

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026, through September 13, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Sanctity of the One Flesh Union—In the Fifth Commandment, God protects His gift of life and the sanctity of human life. In the Sixth Commandment God teaches us that this gift of life is brought into this world through the sanctity of the one flesh union in marriage. The sexual union is both a physical and a spiritual union. When a husband and wife come together in the physical intimacy of sexual intercourse, they are not just “having sex”; each is actually giving his or her very self to the other as an act of self-less love for the comfort and strengthening of the other. This means that love in marriage moves out of the self to give of itself to the beloved. The question of the lover is not “what am I going to get out of this?” but “what am I going to give to the one I love?” In marriage, there is no greater gift than to give oneself to his spouse. This bond is so profound, intimate, and sacred that it is called “one flesh.” The Church should not only condemn the self-centered sins of fornication and adultery against the Sixth Commandment but should also hold up the wonderful gift of human sexuality and how God intends it for the giving and receiving of marital love. This is why the Catechism itself speaks in positive language about the Sixth Commandment: “We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.”

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: If Your Brother Turns Away from Christ, Restore Him in the Lord!

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Mark 10:7b, 8, 9

“A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”;
so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.

Psalms 32:1-7 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 32: Most merciful God and Father, you forgive our transgressions and cover our sin with forgiveness, declaring us righteous for Jesus’ sake. Grant us a truly broken and contrite heart that we might truthfully confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and be restored to the joy and gladness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78
Evening	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom?—Matthew 18:1-20	
Monday	Labor Day: Warning Against Idleness—2 Thessalonians 3:1-15	Ephesians 6:5-9
Tuesday	The Burnt Offering—Leviticus 1:1-17	Hebrews 6:1-12
Wednesday	The Sin Offering—Leviticus (4:1-2) 5:1-10 (11-13)	Hebrews 6:13-20
Thursday	The Restitution Offering—Leviticus 5:(14-16) 17—6:7	Hebrews 7:1-10
Friday	The Ministry of the Priests Begins—Leviticus 9:1-16, 22-24	Hebrews 7:11-19
Saturday	Joseph Forgives His Brothers—Genesis 50:15-21	Romans 14:1-12

The Catechism: Ten Commandments—Fifth and Sixth Commandments

What is the Fifth Commandment? You shall not murder.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.	First Grade +
What is the Sixth Commandment? You shall not commit adultery.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.	Second Grade +

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work
Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins
Wednesday: For marriage and family
Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord’s Supper
Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed
Saturday: For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Military service members: Morgan Thoni (Navy); Katelyn Wittenburg (granddaughter of George and Sue Kaminski) and Evon Ingraham (Army National Guard); David Uttenreither and Christian McMiller (Army); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Cassie Villalpando (Air National Guard).

First Communion: Cassie Villalpando who received First Communion this past Wednesday before her deployment.

Baptismal anniversaries: Faith Daleiden (9/6); Jake Aidich (9/7); Scott Perry, Brenda Post (9/10); Erin Webster (9/11); Alex Scheler, Joey Schneider (9/12).

Wedding anniversaries: Mark and Melody Ruhbusch (9/6); Jeffrey and Amanda DiPuma, Mark and Cheryl Gretzinger (9/12).

The sick: Rueben Roe recovering from knee-replacement surgery; John Lehman and Jodi Winn in rehab.

In cancer treatment: Heide Schaff undergoing surgery for breast cancer on Sept 17; Art Klausmeier (Mark Goltermann’s cousin) who has exhausted treatment options; Barbara Galis (Nick Galis’ grandmother) undergoing chemotherapy; Bob Rothe, Michael Piper (Bob Piper’s brother), Michael Gehl (friend of the Bruss family), Mary O’Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothe family), Loretta Lampen, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Robin Ruhbusch (sister-in-law to Mark and Melody Ruhbusch).

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

740

Looking forward to the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19A)

September 13, 2026

Hymns: 760, 758, 750, 766, 623, 747

Genesis 50:15-21: Joseph’s brothers were convinced that Joseph would finally take revenge upon them after the death of their father Jacob. Instead, Joseph, whose heart was captured by God’s forgiveness, completely let go of their sins and the desire for retribution and forgave them freely. “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Romans 14:1-12: God’s forgiveness gives true freedom to our lives: “For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” In this epistle, Paul addresses different customs within the Church at Rome regarding diet and the observation of certain days and other customs. A Church made up of both Jews and Gentiles is likely to have many different traditions and customs within her members. Those activities which are sinful according to God’s Word are certainly to be avoided. But those customs of food, drink and ceremonial observances cannot be allowed to bind consciences. We are free in the Lord to observe certain customs, but no one should ever be given the impression that such customs merit God’s grace or earn forgiveness. Paul encourages the Roman Church that decisions regarding food, drink, and holy days in the Church ought to be governed by love and concern for others. The focus of all our worship must be faith and reliance upon Christ alone.

Matthew 18:21-35: Peter’s question, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?” arose out of Jesus’ teaching concerning the impenitent brother. Peter rightly understood that Jesus was instructing his disciples that they were called to forgive their fellow sinners. He also understood that the reason an erring brother is confronted is not to punish him or make sure he pays for his sins, but rather “to win” him back to repentance and true faith. In short, the only purpose in confronting the erring brother is to save him. But Peter, like all of us, reasons that there must surely be a limit to this forgiveness. “Shall I forgive him up to seven times?” “No,” says Jesus, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” Jesus is really saying: “There is no limit to how often God’s forgiveness is to be given to the repentant sinner.” Forgiving sin is what God does. Jesus then tells the parable of the Unforgiving Servant to warn us all about the danger of refusing to forgive. To refuse to forgive is a denial of Christ and what is at the heart of the Christian faith: the forgiveness of sins as a gift of God’s grace.