



September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b | Phlm 9-10, 12-17 | Lk 14:25-33

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I am particularly struck by this line from Solomon's prayer in today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom: "Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?" Solomon doesn't seem to be seeking direct answers to the questions he presents today, but rather, uses them as a sort of poem of praise to honor God in all his glory. In modern language, we could rephrase his questions: *What do we know that God has not instilled into our minds? What wisdom do we have that was not infused by the Holy Spirit?* There are many things that we cannot understand without the wisdom God gives us. May we, like Solomon, praise and thank God for this gift. Let us trust that where our feeble, corruptible humanity falters, our heavenly Father is our refuge in every age.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's Gospel is certainly one that we need God's wisdom to understand. This reading always makes me do a double take or a read-over. "*What did Jesus just say?!*" His words today are stark and can feel disconcerting. "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." When I encounter a challenging Scripture such as this one, I try to immediately root myself in concrete truths about the Lord. First, I acknowledge that he is good and desires *my* good. He is all-knowing, all-powerful and all-loving. After centering on those realities, I can look at this Gospel again, but this time through a clearer lens. Ultimately, this Gospel is a piercing reminder of the radical renunciation desired by the Lord. It is a rubric for the narrow road and for sanctity. Jesus does not mince his words, nor does he seek to confuse or confound: to follow Jesus is to release our hearts from earthly attachments, to embrace our cross and to set our lives in proper order. Clear and direct? Certainly. Easy? Not at all. But doing this in union with Jesus? *Absolutely possible.*

REFLECT

Today, consider reflecting on your attachments – the places you cling to anything that is not Christ. As you go into these tender places, invite Jesus to gently reveal where he wants to grant you his freedom.



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

114 Kingsmere Place • Saskatoon • SK • S7J 3V7

(306)374-1425 • info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca

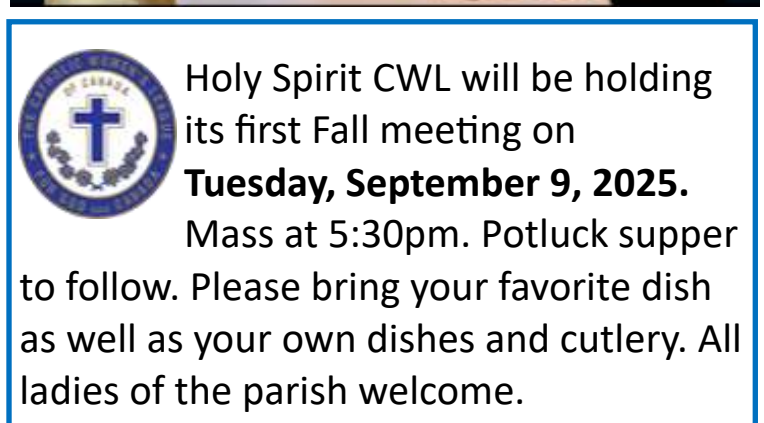
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OUR MISSION

‘Inspired by the Holy Spirit we are a Eucharistic community called by God
To share the love of Jesus Christ and create a welcoming parish of renewal and mission.’

THIS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 7	SEPTEMBER 8	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 10	SEPTEMBER 11	SEPTEMBER 12	SEPTEMBER 13
Backpack Blessing 10a Mass 12p Mass 1-4p Adoration 7p Mass	CWL Quilters	8:30a Mass 5:30p CWL	8:30a Mass 7p Adoration	8:30a Mass 55+ Cards	8:30a Mass 9a-12p Adoration	11a-12p Confession 5p Mass



“As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.”

PASTOR • Fr. Joseph Salihu jsalihu@rcdos.ca

ASSOCIATE PASTOR • Michael Magaji mmagaji@rcdos.ca

**THE POPE'S
PRAYER
INTENTIONS**

For our *relationship* with all creation.

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. SEPTEMBER 2025

WE PLEDGE 5%

St. Mary's Parish is called upon six days a week to provide hampers to families. They provide approximately 20 hampers a week to families. These hampers contain canned goods and providing there are enough funds they also include fresh meat, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, eggs and milk. The money goes towards purchases of these foods for the hampers. St. Mary's Parish is looking for volunteers Monday, Wednesday and Fridays to help organize hampers. Please call 306-242-2983 to volunteer. Thank you for your support.



MILLIONS OF MONICAS

LADIES

ONE NIGHTS ONLY!

Come and see with Millions of Monica's is all about.

An hour of prayer @ 7pm

Holy Spirit Parish

Monday Sept. 15

Until then please discern becoming a Millions of Monicas Leader and bringing this amazing ministry to your parish.

Saskatoon Pregnancy Options & Support Centre
Fall Gala-SAVE THE DATE-September 26
contact@saskatoonpregnancyoptions.com

LET US PRAY

- For the sick and all those who care for them, today we pray for: Callam Olver, Bob Kudel, Sandy Disanayake, Vera Wolkosky, Evangeline Manzon, Frederick Vizeacoumar, Vijaykumar Soupramania Modaliar, Helen Kemper, Nada Zora, Jocelyn Enriquez, Phil Klassen, Val Mercredi, Joe Kloeble
- For all those who have died, today we remember: Elizabeth Fabian, Alice McMillan, Blanche Bean
- And on the anniversary of death: Patricia Shofoluwe

We pray to the Lord

WATCH FR. JOSEPH'S SUNDAY REFLECTION EVERY WEEK

Subscribe to @Fr.JosephSalihu on YouTube

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 10 am, 12 noon, 7 pm

Weekdays Tues. - Fri. 8:30 am

ADORATION

Wednesdays 7-8pm

Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm

Sundays, 1 - 4 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 11 am - 12 noon

or by appointment.



For more news and events in our diocese, see the Diocesan Bulletin at rcdos.ca under the News and Events tab.



The Anointing of the Sick

the healing sacrament of the living

Jesus calls each of us to bring compassion and healing to those who are sick. The care of the sick is the responsibility of us all.

The one who is sick may feel alienated and isolated. Through the celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church expresses its love and asks God's help for those who are sick.

**The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Parish on
Saturday September 13, 2025
following the 5:00 pm Mass**



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

114 Kingsmere Place • Saskatoon • SK • S7J 3V7
(306)374-1425 • info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the Holy Spirit we are a Eucharistic community called by God

To share the love of Jesus Christ and create a welcoming parish of renewal and mission.

PASTOR • Fr. Joseph Salihu jsalihu@rcdos.ca

ASSOCIATE PASTOR • Michael Magaji mmagaji@rcdos.ca

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH STAFF

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Financial Administrator

Shannon Granger finance@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca

Ministry of Care

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Office Manager

Karen Klein kklein@rcdos.ca

Parish Life and Liturgy

Lynn Eremondi leremondi@rcdos.ca

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Erin Gratton egratton@rcdos.ca

Sacramental Preparation/Faith Formation

Erin Gratton egratton@rcdos.ca

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Lynn Eremondi leremondi@rcdos.ca

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

INFANT BAPTISM

Wendy LePage wlepage@rcdos.ca

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN

Erin Gratton egratton@rcdos.ca

CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS - RCIA

Erin egratton@rcdos.ca

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Nicole Gursky 306 229-0384 or ngursky@sasktel.net

Please visit holyspiritsaskatoon.ca for more information about faith formation.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Melina Palendat 306-668-2520

holyspiritcwl@gmail.com



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 8905

Mike Clancy mclancy@sasktel.net



If you need prayer, support, a visit (with the Eucharist or otherwise), Anointing of the Sick, or assistance with funeral planning, Ministry of Care is just a phone call or email away.

Please contact **Kelly Wormsbecker** Pastoral Associate- Ministry of Care

kwormsbecker@rcdos.ca or call 306-374-1425

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 10 am, 12 noon, 7 pm

Weekdays Tues. - Fri. 8:30 am

ADORATION

Wednesdays 7pm

Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm

Sundays, 1 - 4 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 11 am - 12 noon

or by appointment.

WAYS TO DONATE TO HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

1. **Sign up for Pre-Authorized Giving** Registration [forms](#) are available at the church office, online on our parish website, or via email. Donate using debit or credit card.
2. **Interac e-Transfer using online banking:** send e-transfer to finance@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca (it is directly deposited, no password needed). Please put your full name and envelope number in the message box along with any special offering designation.
3. **Parish Offertory:** <https://dscf.ca/parish-offertory/>
4. **Mail envelopes to the church:** 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 3V7
5. **Drop envelopes off at church:** Put envelopes into the office door mail slot.
6. **Place envelopes in the offertory basket at Mass**



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 7-- 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Diocesan Bulletin

1

Sept. 7, 2025 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



*In all things we are rooted in Christ,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.*

<https://rcdos.ca>

Upcoming Events

Apostolate of the Precious Blood prayer group will meet at St. John Bosco Roman Catholic Church, 1202 Ave. O S., Saskatoon from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **every Tuesday in September.** Includes Rosary, Litany, Chaplet.

Mary's Birthday - The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Laurent, SK will celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary **Sept. 8**, starting at 6 p.m., with Mass at 7 p.m., followed by birthday cake and coffee. See the website at: www.saintlaurentshrine.com. Learn more about obtaining a Jubilee Indulgence: <https://rcdos.ca/jubilee-2025>.

Columbus Bosco Saskatoon's annual "Corn Roast Fundraiser" will be held **Thursday, Sept. 11**, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Farm School, 20 km from Saskatoon: \$25. Contact Lorne at (306) 227-7576 or Chris (306) 221-4686.

Women's Discernment Night - "Encounters with Jesus in the Gospel" will be held on the second Thursday of each month, from 7-9 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1224-12th Street East, Saskatoon, with the next event on **Thursday, Sept. 11**. Open to all young women who want to stop and reflect on their journey with the Lord. The evening includes gospel reflections, discernment questions, adoration time, sharing and community. No registration required.

St. Philomena Mother-Daughter Retreat for girls ages 11 to 14 and their moms. Presented **Sept. 12-14** by Regnum Christi Regina at St. Peter's Benedictine Abbey at Muenster, SK, from 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 (no supper provided) to 1 p.m. Sunday Sept. 14 (after lunch). Fee is \$475 per mother-daughter pair, which includes two nights' accommodations at St. Peter's Abbey, as well as meals and retreat materials. Register at philomenaretreat.org or e-mail questions to laurencayer@sasktel.net.

Pilgrims of Hope in the Core Neighbourhood – Sandi Harper, parish catechist, and Ferdinand Gemoh, Parish Life Director, of Our Lady of Guadalupe Indigenous Parish will speak about the "4 Rs of Reconciliation" – respect, responsibility, relationship and reciprocity – from 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. **Saturday, Sept. 20**, at St. Mary Parish lower hall, 201 Ave. O South, Saskatoon. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to this event sponsored by the St. Mary Parish Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

What is Returning to Spirit? – Come and find out what this powerful program is all about at this information evening open to all, 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Tuesday, Sept. 23** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Rd, Saskatoon. Past participants and staff will share how this program can offer renewed hope and powerful personal transformation, plus tools for effective dialogue, whether in your own family or the community that surrounds you. Everyone welcome! For more info, contact Myron Rogal, at mrogal@rcdos.ca or call Justice and Peace at (306) 659-5841. Register at: <https://form.jotform.com/252118291778262>

Theology on Tap: For Young Adults 19 to 35 – The first session of the academic year will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. **Monday, Sept. 22** at Louis' on campus, featuring STM student sacristan Brooke Toma, one of the young adults in the diocese who went on a recent Jubilee pilgrimage to Italy.

Anew is a diocesan ministry supporting those who are separated or divorced to help participants regain hope and restore peace in their lives. Anew will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every second Wednesday beginning **Sept. 24**. Register: <https://form.jotform.com/251874708802261> or for more information call Marilyn Jackson at (306) 659-5836. Cost: \$50. (*Marriage and Family Life is supported by the BAA*).

Saskatoon Diocesan CWL Fall Meeting will be held 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Saturday, Sept. 27**, hosted by St. John Bosco CWL council at St. John School hall, 1202 Avenue O South, Saskatoon. Includes a prayer service led by diocesan CWL officers, reports, and a presentation on trauma-based support for families by representatives of Carter House, as well as information about the CWL's "R-3 to 1 (Recruit, Retain, Regain)" program. Lunch available (free will offering).

Horizons of Hope: A Catholic Toolkit on Palliative Care will be offered **Saturday, Sept. 27** from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish, 3339 Centennial Dr., Saskatoon; cost \$25 (includes lunch). When confronted with a life-limiting diagnosis, we can find ourselves in an unfamiliar and even frightening situation. As Catholics, our faith in Jesus Christ has much to teach us about living and dying well! To register for the program Sept. 27 contact Jane Tabalbag at spsaskatoon@rcdos.ca or call (306) 384-1100. (*Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by gifts to the BAA*.)

Message Board

“Peace with Creation” – The Season of Creation continues until the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4. Find resources, information, prayers, etc. on the Season of Creation website: <https://seasonofcreation.org>.

Sts. Benedict and Scholastica Formation Program for young adults is accepting applications for 2025-2026. Aimed at forming young adult Catholics in pursuing holiness while living in the world, this year’s program is open to both women and men, students or working, either for a residential or non-residential program. A partial bursary is available upon application. For more information, contact Sr. Malou Tibayan at mtibayan@rcdos.ca or (306) 371-7434. *(Supported by gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal).*

Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Millennium Pro-Life Cross Sunday, Sept. 14: The 100-foot cross is located 10.8 km northeast of Aberdeen, SK. on Highway 41. This year’s Jubilee Pilgrimage will be held at 3 p.m. **Sunday, Sept. 14** on the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross, and includes praying of the Rosary and keynote speaker Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada, with food and fellowship to follow. Bring your rosary, lawn chairs, insect repellent, umbrellas, etc. In the case of inclement weather, watch the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ProLifeMillenniumCross.

A Pancake Breakfast will be held by Knights of Columbus Council 9538 at 11 a.m. **Sunday Sept. 14** at St. Mary Parish Hall, 211 Avenue O South, Saskatoon (after 10 a.m. Mass).

St. Thomas More College Academic Mass will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 17** at St. Thomas More Chapel, College Drive, Saskatoon. Everyone is welcome.

Two free pianos available at St. Mark Catholic Church in Langham, SK – must be picked up! E-mail the parish at: stmarkscatholic423@gmail.com.

Solid Oak Pews for Sale in Lancer, SK in excellent condition: \$20,000, negotiable; with possibility to purchase individual pews. Contact: eam.wagner@gmail.com.

The Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) Convention will be held **Oct. 23- 24** in Regina. For registration, schedules, etc. see: <https://chassk.ca>.

Polka Mass - The Lake Manitou Pastoral Region annual Polka Mass will take place at Danceland at Manitou Beach, near Watrous, SK, **Sunday, Sept. 21**, with Mass beginning at 11 a.m. (music starts at 10:30 a.m.), brunch will follow the Mass. Brunch prices are: Adults - \$13 / Children (12 and under) - \$7 / preschool – free (please note updated prices.) More info: St. Ann Parish, Watrous at: (306) 946-7961.



2

Employment opportunities

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is seeking a permanent full-time Executive Assistant to the Curia to work directly with the administration team at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (CPC), 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, carrying out work and ministry related to the offices of the Bishop, Vicar General, the Chancellor and management of the CPC, ensuring smooth and efficient office operation. See: rcdos.ca/our-diocese/employment.

The Diocese of Prince Albert is seeking a Finance Officer, to be responsible for the financial administration and financial management of the diocese. Find details at www.padiocese.ca/employmentopportunities or contact Fr. Michael Fahlman at (306) 922-4747 ext. 226. Apply before Nov. 14 by submitting resumé (and letter from pastor) to chancellor@padiocese.ca.

Director of Musical Worship in Victoria - St. Andrew Roman Catholic Cathedral in Victoria, B.C. is seeking a part-time (25 hours/week) Director of Musical Worship. Find more details at: rcdos.ca/our-diocese/employment.

Information meeting about trip to “Shrines of France” will be held at 7 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 2** at St. Philip Neri Parish, 1902 Munroe Ave., Saskatoon. Find out more about a pilgrimage to a number of the Shrines of France to be offered next year from Sept. 29 to Oct. 9, 2026, led by Msgr. Maurice Fiolleau of the Diocese of Prince Albert.

What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you to build up the Kingdom of God? Step One of the Called and Gifted discernment process will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. **Saturday, Oct. 4** at St. Patrick Parish, 3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon. Register for this gift discernment workshop at: <https://form.jotform.com/251317313056246> or contact Sr. Malou Tibayan at mtibayan@rcdos.ca or (306) 659-5843 for more information.

Diocesan Prayer - Heavenly Father, grant that the future of creation, our world, the church, and all people may be protected in your hands, and that we may live in true hope, justice, and peace in communion and right relationship with each other, with all of creation, and with You, our living God.

The Diocesan Bulletin is a publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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E-mail: kyaworski@rcdos.ca

<https://rcdos.ca> <https://news.rcdos.ca>

Communications is supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Sunday, Sep 07, 2025

Don't hold back

Do we recognize the Jesus who says, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, he cannot be my disciple"? The words seem harsh in comparison to the soothing invitation of the Good Shepherd. Not to worry—Jesus is not insisting we abandon family or become homeless in order to follow him. But Jesus is saying, without doubt, that nothing—no thing and no one—can become so central in life that it interferes with doing God's will to love God and love your neighbor as yourself by being just, showing mercy, and walking with God. Jesus' call is "do as I do. Love as I love, hold nothing back. Do this in remembrance of me."

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 9:13-18b; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33 (129).

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

Monday, Sep 08, 2025

Set your sights on love

Disappointments come in all varieties: in finance, romance, parenting, and professional fulfillment. Some of us dream big dreams only to reap what seem humble returns. Should we set our sights lower, then, to keep disappointment at bay? For his part Saint Paul does recommend an attitude adjustment: Aim for love. Those who orient their actions and intentions toward love of God will not be disappointed because God is glad to employ all things, successes and failures together, to fulfill divine purposes. Just ask Saints Joachim and Anne, aged parents of a late-arriving child soon to be called "full of grace."

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23 (636). *"We know that all things work for good for those who love God."*

Tuesday, Sep 09, 2025

The secret lives of Christians

The Spanish Jesuit priest Saint Peter Claver spent 40 years ministering to African slaves arriving in the port of Cartagena, in what is now Colombia. Many thought he was wasting his time and even opposed his work with people whose welfare was almost entirely neglected. In the last few years of his life, Peter himself was nearly forgotten, having become ill and confined to his room. Yet his death in 1654 prodded the city into the realization they had lost a saint. Even if your efforts to help others go unnoticed or unappreciated—the beneficiaries of your goodwill will know you through your works as will God.

MEMORIAL OF PETER CLAVER, PRIEST

Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19 (438). *"He brought you to life along with him."*

Wednesday, Sep 10, 2025

Take a good hard look

What's not to love about the Beatitudes? Each is a source of hope in the midst of the joys and sorrows of everyday life. But then there's that curious part that follows that begins with those fateful words, "Woe to you," and that's about the time we decide God is taking on all those "evildoers" out there. It's difficult to hear these words of admonishment addressed to us, yet we must take them to

heart and see them as calling us to life. Joan of Arc offers a good prayer for these moments of uncertainty: "If I am in God's grace, may he keep me there. If I am not, may he put me there."

Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26 (439). *"You have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed."*

Thursday, Sep 11, 2025

You are what you wear

Clothing has a dual purpose: to protect the body from harsh weather and to adorn and identify ourselves: the business suit of an executive, the jeans of a teenager, the uniform of a soldier. In that respect, it makes sense that Saint Paul says we should "put on" virtue; we should wear compassion, kindness, patience, gentleness as colorfully and obviously as we wear our outfits. Paul wants us to wear our allegiance to Christ "on our sleeves" if you will. The Christian display is not meant as a boast like a Gucci or Prada logo, but as a simple, humble sign that the wearer belongs to Christ, and is thus cloaked in love.

Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38 (440). *"Over all these put on love."*

Friday, Sep 12, 2025

Set a good example

Remember that moment when you first realized: "Oh, my gosh, I'm becoming my mother!"—or your father or whoever it was staring back at you from the mirror of your life? We do tend to grow up to become like our elders in many ways, whether we like it or not. Indeed, we put a lot of time and effort into trying to mold young people. Yet, if the above is true, we ought to spend more energy molding and shaping ourselves to be worthy of emulation. That way, when the student becomes like the teacher, we will have made some progress. Remember, says Pope Benedict XVI, "a witness of Christ does not merely transmit information but, through the coherency of his own life, becomes a dependable reference point."

1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Luke 6:39-42 (441). *"No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher."*

Saturday, Sep 13, 2025

Simple words of wisdom

A gifted preacher gains a great following. Take the Early Church Father John Chrysostom (347-407) for example. Because of his eloquence, he was given the surname *chrysostomos*, meaning "golden mouthed," and his sermons are still studied and quoted today. What gave his words such power? It is said he avoided flowery language and complex images; instead, he spoke simply and plainly and applied biblical lessons to everyday life. Here's one sweet example: "The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others." Gifted preaching changes hearts and lives. The next time you hear such preaching, let the one who delivered it know you appreciate the effort that went into preparing it.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49 (442). *"I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words, and acts on them."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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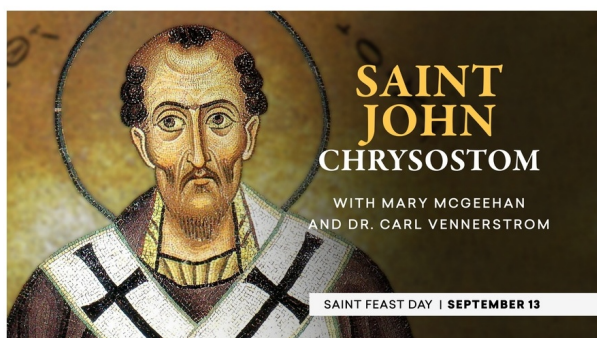
This Week on Formed

Week of September 07, 2025



100 Hearts: Betrayal and Forgiveness in the Life of Blessed Clelia Merloni

The pain of betrayal by a trusted friend and the freedom born from forgiveness unfolds in two parallel dramas in the life of Blessed Clelia Merloni, Foundress of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Professor Giulia de Magistris, a newly promoted school administrator.



St. John Chrysostom | Catholic Saints

From Antioch, the political center of the fifth-century world, arose a golden-tongued preacher and bishop: St. John Chrysostom. Listen to Dr. Carl Vennerstrom and Mary McGeehan discuss the life and preaching of this great doctor of the Church who gave us countless powerful prayers and homilies.



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In this episode, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

September 7, 2025

No Longer a Slave

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Paul urged Philemon to treat a runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother in Christ, not as a slave. He didn't ask Philemon to free the man. Nor did he encourage him to work for the eradication of slavery. Why not? The letter doesn't tell us. Yet, if we look deeply at this issue, we might discover that Paul was asking for something much more profound than a change in law.

The United States outlawed slavery more than 150 years ago. But that change did nothing to erase the political, economic, and social biases of many citizens. Some people still consider

African Americans and other people of color as inferior, untrustworthy, and dangerous. Laws cannot change thinking or prejudices.

Had Philemon simply freed Onesimus, would the slave's situation have been improved? In the ancient world, slaves were often branded, thus alerting everyone to their servile position in society. Might this have prevented him from living a full life as a free man? Even if the law had changed, would ancient Rome have provided for former slaves any better than contemporary America has?

Paul pressed Philemon to go deeper into his heart, to change his perception of Onesimus' status in his household. Paul is probably not talking about a blood bond, but the bond that joins Christians to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. If we really treat each other in this way, discriminatory customs will crumble, and there will no longer be any kind of slavery. †

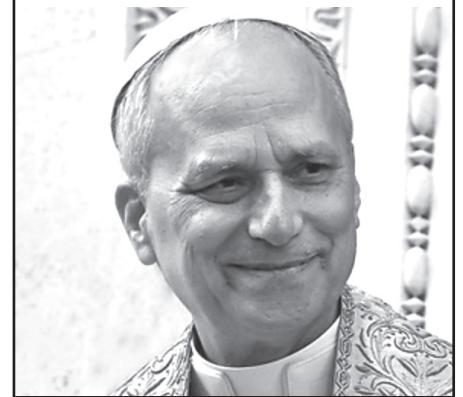


Paul was asking for something more profound than a change in the law.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

In Gaza...children, families, and elderly are reduced to starvation. In Myanmar, new hostilities have cut short innocent young lives. Finally, war-torn Ukraine awaits negotiations for a just and lasting peace.... We implore [Our Lady's] intercession for the gift of peace, for support and comfort for those who suffer.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 18, 2025



Sunday Readings

Wisdom 9:13–18b

Scarcely can we guess the things on earth, and only with difficulty grasp what is at hand; but things in heaven, who can search them out?

Philemon 9–10, 12–17

So if you regard me [St. Paul] as a partner, welcome [Onesimus] as you would me.

Luke 14:25–33

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Is there any group of people I struggle to welcome as brothers and sisters in Christ?
- How can I pray for them?



A Time of Surrender

Bonnie LeMelle Abadie

Sultry summer days surrender to autumn breezes. Lovely, leisurely days surrender to the frantic organization of schedules normally determined by classes, sports, and parish activities. The ordinariness of daily living surrenders to the unexpected: illness, natural disasters, or human-induced tragedies, such as 9/11. Though things happen all the time that call us to stop and notice what is going on, “surrender” is the word I most associate with the month of September. I think that’s because this month signals noticeable and sometimes drastic change.

We humans aren’t typically fans of change. We like things to be predictable and comfortable. Entering the unknown can trigger fear. It is much like paddling a boat through deep, dark waters on a moonless night. What will happen to me? Will I capsize and drown? Will all I’ve worked for be lost? But there are ways to navigate these waters in order to emerge as better versions of ourselves.

Surrendering to God is not easy. My stubborn independent streak can serve positive purposes, but it also can block me from asking for help from others when I need it the most and keep me from relying on God in times of difficulty. If that’s anything like you, I encourage you to consider these questions with me:

- Are we people of faith?
- Do we believe in a loving, redeeming, sanctifying God?
- Do we trust that God loves us unconditionally?
- Do we embrace the fact that Jesus died to save us and that the Holy Spirit guides us?

Fear robs us of our ability to trust and obscures the light shining forth from the heart of God. When we focus on faith, turn to God in prayer, and walk in trust, we surrender our lives to God. Then, we allow God’s grace to become like the waves of the ocean washing upon the sandy shores of our lives. We surrender to God’s presence, pace, and patterns. †

From *Liguorian*, September 2020.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Catholic Schools” by Elizabeth Bookser Barkley

As a teacher of college students over the past decades, I know that many young people have little grasp of the history of the Catholic Church or of the historical origin of many Church practices. But many tell me that they hope to have children and raise them in the Catholic faith. Knowing our collective history is important if we are to understand the Church today. You can’t open a...history book without [seeing] the Catholic Church inserting itself into almost every century: the origins of the papacy, the role of monasteries in preserving culture, art in Catholic spaces, the philosophical impact of the likes of Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, or the influence of papal encyclicals on historical and modern thought. Some of Church history is nothing to boast of, but...there is much we can be proud of and can celebrate.

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Good and gracious God,
encourage us in our work,
calm us in our rest, and
inspire us in our prayer.
We pray in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 8–13

Monday, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Mt 5:1–4a or Rom 8:28–30 / Mt 1:1–16, 18–23
or 1:18–23

Tuesday, St. Peter Claver: Col 2:6–15 / Lk 6:12–19

Wednesday, Weekday: Col 3:1–11 / Lk 6:20–26

Thursday, Weekday:
Col 3:12–17 / Lk 6:27–38

Friday, Weekday:
1 Tm 1:1–2, 12–14 / Lk 6:39–42

Saturday, St. John Chrysostom:
1 Tm 1:15–17 / Lk 6:43–49

Bringing Home
the Word 

September 7, 2025

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