



BELOVED

DISCIPLE PARISH

September 2026

Welcome to the first edition of the Beloved Disciple Parish Faith Formation Newsletter. It is my goal that every month you will receive this newsletter full of information for yourself/ family. It will have regular monthly features like Saints of the Day, Faith Formation Calendar, a featured article for the month, the Holy Father Pope Leo XVI monthly prayer intentions, and Service Opportunities.

Marialyce Garwis, Director of Faith Formation

2026 Catechetical Sunday, September 20th

Proclaiming the Joy of the Gospel through Service to the Poor



As catechists, we are called to form communities rooted in encounter and accompaniment. We must teach others to greet and speak respectfully to those who are often ignored or overlooked. We must help children, youth, and adults recognize the inherent dignity of every human person, particularly those who suffer poverty, displacement, loneliness, or exclusion. As Pope Leo XIV writes in *Magnifica Humanitas*, “social justice requires us to look at individuals and communities, starting with the most vulnerable: the poor, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, victims of violence and people living in urban or existential peripheries” (no. 78). By Yohan Garcia

***A Prayer For Catechist:** Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church. Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you. Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.*

Beloved Disciple Faith Formation Important Dates for September:

- September 13th - First Day of classes at Emlenton Campus
- September 20th - First Day of classes at Grove City Campus /Parent meetings at Grove City (Grades K-5 parent meeting 9:15 am-9:40 am, Grades 6-12 parent meeting 10:20 am-10:45 am in Day Chapel)
- September 27th - Classes at both locations / Parent meetings at Emlenton Campus
 - (Grades K-5 at 10:15am and Grades 6-12 at 10:45am in the church)

Why Is the Month of September Dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows?

The month of September is dedicated to *Our Lady of Sorrows*, a title given to Mary as she suffered alongside Christ during his passion.

Our Lady of Sorrows is one of many titles bestowed upon Mary. This title is derived from Simeon's prophecy during Jesus' presentation at the Temple in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2.

"The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'" (Luke 2:33-35)

The Church celebrates the feast of *Our Lady of Sorrows* on Sept. 15, calling on the faithful to reflect on the seven sorrows of Mary. These seven sorrows include:

- the prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35)
- the flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
- loss of the Child Jesus for three days (Luke 2:41-50)
- Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary (Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17)
- Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (John 19:25-30)
- the body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (Psalm 130; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37)
- the burial of Jesus (Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47)



Family Activities:

- During September, Catholics can pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary, meditating on the pains of Jesus through the eyes of Our Lady. This devotion dates back to the 14th century as Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, appeared to St. Bridget of Sweden and revealed this rosary prayer to her. It is prayed similarly to the rosary, but instead of meditating on five mysteries, you meditate on the seven sorrows. <https://www.nashvillecatholic.org/news/posts/why-is-the-month-of-september-dedicated-to-our-lady-of-sorrows>
- Coloring Page and activity: <https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2015/09/the-seven-sorrows-and-immaculate-heart.html>
- Watch this video to hear an explanation of Our Lady of Sorrows: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JO61h5qowpg>
- Say a prayer whenever you see someone in need like, driving past a hospital or seeing a firetruck or ambulance. Say: *"Immaculate Mary, pray for this person, that God may bestow all the blessings and graces that they need."* And then conclude with the Hail Mary.
- If your children are unfamiliar with the Blessed Virgin as Our Lady of Sorrows or you are seeking to foster their devotion, **Our Lady of Sorrows: Devotion to Mary's Seven Sorrows for Children**, written by Patrick O'Hearn and illustrated by Adalee Hude, is a beautiful introduction.

SEPTEMBER 1st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION



The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation is a day when Christians around the world unite to pray and reflect on the responsibility to protect the Earth.

Established by the Orthodox Church in 1989 and later embraced by Pope Francis in 2015, this day marks the beginning of the Season of Creation (Sept 1 – Oct 4). It's a time to thank God for the gift of creation, seek forgiveness for harm done to the environment, and renew commitment to caring for our common home.

Check out 10 printable activities from Sadlier:

<https://www.sadlier.com/religion/blog/care-for-gods-creation-caring-for-creation-10-printable-resources-for-catholics>

What are the Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions? <https://popesprayerusa.net/>

Each year, the pope considers the works, joys, and sufferings of the entire world and, through the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, calls on people of goodwill to join him in prayer for twelve of the issues closest to his heart. We ask our brothers and sisters everywhere to unite in prayer for the year's intentions entrusted to us by Pope Leo XIV. Praying with the pope in this way is a concrete act of service, because our prayers make a difference in the world. As we pray, the Holy Spirit may call some of us to extend prayer into additional action.

SEPTEMBER 2026: For the care of water. *Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it. Amen*



Some Organizations that assist with access to clean water:

- Catholic Relief Services – CRS: <https://www.crs.org/our-work/program-areas/water-security> “Ensuring that all communities live in a water-secure world is foundational to humanitarian and development programs at Catholic Relief Services.”
- Cross Catholic Outreach: <https://crosscatholic.org/project-catalog/water-and-health/> “A lack of accessible clean water is one of the greatest burdens facing people worldwide. When water is not readily available, negative effects ripple through a family’s daily life. Unsafe drinking sources increase the risk of waterborne diseases and poor sanitation and household hygiene.”
- Dicastery for Promoting Integral Development: <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/progetti/wash-water-sanitation-hygiene.html>

September 8th: Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



This feast day commemorates the birthday of Mary. There are only three birthdays on the liturgical calendar: Mary, Jesus, and John the Baptist. Usually, it is the custom to celebrate the feast day of a saint on the date of their death as that marks their “birth” into everlasting life. Mary, however, entered the world sinless (known as the “Immaculate Conception”). She was born to be the mother of the Savior of the world, the spiritual mother of all men, and the holiest of God’s creatures. Mary is called the firstborn of the redeemed and her nativity is “the hope of the entire world and the dawn of salvation” (Pope Paul VI, *Marialis Cultus*). Mary’s birth is not recorded in scripture but is found in the *Protevangelium of James*, an apocryphal writing from the 2nd century. The liturgical celebration of this feast has a joyous theme of light: the world that had been shadowed in the darkness of sin sees a glimmer of light with the arrival of Mary. Through Mary comes Christ, the Light of the World. The Blessed Virgin has a pivotal role in the history of salvation, and she was given the highest mission ever commended to any creature. We rejoice that the Mother of God is our Mother, too. Today and every day, let us often call upon the Blessed Virgin as “Cause of our joy”, one of the most beautiful titles in her litany.

There are some wonderful traditions from around the world that are associated with Our Lady’s birthday. Since September 8th marks the end of summer and beginning of fall, this day has many thanksgiving celebrations attached to it.

Ideas for celebrating this feast day:

- Have a birthday party for Mama Mary! Have children decorate the house with leftover party supplies in honor of their heavenly mother. Blue is the fitting color for this feast day (it is symbolic of Mary’s blue mantle).
- Ask children to think of a birthday “gift” they can give to Mary: a prayer; an act of mercy; a small sacrifice; a virtue to work on; a handful of wildflowers to adorn a Marian statue; etc.
- Make a blue and white cupcake rosary (a “rosary” made out of cupcakes, mini cupcakes, or cookies. Sing “happy birthday” to Mary before enjoying this special dessert! A simple white cake symbolizing Mary’s purity is also perfect for this feast day.
- Eat “blue” foods, like blueberries, on this Marian feast day! Ideas: blueberry muffins or pancakes, blueberry pie, blueberry cobbler, or, simply, fresh blueberries.
- Consider purchasing a Marian statue for your home. Creating a Marian garden in your yard is another beautiful way to honor Our Lady.
- Learn and memorize prayers to Mary, such as: the Angelus, Litany of Loreto, Memorare, Hail Mary, and Hail Holy Queen.
- Learn a Marian hymn together as a family. Ideas: Regina Coeli, Ave Maria, Salve Regina, Immaculate Mary and Hail, Holy Queen.
- Read the papal encyclical *Redemptoris Mater* (*Mother of the Redeemer*) written by Saint John Paul II.
- **Pray a rosary – that’s the best way to say “happy birthday” to your heavenly mother!**

(sources: Excerpts from *The Holyday Book* by Fr. Francis Weiser,
catholicculture.org, catholiccuisine.blogspot.com)

Saint of the Day for September 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1 Saint Giles 	2 Blessed John Francis Burté and Companions	3 Saint Gregory the Great	4 Saint Rose of Viterbo	5 Saint Teresa of Calcutta 	6 Blessed Claudio Granzotto
7 Blessed Frédéric Ozanam	8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9 Saint Peter Claver	10 Saint Thomas of Villanova	11 Saint Cyprian 	12 Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary	13 Saint John Chrysostom
14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross	15 Our Lady of Sorrows 	16 Saint Cornelius	17 Saint Robert Bellarmine 	18 Saint Joseph of Cupertino	19 Saint Januarius	20 Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, and Companions
21 Saint Matthew	22 Saint Lorenzo Ruiz and Companions	23 Saint Pio of Pietrelcina	24 Saint John Henry Newman 	25 Saints Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin	26 Saint Paul VI 	27 Saint Vincent de Paul
28 Saint Wenceslaus	29 Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael	30 Saint Jerome				

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/calendar/>



Sophia Teachers 'Walking with Jesus' Series

For elementary students

The Liturgical Calendar is a powerful way of understanding the mystery of Jesus Christ.

So, the entirety of this series - every grade - is structured around the Liturgical Year.

Each session in *Walking with Jesus* contains four distinct parts. These parts help bring structure to the session and keep students engaged. The four parts loosely follow the principles of Lectio Divina, where we listen to, meditate on, and internalize God's word.



The four parts are called: Students hear Scripture proclaimed, within the context of an interactive activity.

Students engage with and personally respond to the Scripture just proclaimed.



Students apply what they have learned with an activity.

Students continue their learning at home with parent-led activities.



Our Young Families Class is a new program that welcomes young families and empowers them to



“raise their children confidently with Jesus.” The program connects parents with their peers and helps them learn from each other. The format is to have the children playing and learning in the same room with an aid while the parents watch a video and then have a discussion as a small faith sharing group. The material will be from Word on Fire, Ascension Press, Hallow, and Formed. Other materials will be used as the group evolves and sees an area for study.

They will meet on the same schedule as the student classes at the Grove City Campus on Sunday mornings. This class is open to all parents of 0 to 4-year-old children. Older children will join our other students in the classrooms.



In the coming months of this newsletter we will be highlighting a different vocation, be it married life, single life, priesthood, or consecrated life. Our vocations are following God's path for our lives.

For the younger children may I recommend a book called, So Many Ways To Be Holy, by Kristine Soley. "God calls you by name to serve Him with love. You're called to be holy, a saint pure and true; but I wonder what else He wants you to do?"

