a sabbath day?” And they could not reply to this.

## WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ACTS OF PERSEVERANCE

HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 30, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us."

— Hebrews 12:1

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

LK 14:1, 7-11

---

One sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he marked how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by any one to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

[illegible]

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WEEK 4: PERSEVERANCE AND MY NEIGHBOR

# OCTOBER 31, 2021

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

---

"By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

— Luke 21:19

 SAY THE PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

## GOSPEL

### MK 12:28B-34

---

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that he is one, and there is no other but he; and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any question.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## HOW HAVE I PERSEVERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY NEIGHBORS TODAY?

[illegible]

# LITANY OF HUMILITY

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart,  
**Hear me.**

From the desire of being esteemed,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being loved,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being extolled,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being honored ,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being praised,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being preferred  
to others,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being consulted,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being approved,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being humiliated,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being despised,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of suffering rebukes,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being calumniated,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being forgotten,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being ridiculed,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being wronged,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being suspected,  
**Deliver me, Jesus.**

That others may be loved more than I,  
**Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be esteemed more than I,  
**Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That, in the opinion of the world, others  
may increase and I may decrease,  
**Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be chosen and I set aside,  
**Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be praised and  
I unnoticed,

**Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be preferred to me  
in everything,

**Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may become holier than I,  
provided that I may become as holy as  
I should,

**Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

# THE LITANY OF TRUST

From the belief that I have to earn  
Your love,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear that I am unlovable,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the false security that I have what  
it takes,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear that trusting You will leave  
me more destitute,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From all suspicion of Your words  
and promises,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the rebellion against childlike  
dependency on You,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From refusals and reluctances in  
accepting Your will,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From anxiety about the future,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From resentment or excessive  
preoccupation with the past,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From restless self-seeking  
in the present moment,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From disbelief in Your love and presence,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being asked to give  
more than I have,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the belief that my life has no  
meaning or worth,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of what love demands,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From discouragement,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

That You are continually holding me  
sustaining me, loving me,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That Your love goes deeper than my sins  
and failings, and transforms me,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is  
an invitation to lean on You,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That you are with me in my suffering,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That my suffering, united to Your own, will  
bear fruit in this life and the next,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That You will not leave me orphan, that You  
are present in Your Church,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That Your plan is better than anything else,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That You always hear me and in Your  
goodness always respond to me,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That You give me the grace to accept  
forgiveness and to forgive others,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That You give me all the strength I need for  
what is asked,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That my life is a gift,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That You will teach me to trust You,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That You are my Lord and my God,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

That I am Your beloved one,

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

# PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by His Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

A photograph of two men sitting at a wooden table in a cafe, engaged in conversation. The man on the left is wearing a blue plaid shirt and holding a red mug. The man on the right is wearing a grey sweater and gesturing with his hands. In the background, there are large windows, a sign that says "LOCAL", and other patrons. A blue and yellow curved graphic element is at the bottom left.

## DON'T LET SEXUAL SIN HOLD BACK YOUR GROWTH

With Screen Accountability from **Covenant Eyes**, we'll help you live a **porn-free** life of integrity, and enjoy deep meaningful relationships with God, your family, and friends.

Covenant Eyes is proud to sponsor *The Narrow Road*.

As you journey monthly through God's Word, don't let sexual sin become an impediment to your growth. Get Covenant Eyes today.



GET COVENANT EYES NOW  
[start.covenanteyes.com/pew](http://start.covenanteyes.com/pew)