

LIVING FAITH

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said,

“If another member of the church sins against you,
go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.
If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.
But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you,
so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church;
and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church,
let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector.
Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask,
it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.
For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks to every one of us who has ever asked the question, “What do I do when things don’t go right” What do I do when somebody causes hurt and division in my life, in my family, in my community, in my Church family?

Correcting others when they go astray or hurt us is never easy, and we seem to have lost some of our skills for dealing charitably with those who disagree with us. Many times, we prefer to surround ourselves with those who think like us, and not deal with those who think or act differently. Even when the gospels were written, confronting another person was understood to be a complex operation that needs to be done with good planning, charity and love to achieve its aims. Today, Jesus reminds us that we are responsible for each other, and that building a strong community may involve some confrontation. And, Jesus reminds us that we have resources available when things don’t go right. We are not alone.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS



- Have you ever found yourself being tempted to deal with only those who think like you?
- How have you dealt with confrontation or disagreements?
- How has your Christian community dealt with disagreements?

When Someone Hurts You

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. Matthew 18:15a (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	L	K	U	O	M	C	I	T	Q	A	B	X	R	W	G	J	S	F	D	V	H	Y	P	N	Z

- 12-5-4-25-20 _____
- 19-11-4-2-9 _____
- 18-8-25-18 _____
- 12-14-5-9-22-1-14 _____
- 22-1-11-21-1-25 _____
- 25-11-6-1 _____
- 2-5-5-18-1-20 _____
- 2-8-18-9-1-25 _____
- 1-11-14-9-22 _____
- 9-5-16-1-9-22-1-14 _____

NAME	LOOSED	SINS	EARTH	TOGETHER
HEAVEN	LISTEN	BOUND	FAULT	BROTHER

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THE CHURCH TEACHES



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

SEASON OF CREATION 2026 INTERCESSORY PRAYERS LIVING WATER

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world, our common home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our local community: that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made. Lord, in your mercy...

THE CHURCH TEACHES

LABOUR DAY

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LABOUR?

Catholic Social Teaching holds that work is dignified and an intrinsic good, and workers must always be respected and valued.



Jesus became “like us in all things, devoted most of the years of his life on earth to manual work at the carpenters bench” St John Paul II – *Laborem Exercens, On Human Work*

[The state] “has also the duty to protect the rights of all its people, and particularly of its weaker members, the workers, women and children. It can never be right for the State to shirk its obligation of working actively for the betterment of the condition of the workingman.”
John XXIII – *Mater et Magistra*

A New School Year!

This month, many students and teachers are headed back to school. Pray these prayers from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers on your own or with your family as students and teachers begin a new school year.

God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Students

Lord our God,
in your wisdom and love
you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.
Send your spirit upon these students
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.
Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you,
the source of all knowledge.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Teachers

Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us in your ways.
Look upon these teachers.
Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to
eager minds.
Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life, forever and ever.
Amen.