

# 9-WEEK FLECTIONS

#### JULY 2 - AUGUST 27

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Welcome

As part of Eucharistic Revival efforts, the local Prayer Team is concentrating on creating awareness and deepening understanding of the True Presence of Christ, especially at Mass. Church teaching on the sacrament of the Eucharist is anchored in Scripture. "The liturgy of the Word and liturgy of the Eucharist together form 'one single act of worship;' the Eucharistic table set for us is the table both of the Word of God and the Body of the Lord" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1346).

This guide seeks to encourage Mass-goers to be more intentional at encountering Christ at the Eucharistic table. It includes Gospel readings and reflection questions for each of nine Sundays from July 2 through August 27, leading up to the "Becoming Eucharist" Eucharistic Congress Sept. 7-9. Visit stcdio.org/eucharistic-revival/ for more information.

The nine Gospel readings and questions in this booklet are for printing and using at the weekend liturgy. Parishes can print and make them available before each Mass or distribute them as booklets and encourage their use during or after Mass for a deeper understanding of the Gospel message. The questions may also be printed in the weekly parish bulletins.

Reflection Guide

Please print the Sunday Gospel reading and bring it with you to Mass each weekend. As the Gospel is proclaimed, you may read along or just listen.

There are two questions following each week's Gospel. Take time during Mass to reflect on the Gospel, what you heard and may be feeling. You can reflect on the questions and respond to them during Mass or take them home with you and write your reflections after some meditation time.

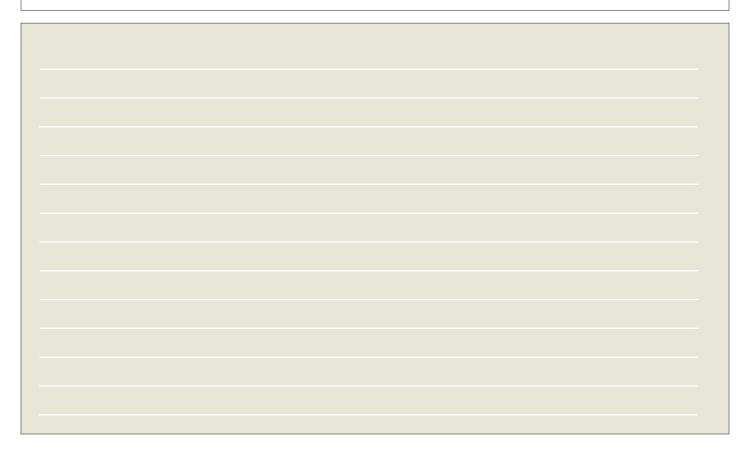
Once again, this is just a short moment of time for each of us to be more intentional at encountering Christ in the Eucharist through the Gospel.



Gospel Mt. 10:37-42 Jesus said to his apostles: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man

will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple– amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

#### Q1.' What do you love about Mass?



# Q2. What does the bolded line from the Gospel reading mean to you?





Gospel

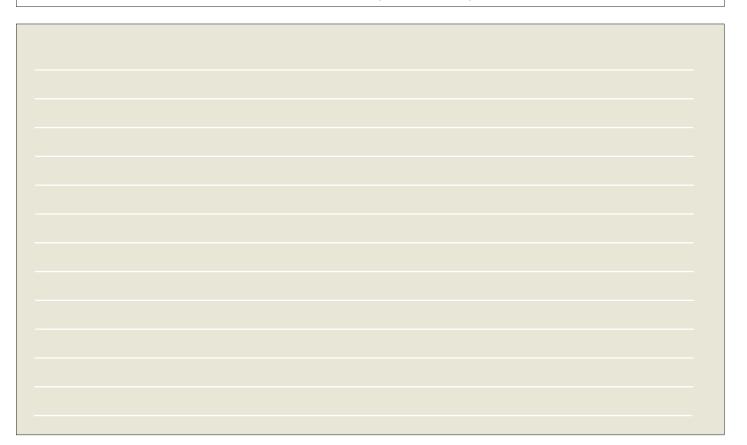
Mt. 11:25-30

At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

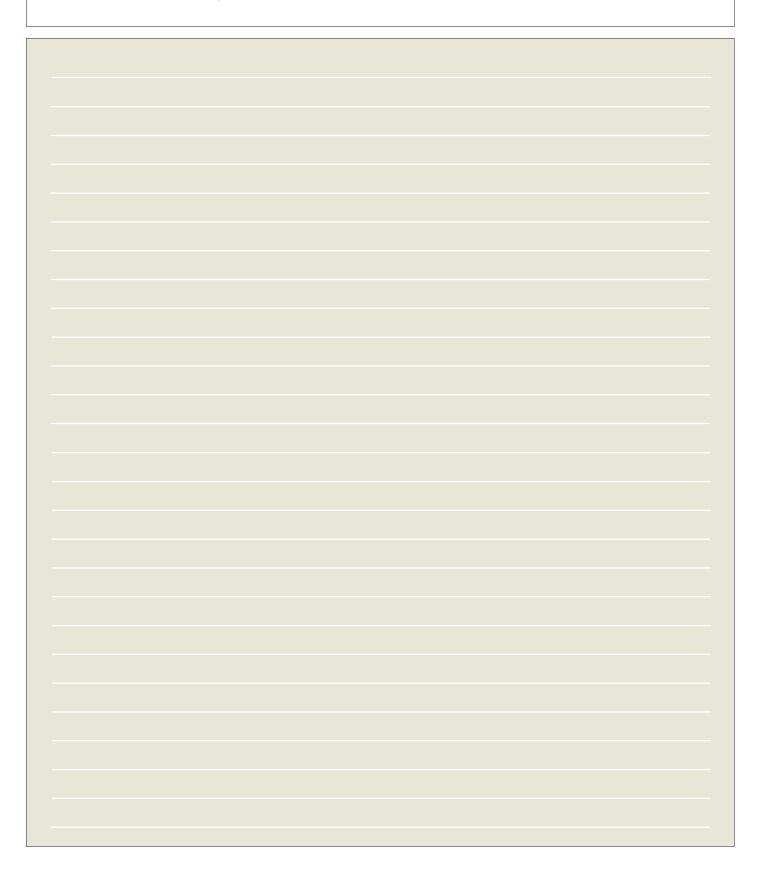
#### "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

## Q1: What feelings does Mass evoke in you? Is it always the same each time? Why or why not?



# Q2. What does the bolded line from the Gospel reading mean to you?



Gospel On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: You shall indeed hear but not understand, vou shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted. and I heal them. "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. "Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away

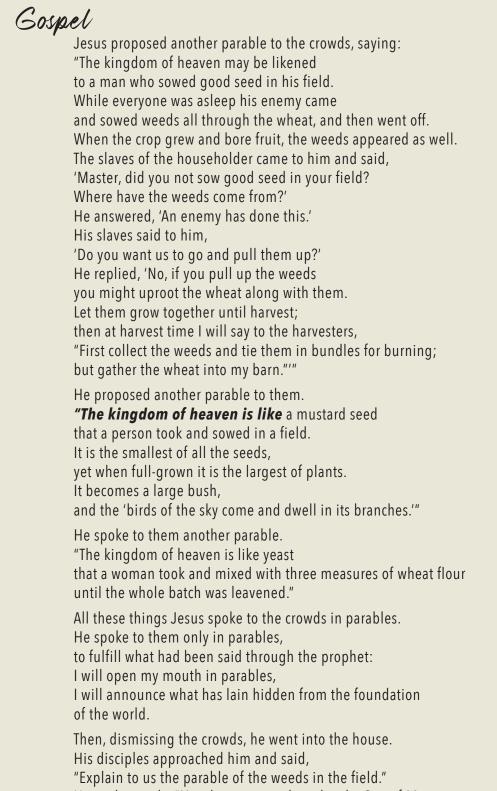
Mt. 13:1-23

what was sown in his heart.
The seed sown on rocky ground
is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy.
But he has no root and lasts only for a time.
When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.
The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.
But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the.

who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.

Q1: Are there ways in which your eyes could be renewed through the Eucharist to see another as Christ?

## Q2. What does the bolded line from the Gospel reading mean to you?



He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man,

the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.

The weeds are the children of the evil one,

and the enemy who sows them is the devil.

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

Mt. 13:24-43

Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

#### Q1:

#### You are an awesome kingdom builder. How have you built the kingdom of God?

## Q2.' How do you see the "kingdom of heaven"? What is the "kingdom of heaven" like?



Gospel

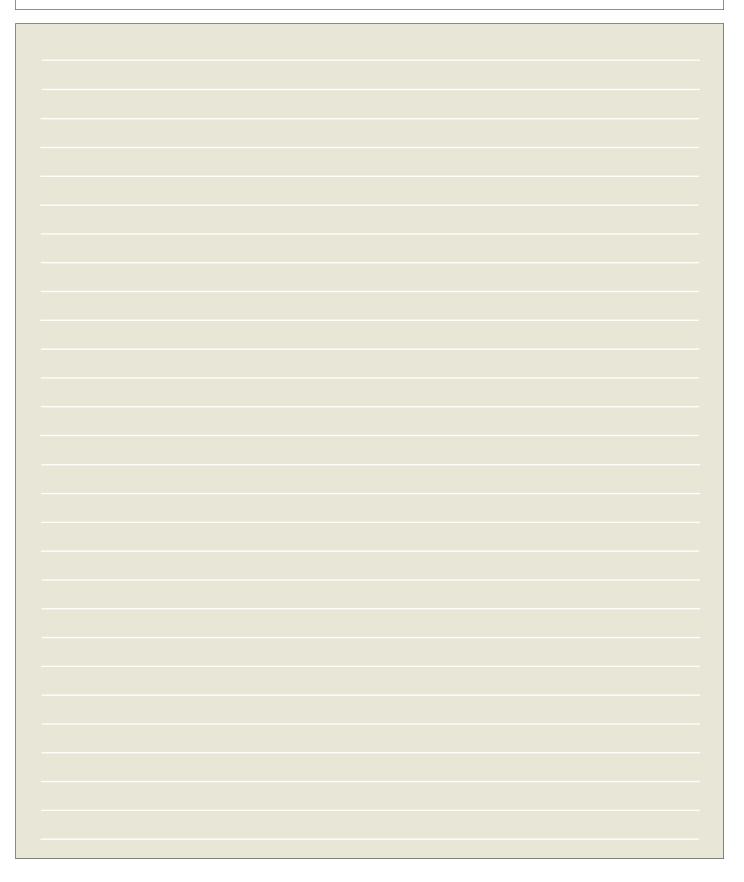
Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household

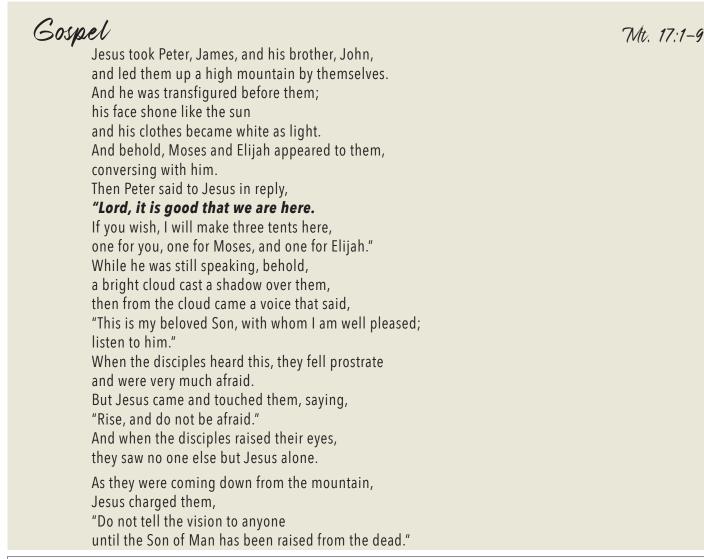
Mt. 13:44-52

who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

## Q1. As a kingdom builder, how do you see the "kingdom of heaven" in the Gospel and relating to your life?

# Q2. How do you see the kingdom of heaven? "The kingdom of heaven is..."





## Q1. How have my eyes been opened to Christ in the Scriptures?

## Q2: What does the bolded line from the Gospel reading mean to you?

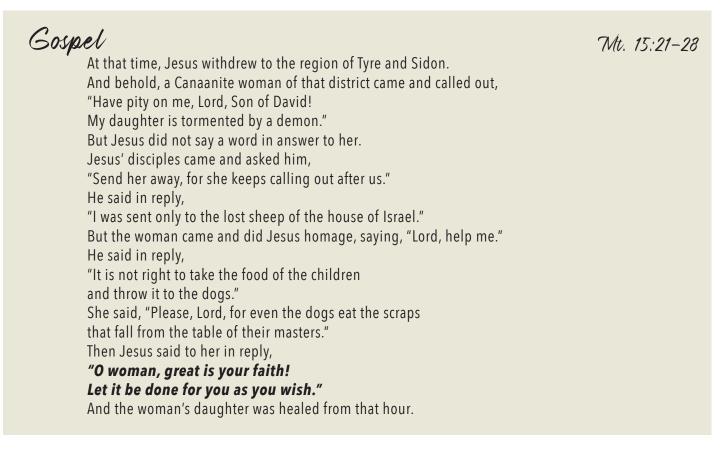


	<ul> <li>After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.</li> <li>After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.</li> <li>When it was evening he was there alone.</li> <li>Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea.</li> <li>When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified.</li> <li>"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.</li> <li>At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is 1; do not be afraid."</li> <li>Peter said to him in reply,</li> <li>"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."</li> <li>He said, "Come."</li> <li>Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.</li> <li>But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"</li> <li>Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"</li> <li>After they got into the boat, the wind died down.</li> <li>Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."</li> </ul>	Mt.	14:22-33
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## Q1: What does the first bolded line from the Gospel reading mean to you?

Q2: Do I have enough "faith" to get out of the boat to walk toward Jesus, like Peter in the second bolded line? What might be holding me or others back? What is Christ asking of me?





## Q1. Have you ever prayed and asked God over and over for the same need?

#### Q2. Was it answered? What was His answer?



Gospel Mt. 16:13-20 Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

# Q1. Christ comes to us in Sacred Scripture and prepares us to receive him in the Eucharist. How do you see Christ speaking to you?

Q2: In today's Gospel: Jesus says, "Who do you say I am?" Have these nine weeks of reflection been a time of renewal for me? If so, in what way(s)?



