

## Readings for the week of July 14, 2024

### Sunday:

Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/  
Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13

### Monday:

Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/  
Mt 10:34—11:1

### Tuesday:

Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/  
Mt 11:20-24

### Wednesday:

Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10,  
14-15/Mt 11:25-27

### Thursday:

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15,  
16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30

### Friday:

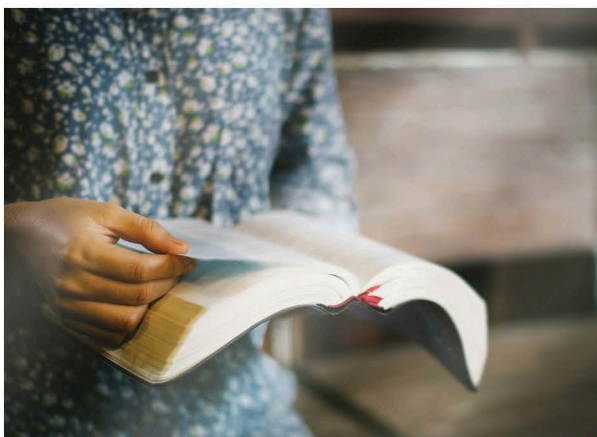
Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd,  
16/Mt 12:1-8

### Saturday:

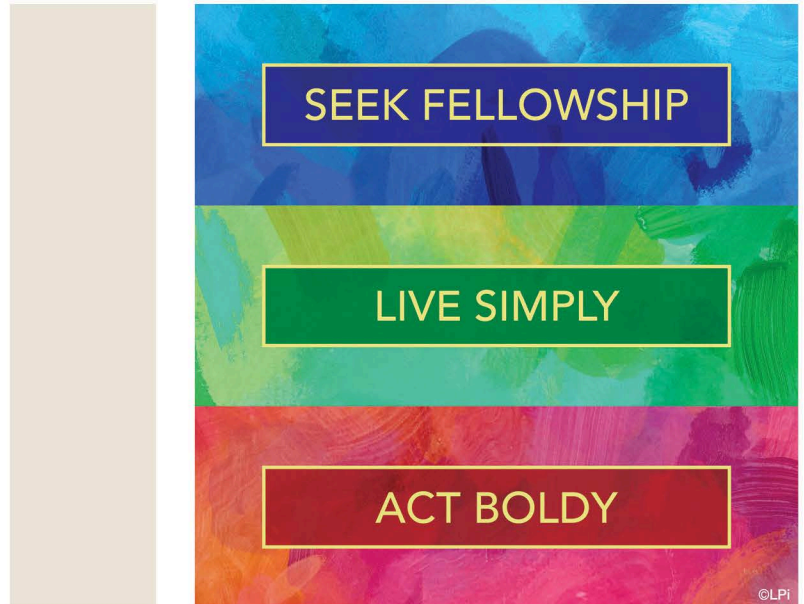
Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21

### Next Sunday:

Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 (1)/  
Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Once I asked a fallen-away Catholic friend of mine what he remembered about the parish priest from his youth. He said, “He was a gentle, nice guy. Kind of vanilla. Kept to himself.” It struck me that he, perhaps like many, perceive Catholic priests as the following: lonely, harmless, and self-sufficient. As a challenge both to this perception (accurate or not) and to us priests who perhaps feel a pull in that uninspiring direction, stands the mighty image of what we see in the Gospel this Sunday.

Jesus sent out his apostles, “**two-by-two, with power over demons, and without money belts.**” **Two-by-two:** they enjoyed deep fellowship and brotherhood. **Power over demons:** they were anything but harmless. These men wielded enormous power against evil. **Without money belts:** they were not self-sufficient. They needed others to help them. Not lonely, but in community. Not harmless but armed with massive spiritual energy. Not self-sufficient, but poor and in need of help.

This is a challenge to me, and perhaps to all of us, living in a rich, secularized, and individualized culture. Do I embrace my priestly ministry in deep fellowship with other priests? Do I speak and act boldly to drive out evil where it is found? Do I live poorly and simply, trusting in the help of those around me even for basic needs? The fruitfulness of priestly ministry largely depends on these three traits. Let’s pray for all priests — and, by extension, all of us Christians — to live more like Jesus’ communal, poor, and powerful apostles.

— *Father John Muir*



## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### Shake Off the Dust

Our kitchen floor is at least 35 years old, and it's the ugliest color to come out of the '80s. But it's a good, durable floor, and my husband, bless his heart, guards it like it was a finely finished hardwood imported from Brazil.

Every time the kids track mud and sand across its vinyl surface, he immediately gets down on his hands and knees and lovingly wipes the mess away. I'm too impatient to do this myself — *we have kids, so we're going to have a dirty floor*, is my attitude. But this is the hill upon which my husband dies. On hands and knees, scraping dirt off an almost 40-year-old floor, he is the silent, long-suffering sentry, and if it kills him, he will keep these floors pristine. He is Gandalf, and the dirt is the Balrog. *You shall not pass.*

"Shake the dust off your feet." This is what Christ tells his disciples to do when they — and his word — are rejected. Shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them. Why does he say that? It's not an act of dismissal. It's not a thumbed nose or a stuck-out tongue. No, it's an act of caution: *Don't bring it with you. Leave it there.*

When we walk through the world, we pick up a lot of dirt. Misguided notions, disordered priorities, habits, and desires that we never noticed until we realized they left a trail. We come into a situation intending to do what is right, but somehow it all goes sideways, and we walk away from it with detritus clinging to us in places we don't notice. *They wouldn't listen. They'll see, we think. Oh, they'll see. They'll see how right I was.* Pride and vengeance hitch a ride on the soles of our feet, and we track them all through the world.

What to do about this? You can be like me with my ugly old floor. You can shrug your shoulders and say, "It happens, I guess. I'm only human. I meant well."

But here's what would be better: be like my husband. Get down on your knees and get rid of the dirt. Stop the trail in its tracks.

*"So they went off and preached repentance." — Mark 6:12*

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

Our Catholic grade school is doing a penance service this Lent. Do young children really need to go to Confession? How much sin can they really have?

#### Answer:

Ask any mom about her children and see how many would say she has a brood of perfect angels! Parents know that kids do things that are wrong ... and they often know they're doing it! Even toddlers have a sense of right and wrong. The Church recognizes that their minds and consciences are not yet fully developed, however, and typically waits until age seven to offer the sacrament of Confession. Around that age and beyond, most young people, when asked, can easily explain why something is wrong.

Confession for children is an excellent way to help them reflect on their actions and accept responsibility for their behavior. It helps them to grow in their understanding of sin and how it affects others. This helps them to form their consciences and make better choices in the future. Most importantly, they learn the value of forgiveness, both given and received. Rather than singling out what's wrong, Confession offers hope and a new start! Children can grow in understanding God's unconditional love and develop a sense of inner dignity that transcends their failings. Not bad for five minutes and an "Our Father" or two!

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"The LORD took me from following the flock, and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people Israel." (Am 7:15)

### Psalm:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

### Second Reading:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world. (Eph 1:3-4)

### Gospel:

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two. (Mk 6:7)

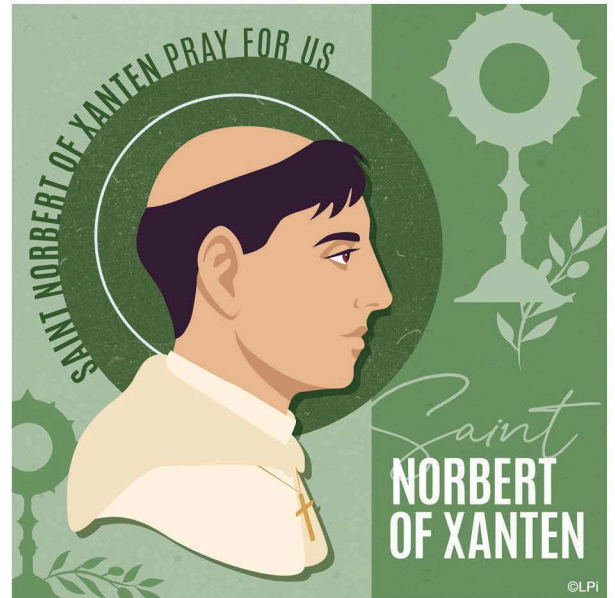
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus sends his disciples into the world with no money or provisions — just as he sends us. But make no mistake — he has given us everything we need: the strength that comes from faith in Christ, and the will to do what God has asked. Let's get to work.

## Observances for the week of July 14, 2024

- Sunday:** 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
**Tuesday:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
**Thursday:** St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest  
**Saturday:** St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr; BVM  
**Next Sunday:** 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

St. Norbert of Xanten (c. 1075-1134) after a violent conversion experience, was ordained and became an itinerant preacher who founded the Norbertine order. He preached against heresies denying the Blessed Sacrament, which earned him the title "Apostle of the Blessed Sacrament."

## Prayer for Truth

Dear Jesus,  
As I set out in your name, be with me on every step.  
I don't know where you will lead, but I trust that you will be with me and that, for me, that will be enough.  
Amen.



Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. - Mk 6:7, 13

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

The Israelite priest Amaziah was threatened by the prophet Amos from Judah. What are some ways you have helped others who feel at risk in a difficult situation?

### Second Reading:

Paul teaches the Ephesians that in “the fullness of times,” God’s plan is “to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.” What are some things in your life you are waiting for?

### Gospel:

Jesus taught the apostles to preach and heal only in places where they were welcomed. Do you recall a time or a place where you felt truly welcomed?



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# LET US SEE YOUR KINDNESS.

*psalm 85*



Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.” - Mk 6:7, 10-11

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