



# The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

# Family Faith Focus

Volume 10, Issue 8

September 19, 2021

## Dates to Remember

- Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
  
September 18:  
4:00 PM Mass  
  
September 19:  
9:00 AM Mass
- September 20: Memorial of St. Andrew Kim & the Korean Martyrs
- September 21: Feast of St. Matthew
- September 23: Memorial St. Pius of Pietrelcina

## Food for Thought

"It is difficult to become a saint. Difficult, but not impossible. The road to perfection is long, as long as one's lifetime. Along the way, consolation becomes rest; but as soon as your strength is restored, you must diligently get up and resume the trip."  
—St. Pius of Pietrelcina

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, (1887-1968), known also as St. Padre Pio was an Italian priest whose fame grew after he received the stigmata, the wounds of Christ. He was also known for his piety and charity. Canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002, his feast day is September 23.

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Mark 9: 30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it.

He was teaching his disciples and telling them,

"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise."

But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house,

he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"

But they remained silent.

They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them,

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst,

and putting his arms around it, he said to them,

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me;

and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

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

## Catechetical Sunday — September 19, 2021

*"Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents."* (CCC 2226)



On this Catechetical Sunday, we recognize the important role of both parents and catechists in passing on the faith to the children in our Divine Savior Faith Community. In accordance with what the Church teaches in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), our Family Centered Faith Formation Program is built on the participation of our parents as partners in the catechetical formation of their children.

Our catechists, who are called and committed to sharing their faith with your children, work with you and support you in the role of catechizing or instructing your children in the pillars of our faith that we focus on throughout the year.

Most importantly, though, your children are formed in the life of Christ as you talk to them about our faith, as you teach them to pray, as you pray together as a family, and as you participate in the life of the Church by attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, and offering your service as committed members of our faith community.

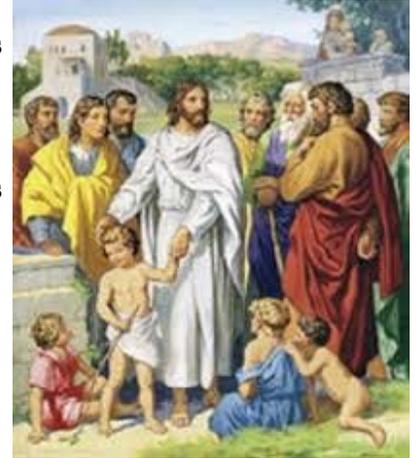
And so, we ask God's blessing on all of our parents and catechists. May you be strengthened by the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge in all you do to pass on the faith to the children in your care.

# Sunday Gospel Connection: September 19, 2021

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

### Mark 9:30-37

**Gospel Background:** In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus again predict his passion, death, and Resurrection to his disciples. The setting here is important. Jesus and his disciples are preparing to journey through Galilee, a Jewish territory in which Jesus has already encountered problems with the Pharisees. Perhaps this is why Mark indicates that Jesus was trying to journey in secret. In predicting his passion, Jesus is acknowledging the danger they will face and is trying to prepare his disciples for it. Yet Mark tells us that the disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying and were afraid to ask what he meant. Such hesitation on the part of the disciples is not characteristic behavior. Peter had no fear about rebuking Jesus in last week's Gospel. Perhaps this is an indication that the disciples were aware that a new situation was emerging.



Mark paints a vivid picture in today's Gospel. Having arrived at Capernaum, Jesus and his disciples enter a house. In this private place, Jesus asks his disciples about the argument they had while they were journeying. Again, the disciples are uncharacteristically silent and afraid to answer. They have been found out. Jesus then summons the Twelve, whom Mark identified earlier in his Gospel as those chosen by Jesus to preach and to drive out demons. To this select group of disciples, Jesus teaches that those who would be first in God's kingdom must be servants of all.

Jesus then calls forward a child and teaches the Twelve that to receive a child in Jesus' name is to receive both Jesus and the One who sent him. We might easily fail to understand the significance of this action. In first-century Palestine, children were without status or power, possessing no legal rights. In this action, Jesus is teaching his disciples and us that when we serve the least ones among us, we serve Jesus himself. Who are the people without power or status in our society that Jesus is calling us to serve? Do we do so willingly? Jesus teaches that God's judgment of us will be based on this criterion alone.

**Family Connection:** Conversations such as the one described in today's Gospel are common in family life. Perhaps these examples are familiar: "I should get the first piece of cake because I am the youngest;" "I did the dishes yesterday; someone else should do them today." How might we respond if Jesus asked about our family arguments? What would Jesus say to us in reply? All of us need the reminder found in today's Gospel: To be great in God's Kingdom is to be the servant of all.

As you gather as a family, recall a recent family argument about household chores or an example of bickering among family members. Talk about what was at issue in the argument. Together imagine that Jesus entered the room just as the argument ended. What would you tell Jesus your argument was about? What might Jesus say in reply? Read together today's Gospel, Mark 9:30-37. How was your family argument like the argument among Jesus' disciples? What might your family do to remember that those who are great in God's kingdom are those who willingly serve others? Pray together that your family life will reflect your commitment to serve one another with love. Pray Saint Ignatius of Loyola's [Prayer for Generosity](#).

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/25th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

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