

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



© 2026 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. **Signup for free daily email available at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**