



September 20, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 55:6-9 | Phil 1:20c-24, 27a | Mt 20:1-16a

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

Writing to the Philippians while in prison, St. Paul feels complete peace about his fate. To stay on this earth means fruitful labor for him; to die means entering eternal life with God. Having lived apart from God in the past, he finds immense joy at being able to labor for the Lord, despite the suffering it entails. Upon first glance, the parable St. Matthew recounts in his Gospel offers a glimpse of God's generous mercy. But reading the parable alongside Paul's letter reveals another layer of meaning: Those who have more time to labor in the vineyard of the Lord are given a great gift – the chance to bear immense fruit. Our long hours laboring in the Lord's vineyard are not something we're meant to merely suffer through on our way to our eternal reward. Rather, they are an opportunity to be drawn into communion with the Lord. As with St. Paul, the joy that comes from realizing that we share in the very life and work of God is available to us now, not only in the life to come.

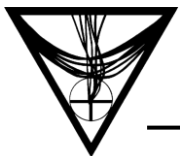
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each of the vocations to which God calls us requires sacrifice and includes challenges. Living in humble obedience to the will of God is not easy, but it is full of peace. To focus only on the eternal reward offered after death disregards the love, peace, and joy of the kingdom that we are gifted *now*. We are invited to be laborers in the vineyard, co-creators with the Master of the universe. As we creatively and compassionately allow God's love to flow through us, we infuse new life and love into the world around us. When we truly believe that a life lived in Christ is the most abundant life, we stop asking what is fair and we begin to eagerly invite others to join us in the vineyard. Doing the will of God in this life is a reward unto itself.

STUDY

This week, return to the first reading from the prophet Isaiah. As you reflect on his call to “seek the Lord while he may be found,” consider the gift of God's love and presence in your life right now. And as we labor in the vineyard, keeping our eyes on the ultimate reward of eternity with our Creator, may we also recognize the immense gift of knowing, loving, and serving God in this life.



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

114 Kingsmere Place • Saskatoon • SK • S7J 3V7

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

holyspiritsaskatoon.ca

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.’

MONTH of *Our Lady of Sorrows*

Sunday Sept 20	Monday Sept 21	Tuesday Sept 22	Wednesday Sept 23	Thursday Sept 24	Friday Sept 25	Saturday Sept 26
10a Mass 12:30p Mass 1:30p-4pm Adoration 7p Mass	9:30a CWL Quilters	8:30a Mass	8:30a Mass 7p Adoration	8:30a Mass 1p 55+ Cards 6p Children's Choir Rehearsal	8:30a Mass 9a-12p Adoration 5:30p Spirit Collective 6p Challenge	11a-12p Confession 5p Mass Fellowship Sunday

LIVE-STREAM MASS EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 AM MASS [FACEBOOK.COM/HOLYSPIRITSASK](https://www.facebook.com/holyspiritsask)

55+ Cards

Thursday, September 24

1:30-4pm

Spirit Collective Game Night & BBQ

Friday, Sept 25

5:30-9PM

216 Evans Street

AGES 18-35 WELCOME!

Scan to join!



Holy Spirit Refugee Committee
is hosting a

Celebration of Cultures

October 3 after the 5 pm Mass. Please join us in the hall to share food, coffee, stories and music.

Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share!
(Food can be kept hot or cold during Mass)

A sign-up sheet will be available after all
Masses beginning September 12

Holy Spirit Youth Choir

Rehearsals **Thursdays 6-7PM**

Choir will sing **4th Sunday** of every month

@12:30PM Mass

Contact Charlotte for more info:

hsyouthchoir@gmail.com

Saskatoon Challenge Girls Club

Is for girls in Grades 3-12 who want to grow in
their Catholic faith.

If you are interested or have questions, contact
Shannon at skchallengegirls@gmail.com

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

27·IX·2026



"Even just one of these children"

Millions of Monica's
Monday, September 28 7PM

Musical Adoration
3rd Wednesday of the Month
7-8PM

Come pray in the Presence of Jesus while music is played and sung to help focus our hearts.
The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available

High School Youth Group
Grades 8-12
3rd Saturday of the Month
6-9PM

You are welcome to join us for 5pm Mass and then stay for pizza and a different activity every month!

Please be courteous to our neighbours.
Don't park in the
ROCK OF AGES
lot on Sundays.

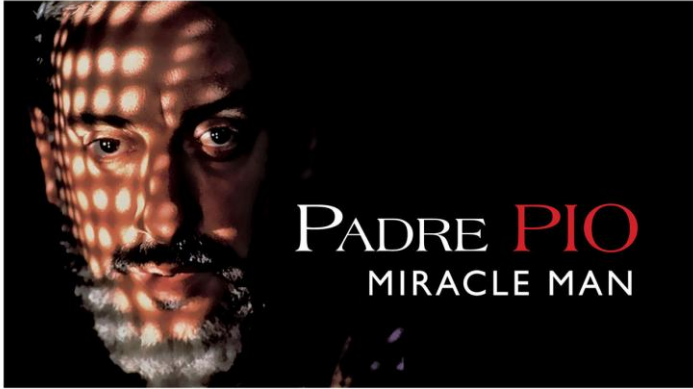


Time Out for Moms
The Little Domestic Church
on the Prairie
Cathedral of the Holy Family
Tuesdays 9:15-11:15AM
Oct 6-Nov 24
Register www.tofm.ca

WATCH FR. JOSEPH'S
Sunday Reflection
Subscribe to @Fr.JosephSalihu on YouTube

LET US PRAY

- **For the sick and all those who care for them, today we pray for:** Vera Wolkosky, Frederick Vizeacoumar, Vijaykumar Soupramaniam, Modaliar, Evangeline Manzon, Adel Gorges, Orlene Eremondi Larocque, Mary Cody, Camilla Wren, Alice Plewes, Delores Hinz, Martin Julien, Zelpha Rolph, Shi'An Lu, Xia Lin
- **For all those who have died, today we remember:** Alice Hrudka
- **And on the anniversary of death:** Marciano Divina Gracia Jr, Concepcion Pangilinan



PADRE PIO
MIRACLE MAN

Padre Pio: Miracle Man

This movie captures the Capuchin friar's intense faith, devotion, and deep spiritual concern for others, as well as his great compassion for the sick and suffering. It reveals the amazing details and events in Padre Pio's life as a boy and throughout his fifty years as a friar, dramatizing the frequent attacks from the devil, as well as the persecution he suffered at the hands of people, including those in the Church.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you!
Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 10 am, 12:30pm, 7 pm
Weekdays Tues. - Fri. 8:30 am

ADORATION

Wednesdays 7-8pm
Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm
Sundays, 1:30 - 4 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 11 am - 12 noon
or by appointment.



Holy Spirit Parish Presents

SPIRIT
COLLECTIVE

Game Night & BBQ

AGES 18-35 WELCOME!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

216 Evans Street

What's This All About?

- Meet new friends
- Grow in Faith
- Connect with like-minded people
- Campfire, games, burgers & smokies

Scan to join!



FREE ADMISSION!

Bring a friend and your favourite snack.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE 112TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

"Even Just One of These Children"

A COMPLEX REALITY OF VULNERABILITY

THE FLIGHT FROM

-  WAR
-  POVERTY
-  VIOLENCE
-  ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS
-  FORCED MARRIAGES

A PERILOUS JOURNEY

-  FAMILY SEPARATIONS
-  TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION
-  EXTREME CONDITIONS
-  TRAUMATIC EVENTS
-  REPATRIATIONS

Love can overcome indifference

"Before every migrant child, we are called to make an act of humanity and faith,
for we are able to welcome and encounter the Lord."

WITHIN THE HORIZON OF THE DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

- ◆ shared humanitarian and spiritual responsibility
- ◆ networks of protection
- ◆ respect of cultural identity

IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES

- ◆ empathetic listening
- ◆ safeguarding of fundamental rights
- ◆ restore the warmth of a family hearth

IN THE CONTEXT OF CIVIL INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ legal instruments of protection
- ◆ family reunification
- ◆ guaranteeing welcome and integration

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

- ◆ educational and spiritual paths
- ◆ prevent solitude and rejection
- ◆ promote encounter and integration

World Day of
Migrants and
Refugees

27-IX-2026



"Even just one of these children"



READ THE MESSAGE
HERE



Diocesan Bulletin

Sept. 20, 2026 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1

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

Upcoming Events

Apostolate of the Precious Blood meets Tuesdays in September from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Saint Anne Parish, 217 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon to pray the rosary, the Litany and Chaplet of The Precious Blood. All are welcome.

Anchor: Chronic Illness Prayer Support Group for people living with chronic illness and their caregivers meets the third Monday of each month, with the next meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Monday, Sept. 21** at Saint Anne Parish, 217 Lenore Dr. Saskatoon. Contact Dietta Todos at durr2todos@gmail.com to register.

A Season of Creation series will be held 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Sept. 21, Sept. 28, and Oct. 5** in the welcome area at St. Philip Neri Parish, 1902 Munroe Ave, Saskatoon. All are welcome to join in these evenings of reflection – attend any one or all sessions; there is no cost.

Theology on Tap (for young adults 19 to 35 years) is celebrating Newman Centre's 100th year on the University of Saskatchewan Campus **Tuesday, Sept. 22** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Louis', 93 Campus Drive, Saskatoon. Try your hand at Trivia Challenge (with prizes!) Find Theology on Tap at: <https://www.facebook.com/saskatoonTonT> or e-mail Campus Ministry at mmaclean@stmcollege.ca.

A Parish TRC Committee Gathering will be hosted by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace on **Thursday, Sept. 24**, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. Register online at: <https://form.jotform.com/261958498019271> (no cost, includes supper). For more information contact Myron Rogal at (306) 659-5841 or mrogal@rcdos.ca. (*Justice and Peace is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*)

RCIA catechists are invited to a day of prayer, reflection, and practical conversation 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, Sept. 26** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, Saskatoon. Register at: <https://www.jotform.com/262007389063255> or for info, contact Rural Catechesis Coordinator Quin Kleiboer at: qkleiboer@rcdos.ca. (*This free event is sponsored by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*)

Contemplative Mass with Fr. Kevin McGee will be held at 5 p.m. **Friday, Oct. 2** at St. Mary Parish, 211 Ave. O South, Saskatoon, with 20 minutes of silence after communion to recognize the intimate presence of Christ.

“Virtuous”

AWAKEN: Adult Faith Series

Sept. 22, Sept. 29, Oct. 6, Oct. 13

Explore the Cardinal Virtues of
Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance!
What does it mean to live a truly virtuous life?

7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Catholic Pastoral Centre
2nd Floor, Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon

<https://form.jotform.com/261528551203249>

For information contact diocesan Adult Faith Coordinator
Astrid Alas at (306) 659-5858 or amalas@rcdos.ca
(Supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)

Our Lady of the Rosary Candlelight Procession and Mass will be held **Saturday, Oct. 3** at St. Paul Co-Cathedral, 720 22nd St. E, Saskatoon. Fr. Penna will celebrate Mass at 5:30 p.m., followed by an outdoor candlelight procession and fellowship in Bishop Mahoney Hall. All are invited. (Please bring your own candles.)

Catholic Youth Ministry - Challenge is a program for girls in Grades 3-12 held Fridays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Holy Spirit Parish, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon. Find the link to register at: <https://rcdos.ca/challenge-girls-club/> or for info contact: skchallengegirls@gmail.com. Conquest is a program for boys in Grades 3-12 is held Fridays from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. at St. Matthew School, 1508 Arlington Ave, Saskatoon. See: <https://conquestsaskatoon.com>.

“Is Canada on Track for Justice?” Development and Peace-Caritas Canada campaign information: Join an evening exploring Canada's role in international development, hear about the importance of Canadian international aid, and discover how we can take action together for a more just and peaceful world at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 23** at Holy Spirit Parish, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon. Everyone is welcome. A webinar launch for this year's DPCC campaign will also be held **Saturday, Sept. 26** at 11:30 a.m. SK time. Find more info and resources at: <https://devp.org/en/campaign>.

Diocesan Prayer - We pray as a diocesan family for all farmers during this harvest season: we pray for their safety and for favourable weather, an abundant crop and a just return for their work to raise the food we eat.

Message Board

Forty Hours for Life campaign will run from 9 a.m. to noon **weekdays until Friday, Oct. 23**, with prayerful public witness at the corner of 7th Avenue and Queen Street in Saskatoon. Signs are provided. To commit to a one-hour time slot, please contact Campaign Life Coalition at campaignlifesk@gmail.com or (306) 249-2764.

"From Mourning to Dawn" for Bereaved Parents is an eight-week grief support program for those grieving the death of a child at any age – from pregnancy through to adulthood. It begins **Sept. 24**, held 7 pm to 8:30 pm Thursdays at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 2nd Floor, 123 Nelson Rd, Saskatoon, weekly until Nov. 12. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/262424829790264> or for info, contact Marilyn Jackson, Director of Pastoral Ministry: mjackson@rcdos.ca or 306-659-5836. *(Grief ministry is supported by gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)*

Rental accommodation available near campus: The diocesan Sts. Benedict & Scholastica House has rooms for rent for Catholic young adults in the university neighbourhood of Saskatoon (it is not necessary to join the full SBS program). For information about renting, contact Sr. Marta Piano at mpiano@rcdos.ca.

Mass for Care of Creation will be celebrated by Bishop Mark Hagemoen at 9 a.m. **Sunday, Sept. 27** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, and live-streamed at saskatoonmass.com.

Are you hurting because of an abortion? Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. The next retreat in SK will be held **Oct. 2-4**. To register, contact Elaine at r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net or 1-306-480-8911.

The CWL Clothing Depot is seeking donations of gently-used men's clothing: winter/fall coats, jeans, shoes; as well as good-condition towels and small appliances like toasters, coffee makers, and frying pans. Drop-off times for donations are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the back door in the alley of the CWL Clothing Depot building, 619-20th Street, Saskatoon – ring the bell. Donations are much appreciated. For donation inquiries or to become a volunteer, call (306) 242-5042. The CWL Clothing Depot is also seeking to hire a **part-time Donation Sorter and Processing Worker** (\$17 an hour) to work from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Find more information at: <https://rcdos.ca/employment>.



2

ANew – Life After Divorce

Anew is a diocesan ministry supporting those who are separated or divorced. Based 100% on Catholic teaching and doctrine, Anew helps participants regain hope and restore peace in their lives. Anew will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (2nd floor of Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon) 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every second Wednesday beginning **Sept. 30**. Cost: \$50.
<https://form.jotform.com/262424300552244>
(Supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)

Job Opportunity: The Diocese of Saskatoon is seeking an Executive Assistant to the Bishop / Curia Coordinator. See: <https://rcdos.ca/employment> for the job description and requirements. To apply, please e-mail resumé to HR@rcdos.ca or for more information, call (306) 659-5835.

Newman Centre 100th Anniversary - St. Thomas More (STM) College grew out of a Newman Club formed by Catholic laity and students in 1926. Anniversary events at STM include an **Oct. 1 Newman Anniversary Lecture** 7 p.m. with Dr. Michael Higgins in the Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium; an **Oct. 3 Newman-STM Homecoming** starting at 4 p.m.; and an **Oct. 4 Mass, Brunch and Book Launch**. For information or registration (seating is limited), please see: <https://stmcollege.ca/alumni/events.php>.

STM Corporation: St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan is seeking volunteers to fill vacancies on its Corporation. More info can be found at <https://stmcollege.ca>. Submit applications by **Sept. 23**.

CHAS call to serve: The Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan invites applications for its Board of Directors, seeking those with expertise in board governance, financial management, Catholic health care, ethics, or advocacy. See <https://chassk.ca> or contact peter@chassk.ca or (306) 955-2427. Deadline: **Sept. 23**.

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

Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1
Phone: (306) 242-1500 or Toll free: 1-877-661-5005
E-mail: kyaworski@rcdos.ca
<https://rcdos.ca> <https://news.rcdos.ca>
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Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
September 20, 2026

Late Bloomers

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

Human beings grow and mature at different paces. Turning twenty-one is no marker of maturity. We've all known the ten-year-old whom people say is already an old man because of how he thinks and acts. Just as surely, we've known the forty-year-old who still acts and dresses like a teenager. If this is true with human growth, would it not be true as well with growth in faith?

This Sunday's parable of the landowner who pays all his laborers the same even though they have not all worked the same amount of time often sparks the comment that it's not good business sense. But the parable is not about business. It's about how we all

come to faith at different times in life, all according to God's plan, not ours. Why then do some complain about deathbed conversions as being unfair? Who's to say when someone finally catches up to God's love and goodness? Too often, human wisdom and divine wisdom spin in different worlds.

Pope Benedict XVI once commented on this gospel's wisdom and how we should be patient with young people as they seek the sacraments. Jesus was patient with us, he said, so we should follow his lead. Federico Lombardi, SJ, the Vatican spokesman for Pope Benedict, reported that the Pope had commented, "I used to be more strict about this, but the example of Christ led me to become more welcoming in cases in which, perhaps, there is not a mature and solid faith, but there is a glimmer, a desire of communion with the Church." †



We all come to faith at different times in life, according to God's plan, not ours.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

It is a great sign of hope—especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars—to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith: it is...a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,
MARCH 11, 2026



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 55:6–9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.

Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

Matthew 20:1–16a

[Jesus said,] "Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do I look to God for justice or mercy?
- Do I seek to be fair to others or to be generous?



Why Should We Forgive?

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

forgive those who hate us?

First, because God has forgiven us greater sins than our enemies have ever committed against us. The man who thinks he has no need of pardon is apt to be the most unforgiving of men. Only the merciful will ever receive mercy. Only the forgiving will ever be forgiven.

And the second reason for forgiving is to prevent the multiplication of hate, which is a seed and grows like a weed. If a number of men are standing in a line, and the first slaps the cheek of the second, and the second the third, the only way to stop hate would be for one man in that crowd to turn his other cheek. By doing so, he would say, "If I hate you, I add my quota to the sum total of the world's hate. This I refuse to do. I will

kill your hate. I will drive it even from the face of the earth. And I will do it by loving you."

The real test, then, of the Christian is not how much he loves his friends (for do not the heathens do this?) but, rather, how much he loves his enemies. God cannot write on the pages of a heart when they are covered with the scribbling of hate. But he can write straight even with crooked lines on the blank page of he who loves. For by putting love where we do not find it, then everyone becomes lovable. †

**Only the forgiving
will be forgiven.**

From *The Seven Riddles of Life Answered by Fulton J. Sheen* by Melvin S. Arrington, Jr © 2012, Liguori Publications (821868). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Fulton J. Sheen: Seven Pearls of Wisdom"

The dominant note of the modern world is confusion. [The world] has not only lost its way, it has even thrown away the map. It stands bewildered, lost, stunned, afraid to enthuse or even trust, lest its new love prove as unfaithful and as fickle as the others. When brought face to face with the certitude a Catholic has in his faith or the peace of soul and security and the feeling of "being at home" a convert has in coming into the Church, the confused modern attributes it to excessive credulity, to the surrender of reason, to priestcraft—in a word, to anything and everything except the real reason, namely, the discovery of truth.

Note: The beatification Mass for Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is scheduled for Thursday, September 24.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.



Wondrous God, we ask for the grace to see as you see and to reflect your face to each person we meet. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 21–26

Monday, St. Matthew: Eph 4:1–7, 11–13 / Mt 9:9–13

Tuesday, Weekday: Prv 21:1–6, 10–13 / Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday, St. Pius of Pietrelcina: Prv 30:5–9 / Lk 9:1–6

Thursday, Weekday: Eccl 1:2–11 / Lk 9:7–9

Friday, Weekday: Eccl 3:1–11 / Lk 9:18–22

Saturday, Weekday: Eccl 11:9–12:8 / Lk 9:43b–45



Catholic.
Pastoral.
Trusted.

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Sunday, Sep 20, 2026

Teach us

“Catechetical Sunday” is a day to celebrate the importance of all who teach and pass on the faith, not only religious education instructors but everyone who has taught us about our faith: parents, spouses, children, and other family, teachers, clergy, coworkers, books, movies—the list goes on. Think of all the people who have helped to form you in your faith, either by what they said or how they lived. Then think about the people you have an opportunity to teach. Without people to pass on the tradition for a new day, the faith would wither away. What a blessing and responsibility it is to follow in the footsteps of Christ the Teacher. Embrace it.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME;
CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a (133). *“Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near.”*

Monday, Sep 21, 2026

A radical welcome

Jesus’ choice of dinner companions ranged from “nice” people like the law-abiding Pharisees and friends like Martha and Mary, to seamier types—not insignificant for an observant Jew. With a knack for becoming the host at any table where he sat, Jesus generously shared the Good News he bore in his heart with those hungry enough to listen. And while Matthew turned his life around breaking bread with Jesus, we do not see Jesus setting out to convert anyone. It was enough for Jesus just to be with those cringing under the law, beaten down, excluded. Such radical welcome is enough to change a heart.

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13 (643). *“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*

Tuesday, Sep 22, 2026

Be light of heart

Imagine the contents of your heart on the scales of heaven right now. Would you be found heavy with cares or light with hope? Are your intentions solid gold or an amalgam of mixed motives? Yesterday the Jewish community observed its holiest feast, Yom Kippur, when the faithful seek atonement for the sake of being close to God. The Catholic Church teaches that “Jews remain very dear to God . . . since God does not take back the gifts he bestowed or the choices he made,” as the Second Vatican Council document *Nostra Aetate* teaches. Lighten your heart from any burden of discrimination.

Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13; Luke 8:19-21 (450). *“All the ways of a man may be right in his own eyes, but it is the LORD who proves hearts.”*

Wednesday, Sep 23, 2026

Beyond appearances

Those who have heard of Padre Pio usually think of a mysterious Italian monk who, like his spiritual father Saint Francis of Assisi, bore the stigmata, the physical wounds of Jesus. But there’s a lot more to Pio. As one of his biographers said, “Those who knew Padre Pio well loved him not because of his mystical gifts but because he was a wise, good, unassuming, and amiable Christian gentleman, who, through his virtues . . . led men and women closer to God.” He spent 50 years hearing Confessions—it is estimated he heard 2 million—and giving counsel to troubled people. He also built a state-of-the-art hospital dedicated to serving the poor.

Sometimes people—even saints—are more than they seem. Learn more about the people you encounter each day. Their goodness may surprise you.

MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELICINA, PRIEST

Proverbs 30:5-9; Luke 9:1-6 (451). *“He sent them to proclaim the Kingdom of God.”*

Thursday, Sep 24, 2026

The Qoheleth in all of us

Qoheleth is the speaker in the Old Testament book of the same name, better known as Ecclesiastes. There is a bit of Qoheleth in all of us. He is cynical and confused and a bit fatalistic. He struggles to make logical sense of life as we see it unfold in the world around us. How to make sense of all the cruelty, foolishness, greed, and violence? The Qoheleth in us wants to throw up our hands and declare that our strife and struggle is all in vain. The message is at times so seemingly bleak that if the book hadn’t been mistakenly attributed to King Solomon early on, it likely would have been cast aside long ago. Return to Qoheleth when you need a reminder that much in life remains a mystery. The best we can do is embrace it.

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Luke 9:7-9 (452). *“Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!”*

Friday, Sep 25, 2026

The cycles of life

American author Hanna Rion (1875-1924) noted that the “greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the five senses.” True enough. But a garden is more than a sensual feast. It is the place we are most aware of the rhythms of life. In a garden we never question that there is “a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.” Why do we believe that our lives are any different? Like the flowers and trees, our lives have a rhythm, and we are most at peace when we are in harmony with it. There is much to learn from a garden, if we only take the time. Plan to visit one and let it teach you.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Luke 9:18-22 (453). *“There is . . . a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.”*

Saturday, Sep 26, 2026

Pay attention

In today’s gospel, Jesus wants to make sure his message is heard and absorbed. “Pay attention to what I am telling you,” he urges. His message is difficult: Human beings will betray him by putting self-interest before love. And that’s the way it continues to be. Jesus is eager for his followers to hear his words so that we would know to look very close to home when determining where redemption and conversion are most needed in this world. Betrayal and kindness manifest themselves in unexpected places. The best advice for each of us is to keep our faith in God above all others. As Saint Gerard Majella points out: “Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?”

Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8; Luke 9:43b-45 (454). *“Pay attention to what I am telling you. The Son of Man is to be handed over to men.”*

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



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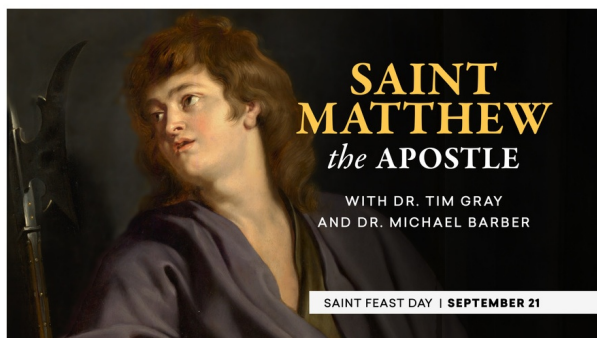
This Week on Formed

Week of September 20, 2026



Padre Pio: Miracle Man

This movie captures the Capuchin friar's intense faith, devotion, and deep spiritual concern for others, as well as his great compassion for the sick and suffering. It reveals the amazing details and events in Padre Pio's life as a boy and throughout his fifty years as a friar, dramatizing the frequent attacks from the devil, as well as the persecution he suffered at the hands of people, including those in the Church.



Saint Matthew | Catholic Saints

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We are all familiar with the four Gospels, but what makes them stand out from the rest? Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber as they discuss St. Matthew, the great Apostle and evangelist.



Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew 1:1-25

Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber as they begin studying the Gospel of Matthew by introducing St. Matthew and looking at chapter 1 of this incredible gospel.

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