

[Jesus said,] “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”

MARK 9:35

## Learning How to Die Well

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**K**arl Rahner was a German Jesuit priest and a leading theologian of the twentieth century. He once observed that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well. On first hearing this, we may be much like the disciples who didn’t understand Jesus when he spoke of his own need to enter death (see Mark 9:31–32).

How do we learn to “die well”? If we forgo the need to always have our own way, if we forgive and resist the impulse to get revenge, if we are sensitive to the needs of others even when it’s inconvenient, if we care for the child among us, whether that “little one” be five, forty-five, or eighty-five—if we practice a willingness to die in such ways, then when it comes time for us to make that final journey of our earthly lives, it will not be as frightening because we will have been there before.

Furthermore, if we learn how to die well, our lives will take on new meaning. The focus of our lives will not be on ourselves, but on others and their needs. We will find ourselves less disappointed when life doesn’t go our way. Blue moods will evaporate more readily. We will have a greater interest in daily life. In other words, the very aspects that once seemed to drag us down will become doorways to hope and renewed life. What once seemed to have been a kind of death will become an avenue to faith in the resurrection. ●

### Reflect

*Have you ever “died to yourself” and then experienced a resurrection?*

# Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

**Rev. William Pifher**

419-446-9288



## Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.  
Fayette, OH 43521

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

#### **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Ron Eisel  
Pat Eisel  
Ray Hollstein  
Mike Burkholder  
Traci Maginn  
Barbara Roby

#### **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Barb Bruggeman  
Terry Kovar  
Joanna Marry

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



## OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429  
Fayette, OH 43521

**Phone:** 419-237-2441

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday

### PARISH STAFF

**Secretary:** Sherry Renner

[OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

#### **Bookkeeper**

Tami Baker

[OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

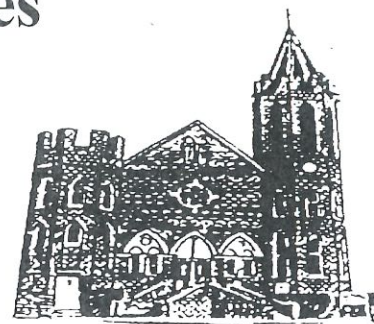
#### **CRE**

Mary Bird

[OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

**Website (bulletin online)**

[stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy](http://stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy)



## St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.  
Archbold, OH 43502

### MASS SCHEDULE

1st Saturday of month 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m.

#### **Parish Secretary**

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150  
[email-stpeter@rtceexpress.net](mailto:email-stpeter@rtceexpress.net)

#### **Religious Ed**

Deb Herring

#### **Parish Council President**

Stephen Bernath

### SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions **starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.**
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA :** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon.** Please either call, email at [OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com) or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

## 25<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sept. 29, 2024 – after Mass 1<sup>st</sup> Religious Education Class  
Oct. 6 & 20 – class at Home - Oct. 13 & 27 class after Mass

### OUR LADY OF MERCY FEAST & FESTIVAL

#### **TODAY IS THE DAY!!!**

Beginning with a Special Mass, then head to the basement for a morning of fun, fellowship & food.

### PERPETUATE THE GIFT WEEKEND

In the pews are contribution envelopes for Perpetuate the Gift, for support of the Toledo Diocesan retired Priest.

### WELCOME FALL

Welcome 1<sup>st</sup> day of Fall. May God Bless all farmers with a bountiful harvest this season.



### **THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly**

“I have never succeeded when I have spoken with the faintest suspicion of hardness. One must be ever on one’s guard not to embitter the heart, if one wishes to move the mind.” - St. Vincent de Paul

### DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 1

584 When you reflect upon what I tell you in the depths of your heart, you profit more than if you had read many books. Oh, if souls would only want to listen to My voice when I am speaking in the depths of their hearts, they would reach the peak of holiness in a short time.

### ST. PETER NEWS

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

*Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.*

### FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---Oct. 16 – Fayette Community dinner 5 -6 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy Altar Rosary is hosting this month

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to [OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at [vanzilein@hotmail.com](mailto:vanzilein@hotmail.com) or call Pat Eisel at 419-737-2163.

Privacy Issues for Parish Office:  
**IMMEDIATE FAMILY** – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.

## Our Lady of Mercy (Our Lady of Ransom) Feast Day

(from catholic365.com)

September 24th marks the feast day of Our Lady of Mercy or Our Lady of Ransom.

This Feast commemorates the foundation of the Mercedarian Order and the apparition of Our Lady of Ransom. In this appearance, she carried two bags of coins for use in ransoming Christians imprisoned by Moors.

On 10 August 1218, the Mercedarian Order was legally constituted in Barcelona, Spain by King James of Aragon, and was approved by Pope Gregory IX on 17 January 1235. The Order of Mercy, also known as the Mercedarians, chief tasks included gathering alms for ransom, guarding the coasts against captors, and even giving themselves up in exchange for the release of others or dying for a Catholic in danger of losing his faith. Indeed, their Fourth vow in their Constitution – after poverty, chastity, and obedience – stated that Mercedarians were “to visit and to free Christians who are in captivity and in the power of the Saracens or of other enemies of our Law... By this work of mercy... all the brothers of this Order, as sons of true obedience, must always be gladly disposed to give up their lives, if it is necessary, as Jesus Christ gave up His for us”

The Mercedarians celebrated their institution on the Sunday nearest to 1 August because it was on 1 August 1218 that the Blessed Virgin showed Saint Peter Nolasco the white habit of the Order.

This custom was approved by the Congregation of Rites on 4 April 1615. On 22 February 1696, it was extended to the entire Latin Church, and the date changed to 24 September.

The fruits of sanctity from these acts of charity can be seen in the numerous documented martyrs from the Order of Mercy. Additionally, the Order can claim six Saints and one Blessed among its canon.

We can beseech Our Lady of Ransom today to aid the suffering of those still in captivity in other lands, as well as interceding for the end of slavery in the world in all forms – including the slavery of sin.

O God, who by means of the most glorious Mother of Thy Son was pleased to give new children to Thy Church for the deliverance of Christ's faithful from the power of the heathen; grant, we beseech Thee, that we who love and honor her as the foundress of so great a work may by her merits and intercession, be ourselves delivered from all sin and from the bondage of the evil one. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The scapular is white, and the front has a picture of Our Lady of Mercy. The back has a symbol representing the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The indulgences for the confraternity were approved by the Congregation for Indulgences in 1868. After the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the indulgences attached to the scapular were renewed by the Apostolic Penitentiary in 1967 [5] and include a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions (i.e. the person must exclude all attachment to the sin of any kind, even venial sin, must perform the work or say the prayer for which the indulgence is granted, and must also fulfill the three conditions of sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion and praying for the intentions of the Pope on the day of enrollment and the following Mercedarian feasts: St. Peter Armengol (April 27), St. Peter Nolasco (May 6), St. Raymond Nonnatus (August 31), St. Mary de Cervellione (September 19), Our Lady of Mercy (September 24), St. Serapion (November 14), and St. Peter Pascual (December 6).



# Saints of the Day

([www.morningoffering.com](http://www.morningoffering.com))

Week of Sept. 22-Sept. 28

**Sunday, Sept. 22 - St. Ignatius of Santhia** - St. Ignatius of Santhia (1686-1770) was born in Italy to an upper-class family. He received his early education from a devout priest, a relative of his mother, who inspired him to join the priesthood. He studied philosophy and theology, and after his ordination served as a diocesan priest for six years. St. Ignatius earned a reputation as an excellent preacher of retreats and missions, and he had a promising future within the diocese. His family and parishioners were surprised and disappointed when he decided to join the Capuchin Franciscans in Turin as a poor, humble friar. However, St. Ignatius flourished in the poverty and simplicity of the Franciscan way of life. He became well-known for his wisdom and sanctity, and many people from all walks of life came to him for confession and spiritual direction. He had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and prayed the rosary faithfully. He served God with humble obedience and inspired this virtue in the Franciscan novices over whom he had charge. He spent his last years on a sickbed where he continued to hear confessions and give direction to his visitors. St. Ignatius of Santhia's feast day is September 22nd.

**Monday, Sept. 23- St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina** - St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968) was born to peasant farmers in southern Italy. By the time he was 5 years old he practiced a life of penance and made the decision to give himself completely to God. He grew up working in the fields, and at the age of 19 joined the Capuchin Franciscan friars. His Franciscan spirituality was characterized by a life of poverty, love of nature, and charity to those in need, especially to those who were his "spiritual children." St. Padre Pio had many spiritual gifts and was a great miracle-worker. These were well-documented from multiple reliable sources and included bilocation, levitation, reading souls, and physical healing by touch. Word of his holiness spread and people both pious and curious flocked to see him, especially to have him hear their confession. He is the first priest known to have received the stigmata, for which he suffered suspicion and investigation. Because of the unusual supernatural phenomena surrounding his life, he is considered one of the great visionaries and mystics of the Church. Padre Pio died in 1968 at the age of 81. He was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in 2002. Because of the many miracles he performed during his life, he is commonly invoked as a healing saint for various ailments. His feast day is September 23rd.

**Tuesday, Sept. 24- St. Gerard Sagredo** - St. Gerard Sagredo (980-1046 A.D.) was born in Venice, Italy. From an early age he desired to dedicate his life to God, and as a young man became a Benedictine monk. He first served as abbot at a monastery in Venice, but left to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. While passing through Hungary he met the Hungarian king, St. Stephen, who asked him to stay in his country to evangelize and minister to his people. St. Gerard agreed, and was named Bishop of Csanád and the royal tutor of the Hungarian prince. He ministered tirelessly among the Hungarian people and helped to convert the whole country to Christianity, for which he is called the "Apostle of Hungary." After the death of King St. Stephen there was a pagan uprising against the Christians, and St. Gerard was martyred for the faith along with two others. His death took place on a hill in Budapest which is now named after him; according to one tradition he was placed in a barrel lined with spikes, and rolled down the hill. He was declared a saint in 1083 by Pope St. Gregory VII. St. Gerard Sagredo is the patron saint of Hungary, and his feast day is September 24th.

**Wednesday, Sept. 25- St. Cleophas** - St. Cleophas (1st c.) was one of Jesus' seventy disciples, and one of the two disciples who were traveling along the road to Emmaus after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus in Jerusalem, as recounted in Luke's Gospel. The resurrected Jesus appeared and walked along the road with St. Cleophas and his companion, explaining the events of his Passion and how they fulfilled the Holy Scriptures. According to one tradition, Cleophas (also known as Alphaeus), was a relative of Jesus; he was the brother of St. Joseph, and therefore was Jesus' uncle. Cleophas was the husband of St. Mary of Cleophas, and they had three sons we know by name: St. Simon, St. James the Less, and St. Jude. St. Cleophas, through his daughter Mary Salome, was also grandfather to St. James the Greater and St. John. Therefore three of his sons and two of his grandsons were among the Twelve Apostles. According to tradition, St. Cleophas was martyred by the Jewish authorities in the same home in which he received Jesus as a guest. His feast day is September 25th.

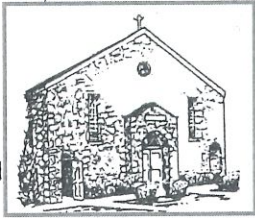
**Thursday, Sept. 26 - Sts. Cosmas & Damian** - Sts. Cosmas and Damian (d. 287 A.D.) were twin brothers born in Arabia. They both became skilled physicians who practiced in Asia Minor. They took no money for their medical services, for which they were well-respected. Because of their charity they drew many to the Catholic faith. During the Christian persecution under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, Cosmas and Damian were targeted, arrested, and tortured. After being miraculously preserved from injury throughout their cruel tortures, holding firm in their faith to the end, they were finally killed by beheading. They were martyred together with their three brothers. Their remains were buried in Syria and many miracles were attributed to them. In gratitude for the healing he received through the intercession of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Roman Emperor Justinian I (6th c.) restored a church dedicated to their honor in Constantinople, which became a place of pilgrimage.

**(Sts. Cosmas & Damian – cont.)**

Sts. Cosmas and Damian are regarded as the patron saints of physicians, surgeons, and pharmacists. They are mentioned by name in the Roman Canon of the Mass, and share a feast day on September 26th.

**Friday, Sept. 27 – St. Vincent de Paul** - St. Vincent de Paul (1581–1660) was born in France to a peasant farming family. As a child he grew up herding sheep, and showed such an aptitude for his studies that his father sold the family oxen to fund his seminary education. After his ordination in 1600, St. Vincent worked in Toulouse as a tutor to pay for his doctorate. In 1605, while traveling by sea, he was captured by Turkish pirates. He was taken to Tunis in Africa and sold into slavery four times before escaping in 1607 along with his master, whom he had converted to the faith. St. Vincent then continued his studies in Rome, and afterwards returned to France. He served as a parish priest and ministered to the nobility; however, two life-changing encounters with destitute people inspired him to begin work among the poor and marginalized. He gathered the wealthy women of his parish to collect funds for missionary projects. From this group came the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. He also founded an Order of priests, the Vincentians, who, during a time of general laxity and ignorance among the clergy, devoted themselves to the Evangelical Councils while serving in small towns and villages. He committed himself to the education of priests and conducted many retreats for their spiritual formation. He also ministered to convicts suffering deplorable conditions in prison, and won many to the faith in addition to building them a hospital. St. Vincent renewed the faith of France during a time of spiritual crisis. For this he was named the patron of charitable works. He is also the patron of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, an organization dedicated to the service of the poor, now working in 132 countries. His feast day is September 27th.

**Saturday, Sept. 28 – St. Wenceslaus** - St. Wenceslaus (907–935 A.D.) was the son of the Duke of Bohemia. His grandfather was converted to Christianity by the missionaries Sts. Cyril and Methodius. His mother, Dragomir, was the daughter of a pagan tribal chief who was baptized at her marriage. After the death of his father, Wenceslaus received a Christian upbringing from his grandmother, St. Ludmila, while his mother reverted to her pagan ways. Dragomir reigned as regent, had St. Ludmila killed, and worked to oppose the spread of Christianity in Bohemia. When St. Wenceslaus was 18 he took control of the government and exiled his mother. St. Wenceslaus was described as a pious, humble, and intelligent ruler who worked to establish Christianity in the land that would become part of the Holy Roman Empire. He was known for his vow of virginity, his many virtues, and his life of prayer and good works. After a political dispute arose, his mother and his younger brother, called Boleslaus the Cruel, plotted his murder along with a group of disaffected nobles. Boleslaus invited his brother to celebrate the feast of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, and arranged to have him assassinated on his way to Mass. St. Wenceslaus muttered words of forgiveness as he died, and his body was buried at the murder site. His brother succeeded him as Duke of Bohemia. Three years later Boleslaus repented of his crime, and had his brother's remains transferred to the Church of St. Vitus in Prague. Wenceslaus was considered a saint by the people at the time of his death. His feast day is September 28th.



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

## THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. Sept. 22	8:00a.m.	OLM	Joy Short Giovanni Stella
	10:30a.m.	SP	Frank O & Mary Smith Cathy Warner
Tues. Sept. 24	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Sept. 25	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Sept. 26	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Sept. 27	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Sept. 28	4:30p.m.	SP	Gina Damman
Sun. Sept. 29	8:30a.m.	OLM	For the People
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Religious Ed. Dates  
Sept. 29 – Rel. Ed. Kick Off after Mass
- Sept. 22 - Our Lady of Mercy Festival begins after Mass
- Sept. 24 – Our Lady of Mercy Feast Day
- Oct. 13 & 27– Religious Ed. After Mass
- Oct. 6 & 20 – Religious Ed. at Home

## SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT Reported for September 15, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (11 envelopes)	\$ 696.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 56.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,747.00</b>
Over / (Under)	(\$ 995.00)
<b>OTHER COLLECTION</b>	
Maintenance	\$ 500.00
Silent Festival	\$ 850.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 20.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday &amp; Other)</b>	<b>\$ 2,122.00</b>

## NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	September 29, 2024
Greeters/Gifts	Ron & Pat Eisel
Reader	Pat Eisel
Servers	Kennedy Kunkle Evan Beauregard
Ushers	Dennis & Denise Miller
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Ron Baker Dennis Miller Barb Bruggeman

**Word(s) of the week** (from The America College Dictionary)

ENVY – desire for some advantage possessed by another

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.

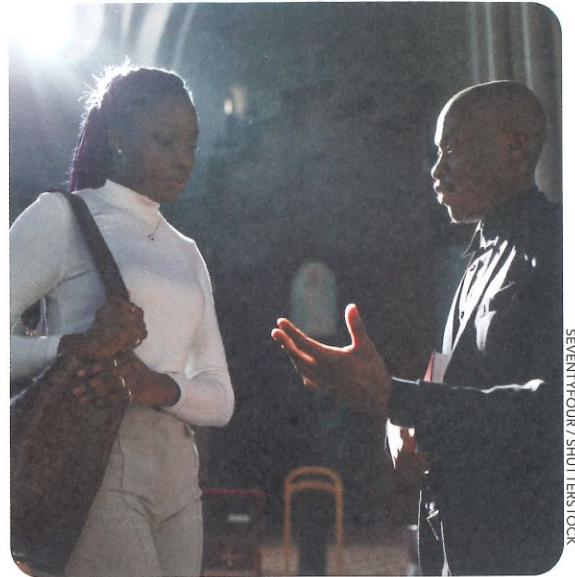
Mark 9:33-34

# Dear Padre,

## What is spiritual direction? How does it differ from counseling?

In spiritual direction, a person is guided in a process of reflection, self-discovery, and recognition of God's presence in human experience; the primary focus is on one's relationship with God. Thus, in one sense, it is the Lord himself who is the "director" in all spiritual direction. In counseling, a person is also guided in a process of reflection and self-discovery; but the primary focus is on human growth and development. Counseling does not presuppose a person's faith or relationship with God; spiritual direction cannot be complete without it. Both spiritual direction and counseling share the same expectations of openness and honesty in the process; they share the same standards of confidentiality and professional conduct. Moreover, spiritual direction is similar to counseling in its aim toward human growth and development, but it further aims toward holiness and "toward ever more intimate union with Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2014). That union is twofold: a personal relationship with Christ and with Christ's Church. "This union is called 'mystical' because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments" (CCC 2014). "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. All are called to holiness: 'Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect'" (CCC 2013). ●

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org**



### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: they are measured by service. Not on what someone has, but on what someone gives. Do you want to be first? Serve.... [Service] has a precise and concrete meaning in the Gospel. To serve is not a courteous expression: it means to act like Jesus.**

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

#### Monday

September 23  
*St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest*  
Prv 3:27-34  
Lk 8:16-18

#### Tuesday

September 24  
*Weekday*  
Prv 21:1-6, 10-13  
Lk 8:19-21

#### Wednesday

September 25  
*Weekday*  
Prv 30:5-9  
Lk 9:1-6

#### Thursday

September 26  
*Weekday*  
Eccl 1:2-11  
Lk 9:7-9

#### Friday

September 27  
*St. Vincent de Paul, Priest*  
Eccl 3:1-11  
Lk 9:18-22

#### Saturday

September 28  
*Weekday*  
Eccl 11:9-12:8  
Lk 9:43b-45

#### Sunday

September 29  
*Twenty-sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*  
Nm 11:25-29  
Jas 5:1-6  
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48