

This calendar is meant to help you set time aside with Jesus. Decide on where you'll meet Him, and choose a time when you won't fall asleep or be distracted. You can tear out this page and keep it in your Bible. Remember James 4:8, "Come close to God, and God will come close to you."

JULY



By Justin & Courtney Rose

Age 30 & 28 | Mayfair Community Church | Metropolitan Division



Mary sings a song after agreeing to be the Mother of God. She says, "This was done to remember His loving-kindness" (**Luke 1:54**, NLV). Mary sees that God is merciful by sending Jesus. Many times we need to remember that God is merciful and remains faithful to us through the presence of Jesus. **1**

Christ asks us to love Him more than any family, friend, or person (**Matthew 10:37-42**). Yet when we love Him, we love those around us with Christ's love—a love more powerful than our own. Pray for the love of Christ—that way we truly love people in the best way. **2**

When the apostle Thomas put his hands in Jesus' scarred hands and side, he provided a great testimony that Jesus had a bodily resurrection (**John 20:24-29**). He became known as "Doubting Thomas," yet his doubt became the foundation for his faith. How can God transform your doubt to strengthen and build up your faith? **3**

Jesus displays His authority and shows the disciples that His strength is not just over illness and death, but over creation and chaos (**Matthew 8:23-27**). The disciples asked for their lives to be spared, which Christ granted, but He also provided peace and calm. Rest today in your salvation and in the peace of Christ. **4**

It's often overlooked that Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, becomes the head of her household in a time when women had few rights (**Genesis 21:5-21**). Pray today for the many women in the world who hold their families together. Pray they would be provided for in the way God provided for Hagar. **5**

"The message of reconciliation" (**2 Corinthians 5:19**) is one in which all people despite their sin are able to be brought back to God. God draws us back into His truth. How does the reconciling truth of God play into the work you do in your corps and ministry? **6**

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (**Matthew 11:28**, NIV). Coming to Christ for rest means we have to leave the world behind. So often we come to God looking for our burdens to be lifted, but we continue to lug our burdens around. What are you carrying that you haven't fully given to God? **7**

"Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right" (**Psalms 106:3**, NIV). To do what's right means to act righteously. To act righteously means you are a person of justice. Don't miss out on blessings because of your failure to be a person who works justice! **8**

God could've revealed Himself to the rich, learned, and powerful—but He chose to reveal His truth to the poor, unrepresented, and outcast. Specifically, Jesus says children have the special blessing of God's revelation (**Matthew 11:25**). How can you be a blessing to children and allow yourself to learn God's truth from them? **9**

When Jesus came into the world, died on the cross, and resurrected, His death didn't just save us from our sins. Christ's death destroyed death itself and brought immortality to the world. Are you living a life that has conquered death or are you holding onto aspects of death? **10**

"Almighty God, give me wisdom to perceive You, intelligence to understand You, diligence to seek You, patience to wait for You, eyes to behold You, a heart to meditate upon You and life to proclaim You, through the power of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."
—**St. Benedict of Nursia** **11**

Jacob wrestled with God all night long, and his hip was displaced causing Jacob to walk with a limp for the rest of his life because of the encounter (**Genesis 32:23-33**). Sometimes our interactions with God can be powerful and painful, leaving lifelong reminders of the experience. **12**

Pray and ask God to give you a forgiving heart like Joseph's (**Genesis 45:1-5**). He was willing to forgive his brothers for selling him into slavery, believing that it all was in God's purpose for saving the world. **13**

"Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desire" (**Psalms 37:4**). Many focus on the "give you your heart's desire" part of this verse. We should be reminded that the first part of the verse is to find your delight in the Lord. God comes first, everything else is secondary and passing. **14**

What does it mean to constantly seek the face of God? To be a Christian means every part of our lives must be devoted to God. No part of ourselves can remain hidden or left to our own selfish desires. Ask God to transform your heart to full devotion and focus on Him. **15**

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"In all your deeds and words you should look upon this Jesus as your model. Do so whether you are walking or keeping silence, or speaking, whether you are alone or with others. He is perfect, and thus you will be not only irreprehensible, but praiseworthy."

—St. Bonaventure

16

Matthew 10:26-27 Many people claim to believe in God, yet Jesus is clear that He is the avenue through which we know God. It is easy to want to take Jesus out of the equation for faith, yet to be a Christian means that Christ is at the center of what we believe. Is Jesus your God?

19

Today the Church celebrates Mary Magdalene. Read John 20:1-18 and watch this video. Search "St. Mary Magdalene HD" by Catholic Online on YouTube.

22

"Speak, Lord, for I... am ready to hear... give me wisdom and understanding... Bow my heart to follow Your holy teachings, that they may sink into my soul like dew into the grass."

—St. Thomas à Kempis

23

We spend quite a bit of time thinking about Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph, but what about their parents? In Church tradition, Joachim and Anna are the parents of Mary and are celebrated for raising their daughter to be chosen as the Mother of God. Watch this video to learn more. Search "Sts. Joachim and Anne HD by Catholic Online on YouTube.

26

We never walk the Christian life alone or without direction (**John 8:12**). Christ came ahead of us to be an example and show us how to live faithful lives. What area do you feel you need direction in? Seek out the leader, Christ, through the Scriptures and prayer, and He will show you the way.

29

The Christian life is a life of suffering. Everyday we are called to die to our interests, selfishness, and self for the sake of calling Christ Lord (**Matthew 10:38-39**). Pray today that you would not fall into temptation to want the luxurious, but rather the desire to sacrifice.

17

With God, there is no sliding scale for justice. We know this because one of God's characteristics is justice. God calls Himself "I Am" (**Exodus 3:13-20**). There is great hope for our unjust world, realizing that justice is a standard rooted in the forever and unshakeable God, "I Am."

20

Read **Exodus 14:5-18**. "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today" (**Exodus 14:13**, NIV). How often do we wake up defeated by the day we must face? The Israelites failed to hold onto God's promise to deliver them. They doubted every step of the way. How would your day change if you were assured that God will be faithful to you?

24

"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul" (**Psalms 19:8**, NABRE). Many people think religion is constraining. They want freedom to do whatever will make them feel good for the moment. The Psalms teach another idea: following after God and keeping His commandments actually refreshes us. The constraint of the law gives freedom.

27

Write Solomon's prayer for wisdom on a notecard and put it on your mirror: "[G]ive your servant an discerning heart... and... distinguish between right from wrong" (**1 Kings 3:9a**, NIV).

30

There were many women who helped Moses survive to become the greatest prophet of the Jewish faith (**Exodus 2:1-15**). Moses was blessed with two mothers who loved him and had mercy on him. Pray today for your mother and take a moment to reflect on how important mothers are in the world.

18

"Something greater than the temple is here..." (**Matthew 12:1-8**, NIV). The temple of Jesus' time was an immovable institution meant to be pure, but was corrupted over time. Jesus' words reminded the Pharisees that we do not worship the institution, power, or honor—we worship God! What have you put ahead of He who is greater than the temple (Christ)?

21

The Kingdom of God is backwards to the standards of the world. Jesus says, "whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant" (**Matthew 20:26**). Open your eyes to those who are great servants, sacrificing for others. They understand the Kingdom. Pray that God would make you a better servant.

25

Luke 8:15 tells us that Christians bear fruit through perseverance. The life of a Christian is covered in grace but also takes discipline and practice. What do you need to ask God to help you be more disciplined in so you can bear more fruit?

28

Matthew 13:31-35 How lovely an image it is that Kingdom of God is a large bush that grows and allows for the birds of the sky to come and dwell in its branches. Take a moment today to close your eyes and imagine a seed growing out of the ground, growing into a large bush, and birds coming to dwell in its branches. Allow God to speak to you about His Kingdom.

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