



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 10, Issue 9

September 26, 2021

Dates to Remember

- Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - September 25:
4:00 PM Mass
 - September 26:
9:00 AM Mass
- September 27: Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul
- September 29: Memorial of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael
- September 30: Memorial St. Jerome
- October 1: Memorial of St. Therese of the Child Jesus
- October 2: Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels

Guardian Angels

*Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide.
Amen.*

Our Catholic doctrine and tradition teaches that each of us has a guardian angel to protect us and guide us in living a holy life.

Devotion to our guardian angels is based on our faith that God is with us always to protect us in his love and care.

The feast day of the Guardian Angels was established by Pope Paul V in 1608 and is celebrated on October 2.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

At that time, John said to Jesus,
"Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name,
and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."
Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him.

There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name
who can at the same time speak ill of me.

For whoever is not against us is for us.

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink

because you belong to Christ,

amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,
it would be better for him if a great millstone

were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter into life maimed
than with two hands to go into Gehenna,
into the unquenchable fire.

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter into life crippled
than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna.

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.

Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye

than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna,

where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Blessing of Animals

"All creatures great and small" are welcome to our
Blessing of Animals on **Saturday, October 2, at 11:00 AM.**

Join us as we honor the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of all animals. St. Francis is remembered for his great love of nature and all God's creatures and was affectionately known as "the friend of God and the brother of creation."

Learn more about the life of St. Francis of Assisi at:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/francis-of-assisi/>



Sunday Gospel Connection: September 26, 2021

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

Gospel Background: Today we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.



Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

Family Connection: The second part of today's Gospel contains a strong message for those who share the responsibility of fostering faith. It is indeed an awesome responsibility. Today's Gospel reminds us that faith is a lifelong journey toward God. We don't always get it all or even get it right. But we pray for the grace to acknowledge and build upon even the smallest signs of faith, in ourselves and in others. There are plenty of obstacles that might prevent the growth of faith. Let us pray that we are not contributing to the obstacles that might hinder another person's faith in Jesus.

As you gather as a family, observe that there are things in our lives that nurture our faith and things that can hinder it. Talk about some of the things that nurture our faith—healthy family relationships, healthy friendships, good literature, and so on. Name some of the things that might be an obstacle to faith—unhealthy relationships, scandals, and so on. Observe that Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that we are to do everything we can to help one another have faith in Jesus and do all that we can to avoid creating obstacles that might hinder another person's faith. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48. Conclude by praying together that we will be a family that helps each other grow in faith. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 19, or the Lord's Prayer.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/26h-sunday-in-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

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