

Calendar

Monday

FEBRUARY 4

Weekday

Heb 11:32–40

Mk 5:1–20

Tuesday

FEBRUARY 5

St. Agatha,

Virgin and Martyr

Heb 12:1–4

Mk 5:21–43

Wednesday

FEBRUARY 6

St. Paul Miki and

Companions, Martyrs

Heb 12:4–7, 11–15

Mk 6:1–6

Thursday

FEBRUARY 7

Weekday

Heb 12:18–19, 21–24

Mk 6:7–13

Friday

FEBRUARY 8

Weekday

Heb 13:1–8

Mk 6:14–29

Saturday

FEBRUARY 9

Weekday

Heb 13:15–17, 20–21

Mk 6:30–34

Sunday

FEBRUARY 10

Fifth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Is 6:1–2a, 3–8

1 Cor 15:1–11 or

1 Cor 15:3–8, 11

Lk 5:1–11

Dear Padre,

My son and his wife attend a Christian church because they like the minister and the upbeat service. My son was raised Catholic and still claims he is Catholic, even though he doesn't go to a Catholic church. I feel frustrated by the whole affair!

Your frustration is certainly shared by many parents and grandparents today. They raised their children Catholic, even sent them to Catholic schools, but their adult children are less disciplined about their faith practices. Recent surveys on religion showed that 80 percent of Americans say they believe in God, and 75 percent consider spirituality important in their lives. But this doesn't mean they commit to religious practices. About 60 percent of Catholics questioned attend religious services only once or twice a month, or never. Many are interested in exploring different teachings and attending different churches. The loyalty to the Church and its disciplines that was evident in our own lives, or in our parents' and grandparents' lives, is often lacking in today's under-fifty-five crowd.

What can one do about this? The traditional method is to pray for your children while continuing to set an example through your own loyalty to the Catholic Church—including attendance at Sunday Mass and observance of other Church disciplines. It would be good to invite your son and his wife to attend church with you when they are visiting. As we age, we often become more religious and traditional. We may become more interested in our family's history, photos, and traditions. The religion of our childhood may begin to appear very attractive again. Be patient and continue to pray that your children will return to the Church of their roots.



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A Word from Pope Francis

No matter how many Sunday Masses, if your heart does not reach out to others, if you do not know what is happening to your people, your faith is weak, unhealthy, or dead. It is a faith without Christ; faith without solidarity is faith without Christ, it is faith without God, faith without brothers and sisters.

—Visit to Paraguay, July 12, 2015

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