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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 2026



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 1, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Monday, June 1st, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Peter 1:2-7

2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of our Lord.

3 By his divine power, he has lavished on us all the things we need for life and for true devotion, through the knowledge of him who has called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these, the greatest and priceless promises have been lavished on us, that through them you should share the divine nature and escape the corruption rife in the world through disordered passion.

5 With this in view, do your utmost to support your faith with goodness, goodness with understanding,

6 understanding with self-control, self-control with perseverance, perseverance with devotion,

7 devotion with kindness to the brothers, and kindness to the brothers with love.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 91:1-2, 14-15, 15-16

1 You who live in the secret place of Elyon, spend your nights in the shelter of Shaddai,

2 saying to Yahweh, 'My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust!'

14 'Since he clings to me I rescue him, I raise him high, since he acknowledges my name.

15 He calls to me and I answer him: in distress I am at his side, I rescue him and bring him honour.

16 I shall satisfy him with long life, and grant him to see my salvation.'

### Gospel, Mark 12:1-12

1 He went on to speak to them in parables, 'A man planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug out a trough for the winepress and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad.

2 When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard.



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3 But they seized the man, thrashed him and sent him away empty handed.

4 Next he sent another servant to them; him they beat about the head and treated shamefully.

5 And he sent another and him they killed; then a number of others, and they thrashed some and killed the rest.

6 He had still someone left: his beloved son. He sent him to them last of all, thinking, "They will respect my son."

7 But those tenants said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours."

8 So they seized him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard.

9 Now what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and make an end of the tenants and give the vineyard to others.

10 Have you not read this text of scripture: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

11 this is the Lord's doing, and we marvel at it ?'

12 And they would have liked to arrest him, because they realised that the parable was aimed at them, but they were afraid of the crowds. So they left him alone and went away.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 1, 2026

1. In our first reading from 2nd Peter, we are reminded that grace and peace is obtained in abundance through “knowledge of the Lord.” Christ, by his divine power, has lavished “on us all the things we need for life and for true devotion.”

Peter tells us that the greatest of these gifts is that we share in the divine nature of Christ and thus escape the disordered passions and sins of the world. By virtue of faith in Christ and the sacrament of baptism, we share in the divine nature of God. Our human nature is elevated by this divine gift, transforming us into children of God in Jesus Christ.

With this view in mind, Peter tells us to do our utmost to nourish our faith with goodness and increase our understanding of Christ. What effort will you make today to live virtuously and understand your Christian faith more fully?

2. In our responsorial psalm, the psalmist provides us with a prayer of faith and trust. He says to the Lord: “My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust!” Through faith and in trust of God, we cling to him, and acknowledge his name. As a result, God promises to rescue us and raise us on high. He is our fortress. He will answer us when we cry out and remain at our side when we are in distress.

Let us today praise God by praying, “O Lord, my refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3. In our gospel reading from Mark, Jesus gives us the parable of the wicked tenants. He speaks this parable to the Jewish leaders who previously questioned his authority. What is this parable about?

It represents the history of the people Israel. Ultimately, it illustrates God’s patience with his chosen people, even in the face of their rebellion.

The man who planted the vineyard represents God. The vineyard represents Israel living in the city of Jerusalem. The tower in the vineyard represents the Jerusalem Temple, and the tenants are the Jewish leaders in the city. The servants are the Old Testament prophets sent by God. Many of these prophets were beaten and killed. Finally, God sends his own Son Jesus, only to have him killed.

The Jewish leaders listening to this parable realize it is about them, for they had already plotted how they might destroy Jesus.



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This parable can also be applied to the world today, with its frequent persecution of Christians who give prophetic witness to Christ. The fact is, Christians in many parts of the world are attacked and martyred on a daily basis. And, as it was when Jesus spoke this parable, he is often despised today just as he was then.

As Christians, we know that God has planted a new vineyard: The Church, which is the kingdom of heaven in its seed and beginning. The question is, are we faithful tenants who will produce its fruit?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 2, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Peter 3:12-15, 17-18

12 while you wait for the Day of God to come, and try to hasten its coming: on that Day the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat.

13 What we are waiting for, relying on his promises, is the new heavens and new earth, where uprightness will be at home.

14 So then, my dear friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live blameless and unsullied lives so that he will find you at peace.

15 Think of our Lord's patience as your opportunity to be saved; our brother Paul, who is so dear to us, told you this when he wrote to you with the wisdom that he was given.

17 Since you have been forewarned about this, my dear friends, be careful that you do not come to the point of losing the firm ground that you are standing on, carried away by the errors of unprincipled people.

18 Instead, continue to grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory, in time and eternity. Amen.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14, 16

2 Before the mountains were born, before the earth and the world came to birth, from eternity to eternity you are God.

3 You bring human beings to the dust, by saying, 'Return, children of Adam.'

4 A thousand years are to you like a yesterday which has passed, like a watch of the night.

10 The span of our life is seventy years -- eighty for those who are strong -- but their whole extent is anxiety and trouble, they are over in a moment and we are gone.

14 Each morning fill us with your faithful love, we shall sing and be happy all our days;

16 Show your servants the deeds you do, let their children enjoy your splendour!



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## **Gospel, Mark 12:13-17**

13 Next they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to catch him out in what he said.

14 These came and said to him, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man, that you are not afraid of anyone, because human rank means nothing to you, and that you teach the way of God in all honesty. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or not?'

15 Recognising their hypocrisy he said to them, 'Why are you putting me to the test? Hand me a denarius and let me see it.'

16 They handed him one and he said to them, 'Whose portrait is this? Whose title?' They said to him, 'Caesar's.'

17 Jesus said to them, 'Pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar -- and God what belongs to God.' And they were amazed at him.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 2, 2026

1. In our first reading, taken from the last chapter of the second letter which the Apostle Peter wrote to ALL the early churches, he is addressing some of the problems which had already crept into the early churches as false teaching began to spread concerning the Second Coming, the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This first among the Apostles, the first Pope, reaffirms that Jesus will indeed return, as He promised. But he also speaks to the necessity of all the followers of Jesus living holy lives and winning others to a relationship with Jesus Christ and inclusion in the Church through Baptism.

Sadly, these false teachers who either deny the second coming or confuse the faithful about how they should live while awaiting the return of the Lord, have never really left the Church. They reappear, over and over again.

This sage and inspired advice from Peter is as important today as it has ever been. While we eagerly await the Return of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom, we are called to live our lives in Him - and grow in holiness. How are we doing?

2. In our Responsorial Psalm, David's words give us a reminder that a thousand years are like yesterday. In another Psalm he proclaims that a day in the Lord is as a thousand years. Time is temporal. It is a creature. God is eternal. We are invited by the Lord to live every day being filled with His faithful Love and singing and praising His holy name with joy.
3. In the Gospel appointed for today's Holy Mass, some Pharisees and Herodians try to trick Jesus in an effort to bring an accusation against Him. They asked whether it was lawful to pay the tribute or tax to Caesar or not. Either way he answered, or so they thought, they would have an opportunity to cause problems. After all, the Romans had occupied their lands. If he said "no", they would accuse him of being an insurrectionist. If he said "Yes", they would seek to undermine his claims to following the Law of Moses.

Yet, Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, is not fooled. He turns the tables, using this effort to undermine Him to convey a very important lesson to those who would follow Him. The State should never elevate itself to the position of God and the Church, His followers, should be very good citizens, but loyal first to God.

This challenge of being faithful, faith-filled, citizens, continues to this day. All Christians owe their first allegiance to the Lord.

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But, we are also called to live our lives with a moral coherence, as good citizens. There is an ancient Christian manuscript entitled "The Letter to Diognetus" which most historians date back to somewhere between 65 and 125AD. It contained an insight concerning the relationship of Christians to the world which, though seemingly simple, is the key to understanding the heart of the matter. The letter was an "apology," which means a defense of the early Christian faith and lifestyle.

It was addressed to an anonymous Pagan inquirer into the Christian faith by an unknown author. Its importance is underscored by the fact that it was one of the documents favored by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council and quoted quite often.

They use it as the foundational basis of their teaching on social involvement in the documents which address the role of the Church in the Modern world. It is cited in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in its excellent treatment of the duties of citizenship (CCC 2234-2246). It is regularly referred to in social encyclicals and explanatory sources. I offer you one line from the letter and encourage you to find it and read it:

"In a word, what the soul is in a body, the Christians are in the world...."

Christians are still called to be the "Soul of the World" in our age. How are we doing?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 3, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12

1 From Paul, apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God in accordance with his promise of life in Christ Jesus,

2 to Timothy, dear son of mine. Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 Night and day I thank God whom I serve with a pure conscience as my ancestors did. I remember you in my prayers constantly night and day;

6 That is why I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess through the laying on of my hands.

7 God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power and love and self-control.

8 So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to our Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but share in my hardships for the sake of the gospel, relying on the power of God

9 who has saved us and called us to be holy -- not because of anything we ourselves had done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time,

10 but it has been revealed only by the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus. He has abolished death, and he has brought to light immortality and life through the gospel,

11 in whose service I have been made herald, apostle and teacher.

12 That is why I am experiencing my present sufferings; but I am not ashamed, because I know in whom I have put my trust, and I have no doubt at all that he is able to safeguard until that Day what I have entrusted to him.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 123:1-2, 2

1 [Song of Ascents] I lift up my eyes to you who are enthroned in heaven.

2 Just as the eyes of slaves are on their masters' hand, or the eyes of a slave-girl on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on Yahweh our God, for him to take pity on us.

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## Gospel, Mark 12:18-27

18 Then some Sadducees -- who deny that there is a resurrection -- came to him and they put this question to him,

19 'Master, Moses prescribed for us that if a man's brother dies leaving a wife but no child, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother.

20 Now there were seven brothers; the first married a wife and then died leaving no children.

21 The second married the widow, and he too died leaving no children; with the third it was the same,

22 and none of the seven left any children. Last of all the woman herself died.

23 Now at the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be, since she had been married to all seven?'

24 Jesus said to them, 'Surely the reason why you are wrong is that you understand neither the scriptures nor the power of God.

25 For when they rise from the dead, men and women do not marry; no, they are like the angels in heaven.

26 Now about the dead rising again, have you never read in the Book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him and said: I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob?

27 He is God, not of the dead, but of the living. You are very much mistaken.'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 3, 2026

1. Our first reading is taken from the Apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy. The letter was written when Paul was older and seemed to be sensing that his death was near. He has great brotherly affection for Timothy. He had raised him up as a spiritual son and ordained him as the head of the Christian community at Ephesus.

In this warm pastoral letter the Apostle Paul is trying to both encourage Timothy - and give him the strength that will be needed to confront false teachers, guard the deposit of faith entrusted to him, and stay faithful even in hardships to come. He reminds Timothy of his own hardship and instructs him that such hardship is part and parcel of the Christian life and vocation.

How do we treat our own hardships? How do we deal with what we find unpleasant? Are we guarding the deposit of faith entrusted to us?

2. The Psalmist David, in his song of praise, gives us a key to how to stay faithful in difficulties and struggles in these words "I lift up my eyes to you who are enthroned in heaven. Just as the eyes of slaves are on their masters' hand, or the eyes of a slave-girl on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on Yahweh our God". Are we keeping our eyes on the Lord?
3. The Gospel for today's Holy Mass is taken from St Matthew, chapter twelve, it is the Sadducees turn to try to "trap" Jesus with a hypothetical question. The Sadducees did not believe in the Resurrection of the Body. Their sense of "eternity" was in the carrying on the family name through offspring. In fact, they took the admonition from Moses to mean that a form of Levirate marriage, where a brother married the spouse of his dead brother, if she was barren, in order to produce offspring.

But, once again, Jesus turns the tables and uses this effort to trick him - into an opportunity to give a fundamental teaching on the Resurrection of the Body.

The Bible teaches and the Church affirms that we will rise again in our own bodies. That our redemption will not be complete until that occurs. Jesus came to save the whole person, body, soul and spirit. We profess that truth every time we profess the ancient Christian creed.

Questions have resonated throughout the two millennia of Christian history concerning what our Resurrected bodies will look like, of what kind of material they will be composed, and whether or not it can be said that the body is a part of how we actually image the God who created us to live, both in this world and the next?

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Yet, the extraordinary claim of the Incarnation is that God the Son, the Word made flesh, the Second Person of the Trinity, came into our midst bodily and, is now seated - bodily - at the right hand of the Father! Thus, through the Incarnation, the body has, in the words of Pope Saint John Paul II “entered theology” in profound ways. He further explained:

“Through the fact that the Word of God became flesh, the body entered theology-that is the science, the subject of which is divinity. I would say-through the main door. The Incarnation-and the redemption that springs from it-became also the definitive source of the sacramentality of marriage....”

Jesus also taught that there will be no marriage in heaven. (See, Matt 22:30). Not because marriage is "bad", but because one of its ends, its goals, to help the spouses grow in holiness and get to heaven, will have been completed.

Do we believe, I mean really believe, in the Resurrection of the Body? Do we understand Christian marriage as a call to holiness?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 4, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Thursday, June 4th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Timothy 2:8-15

8 Remember the gospel that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David';

9 it is on account of this that I have to put up with suffering, even to being chained like a criminal. But God's message cannot be chained up.

10 So I persevere for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they, too, may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 Here is a saying that you can rely on: If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

12 If we persevere, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us.

13 If we are faithless, he is faithful still, for he cannot disown his own self.

14 Remind them of this; and tell them in the name of God that there must be no wrangling about words: all that this ever achieves is the destruction of those who are listening.

15 Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who has no need to be ashamed, but who keeps the message of truth on a straight path.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

4 DIRECT me in your ways, Yahweh, and teach me your paths.

5 ENCOURAGE me to walk in your truth and teach me since you are the God who saves me. FOR my hope is in you all day long -- such is your generosity, Yahweh.

8 INTEGRITY and generosity are marks of Yahweh for he brings sinners back to the path.

9 JUDICIOUSLY he guides the humble, instructing the poor in his way.

10 KINDNESS unfailing and constancy mark all Yahweh's paths, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

14 ONLY those who fear Yahweh have his secret and his covenant, for their understanding.

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## Gospel, Mark 12:28-34

28 One of the scribes who had listened to them debating appreciated that Jesus had given a good answer and put a further question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?'

29 Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one, only Lord,

30 and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.

31 The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

32 The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true, that he is one and there is no other.

33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice.'

34 Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 4, 2026

1. In his Second Letter to Timothy - the disciple whom Paul trained, ordained, and installed over the Church in Ephesus - St Paul is encouraging the young Bishop to stay strong and be a "good soldier" in the work of the Lord which was entrusted to him by virtue of his ordination. A few verses before this portion we heard proclaimed today, St Paul tells him, "No soldier on service gets entangled in civil pursuits".

Paul is writing from Rome where he is being held prisoner and, the letter indicates, that the Apostle thinks his death is near. So, he wants his spiritual son to persevere in his ministry of preaching, teaching and pastoring the flock entrusted to his care and not become distracted by meaningless disputes or give in to the fatigue and suffering that accompanied his ministry.

Rather, St Paul exhorts him to stay strong in the Lord. He quotes what appears to be a liturgical hymn to the young Bishop, reminding him that he is so joined to Jesus Christ now, that Jesus will always remain faithful to him.

Each one of us, by virtue of our Baptism, are also now joined to Jesus as members of His Mystical Body, the Church. Are we staying strong? We must, and we can, if we stay in communion with the Lord.

2. The Psalm which we chant or say today gives us the very formula which David followed, and it can help to shape our prayer and worship. David knew how to pray. And he asked the Lord to teach Him how to walk in His Truth and stay on the right path.

Do we talk to the Lord throughout the day? We can. He waits to hear from us. Prayer is an ongoing dialogue with the Lord. It can take so many different forms. But, without prayer, we simply cannot stay on the right path. Today, ask the Lord, in your own words, to help you walk in His Truth and grow closer to Him. He waits to hear you and always answers.

3. In the Gospel text appointed for today's Holy Mass, one of the scribes had heard the Sadducees dialogue with Jesus about the Resurrection. The Sadducees did not believe in the Resurrection. Jesus turns the question they asked in order to trick Him into an opportunity to teach the listening crowd not only about the Resurrection, but about the purpose and goals of Marriage.

So now, a man of good will, asks Him which of the precepts of the Law is the most important one. Unlike the questions posed by the Sadducees, intended to "trick" Jesus, this is a sincere question.

And Jesus responds by reciting the great Shema Yisrael...he central prayer in the Jewish faith.



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Yet, Jesus, the Rabbi, explains it with a profundity which St Augustine explains this way "The love of God is first in order of commandment, and the love of neighbor is first in order of action". It is the love of God which makes us capable of loving our neighbor. The two are inseparable.

The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true, that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, this is far more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice.'

Jesus, seeing how wisely this scribe had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore."

How are we doing in loving God and our neighbor?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 5, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Friday, June 5th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Timothy 3:10-17

10 You, though, have followed my teaching, my way of life, my aims, my faith, my patience and my love, my perseverance

11 and the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in places like Antioch, Iconium and Lystra -- all the persecutions I have endured; and the Lord has rescued me from every one of them.

12 But anybody who tries to live in devotion to Christ is certain to be persecuted;

13 while these wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others, and themselves deceived.

14 You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were,

15 and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures -from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is inspired by God and useful for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be upright.

17 This is how someone who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168

157 Though my enemies and oppressors are countless, I do not turn aside from your instructions.

160 Faithfulness is the essence of your word, your upright judgements hold good for ever.

161 Though princes hound me unprovoked, what fills me with awe is your word.

165 Great peace for those who love your Law; no stumbling-blocks for them!

166 I am waiting for your salvation, Yahweh, I fulfil your commandments.

168 I observe your precepts, your judgements, for all my ways are before you.



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## **Gospel, Mark 12:35-37**

35 While teaching in the Temple, Jesus said, 'How can the scribes maintain that the Christ is the son of David?

36 David himself, moved by the Holy Spirit, said: The Lord declared to my Lord, take your seat at my right hand till I have made your enemies your footstool.

37 David himself calls him Lord; in what way then can he be his son?' And the great crowd listened to him with delight.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 5, 2026

1. The Apostle Paul is instructing his spiritual son, Timothy, whom he had disciplined, brought along on missionary journeys ordained and placed over the Christian community at Ephesus. This second letter to the young Bishop is clearly written with fatherly affection by an older St Paul. He wants Timothy to understand that persecution, struggle, and suffering go hand in hand with faithful Christian leadership. He commends the example which he has shown to Timothy. But, even more, he reminds Timothy of the power of the Scriptures, writing:

"All scripture is inspired by God and useful for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be upright. This is how someone who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work."

The word inspired, in Greek, literally means "God breathed". Think about that! The written Word, the Bible, is "God - breathed". Do we believe that? How often do we read the Bible?

Do we look to the Scripture to instruct and guide our life?

In the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) a beautiful teaching from the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council on the Word of God, we read this wonderful explanation of the Bible: "(I)n the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven meets His children with great love and speaks with them; and the force and power in the word of God is so great that it stands as the support and energy of the Church, the strength of faith for her sons, the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life." (Paragraph 21)

The insight is the also a key to fruitfully reading the Bible. The Living Word, Jesus, speaks to us through the written word found in the Bible. Understanding the Bible depends upon having a living relationship with the Risen Lord and, through Him and in the Spirit, with the Father.

2. David the Psalmist understood the power and prominence of the scriptures. He proclaims in today's responsorial Psalm: "Though princes hound me unprovoked, what fills me with awe is your word." The Bible is a treasure which has been given to us by the Holy Spirit. Let us open up the treasure chest, read, pray and encounter the Living Word in the written word of God.
3. The short Gospel selection for today's Holy Mass is taken from the account of St Mark. It is one more portion of the back and forth between Jesus and the Sadducees and the scribes.

But, in this short passage we hear Jesus give a strong message to those who had spiritual ears to hear it. He notes that the Scribes say that the Christ, the Messiah, would be a "son of David".



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Yet, Jesus points out, David also refers to Him as LORD in the Psalms.

Jesus has gradually revealed who He is in the Gospel accounts. Yet, here He reveals His Divinity. Who is Jesus Christ to you? Have you ever really taken the time to consider what you really believe about Him? Do you believe He is Divine? Is He your Lord?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 6, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, June 6th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Timothy 4:1-8

1 Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I charge you, in the name of his appearing and of his kingdom:

2 proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, give encouragement -- but do all with patience and with care to instruct.

3 The time is sure to come when people will not accept sound teaching, but their ears will be itching for anything new and they will collect themselves a whole series of teachers according to their own tastes;

4 and then they will shut their ears to the truth and will turn to myths.

5 But you must keep steady all the time; put up with suffering; do the work of preaching the gospel; fulfil the service asked of you.

6 As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to depart.

7 I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith;

8 all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 71:8-9, 14-15, 16-17, 22

8 My mouth is full of your praises, filled with your splendour all day long.

9 Do not reject me in my old age, nor desert me when my strength is failing,

14 As for me, my hope will never fade, I will praise you more and more.

15 My lips shall proclaim your saving justice, your saving power all day long.

16 I will come in the power of Yahweh to tell of your justice, yours alone.

17 God, you have taught me from boyhood, and I am still proclaiming your marvels.



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22 For my part, I will thank you on the lyre for your constancy, my God. I will play the harp in your honour, Holy One of Israel.

## **Gospel, Mark 12:38-44**

38 In his teaching he said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted respectfully in the market squares,

39 to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets;

40 these are the men who devour the property of widows and for show offer long prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

41 He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal.

42 A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny.

43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'In truth I tell you, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury;

44 for they have all put in money they could spare, but she in her poverty has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 6, 2026

1. As he nears the end of his Second and final letter to Timothy, St Paul gives his young spiritual son and disciple a serious charge. In fact, the words "I charge you" or "I adjure you" are similar to the words used in Roman and Greek wills. He is telling this young Bishop about the serious obligation he has in carrying out His office, in the Lord. He wants Timothy to know the importance of teaching and preaching sound doctrine. He warns him of those who have "itching ears" and accumulate for themselves false teachers.

At the ordination of a Bishop today, the ordained is asked questions. First, "Are you resolved to be faithful and constant in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ?" and second, "Are you resolved to maintain the deposit of faith, entire and incorrupt, as handed down by the apostles and professed by the Church everywhere and at all times?"

Sadly, we live in a time when many people have "itching ears" and are being deluded by false teaching. Are we listening to the true teachers in the Church, those who guard the deposit of faith and do not try to change it? How much do we really know about the Catholic faith? Do we read and study the Bible and the Catechism?

2. David the Psalmist reminds us of the importance of being taught sound doctrine. He sings in today's Psalm "God, you have taught me from boyhood, and I am still proclaiming your marvels." For the believer, instruction in the faith is a lifelong obligation. Are we regularly studying the Catholic faith?
3. In the Gospel appointed for today's Holy Mass, Jesus also warns of false teachers, "Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted respectfully in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets; these are the men who devour the property of widows and for show offer long prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.' Then he gives an example to actually follow, the poor widow, who gave everything she had to the Lord.

In the second chapter of his letter to the Philippians Paul speaks of Jesus as the One who "emptied Himself" for us and invites us, in Him, to empty ourselves for others. His life and death were about giving. Giving is not an "add on" to our busy lives. Giving is living for the Christian; a way to communion with the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit and a life lived for others.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 7, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, June 7th, 2026

### Reading 1, Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16

2 Remember the long road by which Yahweh your God led you for forty years in the desert, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart -- whether you would keep his commandments or not.

3 He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your ancestors had ever known, to make you understand that human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of Yahweh.

14 do not become proud of heart. Do not then forget Yahweh your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the place of slave-labour,

15 who guided you through this vast and dreadful desert, a land of fiery snakes, scorpions, thirst;

16 who in this waterless place brought you water out of the flinty rock; who in this desert fed you with manna unknown to your ancestors, to humble you and test you and so make your future the happier.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

12 Praise Yahweh, Jerusalem, Zion, praise your God.

13 For he gives strength to the bars of your gates, he blesses your children within you,

14 he maintains the peace of your frontiers, gives you your fill of finest wheat.

15 He sends his word to the earth, his command runs quickly,

19 He reveals his word to Jacob, his statutes and judgements to Israel.

20 For no other nation has he done this, no other has known his judgements.



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## Reading 2, First Corinthians 10:16-17

16 The blessing-cup, which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ; and the loaf of bread which we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

17 And as there is one loaf, so we, although there are many of us, are one single body, for we all share in the one loaf.

## Gospel, John 6:51-58

51 I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

52 Then the Jews started arguing among themselves, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'

53 Jesus replied to them: In all truth I tell you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

54 Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise that person up on the last day.

55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in that person.

57 As the living Father sent me and I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will also draw life from me.

58 This is the bread which has come down from heaven; it is not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 7, 2026

1. Today is the great Feast of "Corpus Christi", Latin for Body of Christ. It is the name given to the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus. That is what is given to us in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. The very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

On this day, through our readings at Mass, the homily, and our participation in Holy Mass, we are reminded that Jesus Christ really, truly gives Himself to us, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. We are also reminded of our missionary call to give Him to others.

There is an ancient and beautiful custom in the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, the Corpus Christi procession. The consecrated Host, the Body of the Lord, is reposed in what is called a monstrance. The term is derived from a Latin phrase meaning to show or reveal.

The faithful process the Body of the Lord through the streets surrounding their church buildings. This Eucharistic procession can be a powerful witness to an age which has lost its sense of the sacred.

In our first reading from the book of Deuteronomy we are given four verses from Chapter eight. In that Chapter, Moses is warning the people of God not to forget that the Lord led them out of slavery in Egypt - then through and out of the desert. Among the many miracles, he fed them with Manna from heaven in that desert.

For Christians, we know that this heavenly bread, this Manna, prefigured the great gift of the Holy Eucharist.

2. In his Psalm of praise, David the Psalmist picks up on the theme, praising the Lord for feeding his people with the finest wheat, the bread of heaven. And, the Apostle Paul speaks to the Corinthians of the living bread come down from heaven, Jesus, who gives Himself to us, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, the Eucharist.
3. In the Gospel appointed for this Feast, Jesus speaks with absolute clarity. The Bible, the early Church Fathers, the Christian Tradition and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church all teach that the bread & wine consecrated at Holy Mass truly become the Body & Blood, Soul & Divinity of Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God. This great mystery is at the heart of the Catholic Christian faith.



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Jesus still tells his disciples what He taught the first disciples: "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you," to which many of the disciples responded, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" . . . As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." (John 6: 22-71)

Sadly, many Catholics "no longer accompany Him."

Jesus Christ is present with us here on earth - and with the Father in heaven. This is the great mystery and the great blessing of the Fathers loving plan for humanity. His Son did not come to earth only to dwell among us for 33 years. He is alive and continuing His redemptive mission through His Mystical Body, the Church, of which we are all members through Baptism. He also came to dwell among us in His Real Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

This is also the day when I celebrate my ordination to the Diaconate in Christ. Because this event, which changed my entire life and ordered me for service in Christ, occurred on this feast, I always celebrate the Feast as my ordination anniversary, rather than the calendar date. I knew then, and have only grown to understand more deeply with each passing year, how significant it was that the Lord who called me to ordained ministry as a member of the Clergy, a Deacon, also allowed me to root my service as a member of the Clergy in the rich and deep meaning of this marvelous Feast.

Do we really believe that when we receive the consecrated bread and wine in Holy Communion, we receive Jesus Christ, His Body and Blood? We do.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 8, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Monday, June 8th, 2026

### Reading 1, First Kings 17:1-7

1 Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'By the life of Yahweh, God of Israel, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain these coming years unless I give the word.'

2 The word of Yahweh came to him,

3 'Go away from here, go east and hide by the torrent of Cherith, east of the Jordan.

4 You can drink from the stream, and I have ordered the ravens to bring you food there.'

5 So he set out and did as Yahweh had said; he went and stayed by the torrent of Cherith, east of the Jordan.

6 The ravens brought him bread in the morning and meat in the evening, and he quenched his thirst at the stream.

7 But after a while the stream dried up, for the country had had no rain.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

1 [Song of Ascents] I lift up my eyes to the mountains; where is my help to come from?

2 My help comes from Yahweh who made heaven and earth.

3 May he save your foot from stumbling; may he, your guardian, not fall asleep!

4 You see -- he neither sleeps nor slumbers, the guardian of Israel.

5 Yahweh is your guardian, your shade, Yahweh, at your right hand.

6 By day the sun will not strike you, nor the moon by night.

7 Yahweh guards you from all harm Yahweh guards your life,

8 Yahweh guards your comings and goings, henceforth and for ever.



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## **Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12**

1 Seeing the crowds, he went onto the mountain. And when he was seated his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

3 How blessed are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

4 Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth as inheritance.

5 Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: they shall have their fill.

7 Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognised as children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

11 'Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 8, 2026

1. In our first reading we hear the account of the Lord calling one of the great Prophets of Israel, Elijah, to bring a message to a corrupt King. The Lord raises him up at a critical time when Ahab began to rule over Israel and turned away from the Lord, giving himself over to the BAALS, the false gods. Elijah had just confronted Ahab and the false prophets of Baal and triumphed over them on Mount Carmel. Ahab told Jezebel, whom he had married, forming an unholy alliance. When she heard of Elijah's great deeds, she is jealous. So, she sends a messenger to Elijah to threaten him. Many people have heard of the dramatic encounter between this Prophet of Israel and the prophets of Baal which occurred on Mount Carmel. It is recorded in the eighteenth chapter.

Elijah was confronted by false prophets who rejected the God of Israel and worshipped the false god, Baal. Inspired by the Lord, he issued a challenge to them. He called for a dramatic test to determine whose God is the true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, or the Baal. The prophets of Baal are to build an altar and call upon their "god" to send fire to consume their sacrifice. Nothing happened. Elijah built an altar to the true God. His prayer was answered when the sacrifice he offered was consumed by Fire from heaven. The God of Israel, the one whom Christians know to be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, intervened in a dramatic fashion on that mountain.

However, some are not as familiar with the story that follows. After Elijah had confronted the prophets of Baal he learned of a threat upon his life from Jezebel, a wicked queen whom he greatly feared. He ran for cover, seeking refuge in the desert under a broom tree. He begged the Lord to take his life. He encountered the Lord again. Elijah runs from Jezebel, but the Lord speaks to him and calls him back. Human fear is overcome by living faith. So, it is in our lives as well. When the Lord calls us to serve Him, he always gives the grace we need.

2. And, as is often the case, the Psalmist David helps us to understand how we can avoid human fear and grow in courageous faith. The answer is staying in a continual relationship of prayer and communion with the Lord. He sings in this Psalm "Yahweh guards you from all harm Yahweh guards your life, Yahweh guards your comings and goings, henceforth and forever." We can depend on that.
3. In the Gospel appointed for today's Holy Mass, we hear that Jesus went up on the Mountain, and in this sermon on the Mount, he speaks of the saints. Those with a capital S, the ones in heaven, and those with a small s, you and me, called to the path of holiness which leads, through Him, to eternity. We are to live differently. To become more and more like Him. AS we do that, by cooperating with the grace He gives to us, we will be "Blessed".



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The word translated Beatitude can also be translated Happy in the Beatitudes (Matt. 5) The New Testament and the writings of the early Church fathers emphasize the vocation to beatitude or happiness. The path to happiness passes through the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. Through the Holy Spirit we are being set free from what St Paul calls the law of sin and death. (Rom. 8:2)

We are not only set free FROM SIN, we are set FREE FOR - a new way of life as a Christian, a follower of the Christ. One who makes the Risen Jesus Christ present in the stuff of daily life. The process of conversion in the life of a follower of Jesus involves the exercise of human freedom through the capacity of human choice. What we choose not only changes the world around us, it changes us. This is the heart of Catholic Moral Theology. As we choose the Lord, as we grow in the life of the Holy Spirit, we begin to experience real happiness. The kind that does not disappear in struggle or become extinguished by difficulty. His Image is restored in us, and we begin to grow into His Likeness.

Such a robust moral vision calls us to growth in virtue. The theological virtues of faith, hope and charity are infused in us through Baptism. The hinge or cardinal virtues are, in a proper sense, acquired through a lifestyle of living faith and participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

This vision of a dynamic Christian life involves the development of what were called habitus in Latin, from which we derive the word habit. Let's call them habits of holiness. They are habits of happiness as well. Because holiness is true happiness. These habits are powers to act with excellence which are formed within the Christian believer through our cooperation with grace.

There is a call to happiness planted within every human person as a seed. Beatitude or happiness finds its perfect expression in the teaching of Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount. It was lived and demonstrated in His Sacred humanity, which is a model for all human beings. (Gaudium et Spes, Joy and Hope, #22) It is meant to be replicated in the life of each man and woman who is baptized into His Church and learns to clothe themselves in virtue and live in beatitude, beginning now.

St Jose Maria Escriva once wrote these insightful words:

"I am every day more convinced that happiness in Heaven is for those who know how to be happy on earth."

The Forge, 1005

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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 9, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, June 9th, 2026

### Reading 1, First Kings 17:7-16

7 But after a while the stream dried up, for the country had had no rain.

8 And then the word of Yahweh came to him,

9 'Up and go to Zarephath in Sidonia, and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to give you food.'

10 So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a pitcher for me to drink.'

11 She was on her way to fetch it when he called after her. 'Please', he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.'

12 'As Yahweh your God lives,' she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.'

13 But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son.'

14 For Yahweh, God of Israel, says this: Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when Yahweh sends rain on the face of the earth.'

15 The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son.

16 The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as Yahweh had foretold through Elijah.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 4:2-3, 4-5, 7-8

2 Children of men, how long will you be heavy of heart, why love what is vain and chase after illusions?

3 Realise that Yahweh performs wonders for his faithful, Yahweh listens when I call to him.

4 Be careful not to sin, speak in your hearts, and on your beds keep silence.

5 Loyally offer sacrifices, and trust in Yahweh.

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7 to my heart you are a richer joy than all their corn and new wine.

8 In peace I lie down and at once fall asleep, for it is you and none other, Yahweh, who make me rest secure.

## **Gospel, Matthew 5:13-16**

13 'You are salt for the earth. But if salt loses its taste, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled under people's feet.

14 'You are light for the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden.

15 No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house.

16 In the same way your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 9, 2026

1. In our first reading we continue to follow the exploits of the Prophet Elijah. In this account we hear of his encounter with the widow of Sidon. Elijah was thirsty because the stream had dried up. And he was hungry. The Lord tells him to go to this widow and she would give him water and food. When he meets the widow, she does just that. But what is important about the encounter, particularly in light of the Gospel we heard today, is her disposition of faith. She and her son were down to their last morsel. She was going to prepare it and the two of them would eat it and die. But, when asked by the Prophet, the messenger of the Lord, she offers it to him. The Lord, speaking through the Prophet, promises that He will provide for her. And he does...

That is the kind of selfless act, demonstrating real, living faith, which reveals the heart and opens our lives to miracles. Would we trust the Lord in a similar situation? We can.

2. David the Psalmist picks up the theme in our Responsorial Psalm for today. He reminds us to trust in the Lord with these beautiful, faith filled words "Realize that Yahweh performs wonders for his faithful, Yahweh listens when I call to him. Be careful not to sin, speak in your hearts, and on your beds keep silence.

Loyally offer sacrifices, and trust in Yahweh." We are the faithful of the Lord. He hears us when we call to Him. Do we believe this? Do we call to Him throughout every day?

3. Before they were called Christians at Antioch, the early followers of Jesus were called "The Way" and the "New Way". We read this in the Acts of the Apostles. The Gospel for today's Holy Mass follows in Matthew Chapter 5, right after the Sermon on the Mount. After teaching about the kind of way of life which leads to genuine beatitude or happiness in the life of a disciple, he teaches those who were listening, and all who would hear His words, including us, of our mission. We are to be salt and light. Jesus used salt as an image in his parables because salt was used in multiple ways which are not as common in our own experience.

Salt was used to preserve and purify food as well as to flavor and to cure it. His hearers knew this. St. Matthew records these words: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." (Matt. 5: 13) We have been baptized into Jesus Christ and now live our lives in His Body, the Church, of which we are members. He lives His life in and through us. He reveals Himself to a world which desperately needs Him - through us. Just as He is the Light of the world, we are now lights, because we are joined to His Mystical Body. We are to dispel the darkness on the lives of those who do not yet know Him and help guide them on the Way.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 10, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

### Reading 1, First Kings 18:20-39

20 Ahab called all Israel together and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

21 Elijah stepped out in front of all the people. 'How long', he said, 'do you mean to hobble first on one leg then on the other? If Yahweh is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him.' But the people had nothing to say.

22 Elijah then said to them, 'I, I alone, am left as a prophet of Yahweh, while the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty.'

23 Let two bulls be given us; let them choose one for themselves, dismember it but not set fire to it. I in my turn shall prepare the other bull, but not set fire to it.

24 You must call on the name of your god, and I shall call on the name of Yahweh; the god who answers with fire, is God indeed.' The people all answered, 'Agreed!'

25 Elijah then said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose one bull and begin, for there are more of you. Call on the name of your god but light no fire.'

26 They took the bull and prepared it, and from morning to midday they called on the name of Baal. 'O Baal, answer us!' they cried, but there was no voice, no answer, as they performed their hobbling dance round the altar which they had made.

27 Midday came, and Elijah mocked them. 'Call louder,' he said, 'for he is a god: he is preoccupied or he is busy, or he has gone on a journey; perhaps he is asleep and needs to be woken up!'

28 So they shouted louder and gashed themselves, as their custom was, with swords and spears until the blood flowed down them.

29 Midday passed, and they ranted on until the time when the offering is presented; but there was no voice, no answer, no sign of attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come over to me,' and all the people came over to him. He repaired Yahweh's altar which had been torn down.

31 Elijah took twelve stones, corresponding to the number of tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of Yahweh had come, 'Israel is to be your name,'



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32 and built an altar in the name of Yahweh. Round the altar he dug a trench of a size to hold two measures of seed.

33 He then arranged the wood, dismembered the bull, and laid it on the wood.

34 Then he said, 'Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.' They did this. He said, 'Do it a second time;' they did it a second time. He said, 'Do it a third time;' they did it a third time.

35 The water flowed round the altar until even the trench itself was full of water.

36 At the time when the offering is presented, Elijah the prophet stepped forward. 'Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,' he said, 'let them know today that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, that I have done all these things at your command.

37 Answer me, Yahweh, answer me, so that this people may know that you, Yahweh, are God and are winning back their hearts.'

38 Then Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and licked up the water in the trench.

39 When all the people saw this they fell on their faces. 'Yahweh is God,' they cried, 'Yahweh is God!'

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 16:1-2, 4, 5, 8, 11**

1 [In a quiet voice Of David] Protect me, O God, in you is my refuge.

2 To Yahweh I say, 'You are my Lord, my happiness is in none

4 People flock to their teeming idols. Never shall I pour libations to them! Never take their names on my lips.

5 My birthright, my cup is Yahweh; you, you alone, hold my lot secure.

8 I keep Yahweh before me always, for with him at my right hand, nothing can shake me.

11 You will teach me the path of life, unbounded joy in your presence, at your right hand delight for ever.

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## **Gospel, Matthew 5:17-19**

17 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them.

18 In truth I tell you, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, is to disappear from the Law until all its purpose is achieved.

19 Therefore, anyone who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of Heaven; but the person who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of Heaven.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 10, 2026

1. In our first reading for today's Holy Mass, we hear of the heroic encounter between the great Hebrew Prophet Elijah and the false prophets of Baal. Many people have heard of the dramatic encounter between this great Old Testament prophet and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. It is recorded in the eighteenth chapter of the Old Testament Book of First Kings. The prophet confronts hundreds who oppose him in a test of faith. Each builds an altar and calls upon his god to send fire to consume it. Elijah is the only one whose prayer is answered as the Altar and sacrifice are consumed by Fire.

After Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, he was exhausted. Then he learned of the threat upon his life from Jezebel. We find this mighty man of God so distraught that he prays for death.

Retreating to a desert to die under a broom tree, he encounters the Lord, who visits him through a messenger. That is what the word Angel means. His surrender to the voice of God, though reluctant at first, shows us a pattern we can imitate in our own lives.

It teaches us how to hear the voice of God not in spite of but even through those difficult times in our own lives.

When we reach the end of ourselves, we find the beginning of authentic faith. We read: "Elijah went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death saying: "This is enough, O LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers. "He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water.

"After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the LORD came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" He got up, ate, and drank; then strengthened by that food; he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb." (1 Kgs. 19:4-8)

Let me be clear, I marvel at the courage of Elijah and the power of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to confound the false prophets of Baal. However, it is this same God who chooses to meet and dialogue with Elijah under that broom tree after that dramatic event. Elijah is meant to inspire us, in the exciting times, and in the exhausting times, in our life of discipleship. In both places, the Lord is there with us.



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2. This is the kind of faith David, the Psalmist Prophet also had. Today's Psalm is a prayer we should make our own "Protect me, O God, in you is my refuge. To Yahweh I say, 'You are my Lord, my happiness is in none. People flock to their teeming idols. Never shall I pour libations to them! Never take their names on my lips. My birthright, my cup is Yahweh; you, you alone, hold my lot secure.

I keep Yahweh before me always, for with him at my right hand, nothing can shake me. You will teach me the path of life, unbounded joy in your presence, at your right-hand delight forever."

3. In the Gospel appointed for today's Holy Mass, Jesus continues His teaching on the Sermon on the Mount by explaining that He has come to fulfill the Law and the prophets not abolish them. And He reminds us that we are called to do the same. At the end of the fifth chapter of Matthews Gospel we read these startling words "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." (St. Matthew 5: 43-48)

How can we be 'Perfect'? What does it mean? What does holiness mean? Can we all become holy? The answer is YES.

The admonition from Jesus is clear and undeniable. It is repeated in other Gospel accounts and developed in several New Testament Epistles. I suggest that our problem with understanding and responding to the passage is twofold; we misunderstand the meaning of the word and we have a limited our comprehension of the goal of the fullness of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The One through whom we were first created, is re-creating us now through His grace, - as cooperate and choose to live our lives now in Him.

In Greek, the word is telios. Telios refers to something being completed, brought to its full purpose, potential and intended end and vocation. For example, in the world of objects, a hammer is telios or perfect when it is hammering a nail. In the world of subjects, things are telios or perfect when they are fulfilling their nature. We were created in the Image of the God of Love who made us for love. In Jesus Christ, we are now "capacitated", to use a term of the early father and Bishop Irenaeus of Lyons, made capable by the grace of His Redemption, of loving as God Himself loves.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 11, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Thursday, June 11th, 2026

### Reading 1, Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3

21 The Lord helped them, and a great number believed and were converted to the Lord.

22 The news of them came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem and they sent Barnabas out to Antioch.

23 There he was glad to see for himself that God had given grace, and he urged them all to remain faithful to the Lord with heartfelt devotion;

24 for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. And a large number of people were won over to the Lord.

25 Barnabas then left for Tarsus to look for Saul,

26 and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. And it happened that they stayed together in that church a whole year, instructing a large number of people. It was at Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.

1 In the church at Antioch the following were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 One day while they were offering worship to the Lord and keeping a fast, the Holy Spirit said, 'I want Barnabas and Saul set apart for the work to which I have called them.'

3 So it was that after fasting and prayer they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

1 [Psalm] Sing a new song to Yahweh, for he has performed wonders, his saving power is in his right hand and his holy arm.

2 Yahweh has made known his saving power, revealed his saving justice for the nations to see,

3 mindful of his faithful love and his constancy to the House of Israel. The whole wide world has seen the saving power of our God.

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4 Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth, burst into shouts of joy!

5 Play to Yahweh on the harp, to the sound of instruments;

6 to the sound of trumpet and horn, acclaim the presence of the King.

## **Gospel, Matthew 10:7-13**

7 And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.

8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those suffering from virulent skin-diseases, drive out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.

9 Provide yourselves with no gold or silver, not even with coppers for your purses,

10 with no haversack for the journey or spare tunic or footwear or a staff, for the labourer deserves his keep.

11 'Whatever town or village you go into, seek out someone worthy and stay with him until you leave.

12 As you enter his house, salute it,

13 and if the house deserves it, may your peace come upon it; if it does not, may your peace come back to you.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 11, 2026

1. Antioch was the Capital of the Roman province of Syria. In our first reading, we see the Gospel spreading, literally, throughout the known world. Antioch was a significant cultural, commercial and religious hub. The Gospel was preached to everyone, Jews and gentiles. The mission of the Church in Antioch was incredibly important in the history of the early Church. In fact, the center of the growing church was beginning to shift a bit from Jerusalem to Antioch.

Notice in our first reading that "It was at Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'." Prior to that, the early church was primarily comprised of Jewish followers of Jesus, or pagan converts to Judaism who also followed Him. They were referred to as "The Way". Jesus was seen as a Rabbi, a teacher, with a following. But, as the conversions to the Lord continued after His death and Resurrection, and the Way of Life exhibited by those early followers spread beyond the Jewish community, those observing the early followers began to call them "Christians", followers of the Christ - which was the Greek word for Messiah. It meant, and it still means, the Anointed One. Christians walked in His anointing.

The Way of Life exhibited by the early Christians was visible. They had a great love for one another. They had elders, who were chosen by the Apostles who then presided over their daily life and worship. The early pattern of gathering included receiving apostolic instruction, the breaking of the bread and prayers (Acts 2:42). They had a distinctive outreach to the poor and saw it as a duty to evangelize, seeking to bring others to encounter Jesus and be Baptized into the Church.

The structure of the Church also emerged, the apostolic office (Bishops), the roles of "presbyters" (priests) and deacons, was established. How the Church worshipped formally emerged in the early Liturgy. The practice of spiritual disciplines like fasting was established. Catechesis, apostolic instruction, was standardized - which led to the formulation of the early Creeds. The Holy Spirit was manifesting itself in guiding the leaders, such as Paul and Barnabus, who expected that the Holy Spirit would speak to them and lead them in their missionary work for the Lord. And the Holy Spirit did just that - as our first reading demonstrated. The world would never be the same. That same Holy Spirit is still at work today. And the Church continues her mission.

2. The Psalm appointed for our response today, has the words of David crying out "The whole wide world has seen the saving power of our God." It was being fulfilled in the Acts of the Apostles. Like David, the early Christian believers lived their entire lives, worshiping the Lord. Yes, they had special times for solemn liturgical worship. But ongoing prayer was like breathing to them, because they had received the very breath of God.



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To the early Christians, the claim of the Psalmist that the "whole wide World has seen the saving power of God" was their mission. Is it ours? It should be. We are the modern-day disciples of Jesus Christ called to proclaim the saving power of God to the whole world. Are we doing that?

3. The Gospel appointed for today, on this Feast of St. Barnabus, also reflects this missionary them. The words of Jesus are offered to us to consider and make our own, "And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those suffering from virulent skin-diseases, drive out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.

"Provide yourselves with no gold or silver, not even with coppers for your purses, with no haversack for the journey or spare tunic or footwear or a staff, for the laborer deserves his keep.

'Whatever town or village you go into, seek out someone worthy and stay with him until you leave.

"As you enter his house, salute it,  
and if the house deserves it, may your peace come upon it;  
if it does not, may your peace come back to you."

This charge from the Lord is sometimes called the great commission. The early Church responded, even to the point of shedding their own blood in the face of growing hostility. And, every believer identified with that Mission, no matter what their state in life, job, or role. They placed the mission given to the Church by Jesus as their number one priority in their daily life. Do we?

In 2012, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council in the Catholic Church. The teaching of the Church, both at the Council and since, has reemphasized that the Catholic Church is missionary by nature - and that every baptized Christian is called to participates in that mission.

So, our task is to be missionaries, in every nation and to every culture. That understanding lies at the heart of what it means to be a Christian - we carry forward in time the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ. Do we see ourselves as being sent by the Lord? Do we understand our own role in the Mission of the Church?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 12, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Friday, June 12th, 2026

### Reading 1, Deuteronomy 7:6-11

6 For you are a people consecrated to Yahweh your God; of all the peoples on earth, you have been chosen by Yahweh your God to be his own people.

7 'Yahweh set his heart on you and chose you not because you were the most numerous of all peoples -- for indeed you were the smallest of all-

8 but because he loved you and meant to keep the oath which he swore to your ancestors: that was why Yahweh brought you out with his mighty hand and redeemed you from the place of slave-labour, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9 From this you can see that Yahweh your God is the true God, the faithful God who, though he is true to his covenant and his faithful love for a thousand generations as regards those who love him and keep his commandments,

10 punishes in their own persons those that hate him. He destroys anyone who hates him, without delay; and it is in their own persons that he punishes them.

11 Hence, you must keep and observe the commandments, laws and customs which I am laying down for you today.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10

1 [Of David] Bless Yahweh, my soul, from the depths of my being, his holy name;

2 bless Yahweh, my soul, never forget all his acts of kindness.

3 He forgives all your offences, cures all your diseases,

4 he redeems your life from the abyss, crowns you with faithful love and tenderness;

6 Yahweh acts with uprightness, with justice to all who are oppressed;

7 he revealed to Moses his ways, his great deeds to the children of Israel.

8 Yahweh is tenderness and pity, slow to anger and rich in faithful love;



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10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve, nor repay us as befits our offences.

## **Reading 2, First John 4:7-16**

7 My dear friends, let us love one another, since love is from God and everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

8 Whoever fails to love does not know God, because God is love.

9 This is the revelation of God's love for us, that God sent his only Son into the world that we might have life through him.

10 Love consists in this: it is not we who loved God, but God loved us and sent his Son to expiate our sins.

11 My dear friends, if God loved us so much, we too should love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God, but as long as we love one another God remains in us and his love comes to its perfection in us.

13 This is the proof that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us a share in his Spirit.

14 We ourselves have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as Saviour of the world.

15 Anyone who acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God.

16 We have recognised for ourselves, and put our faith in, the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

## **Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30**

25 At that time Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children.

26 Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

27 Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

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29 Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 12, 2026

1. Today is a beautiful Feast Day in the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In fact, we are encouraged to set the entire month apart to reflect on that Heart, so full of love. So, with that frame or lens, we look at our readings today. In our first reading, we hear words spoken to Israel: "Yahweh set his heart on you and chose you not because you were the most numerous of all peoples -- for indeed you were the smallest of all- but because he loved you..." Gods servant Moses is instructing Gods people how they should now live, in light of this special calling. The Psalmist adds in our response "he revealed to Moses his ways, his great deeds to the children of Israel. Yahweh is tenderness and pity, slow to anger and rich in faithful love; he does not treat us as our sins deserve, nor repay us as befits our offences."

And, that is how Israel is to act, to act like the Lord. The Lord reveals His heart and then calls them to turn their hearts toward Him. The Church is the "New Israel", called to be the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, manifesting Gods love, perfectly revealed. That means every member of His Body, every Baptized Christian, is called - and empowered - to become sons and daughters, in the Son and live His life, love as He loves. How are we doing?

2. In our second reading, from the first letter of the beloved disciple John to all of the churches, we are called with clarity to a New Way, the Way of loving as God loves. "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him." The love of which the beloved disciple writes, is more than human love, though it certainly includes human love, it is Divine Love. And, Divine Love has been fully revealed in the Son of God, our Savior, who loved with His Sacred Heart. That Sacred Heart, Like Him, was both Human and Divine. In the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern world, issued by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, we read these powerful words about Jesus, Listen closely:

"In reality it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of humanity truly becomes clear. For Adam, the first man, was a type of him who was to come, Christ the Lord. Christ the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, fully reveals humanity to itself and brings to light its very high calling. It is no wonder, then, that all the truths mentioned so far should find in him their source and their most perfect embodiment.

He who is the "image of the invisible God" (Col 1:15), is himself the perfect man who has restored in the children of Adam that likeness to God which had been disfigured ever since the first sin. Human nature, by the very fact that it was assumed, not absorbed, in him, has been raised in us also to a dignity beyond compare.

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"For, by his incarnation, he, the Son of God, has in a certain way united himself with each individual. He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin.

3. The Gospel text appointed for this Feast of the Sacred Heart is short but so powerful. Jesus is crying out in joy from His Heart to the Heart of the Father, thanking Him for revealing His Love to "little children". Who are these little children? The ones who choose to be His disciples. Then, He utters these words to His disciples, and remember that includes you and me:

"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

Jesus, the Son of the Father, is "humble" of heart. His heart is completely filled with Divine and Human love for each one of us. He gives us the power, by His Cross and Resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit, to love one another with His Love.

How are we doing? Do we love one another as He loved and loves us?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection June 13, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, June 13th, 2026

### Reading 1, First Kings 19:19-21

19 Leaving there, he came on Elisha son of Shaphat as he was ploughing behind twelve yoke of oxen, he himself being with the twelfth. Elijah passed near to him and threw his cloak over him.

20 Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you,' he said. Elijah answered, 'Go, go back; for have I done anything to you?'

21 Elisha turned away, took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the oxen's tackle for cooking the meat, which he gave the people to eat. He then rose and, following Elijah, became his servant.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10

1 [In a quiet voice Of David] Protect me, O God, in you is my refuge.

2 To Yahweh I say, 'You are my Lord, my happiness is in none

5 My birthright, my cup is Yahweh; you, you alone, hold my lot secure.

7 I bless Yahweh who is my counsellor, even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I keep Yahweh before me always, for with him at my right hand, nothing can shake me.

9 So my heart rejoices, my soul delights, my body too will rest secure,

10 for you will not abandon me to Sheol, you cannot allow your faithful servant to see the abyss.

### Gospel, Matthew 5:33-37

33 'Again, you have heard how it was said to our ancestors, You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.

34 But I say this to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne;

35 or by earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great King.

36 Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black.



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37 All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the Evil One.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 13, 2026

1. In our first reading we continue hearing the ongoing account of the great Hebrew prophet Elijah. He had just met with God at Mount Horeb where the Lord spoke to him - not in the great wind, an earthquake or a fire, but, in a still small voice. In the encounter, God directed His Prophet and sent him to anoint a King for Israel, and to choose Elisha, another prophet to take his place. This great Prophet, Elijah, a Messianic Prophet, has some more work to do before the Lord takes him to heaven in a chariot of fire and a whirlwind. This great event is recorded in the second chapter of the second Book of Kings. By then, his disciple, Elisha was ready and receives a double portion of the Spirit.

Elijah was a great prophet because of His wonderful relationship with the Lord who had called him. He learned to hear the Lord speak. So can we. If we learn to listen. Often, it is not in the "loud" events of our lives, but rather, in the still small voice. To hear that still small voice we need to have developed spiritual ears and an attentive heart. We need to cultivate a personal prayer life. Personal prayer can open us up to Revelation, expand our capacity to comprehend its mysteries and then equip us to be changed, converted, and made new, by grace.

How is our personal prayer life?

2. One of the greatest helps in growing in Prayer is the Psalter, the collected Psalms of David. They have undergirded the prayer lives of faithful Jews and Christians for millennia. They are the backdrop of the Liturgy of the Hours, or Breviary, of the Catholic Church, prayed by every cleric, religious, and, increasingly, by more and more lay men and women.

The Psalms are mostly the prayers and hymns of the great prophet and King David. As we pray them, they open our spiritual ears. Like today, we join with David as he prays "I keep Yahweh before me always, for with him at my right hand, nothing can shake me. So, my heart rejoices, my soul delights, my body too will rest secure..." Pray the Psalms. Jesus did. They are a path to growing in our intimate communion with the Lord.

3. In the Gospel for today's Holy Mass Jesus speaks of the importance of keeping our word. Of walking with integrity before God and men. In the time of his earthly ministry, the misuse of oaths was rampant. He tells His disciples NOT to enter into such practices. But rather, "let your Yes be Yes and your No be no. Anything more is from the evil one".

Are we hearing the challenge? We live in an age of relativism, a philosophy which denies the very existence of objective truth. How are we doing with our own use of words? Can people rely on our speech?



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The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks with authority on the sinfulness of false oaths in these words:

"Rejection of false oaths is a duty toward God. As Creator and Lord, God is the norm of all truth. Human speech is either in accord with or in opposition to God who is Truth itself. When it is truthful and legitimate, an oath highlights the relationship of human speech with God's truth. A false oath calls on God to be witness to a lie." (CCC#2151)



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 14, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, June 14th, 2026

### Reading 1, Exodus 19:2-6

2 Setting out from Rephidim, they reached the desert of Sinai and pitched camp in the desert; there, facing the mountain, Israel pitched camp.

3 Moses then went up to God, and Yahweh called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob! Tell the Israelites,

4 "You have seen for yourselves what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you away on eagle's wings and brought you to me.

5 So now, if you are really prepared to obey me and keep my covenant, you, out of all peoples, shall be my personal possession, for the whole world is mine.

6 For me you shall be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation." Those are the words you are to say to the Israelites.'

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5

1 [Psalm For thanksgiving] Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth,

2 serve Yahweh with gladness, come into his presence with songs of joy!

3 Be sure that Yahweh is God, he made us, we belong to him, his people, the flock of his sheepfold.

5 For Yahweh is good, his faithful love is everlasting, his constancy from age to age.

### Reading 2, Romans 5:6-11

6 When we were still helpless, at the appointed time, Christ died for the godless.

7 You could hardly find anyone ready to die even for someone upright; though it is just possible that, for a really good person, someone might undertake to die.

8 So it is proof of God's own love for us, that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.



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9 How much more can we be sure, therefore, that, now that we have been justified by his death, we shall be saved through him from the retribution of God.

10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more can we be sure that, being now reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 What is more, we are filled with exultant trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

## **Gospel, Matthew 9:36-10:8**

36 And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers to his harvest.'

1 He summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to drive them out and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of illness.

2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who was also his betrayer.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: 'Do not make your way to gentile territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town;

6 go instead to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.

7 And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.

8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those suffering from virulent skin-diseases, drive out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 14, 2026

1. In our first reading, the Israelites had reached Mount Sinai, having been delivered from Egypt by the Lord.

Moses goes up on the Mountain to dialogue with the Lord. Moses listens...(the true heart of prayer)

'Say this to the House of Jacob! Tell the Israelites, "You have seen for yourselves what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you away on eagle's wings and brought you to me. So now, if you are really prepared to obey me and keep my covenant, you, out of all peoples, shall be my personal possession..."

Immediately following this encounter, Moses calls for the elders of Israel and sets before them all that the Lord has said and asks for their response to God's invitation to be His people. Their response, TOGETHER

"All that the Lord has spoken, we will do".

Is that our response to the Lord? Every day He calls us. Are we listening?

In our Psalm response, David answers "...Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth, serve Yahweh with gladness, come into his presence with songs of joy! Be sure that Yahweh is God, he made us, we belong to him, his people, the flock of his sheepfold. For Yahweh is good, his faithful love is everlasting, his constancy from age to age..." Let us make those words our own as we say yes to the Lord today.

2. The Apostle Paul reminds the Romans that "at the appointed time" Jesus died for the godless. That means you and me. While we were yet sinners, separated from God, the Father sent His Son, to pay the penalty for our sins and reconcile us to Himself through the sacrifice of Calvary.

Now, we are called to a new and different way of living. We are justified by the redemptive act of Jesus, the Savior. We are capacitated to live a new way. Freed from Sin, and its wages, and freed for the Way of the Lord.

Do we believe this? Are we living lives which demonstrate that belief?



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3. In the Gospel appointed for this Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we begin with verse 36 of the 9th chapter of the Gospel of St Matthew. In the earlier verses, Matthew has been called by the Lord to follow Him, Jesus reveals the kingdom with healings and signs.

Then, he issues His great commission. He was moved, this translation says, he felt sorrow. They were sheep without a shepherd. Another translation says "compassion". That means to enter into the suffering of another.

Jesus did that. Jesus does that.

This GREAT COMMISSION continues. We are His contemporary disciples. We are the laborers sent in for the harvest in this urgent hour.

Are we responding?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 15, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Monday, June 15th, 2026

### Reading 1, First Kings 21:1-16

1 This is what happened next: Naboth of Jezreel had a vineyard close by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria,

2 and Ahab said to Naboth, 'Give me your vineyard to be my vegetable garden, since it adjoins my palace; I will give you a better vineyard for it or, if you prefer, I will give you its value in money.'

3 Naboth, however, said to Ahab, 'Yahweh forbid that I should give you my ancestral heritage!'

4 Ahab went home gloomy and out of temper at the words of Naboth of Jezreel, 'I will not give you my heritage from my ancestors.' He lay down on his bed and turned his face away and refused to eat.

5 His wife Jezebel came to him. 'Why are you so dispirited,' she said, 'that you refuse to eat?'

6 He said, 'I have been talking to Naboth of Jezreel. I said, "Give me your vineyard either for money or, if you prefer, for another vineyard in exchange." But he said, "I will not give you my vineyard." '

7 Then his wife Jezebel said, 'Some king of Israel you make! Get up, eat and take heart; I myself shall get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.'

8 So she wrote a letter in Ahab's name and sealed it with his seal, sending the letter to the elders and notables of the city where Naboth lived.

9 In the letter, she wrote, 'Proclaim a fast, and put Naboth in a prominent place among the people.'

10 There confront him with a couple of scoundrels who will accuse him as follows, "You have cursed God and the king." Then take him outside and stone him to death.'

11 The men of Naboth's city, the elders and notables living in his city, did what Jezebel ordered, as was written in the letter which she had sent him.

12 They proclaimed a fast and put Naboth in a prominent place among the people.

13 The two scoundrels then came and confronted him, and the scoundrels then publicly accused Naboth as follows, 'Naboth has cursed God and the king.' He was then taken outside the city and stoned to death.

14 They then sent word to Jezebel, 'Naboth has been stoned to death.'

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15 When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, 'Get up! Take possession of the vineyard which Naboth of Jezreel refused to sell you, for Naboth is no longer alive, he is dead.'

16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth of Jezreel and take possession of it.

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 5:2-3, 5-6, 7**

2 Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God! To you I pray,

3 Yahweh. At daybreak you hear my voice; at daybreak I lay my case before you and fix my eyes on you.

5 Boasters cannot stand their ground under your gaze. You hate evil-doers,

6 liars you destroy; the violent and deceitful Yahweh detests.

7 But, so great is your faithful love, I may come into your house, and before your holy temple bow down in reverence of you.

## **Gospel, Matthew 5:38-42**

38 'You have heard how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.

39 But I say this to you: offer no resistance to the wicked. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well;

40 if someone wishes to go to law with you to get your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

41 And if anyone requires you to go one mile, go two miles with him.

42 Give to anyone who asks you, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 15, 2026

1. Ahab was an evil King. His wife Jezebel was worse. She turned Ahab toward idolatry, leading him to worship Baal. She later became the great nemesis of the Prophet Elijah. In this reading we see how evil corrupts and continues to corrupt - the moment it is allowed to enter into a person, a marriage, a government, or any situation. In this story Naboth refused to give his ancestral heritage to a wicked King. As a result of his standing strong for righteousness, he was killed. The story shows the wickedness of Jezebel, who orchestrated the entire horrible affair.

Evil is real. It is the enemy of the Lord and our enemy. In our own lives, we need to be ever spiritually vigilant, not allowing it to have any foothold. That is assisted by staying faithful to our Baptismal vocation. By praying, reading the scriptures, reading the Catechism, regularly going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Penance, regularly receiving the most Holy Eucharist and staying in what is called a "state of grace". How are we doing?

2. The words of the Psalmist are strong. He is speaking to the Lord when he says "Boasters cannot stand their ground under your gaze. You hate evildoers, liars you destroy; the violent and deceitful Yahweh detests."

What is he saying? It is the sin, the evil which God hates. David had sinned greatly in his life. BUT he repented and turned back to God. He continues "But, so great is your faithful love, I may come into your house, and before your holy temple bow down in reverence of you." This is the disposition we should imitate and emulate. We are all fallen, but God is rich in Mercy.

3. In the Gospel we continue with the teaching of Jesus in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew which begins with the Beatitudes. As I've mentioned before the word Beatitude means happiness. In fact, the word translated "Blessed" in the beginning of each of those whom Jesus calls blessed could be translated as "Happy". The beatitudes reveal the countenance and the character of Jesus Christ. And, by grace, we are called to become more and more like Him.

In the verses we heard today, Jesus is warning His followers not to retaliate. Rather, to live redemptively. As He did. And, in Him, we can do the same. You see Jesus is alive. He lives His life through His Mystical Body, the Church, of which we are members. As we grow closer and closer to Him, we can become more and more like Him. Every one of us is called to become a saint. There is a universal call to holiness.

How are we doing?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 16, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, June 16th, 2026

### Reading 1, First Kings 21:17-29

17 Then the word of Yahweh came to Elijah the Tishbite,

18 'Up! Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, in Samaria. You will find him in Naboth's vineyard; he has gone down to take possession of it.

19 You are to say this to him, "Yahweh says this: You have committed murder and now you usurp as well. For this -- and Yahweh says this -- in the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, the dogs will lick your blood too." '

20 Ahab said to Elijah, 'So you have caught me, O my enemy!' Elijah answered, 'I have caught you! For your double dealing, and since you have done what is displeasing to Yahweh,

21 I shall now bring disaster down on you; I shall sweep away your descendants and wipe out every manjack of the House of Ahab, fettered or free in Israel.

22 I shall treat your House as I treated the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and of Baasha son of Ahijah, for provoking my anger and leading Israel into sin.

23 (Against Jezebel too Yahweh spoke these words, "The dogs will eat Jezebel in the Field of Jezreel.")

24 Those of Ahab's family who die in the city, the dogs will eat; and those who die in the open country, the birds of the air will eat.'

25 And indeed there never was anyone like Ahab for double dealing and for doing what is displeasing to Yahweh, urged on by Jezebel his wife.

26 He behaved in the most abominable way, adhering to idols, just as the Amorites had, whom Yahweh had dispossessed for the Israelites.

27 When Ahab heard these words, he tore his garments and put sackcloth next to his skin and fasted; he slept in the sackcloth; he walked with slow steps.

28 Then the word of Yahweh came to Elijah the Tishbite,

29 'Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Since he has humbled himself before me, I shall not bring the disaster in his days; I shall bring the disaster down on his House in his son's days.'



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## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 11, 16**

3 For I am well aware of my offences, my sin is constantly in mind.

4 Against you, you alone, I have sinned, I have done what you see to be wrong, that you may show your saving justice when you pass sentence, and your victory may appear when you give judgement,

5 remember, I was born guilty, a sinner from the moment of conception.

6 But you delight in sincerity of heart, and in secret you teach me wisdom.

11 do not thrust me away from your presence, do not take away from me your spirit of holiness.

16 Sacrifice gives you no pleasure, burnt offering you do not desire.

## **Gospel, Matthew 5:43-48**

43 'You have heard how it was said, You will love your neighbour and hate your enemy.

44 But I say this to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you;

45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on the bad as well as the good, and sends down rain to fall on the upright and the wicked alike.

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Do not even the tax collectors do as much?

47 And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional?

48 Do not even the gentiles do as much? You must therefore be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 16, 2026

1. The evil scheme designed by Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, has ended up in Naboth being wrongly charged and stoned to death. That accomplished the desire, the King stole the vineyard of Naboth. The just anger of the Lord has been roused, against Jezebel. And, against King Ahab, who led Gods people into sin, idolatry, the worship of the false idol, Baal.

So, in the passage we heard from the 21st chapter of the first Book of Kings, the Lord has sent the Prophet Elijah to pronounce the sentence. he repentant acts of Ahab moves the Lord to show compassion.

But when Elijah exposes the crime and sin of Ahab, a surprise. The evil king tore his garments, put on sackcloth, fasted, and repented. Though the judgment was severe for Jezebel, her death, the repentant acts of Ahab moves the Lord to show compassion on him and the punishment is stayed for a generation.

Our sin deserves judgment. In fact, as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, "the wages of sin is death". But, the Apostle continues, "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ". This is the Good News. The Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, was incarnate of the Virgin and became Man. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, paid the penalty for all of our sin, and defeated death. opening the door to our new birth.

The response the Lord looks for is repentance, and confession. We are sinners in need of a Savior. God has sent such a Savior. Let us invite Him to be the Lord of our life.

2. David the Psalmist offers us a beautiful example of a prayer of repentance in our Response. Let us pray that prayer together:

"For I am well aware of my offences, my sin is constantly in mind.  
Against you, you alone, I have sinned, I have done what you see to be wrong, that you may show your saving justice when you pass sentence, and your victory may appear when you give judgement, remember, I was born guilty, a sinner from the moment of conception.  
But you delight in sincerity of heart, and in secret you teach me wisdom.  
do not thrust me away from your presence, do not take away from me your spirit of holiness.  
Sacrifice gives you no pleasure, burnt offering you do not desire."



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3. At the end of the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew which records the Sermon on the Mount and the admonitions to holy living, these words from Jesus always move me to repentance and reflection, "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt. 5:48) It is a call to complete transformation, beginning right now - and right where we are. It is a call to become saints in the stuff of the real world. It is right there where our transformation takes place. It becomes the very real material which is used to recreate us more fully into the Image revealed perfectly in the Sacred Humanity of Jesus.

In its dogmatic constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium, the Second Vatican Council in the Catholic Church affirmed the teaching of Jesus Christ, the clear teaching and witness of the early Church and the consistent teaching of Church Councils throughout the ages - holiness of life is not an option, for any member of the Church. All Christians are called to be holy.

We are all called to Christian perfection, "all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord, each in his own way, to that perfect holiness whereby the Father Himself is perfect" (Lumen Gentium, Light to the Nations, 11).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us "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) Christians are saved from sin, death, and separation from God, through Jesus Christ. We are Called for holy living.

We are to live differently - beginning right now- because we live our lives now in Jesus Christ. We are to love differently, because we are capacitated by grace to love in Jesus Christ, and with His Love. And all of this is made possible, as we cooperate with grace. The character of Christ is being formed in us as we cooperate with grace. Are we ready to say yes to the call? The Lord is ready to empower us to live it.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 17, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Wednesday, June 17th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Kings 2:1, 6-14

1 This is what happened when Yahweh took Elijah up to heaven in the whirlwind: Elijah and Elisha set out from Gilgal,

6 Elijah said, 'Elisha, you stay here, Yahweh is only sending me to the Jordan.' But he replied, 'As Yahweh lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you!' And they went on together.

7 Fifty of the brotherhood of prophets followed them, halting some distance away as the two of them stood beside the Jordan.

8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water; and the water divided to left and right, and the two of them crossed over dry-shod.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Make your request. What can I do for you before I am snatched away from you?' Elisha answered, 'Let me inherit a double share of your spirit.'

10 'Your request is difficult,' Elijah said. 'If you see me while I am being snatched away from you, it will be as you ask; if not, it will not be so.'

11 Now as they walked on, talking as they went, a chariot of fire appeared and horses of fire coming between the two of them; and Elijah went up to heaven in the whirlwind.

12 Elisha saw it, and shouted, 'My father! My father! Chariot of Israel and its chargers!' Then he lost sight of him, and taking hold of his own clothes he tore them in half.

13 He picked up Elijah's cloak which had fallen, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.

14 He took Elijah's cloak and struck the water. 'Where is Yahweh, the God of Elijah?' he cried. As he struck the water it divided to right and left, and Elisha crossed over.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 31:20, 21, 24

20 Safe in your presence you hide them, far from human plotting, shielding them in your tent, far from contentious tongues.

21 Blessed be Yahweh who works for me miracles of his faithful love (in a fortified city)!

24 Be brave, take heart, all who put your hope in Yahweh.

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## **Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18**

1 'Be careful not to parade your uprightness in public to attract attention; otherwise you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven.

2 So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win human admiration. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward.

3 But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing;

4 your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

5 'And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward.

6 But when you pray, go to your private room, shut yourself in, and so pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

16 'When you are fasting, do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they go about looking unsightly to let people know they are fasting. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward.

17 But when you fast, put scent on your head and wash your face,

18 so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 17, 2026

1. In our first reading, from the second chapter of the second book of Kings, we heard a portion of the beautiful commissioning of Elisha by the Prophet Elijah and the Lords taking the great Prophet Elijah, in a chariot of fire, by a whirlwind, into heaven. Before that marvelous translation of this great Messianic prophet into heaven, his disciple, Elisha is asked "Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you".

Elisha asked for a double portion of his spirit. In Deuteronomy 21:17 we read that the eldest son inherited a double portion of his father's property. Elisha saw himself as the spiritual son of Elijah. And his request was granted. The spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha, and he performed miracles and carried on a prophetic ministry to Israel.

As for Elijah, we will see him again, in the Gospel, on the Mount of Transfiguration, along with Moses, appearing with the Transfigured Jesus Christ in the Gospel of St Matthew, Chapter 17. After the Father speaks the words "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased, listen to Him", only Jesus was visible to the Apostles. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law, which came through Moses, and all the Prophets, Elijah being seen as the chief among them.

2. In our responsorial Psalm, David proclaims "Be brave, take heart, all who put your hope in Yahweh". Have we put our hope in the Lord? When we do, He can, and He will, accomplish His great works through us. How do we do that? By communicating with Him. Without prayer, we simply cannot grow in a relationship with the Lord. How are we doing? How much time have we spent communicating with the Lord today?
3. In the Gospel portion we heard for today's Holy Mass, Jesus is cautioning against religious hypocrisy. In this particular portion of his instruction, He is zeroing in on public shows of piety which are oriented NOT toward genuine worship of God, but for recognition by others, the participants own ego driven desire to be seen as "holy" or "pious". Jesus says, "Be careful not to parade your uprightness in public to attract attention; otherwise, you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven."

Jesus is not opposing public worship. In fact, it is a vital part of the Christian life and always has been. But it must be sincere and flow out of a genuine hunger for communion with the Lord. Public prayer is fueled by personal prayer.

The regular practice of personal prayer leads us into an ongoing communion, a dialogue, with the living God.

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Personal prayer becomes our fuel, the wind in our sails, helping us to navigate the waters of daily life. We can make no progress in the Christian life if we do not pray, personally and intimately. It brings us into a relationship with the Lord.

When we were baptized into Jesus Christ, we were invited to live our lives in Him, by living them in His Mystical Body, the Church, of which we became members. (1 Cor. 12:27) We need the Holy Spirit to respond to that ongoing invitation. The Lord gives the Holy Spirit to those who pray.

The intimate communion with the Father the disciples witnessed when they came upon Jesus in personal prayer is to become our experience. We are adopted sons and daughters of "His Father and Our Father". (John 20:17). We are to pray as Jesus did. In fact, when we are fully yielded to Jesus and guided by the Holy Spirit, He continues His communion with the Father, through us. We are "caught up" in prayer and begin to understand what the Apostle Peter meant when he told the early Christians that we are "partakers of the Divine Nature".



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 18, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Thursday, June 18th, 2026

### Reading 1, Sirach 48:1-14

- 1 Then the prophet Elijah arose like a fire, his word flaring like a torch.
- 2 It was he who brought famine on them and decimated them in his zeal.
- 3 By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens, three times also he brought down fire.
- 4 How glorious you were in your miracles, Elijah! Has anyone reason to boast as you have? -
- 5 rousing a corpse from death, from Sheol, by the word of the Most High;
- 6 dragging kings down to destruction, and high dignitaries from their beds;
- 7 hearing a rebuke on Sinai and decrees of punishment on Horeb;
- 8 anointing kings as avengers, and prophets to succeed you;
- 9 taken up in the whirlwind of fire, in a chariot with fiery horses;
- 10 designated in the prophecies of doom to allay God's wrath before the fury breaks, to turn the hearts of fathers towards their children, and to restore the tribes of Jacob.
- 11 Blessed, those who will see you, and those who have fallen asleep in love; for we too shall certainly have life.
- 12 Such was Elijah, who was enveloped in a whirlwind; and Elisha was filled with his spirit; throughout his life no ruler could shake him, and no one could subdue him.
- 13 No task was too hard for him, and even in death his body prophesied.
- 14 In his lifetime he performed wonders, and in death his works were marvellous.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7

- 1 Yahweh is king! Let earth rejoice, the many isles be glad!

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- 2 Cloud, black cloud enfolds him, saving justice and judgement the foundations of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him, sets ablaze his enemies all around;
- 4 his lightning-flashes light up the world, the earth sees it and quakes.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax, before the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens proclaim his saving justice, all nations see his glory.
- 7 Shame on all who serve images, who pride themselves on their idols; bow down to him, all you gods!

## **Gospel, Matthew 6:7-15**

- 7 'In your prayers do not babble as the gentiles do, for they think that by using many words they will make themselves heard.
- 8 Do not be like them; your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
- 9 So you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be held holy,
- 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
- 11 Give us today our daily bread.
- 12 And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us.
- 13 And do not put us to the test, but save us from the Evil One.
- 14 'Yes, if you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours;
- 15 but if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failings either.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 18, 2026

1. In our first reading from the Book of Sirach, part of the Wisdom literature, we have this tribute to Elijah. This Book was used extensively in the early Church in presenting moral teaching to catechumens, those entering the Church. This section in our first reading is a part of chapters in which the great Hebrew Sage, the author of the Book, tells of the great men whom the Lord used in the Hebrew Scriptures to bring His plan of salvation to the Chosen people.

This prosaic and beautiful tribute demonstrates the esteem and affection in which the great prophet Elijah was held.

"The prophet Elijah arose like a fire, his word flaring like a torch..." Elijah was indeed a powerful prophet. A messianic prophet. But, even with the powerful miracles and courage of the prophet Elijah, Ben Sira writes in verse 15 of that same chapter "Despite all this the people did not repent, nor did they give up their sins, until they were uprooted from their land and scattered all over the earth."

The Law, the prophets...were not enough to lead the people of God away from sin. So, in the fullness of time, God sent His Son, the promised messiah, Jesus Christ.

2. David the Psalmist was another Prophetic voice sent by the Lord to the People of God Israel. And his psalms of prayer and praise have become the foundation of both Jewish and Christian worship. The Psalms he was inspired to write, pointed to the Messiah. So, we join with Him in these powerful words today: "The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his saving justice, all nations see his glory.

Shame on all who serve images, who pride themselves on their idols; bow down to him..." Let us bow down only to the true God.

3. From this Gospel account in St Matthew, and the other accounts of the same exchange between Jesus and His disciples, we have been given the beautiful form prayer we were taught as children. It is the prayer we also pray at every Holy Mass, in every decade of the Rosary, the Our Father. However, Jesus is teaching us all much more than one form of prayer. He is revealing to his friends and followers the relationship which is itself the very heart of prayer.

In its teaching on the Lord's Prayer, the Catechism of the Catholic Church cites with approval a sermon from the second century priest Tertullian:

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"The expression God the Father had never been revealed to anyone. When Moses himself asked God who he was, he heard another name. The Father's name has been revealed to us in the Son, for the name "Son" implies the new name "Father."

God is Father of the Son, Jesus Christ. And, in our relationship with Jesus Christ, we enter the relationship He has with the Father. We become adopted sons and daughters, in the Son. This is what is often called by spiritual writers, divine filiation. All who are incorporated into the Body of Jesus Christ through Baptism are invited into the intimacy that is the very heart of the Trinity.

In this beautiful teaching, Jesus sets forth the relational framework within which our own life can become an ongoing dialogue of prayer.

The Our Father reveals the path for every one of us to living in a continual communion with God. In fact, Jesus uses an Aramaic word "Abba", a word used by children for their own Father. Much like the term of affection Dad. It implies an intimate communion, a relationship of tender love.

God is not some distant Being whom we only call on when we are in trouble, Because of what Jesus has done for us, His Father is now Our Father. In the Gospel of St. John, the last Gospel to be written, Jesus calls God His Father 156 times. Obviously, it was essential to His message. Do we call God "Father"? We can. We should. It is essential to our own life.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 19, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Friday, June 19th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20

1 When Athaliah mother of Ahaziah learned that her son was dead, she promptly murdered all those of royal stock.

2 But Jehosheba, daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, surreptitiously rescued Jehoash son of Ahaziah from among the princes who were to be murdered, and put him with his nurse in the sleeping quarters; in this way she hid him from Athaliah, and he was not killed.

3 He stayed, hidden with her in the Temple of Yahweh for six years, while Athaliah governed the country.

4 In the seventh year, Jehoiada sent for the regimental commanders of the Carians and the guards, and had them brought to him in the Temple of Yahweh. He made a pact with them, put them on oath, then showed them the king's son. He gave them this order,

9 The regimental commanders did everything as Jehoiada the priest had ordered, and each one brought his men, those coming on duty on the Sabbath and those going off duty on the Sabbath, and reported to Jehoiada the priest.

10 The priest then issued the regimental commanders with King David's spears and shields, which were kept in the Temple of Yahweh.

11 The guards then took position, each man with his weapons in his hand, from the south corner of the Temple to the north corner of the Temple, all round the altar and the Temple.

12 Then Jehoiada brought the king's son out -- crowned him and gave him a copy of the covenant; and they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and shouted, 'Long live the king!'

13 On hearing the people shouting, Athaliah joined the people in the Temple of Yahweh.

14 When she looked, there stood the king on a dais, as the custom was, with the officers and trumpeters at the king's side, and all the people of the country rejoicing and blowing the trumpets; then Athaliah tore her clothes and shouted, 'Treason, treason!'



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15 Jehoiada the priest then gave the orders to the commanders in charge of the troops, 'Take her out under guard and put to death anyone who follows her.' 'For', the priest had already said, 'she must not be killed inside the Temple of Yahweh.'

16 They seized her, and when she reached the horses' entry to the palace, she was killed there.

17 Jehoiada made a covenant between Yahweh, the king and the people that they would remain Yahweh's people; and another one between the king and the people.

18 All the people of the country then went to the temple of Baal and demolished it; they smashed its altars and its images and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars. The priest made arrangements for the security of the Temple of Yahweh.

20 All the people of the country were delighted; the city, however, made no move. And Athaliah was put to death inside the palace.

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 132:11, 12, 13-14, 17-18**

11 Yahweh has sworn to David, and will always remain true to his word, 'I promise that I will set a son of yours upon your throne.'

12 If your sons observe my covenant and the instructions I have taught them, their sons too for evermore will occupy your throne.'

13 For Yahweh has chosen Zion, he has desired it as a home.

14 'Here shall I rest for evermore, here shall I make my home as I have wished.

17 'There I shall raise up a line of descendants for David, light a lamp for my anointed;

18 I shall clothe his enemies with shame, while his own crown shall flourish.'



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## **Gospel, Matthew 6:19-23**

19 'Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and woodworm destroy them and thieves can break in and steal.

20 But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor woodworm destroys them and thieves cannot break in and steal.

21 For wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be too.

22 'The lamp of the body is the eye. It follows that if your eye is clear, your whole body will be filled with light.

23 But if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be darkness. If then, the light inside you is darkened, what darkness that will be!



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## Questions for Reflection for June 19, 2026

1. Our first reading is taken from the 2nd Book of Kings in the Old Testament. We heard excerpts from the eleventh chapter. First, some context. Israel had strayed from the Lord. But, in spite of their idolatry and sin, God's plan for them is not thwarted. A woman named Athaliah reigned for a time over Judah. Her son had been killed and she destroyed all of the royal family. All except for a child named Joash. He was hidden and later crowned King of Judah at the age of seven. He reigned for 40 years. And the lineage of David was preserved.

One principle we can learn from this is that the Lord has a sovereign plan. Not only for His people, but for each one of us. As we grow in our relationship with Him, we need to ask Him to reveal that plan and to give us the grace we need to respond to it and put His plan first in our lives.

2. The Psalmist David in our responsorial Psalm, taken from Psalm 132, echoes this vital promise "The Lord has chosen Zion for His dwelling. He swore to David he would set his offspring on the throne. And the Lord fulfilled His promise in its fullness in Jesus Christ. The Church is the New Israel and Jesus is the King. We are citizens of that New Israel. And, he has chosen us for His dwelling.
3. Our Gospel is taken from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Jesus is continuing his instructions to his disciples following His Sermon on the Mount. (Chapter five). In the verses before this teaching on treasure, He has taught the disciples how to pray from that text we derive the prayer called the Our Father) and spoken to them about fasting. In these portions he tells them "...where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The "heart" in the biblical and theological sense is the center of the person, the Catechism says it is the "...seat of the moral personality". (CCC Sec. 2517) It is where we make the choices which, in effect, make us. We become what we set our hearts upon. Jesus is the One who has the claim of primacy to our hearts. He is to become our treasure. How are we doing? Who or what do we treasure?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 20, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, June 20th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Chronicles 24:17-25

17 After Jehoiada's death the officials of Judah came to pay court to the king, and the king listened to their advice,

18 and they abandoned the Temple of Yahweh, God of their ancestors, for the worship of sacred poles and idols. Judah and Jerusalem incurred wrath because of this guilt of theirs.

19 He sent their prophets to lead them back to Yahweh; these put the case against them, but they would not listen.

20 The spirit of God then invested Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood up before the people and said, 'God says this, "Why transgress Yahweh's commands to your certain ruin? For if you abandon Yahweh, he will abandon you."

21 They then plotted against him and, at the king's order, stoned him in the court of the Temple of Yahweh.

22 Thus King Joash, forgetful of the devotion which Jehoiada father of Zechariah had displayed on his behalf, murdered his son, who cried out as he died, 'Yahweh will see this and avenge it!'

23 At the turn of the year, the Aramaean army made war on Joash. When they reached Judah and Jerusalem, they massacred all the nation's government officials and sent all their booty to the king of Damascus.

24 Although the invading Aramaean army was only a small body of men, Yahweh allowed them to defeat a very large army because they had abandoned Yahweh, God of their ancestors; thus they executed judgement on Joash. After they had retired -- for they left him seriously wounded--

25 his own retainers plotted against him to avenge the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest and murdered him in his bed. When he died he was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.



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## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34**

4 I have made your dynasty firm for ever, built your throne stable age after age.

5 The heavens praise your wonders, Yahweh, your constancy in the gathering of your faithful.

29 I have established his dynasty for ever, his throne to be as lasting as the heavens.

30 'Should his descendants desert my law, and not keep to my rulings,

31 should they violate my statutes, and not observe my commandments,

32 'then I shall punish their offences with the rod, their guilt with the whip,

33 but I shall never withdraw from him my faithful love, I shall not belie my constancy.

34 'I shall not violate my covenant, I shall not withdraw the word once spoken.

## **Gospel, Matthew 6:24-34**

24 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

25 'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing!

26 Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are?

27 Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life?

28 And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin;

29 yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these.

30 Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you who have so little faith?



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31 So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?"

32 It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

33 Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well.

34 So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 20, 2026

1. In our first reading, taken from the 24th chapter of the 2nd Book of Chronicles, we catch up with King Joash, the seven-year-old King who reigned for 40 years. In verse 2 of Chapter 24 we read that "...he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the days of Jehoida the priest". He even restored the house of the Lord. But, after the high priest, Jehoida died, the King fell to the sin of pride and apostasy. He then the Kingdom of Judah began to worship idols. He was killed.

Again, not only is this an historical account, it is to be a reminder to us that the fidelity we showed to the Lord yesterday is not sufficient for today. Our walk as Christians, as citizens of the Kingdom of God, is a daily call to fidelity. He gives us the grace to avoid sin, but our choices matter. How are we doing?

2. Our Responsorial Psalm is taken from Psalm 89. We cry out with David the Psalmist the words of promise given by the Lord to Israel "Forever I will maintain my love for my servant." But we also hear that if we turn away...there are consequences. Yet, as the Lord says to us in the Psalm my mercy, I will not take from him, nor will I belie my faithfulness."
3. Our Gospel text for today's Holy Mass is again taken from the 6th chapter of St. Matthew. Jesus is teaching his disciples and, that includes us. We are told we cannot "serve two masters". We cannot serve "God and Mammon". The word Mammon refers to material wealth and goods. The warning is clear. When money and the goods of this earth become an idol, we fall away from the Lord.

Thus, as the following verses explain, we are called to live gospel simplicity. When we love the goods of the earth more than we love the One who created them - and entrusts them to us - we commit the sin of idolatry. A destitute person can be just as obsessed with money as a wealthy one who is given over to greed. Greed is a form of idolatry.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 21, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, June 21st, 2026

### Reading 1, Jeremiah 20:10-13

10 I heard so many disparaging me, 'Terror on every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All those who were on good terms with me watched for my downfall, 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we shall get the better of him and take our revenge!'

11 But Yahweh is at my side like a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, vanquished, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

12 Yahweh Sabaoth, you who test the upright, observer of motives and thoughts, I shall see your vengeance on them, for I have revealed my cause to you.

13 Sing to Yahweh, praise Yahweh, for he has delivered the soul of one in need from the clutches of evil doers.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

8 I am estranged from my brothers, alienated from my own mother's sons;

9 for I am eaten up with zeal for your house, and insults directed against you fall on me.

10 I mortify myself with fasting, and find myself insulted for it,

14 Rescue me from the mire before I sink in; so I shall be saved from those who hate me, from the watery depths.

17 do not turn away from your servant, be quick to answer me, for I am in trouble.

33 For God listens to the poor, he has never scorned his captive people.

34 Let heaven and earth and seas, and all that stirs in them, acclaim him!

35 For God will save Zion, and rebuild the cities of Judah, and people will live there on their own land;



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## Reading 2, Romans 5:12-15

12 Well then; it was through one man that sin came into the world, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

13 Sin already existed in the world before there was any law, even though sin is not reckoned when there is no law.

14 Nonetheless death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sin was not the breaking of a commandment, as Adam's was. He prefigured the One who was to come . . .

15 There is no comparison between the free gift and the offence. If death came to many through the offence of one man, how much greater an effect the grace of God has had, coming to so many and so plentifully as a free gift through the one man Jesus Christ!

## Gospel, Matthew 10:26-33

26 'So do not be afraid of them. Everything now covered up will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear.

27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

28 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

29 Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing.

30 Why, every hair on your head has been counted.

31 So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32 'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of human beings, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven.

33 But the one who disowns me in the presence of human beings, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.

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## Questions for Reflection for June 21, 2026

1. In our first reading, the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah, a powerfully anointed and courageous man of God, has come under a terrible persecution at the hands of a priest named Pashhur because of his prophecies calling Israel to repentance. He has beaten the Prophet and placed him in jail. The portion of the twentieth chapter we heard this twelfth Sunday in Ordinary time, is a part of his honest but deeply disappointed conversation with the Lord over what has befallen him for proclaiming Gods word.

He even acknowledges his own fear.

It is important to see this humanity in this account of the Prophet. It also teaches us something about our own relationship with the Lord and how we pray. This kind of gut-wrenching honesty is not "inappropriate". God knows our hearts. He knows our fears. A little earlier on, Jeremiah says to the Lord "You duped me and I let myself be duped" (Jer 20:7) But he then continues "You are stronger than I and you have prevailed"

2. The Psalmist David, in our Responsorial Psalm for today's Mass, reveals the same kind of honesty in his prayer. How honest are we in our prayer?

In the Second Reading, the Apostle Paul reminds the Romans, and us, that sin no longer reigns because of the redemption of Jesus Christ. In Him, the penalty for all the sins of the world has been paid, and the wages of that sin paid. The separation which sin brought, that is death, is now defeated through the free gift of God's grace. Do we believe this? Do we live as though we do?

3. In the Gospel for Holy Mass Jesus tells us what NOT to fear. But He also tells us what TO fear. Fear is a common human emotion. But most fear is rooted in a lack of trust in God's love. We fear that we will lose our health. We fear that we will not have enough money. We fear that we will fail at a job or career or on an exam. We fear that we will not be accepted. Then, as some grow older and have children, we fear the same things for each one of them.

Perhaps we are no longer as crippled by our fears as we were when we were young, but they still lurk in the background, robbing our freedom and preventing our human flourishing. They harm our relationships and can impede our growth. All of our fears find a common root in the fear of death which can lead to the living slavery spoken of in the Letter to the Hebrews. The Good News (that is what the word Gospel means in its literal translation from Greek) is that this kind of fear is useless!



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Fear needs no longer have any power over us if we choose to really choose to trust in the Lord, and allow his gift, we call it grace, to permeate our daily lives. All useless human fears can be overcome. They can be dispelled in the light of a vibrant and growing faith.

But we should fear, in the words of the Lord, the one "who can destroy both body and soul in hell". Hell is real. It is the state of eternal separation from God. The Devil is real. And he hates us and wants our damnation. We must not forget that.

The Catholic Catechism explains:

"The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, "eternal fire." The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs." (CCC #1035)



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 22, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Monday, June 22nd, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Kings 17:5-8, 13-15, 18

5 The king of Assyria invaded the whole country and, coming to Samaria, laid siege to it for three years.

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah on the Habor, a river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

7 This happened because the Israelites had sinned against Yahweh their God who had brought them out of Egypt, out of the grip of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods,

8 they followed the practices of the nations which Yahweh had dispossessed for them.

13 And yet through all the prophets and the seers, Yahweh had given Israel and Judah this warning, 'Turn from your wicked ways and keep my commandments and my laws in accordance with the entire Law which I laid down for your fathers and delivered to them through my servants the prophets.'

14 But they would not listen, they were as stubborn as their ancestors, who had no faith in Yahweh their God.

15 They despised his laws and the covenant which he had made with their ancestors and the warnings which he had given them. Pursuing futility, they themselves became futile through copying the nations round them, although Yahweh had ordered them not to act as they did.

18 Because of which, Yahweh became enraged with Israel and thrust them away from him. The tribe of Judah was the only one left.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 60:3, 4-5, 12-13

3 You have forced your people to drink a bitter draught, forced us to drink a wine that made us reel.

4 You gave a signal to those who fear you to let them escape out of range of the bow.

5 To rescue those you love, save with your right hand and answer us.

12 With God we shall do deeds of valour, he will trample down our enemies.

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## **Gospel, Matthew 7:1-5**

1 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged;

2 because the judgements you give are the judgements you will get, and the standard you use will be the standard used for you.

3 Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the great log in your own?

4 And how dare you say to your brother, "Let me take that splinter out of your eye," when, look, there is a great log in your own?

5 Hypocrite! Take the log out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take the splinter out of your brother's eye.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 22, 2026

1. In our first reading, Israel has once again turned away from God to the worship of idols and, as a result of their sin, terrible persecution and deportation. They had been warned, over and over, through the Prophets, of the consequences of committing such evil acts, yet they continued to engage in them.

There are consequences to sin. So, it is in our own lives. We may not have idols made of stone or molten gold. But we still fall prey to idols and turn away from God.

The Catholic Catechism helps us to understand how idolatry still lures us away from God. Listen to these words:

"Idolatry not only refers to false pagan worship. It remains a constant temptation to faith. Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God, whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money, etc. Jesus says, "You cannot serve God and mammon."<sup>44</sup> Many martyrs died for not adoring "the Beast" refusing even to simulate such worship. Idolatry rejects the unique Lordship of God; it is therefore incompatible with communion with God" (CCC #2113).

Because the Lord loves us, He warns us to turn away from any form of idolatry. The next paragraph in the Catechism, 2114, reminds us:

"Human life finds its unity in the adoration of the one God. The commandment to worship the Lord alone integrates man and saves him from an endless disintegration. Idolatry is a perversion of man's innate religious sense. An idolater is someone who "transfers his indestructible notion of God to anything other than God."

Where are the idols in our own lives? It is time to smash them and turn to the only true God.

2. The When we do turn away from idolatry and turn toward God, the Psalmist tells us, in our response, he will restore us, rescue us, and trample our enemies:

"You have forced your people to drink a bitter draught, forced us to drink a wine that made us reel. You gave a signal to those who fear you to let them escape out of range of the bow. To rescue those you love, save with your right hand and answer us. With God we shall do deeds of valour, he will trample down our enemies."

When was the last time we made a good confession? Maybe it is time.

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3. The Gospel appointed for today's Mass speaks to us of the dangers of pride. The Catholic Catechism reminds us of the dangers of the seven deadly sins in its discussion of vices:

"Vices can be classified according to the virtues they oppose, or also be linked to the capital sins which Christian experience has distinguished, following St. John Cassian and St. Gregory the Great. They are called "capital" because they engender other sins, other vices. They are pride, avarice, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, and sloth or acedia." (CCC #1866)

When we commit the sin of pride, the slightest faults of others are exaggerated, and our own defects are minimized. Saint Augustine offers some wise advice in a commentary he wrote on one of the Psalms:

"Strive to acquire the virtues you think your brothers lack, and then you will no longer see their defects, because you yourselves will not have them".



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 23, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Kings 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-35, 36

9 on hearing that Tirhakah king of Cush was on his way to attack him.

10 Sennacherib again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, 'Tell Hezekiah king of Judah this, "Do not let your God on whom you are relying deceive you with the promise: Jerusalem will not fall into the king of Assyria's clutches.

11 You have learnt by now what the kings of Assyria have done to all the other countries, devoting them to destruction. Are you likely to be saved?

14 Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers' hands and read it; he then went up to the Temple of Yahweh and spread it out before Yahweh.

15 Hezekiah said this prayer in the presence of Yahweh, 'Yahweh Sabaoth, God of Israel, enthroned on the winged creatures, you alone are God of all the kingdoms of the world, you made heaven and earth.

16 Give ear, Yahweh, and listen; open your eyes, Yahweh, and see! Hear the words of Sennacherib, who has sent to insult the living God.

17 It is true, Yahweh, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations,

18 they have thrown their gods on the fire, for these were not gods but human artefacts -- wood and stone -- and hence they have destroyed them.

19 But now, Yahweh our God, save us from his clutches, I beg you, and let all the kingdoms of the world know that you alone are God, Yahweh.'

20 Isaiah son of Amoz then sent the following message to Hezekiah, 'Yahweh, God of Israel, says this, "I have heard the prayer which you have addressed to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria."

21 Here is the pronouncement which Yahweh has made about him: "She despises you, she scorns you, the virgin daughter of Zion; she tosses her head at you, the daughter of Jerusalem!

31 for a remnant will issue from Jerusalem, and survivors from Mount Zion. Yahweh Sabaoth's jealous love will accomplish this.

32 "This, then, is what Yahweh says about the king of Assyria: "He will not enter this city, will shoot no arrow at it, confront it with no shield, throw up no earthwork against it.



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33 By the road by which he came, by that he will return; he will not enter this city, declares Yahweh.

34 I shall protect this city and save it for my sake and my servant David's sake." '

35 That same night the angel of Yahweh went out and struck down a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. In the early morning when it was time to get up, there they lay, so many corpses.

36 Sennacherib struck camp and left; he returned home and stayed in Nineveh.

## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 48:2-3, 3-4, 10-11**

2 towering in beauty, the joy of the whole world: Mount Zion in the heart of the north, the settlement of the great king;

3 God himself among its palaces has proved himself its bulwark.

4 For look, kings made alliance, together they advanced;

10 Both your name and your praise, God, are over the whole wide world. Your right hand is full of saving justice,

11 Mount Zion rejoices, the daughters of Judah delight because of your saving justice.

## **Gospel, Matthew 7:6, 12-14**

6 'Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls in front of pigs, or they may trample them and then turn on you and tear you to pieces.

12 'So always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that is the Law and the Prophets.

13 'Enter by the narrow gate, since the road that leads to destruction is wide and spacious, and many take it;

14 but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

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## Questions for Reflection for June 23, 2026

1. Hezekiah was the thirteenth King of Judah. In the passage we heard in our first reading, the King had just heard of the treacherous and evil plans of the King of Assyria against his people. Being a righteous man, he went to the temple to pray. The words of his prayer are powerful, and they show the relationship Hezekiah had with the true God.

"Yahweh Sabaoth, God of Israel, enthroned on the winged creatures, you alone are God of all the kingdoms of the world, you made heaven and earth. Give ear, Yahweh, and listen; open your eyes, Yahweh, and see!

Hear the words of Sennacherib, who has sent to insult the living God.

"It is true, Yahweh, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations, they have thrown their gods on the fire, for these were not gods but human artefacts -- wood and stone -- and hence they have destroyed them.

But now, Yahweh our God, save us from his clutches, I beg you, and let all the kingdoms of the world know that you alone are God, Yahweh.'

And the Lord heard the prayer of this King. He sent the Prophet Isaiah to tell him that the Lord had heard his prayer and would intervene.

We live in a different kind of political situation than ancient Israel experienced during the time of the Kings. But the Lord still watches over His people, wherever they are. We desperately need righteous leaders in this difficult hour. And we need to pray for them. As Christians, we need to pray for the leaders of all Nations in which we live. Praying for those in civil government was a regular practice in the early church and it needs to be restored.

As the Catechism reminds us "The political community and public authority are based on human nature and therefore . . . belong to an order established by God" Do we pray for our civil leaders?

2. The Psalmist David reminds us that the Lord is a "bulwark". "Mount Zion in the heart of the north, the settlement of the great king; God himself among its palaces has proved himself its bulwark." The word bulwark is used often in the Hebrew Scriptures. A bulwark is a defensive wall or shield. God is the greatest defensive Wall or Shield for a believer. He himself is a place of refuge. Is the Lord your bulwark? He wants to be. Ask Him.



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3. Our Gospel for today's Holy Mass is quite short. It really needs to be placed in its context to reflect upon.

Sometimes our daily Gospel readings are what is called a "pericope", an extract. Today is one of those times. It is taken from the 7th chapter of Matthews Gospel. Jesus is continuing to instruct his disciples in a series of teachings following Him having given the Beatitudes.

First, we hear verse 6 from the 7th chapter: 'Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls in front of pigs, or they may trample them and then turn on you and tear you to pieces.'

But then, we skip down to verses 12-14:

'So always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that is the Law and the Prophets. 'Enter by the narrow gate, since the road that leads to destruction is wide and spacious, and many take it.

but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.'

Verses 7 - 11 are left out. What are they? How do they help us to respond? Listen:

"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks receives; everyone who searches finds; everyone who knocks will have the door opened. Is there anyone among you who would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or would hand him a snake when he asked for a fish? If you, then, evil as you are, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Verse 6 is a warning about not committing profanation, which the Catholic Dictionary defines as: "The desecration of something holy by using or treating a sacred person, place, or thing as though it were not sacred but merely secular or profane. Thus, profanity in speech is the use of God's name or of one of the saints without due regard for its sacred character.

Then verses 12 - 14 are about entering the narrow gate. Chapters 5, 6, and 7 are all about how we are to be holy, set apart for the Lord. About how we are to live a full Christian life.

Well, the verses in between are what make it all possible. We need to pray to have the grace to respond to the instruction of Jesus. We need to seek, to ask, and to knock. When we do, the Lord gives us the grace we need to reject profanation and to live holy lives. After all, we are all called to be saints. But we will never become Saints without the grace of God



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 24, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Wednesday, June 24th, 2026

### Reading 1, Isaiah 49:1-6

1 Coasts and islands, listen to me, pay attention, distant peoples. Yahweh called me when I was in the womb, before my birth he had pronounced my name.

2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword, he hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me into a sharpened arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

3 He said to me, 'Israel, you are my servant, through whom I shall manifest my glory.'

4 But I said, 'My toil has been futile, I have exhausted myself for nothing, to no purpose.' Yet all the while my cause was with Yahweh and my reward with my God.

5 And now Yahweh has spoken, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him and to re-unite Israel to him;-I shall be honoured in Yahweh's eyes, and my God has been my strength.-

6 He said, 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of earth.'

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15

1 [For the choirmaster Of David Psalm] Yahweh, you examine me and know me,

2 you know when I sit, when I rise, you understand my thoughts from afar.

3 You watch when I walk or lie down, you know every detail of my conduct.

13 You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 For so many marvels I thank you; a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders. You knew me through and through,

15 my being held no secrets from you, when I was being formed in secret, textured in the depths of the earth.



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## Reading 2, Acts 13:22-26

22 he deposed him and raised up David to be king, whom he attested in these words, "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will perform my entire will."

23 To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour,

24 whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel.

25 Before John ended his course he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; there is someone coming after me whose sandal I am not fit to undo."

26 'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you godfearers, this message of salvation is meant for you.

## Gospel, Luke 1:57-66, 80

57 The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son;

58 and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had lavished on her his faithful love, they shared her joy.

59 Now it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,

60 but his mother spoke up. 'No,' she said, 'he is to be called John.'

61 They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name,'

62 and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called.

63 The father asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they were all astonished.

64 At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God.

65 All their neighbours were filled with awe and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea.



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66 All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

80 Meanwhile the child grew up and his spirit grew strong. And he lived in the desert until the day he appeared openly to Israel.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 24, 2026

1. Our first reading is from the Messianic Old Testament Prophet Isaiah. The section we heard is from the beginning of the 49th chapter. The entire chapter addresses the "Servant of the Lord" and his mission on behalf of the Lord. As Christians, we look back on these verses and see them fulfilled in the New Testament. Today, the Western Church, the Latin Rite, recalls the Nativity of John the Baptizer. Except for the Lord himself and Mary, the Mother of the Lord, John is the only New Testament Saint whose birth and death we commemorate in the Liturgical Year. He was the forerunner, the one who would herald the coming of the Messiah.

And as the Prophet proclaims, he was called from the womb. In the ancient Christian prayer of the Rosary, one of the mysteries we reflect upon is the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. When Our Lady went to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth - she was carrying the Incarnate Word, Jesus, and Elizabeth was carrying John - the Gospel of Luke tells us:

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said: "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Luke 1: 41-47)

Living in his mother's womb, this last Prophet of the Old Testament and First Prophet of the New responded to the arrival of Jesus the Savior with a dance of Joy. St. John records John the Baptizer explaining the reason for his joy, "The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; I must decrease." (John 1:29 - 30)

Children in the womb have a fundamental Right to Life. Life begins at conception. The Prophet Isaiah makes that clear. Psalm 139, appointed for our response does as well. "You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother's womb." Notice the exchange between Jesus and John. How do we treat children in the womb? What are we doing to end the intrinsic evil of abortion?

2. In our second reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, we have another excerpt from the Apostle Paul's sermon in the synagogue in Antioch to the Jews. He persuasively presents the case that Jesus was the descendent of David promised throughout the Prophets of Israel. And, that John was his precursor, the one who prepared the way, the one who always pointed to Jesus. John still points to Jesus, in both his birth and his martyr's death. That is why we celebrate both.



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Two millennia after his illustrious mission as the harbinger of Christ, we readily accept, as we should, his prophetic role in the revelation of God's plan of salvation and the advent of the Gospel. Yet, how might we have seen John if we had been his contemporaries? Would we have so readily accepted him, or might we have rejected him as a fanatic or extremist?

Let's face it: John was peculiar. He dressed like a cave man, ate insects and railed at politicians for their fornication and marital infidelity. He sequestered himself in the desert where he tirelessly initiated converts fleeing the sinful pollution of the cities. He proclaimed the end if the people failed to repent and he used vivid and mystical imagery. In the popular "media" of the day, he was portrayed as a nut and dangerous fanatic.

By standing apart, boldly calling out evil doers without regard to their prestige or rank, by challenging his own co-religionists, John made himself terribly unpopular. At the end, he publicly and relentlessly criticized the personal behavior of the most powerful politician in Judea, Herod. As a result, he was arrested and executed as a traitor. He was a man of faith filled courage. Are we men and women of faith filled courage?

3. On June 24, the Western Church celebrates the Birth of John the Baptizer. On August 29, we commemorate his death by beheading. Other than the Lord Himself and His Blessed Mother, Mary, John is the only Saint for whom we celebrate both his birth and his death. In a beautiful excerpt from a sermon of St. Augustine on John the Baptizer, the great Bishop of Hippo calls us to pause and reflect on why:

"The Church observes the birth of John as in some way sacred; and you will not find any other of the great men of old whose birth we celebrate officially. We celebrate John's, as we celebrate Christ's. This point cannot be passed over in silence, and if I may not perhaps be able to explain it in the way that such an important matter deserves, it is still worth thinking about it a little more deeply and fruitfully than usual."

Our image of John is as the austere ascetic, the odd fellow who lived in the desert eating an odd diet thundering to Israel about repentance. We forget the joy that was associated with his birth and the happiness which accompanied his prophetic life and vocation. He always pointed the way to Jesus. So, must we in our own age. When we begin to really understand this we will also comprehend the freedom he experienced in both life and death. He simply said yes to who he was born to be and continually said yes to who he was called to become. He is an example for each one of us. He did indeed prepare the way for each one of us.



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When Our Lady went to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth - she carrying the Incarnate Word and Elizabeth carrying John - the Gospel tells us: "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said: "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

"And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Luke 1: 41-47)

Living in the first home of the whole human race, his mother's womb, this last Prophet of the Old Testament and First Prophet of the New responded to the arrival of Jesus the Savior with a dance of Joy. St. John the great theologian records in his Gospel where John the Baptizer explained the reason for his joy,

"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. So, this joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; I must decrease." (John 1:29 - 30) John the Baptizer was a man of Joy because he was a man of true humility!

He was a man who understood that life wasn't all about him. He emptied himself willingly and was thus able to reveal Jesus to others. He was the "best man" at the wedding. His humility opened a space within him for true joy to take root and set him free! John is a sign of contradiction for this age, drunk on self-worship and lost in narcissistic self-absorption. He points to the path to true freedom, living a lifestyle of self-emptying." He must increase and I must decrease". This leads to ongoing conversion, becoming a new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17)

John is a man to be imitated in both life and death. He shows us how we are called to empty ourselves, of ourselves, and point the people of our age to Jesus. How are we doing?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 25, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Thursday, June 25th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Kings 24:8-17

8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he came to the throne, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Nehushta daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

9 He did what is displeasing to Yahweh, just as his father had done.

10 At that time the troops of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.

11 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on the city and his generals laid siege to it.

12 Jehoiachin king of Judah-he, his mother, his retinue, his nobles and his officials -- then surrendered to the king of Babylon, and the king of Babylon took them prisoner in the eighth year of his reign.

13 The latter carried off all the treasures of the Temple of Yahweh and the treasures of the palace and broke up all the golden furnishings which Solomon king of Israel had made for the sanctuary of Yahweh, as Yahweh had foretold.

14 He carried all Jerusalem off into exile, all the nobles and all the notables, ten thousand of these were exiled, with all the blacksmiths and metalworkers; only the poorest people in the country were left behind.

15 He deported Jehoiachin to Babylon, as also the king's mother, his officials and the nobility of the country; he made them all leave Jerusalem for exile in Babylon.

16 All the men of distinction, seven thousand of them, the blacksmiths and metalworkers, one thousand of them, all the men capable of bearing arms, were led off into exile in Babylon by the king of Babylon.

17 The king of Babylon deposed Jehoiachin in favour of his paternal uncle Mattaniah, whose name he changed to Zedekiah.

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 79:1-2, 3-5, 8, 9

1 [Psalm Of Asaph] God, the pagans have invaded your heritage, they have defiled your holy temple, they have laid Jerusalem in ruins,

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2 they have left the corpses of your servants as food for the birds of the air, the bodies of your faithful for the wild beasts.

3 Around Jerusalem they have shed blood like water, leaving no one to bury them.

4 We are the scorn of our neighbours, the butt and laughing-stock of those around us.

5 How long will you be angry, Yahweh? For ever? Is your jealousy to go on smouldering like a fire?

8 Do not count against us the guilt of former generations, in your tenderness come quickly to meet us, for we are utterly weakened;

9 help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name; Yahweh, wipe away our sins, rescue us for the sake of your name.

## **Gospel, Matthew 7:21-29**

21 'It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.

22 When the day comes many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, work many miracles in your name?"

23 Then I shall tell them to their faces: I have never known you; away from me, all evil doers!

24 'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock.

25 Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock.

26 But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand.

27 Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!

28 Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people

29 because he taught them with authority, unlike their own scribes.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 25, 2026

1. This 18-year-old King Jehoiachin, the King of Judah, we hear of in our first reading was the son of Josiah. And the scripture tells us "He did what is displeasing to Yahweh, just as his father had done." And what happened, the consequences of disobeying God. This time, on a national scale. The King of Babylon took him, his family and Jerusalem captive. This pagan King also despoiled the temple, carried off all the treasures and took all the vessels used for the worship of the Lord. He then appointed his own uncle to be the King.

Not only is this an historical account of the siege of Jerusalem, a consequence of the sin of the King, but it tells us the effects a father can have on his son.

We recently celebrated Father's Day in the United States. As a Father and a grandfather, I am increasingly aware of how my own behavior and lifestyle effects my own children and grandchildren. It is important for all of us to regularly reflect on how we are living.

2. The Psalmist David, in our responsorial Psalm recalls the siege of Jerusalem, the result of the sin, the turning away from God, of the People of Israel. He also shows us how we should respond when we realize that our own behavior has not been faithful to our own call to love, serve and honor the Lord. He prays these words: "in your tenderness come quickly to meet us, for we are utterly weakened; help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; Yahweh, wipe away our sins, rescue us for the sake of your name." Let us make those words our own today.
3. Jesus reminds us in these sobering words from the Gospel we hear for today's Holy Mass "It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven." Words are insufficient. We speak with our actions. It is time to make an honest assessment. We should ask this question, "On what foundation are we building?" We are living in increasingly turbulent times. The turmoil seems to be happening so often that we are no longer even surprised by it. Everywhere one looks, we see a shaking of the foundations upon which we once relied.

However, Christians need not be afraid. Our life together in the Lord, our connection together in Body of Christ, the Church, is meant to provide a place of shelter, not only for us, but for others who seek stability as the shaking continues all around. Yes, the Church is also being shaken. However, that shaking is for her purification, fortification, and reform. The Apostle Peter reminded the early Christians undergoing persecution that judgment begins in the household of faith. (1 Peter 4:17) So too does the shaking (See, Heb 12).

There is a place where we can stand secure and strong. And, from where we must reach out to those who are succumbing to the fear being unleashed in the hearts of men, women, and Nations. That place has an unshakable foundation. That place is the Body of Christ, the Church.



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That is where we must stand - and stand together. Not to withdraw from the turbulence around us, but as a firm foundation from which we can bring stability and freedom to those who are beginning to fear what lies ahead and fight "the good fight of faith". (1 Tim. 6:12)



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 26, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Friday, June 26th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Kings 25:1-12

1 In the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem with his entire army; he pitched camp in front of the city and threw up earthworks round it.

2 The city lay under siege till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

3 In the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, when famine was raging in the city and there was no food for the populace,

4 a breach was made in the city wall. The king then made his escape under cover of dark, with all the fighting men, by way of the gate between the two walls, which is near the king's garden -- the Chaldaeans had surrounded the city -- and made his way towards the Arabah.

5 The Chaldaean troops pursued the king and caught up with him in the Plains of Jericho, where all his troops deserted.

6 The Chaldaeans captured the king and took him to the king of Babylon at Riblah, who passed sentence on him.

7 He had Zedekiah's sons slaughtered before his eyes, then put out Zedekiah's eyes and, loading him with chains, carried him off to Babylon.

8 In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month -- it was in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon -- Nebuzaradan commander of the guard, a member of the king of Babylon's staff, entered Jerusalem.

9 He burned down the Temple of Yahweh, the royal palace and all the houses in Jerusalem.

10 The Chaldaean troops who accompanied the commander of the guard demolished the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

11 Nebuzaradan commander of the guard deported the remainder of the population left in the city, the deserters who had gone over to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the common people.

12 But the commander of the guard left some of the poor country people behind as vineyard workers and ploughmen.



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## **Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6**

1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept at the memory of Zion.

2 On the poplars there we had hung up our harps.

3 For there our gaolers had asked us to sing them a song, our captors to make merry, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.'

4 How could we sing a song of Yahweh on alien soil?

5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand wither!

6 May my tongue remain stuck to my palate if I do not keep you in mind, if I do not count Jerusalem the greatest of my joys.

## **Gospel, Matthew 8:1-4**

1 After he had come down from the mountain large crowds followed him.

2 Suddenly a man with a virulent skin-disease came up and bowed low in front of him, saying, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can cleanse me.'

3 Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him saying, 'I am willing. Be cleansed.' And his skin-disease was cleansed at once.

4 Then Jesus said to him, 'Mind you tell no one, but go and show yourself to the priest and make the offering prescribed by Moses, as evidence to them.'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 26, 2026

1. In our first reading we continue on in the sad account of the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the resulting combat and destruction leading to Judah being driven from the land which had been given to it by the Lord. Solomon's temple was utterly destroyed and would stay in ruins until rebuilt in the days of Ezra.

The walls of Jerusalem which were her refuge of safety, were destroyed. Jerusalem was no longer a place of security and peace. Those walls would not be rebuilt until the return of the exiles in the days of Nehemiah. The King's chief officer, a man named Nebuzaradan, carried out the evil act. In Hebrew, his name literally means executioner.

Once again, this is not only an historical recounting of the event, but an allegorical lesson of the consequences of sin, of turning from the ways of the Lord. Our security and peace are destroyed. Let us choose to stay close to the Lord.

2. The Psalmist weeps over Zion in our responsorial Psalm. "Sing us one of the songs of Zion.' How could we sing a song of Yahweh on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right-hand wither! May my tongue remain stuck to my palate if I do not keep you in mind, if I do not count Jerusalem the greatest of my joys."

For Christians, the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, is the New Jerusalem. When we sin, when we turn away from the Lord and choose our own idols, we lose our security and peace and separate ourselves from God. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, or penance is there as a treasure, a gift, to bring us back. How often do we go to confession?

3. That virulent skin disease we hear of in the Gospel appointed for today was leprosy. Leprosy was a highly communicable disease at this time. Lepers were shunned. Yet, the love of God manifested in Jesus Christ shuns no man or woman. The Fathers of the early Church often drew a parallel between the effects sin has on our souls and the effects of leprosy on the body. Lepers were increasingly deformed as the progressive nature of the disease ravaged them. So, it is with all of us if we do not repent of our sin and seek healing.

The way this leper approached Jesus is instructive to us. He fell on his face, in an act of humility, and implored Jesus "If you will..." We need to take the same kind of posture as we seek to follow the Lord. He will so forgive us and heal us of the wounds of sin. But he awaits our request. Reach out to Him today. Remember the Sacrament of Confession is a healing and liberating Sacrament. Take full advantage of it. Not only, as heard in the first reading are there external consequences when we turn from God, there are internal consequences. Jesus has come to liberate us in our whole person and bring us back to the full relationship with the father.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 27, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Saturday, June 27th, 2026

### Reading 1, Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19

2 The Lord pitilessly engulfed all the homes of Jacob; in his fury he tore down the fortresses of the daughter of Judah; he threw to the ground, he desecrated the kingdom and its princes.

10 Mute, they sit on the ground, the elders of the daughter of Zion; they have put dust on their heads and wrapped themselves in sackcloth. The young girls of Jerusalem bow their heads to the ground.

11 My eyes are worn out with weeping, my inmost being is in ferment, my heart plummets at the destruction of my young people, as the children and babies grow faint in the streets of the city.

12 They keep saying to their mothers, 'Where is some food?' as they faint like wounded men in the streets of the city, as they breathe their last on their mothers' breasts.

13 To what can I compare or liken you, daughter of Jerusalem? Who can rescue and comfort you, young daughter of Zion? For huge as the sea is your ruin: who can heal you?

14 The visions your prophets had for you were deceptive whitewash; they did not lay bare your guilt so as to change your fortunes: the visions they told you were deceptive.

18 Cry then to the Lord, rampart of the daughter of Zion; let your tears flow like a torrent, day and night; allow yourself no respite, give your eyes no rest!

19 Up, cry out in the night-time as each watch begins! Pour your heart out like water in Yahweh's presence! Raise your hands to him for the lives of your children (who faint with hunger at the end of every street)!

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 74:1-2, 3-5, 5-7, 20-21

1 [Poem Of Asaph] God, why have you finally rejected us, your anger blazing against the flock you used to pasture?

2 Remember the people you took to yourself long ago, your own tribe which you redeemed, and this Mount Zion where you came to live.

3 Come up to these endless ruins! The enemy have sacked everything in the sanctuary;

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4 your opponents made uproar in the place of assemblies, they fixed their emblems over the entrance, emblems

5 never known before. Their axes deep in the wood,

6 hacking at the panels, they battered them down with axe and pick;

7 they set fire to your sanctuary, profanely rased to the ground the dwelling-place of your name.

20 Look to the covenant! All the hiding-places of the land are full, haunts of violence.

21 Do not let the downtrodden retreat in confusion, give the poor and needy cause to praise your name.

## **Gospel, Matthew 8:5-17**

5 When he went into Capernaum a centurion came up and pleaded with him.

6 'Sir,' he said, 'my servant is lying at home paralysed and in great pain.'

7 Jesus said to him, 'I will come myself and cure him.'

8 The centurion replied, 'Sir, I am not worthy to have you under my roof; just give the word and my servant will be cured.

9 For I am under authority myself and have soldiers under me; and I say to one man, "Go," and he goes; to another, "Come here," and he comes; to my servant, "Do this," and he does it.'

10 When Jesus heard this he was astonished and said to those following him, 'In truth I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found faith as great as this.

11 And I tell you that many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the kingdom of Heaven;

12 but the children of the kingdom will be thrown out into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

13 And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go back, then; let this be done for you, as your faith demands.' And the servant was cured at that moment.

14 And going into Peter's house Jesus found Peter's mother-in-law in bed and feverish.



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15 He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him.

16 That evening they brought him many who were possessed by devils. He drove out the spirits with a command and cured all who were sick.

17 This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: He himself bore our sicknesses away and carried our diseases.



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## Questions for Reflection for June 27, 2026

1. The Book of Lamentations, from which the first reading of today's Holy Mass is drawn, is also called the Lamentations of Jeremiah. It is a collection of five poems which all cry out, lament, over the destruction of Jerusalem and the siege of the City by the Babylonian Army. Its purpose was not only to provide a lasting memory of this horrid time in the history of Israel and God's plan of salvation, but to make sure that the lessons learned would prevent God's people from ever again turning from Him to false Gods and to the commission of sin. The portion which we heard were selected verses from Chapter two. In Article III on Sacred Scripture, the Catholic Catechism summarizes the "senses" of scripture:

"According to an ancient tradition, one can distinguish between two senses of Scripture: the literal and the spiritual, the latter being subdivided into the allegorical, moral and anagogical senses. The profound concordance of the four senses guarantees all its richness to the living reading of Scripture in the Church. The literal sense is the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture and discovered by exegesis, following the rules of sound interpretation: "All other senses of Sacred Scripture are based on the literal."

"The spiritual sense. Thanks to the unity of God's plan, not only the text of Scripture but also the realities and events about which it speaks can be signs. The allegorical sense. We can acquire a more profound understanding of events by recognizing their significance in Christ; thus, the crossing of the Red Sea is a sign or type of Christ's victory and also of Christian Baptism.

The moral sense. The events reported in Scripture ought to lead us to act justly. As St. Paul says, they were written "for our instruction". The anagogical sense (Greek: anagoge, "leading"). We can view realities and events in terms of their eternal significance, leading us toward our true homeland: thus, the Church on earth is a sign of the heavenly Jerusalem."

When we hear scriptures like we heard in our first reading, we should pray over them and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the meaning for our own lives...

2. David the Psalmist cries out to God to show Mercy to Israel, "Do not let the downtrodden retreat in confusion, give the poor and needy cause to praise your name." He gives us an example of how we can apply our first reading to the current state of the Church, the New Israel. She is in desperate need of God's intervention. We, like David, should cry out to the Lord to show Mercy.
3. And our Gospel text for today's Holy Mass is a wonderful account of how the Lord DOES show mercy when we cry out to Him. First in the healing of the servant of the Roman Centurion.



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The words he uttered "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, only say the word and my soul shall be healed" so moved the Sacred Heart of Jesus, his Mercy went forth and healed the servant. And the Holy Spirit enshrined those words in every Holy Mass. Before we come forward to receive the Sacred Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ at every Holy Mass, we repeat those very beautiful words of humility.

Also, in the healing of Peters Mother-in-Law and the deliverance from evil spirits of so many in the crowd we heard of in our Gospel text for today. "This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: He himself bore our sicknesses away and carried our diseases."

Jesus is the Mercy of God. Cry out to Him regularly. He hears you and, He always responds.



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 28, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Sunday, June 28th, 2026

### Reading 1, Second Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

8 One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way.

9 She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God.

10 Let us build him a small walled room, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

11 One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down.

14 'What can I do for you then?' he asked. Gehazi replied, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.'

15 Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door.

16 'This time next year', he said, 'you will hold a son in your arms.' But she said, 'No, my lord, do not deceive your servant.'

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19

2 for you have said: love is built to last for ever, you have fixed your constancy firm in the heavens.

3 'I have made a covenant with my Chosen One, sworn an oath to my servant David:

16 In your name they rejoice all day long, by your saving justice they are raised up.

17 You are the flower of their strength, by your favour our strength is triumphant;

18 for to Yahweh belongs our shield, to the Holy One of Israel our king.

19 Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful you said: 'I have given strength to a warrior, I have raised up a man chosen from my people.



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## Reading 2, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

3 You cannot have forgotten that all of us, when we were baptised into Christ Jesus, were baptised into his death.

4 So by our baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, we too should begin living a new life.

8 But we believe that, if we died with Christ, then we shall live with him too.

9 We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

10 For by dying, he is dead to sin once and for all, and now the life that he lives is life with God.

11 In the same way, you must see yourselves as being dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel, Matthew 10:37-42

37 'No one who prefers father or mother to me is worthy of me. No one who prefers son or daughter to me is worthy of me.

38 Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.

39 Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

40 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

41 'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes an upright person because he is upright will have the reward of an upright person.

42 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then in truth I tell you, he will most certainly not go without his reward.'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 28, 2026

1. In our first reading for this 13th Sunday in Ordinary time we hear of one of the many miracles the Lord has worked through Elisha the Prophet. We recall that he succeeded Elijah the Prophet in the prophetic ministry. Elijah had been taken to heaven in a chariot of fire. Before that great event, he asked Elisha what he wanted from him. Elisha asked for a double portion of his spirit. That request was granted.

This excerpt is from Chapter four of the second Book of Kings. It follows another miracle where Elisha helps a poor widow by miraculously filling multiple jars with oil which she could sell to pay her creditors so they would not take her sons.

Now, he encounters a wealthy woman who recognized that he was a prophet and offered him hospitality. She was married to an older man and was barren. Elisha shares a prophecy with her and tells her she will bear a son in the Spring.

In His loving plan of salvation, the Lord sent Prophets to His people Israel. He worked through them and revealed His power and love so that people would believe.

The Lord continues to send prophetic voices to the Church, the New Israel. Do we recognize them? Are we listening?

2. In our second reading, the Apostle Paul is writing to the Christians in Rome. He is explaining to them that Christians, followers of Jesus the Christ, died with Him and were raised with Him, through Baptism. By the saving Death and Resurrection of Jesus, we have also been set free from the law of sin and death. At the end of this sixth chapter Paul exclaims "For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23)

Therefore, we are also empowered by grace to live differently now. As this powerful teaching continues, the Apostle explains what that all means and how we are called to cooperate with grace. In fact, his instruction carries over throughout the following chapters. Have we read the Letter to the Romans? We should. These instructions will help us as well to stay free from sin and grow in holiness. After all, we are all called to be saints. Every one of us.

3. The Gospel appointed for today's Holy Mass is taken from the tenth chapter of Matthew's Gospel. The disciples are about to be sent out by the Lord on a missionary journey. It is a powerful chapter which I encourage all who are watching and listening to read.

The portion which was proclaimed at Mass touches upon the very heart of the call to discipleship, putting the Lord first, even before naturally good relationships, like family.

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When we do that, we have finally chosen to be disciples of Jesus. He moves from being a personality that we know "about" to being a PERSON whom we know personally. Everything changes.

The passage is certainly not anti-family. Rather, in other places in the Gospel Jesus explains what we give up for Him, we receive back in even greater measure.

But it is a matter of what is the priority in our relationships. When Jesus Christ is first in our life. When a relationship with Him is the center of our life, everything else changes. And, we change. We also learn to love as He loves.

He begins to live His life in and through us. He continues His Mission, in and through us.

Such a clear call presents us with an opportunity today to ask ourselves - who is first in our own lives?



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 29, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Monday, June 29th, 2026

### Reading 1, Acts 12:1-11

1 It was about this time that King Herod started persecuting certain members of the church.

2 He had James the brother of John beheaded,

3 and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he went on to arrest Peter as well.

4 As it was during the days of Unleavened Bread that he had arrested him, he put him in prison, assigning four sections of four soldiers each to guard him, meaning to try him in public after the Passover.

5 All the time Peter was under guard the church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

6 On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with two chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison.

7 Then suddenly an angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said, 'Hurry!' -- and the chains fell from his hands.

8 The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.'

9 He followed him out, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision.

10 They passed through the first guard post and then the second and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him.

11 It was only then that Peter came to himself. And he said, 'Now I know it is all true. The Lord really did send his angel and save me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

2 I will praise Yahweh from my heart; let the humble hear and rejoice.



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3 Proclaim with me the greatness of Yahweh, let us acclaim his name together.

4 I seek Yahweh and he answers me, frees me from all my fears.

5 Fix your gaze on Yahweh and your face will grow bright, you will never hang your head in shame.

6 A pauper calls out and Yahweh hears, saves him from all his troubles.

7 The angel of Yahweh encamps around those who fear him, and rescues them.

8 Taste and see that Yahweh is good. How blessed are those who take refuge in him.

9 Fear Yahweh, you his holy ones; those who fear him lack for nothing.

## Reading 2, Second Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

6 As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to depart.

7 I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith;

8 all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed for all the gentiles to hear; and so I was saved from the lion's mouth.

18 The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of man is?'

14 And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

15 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?'

16 Then Simon Peter spoke up and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

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17 Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a blessed man! Because it was no human agency that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

18 So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my community. And the gates of the underworld can never overpower it.

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 29, 2026

1. The arrest of the Apostle Peter, which we hear about in our first reading, gives us an insight into the courageous faith of this Apostle, as well as the way in which the Holy Spirit was at work in the early Church. Courageous faith invites the response of the Holy Spirit, in our own day as well. From the day when Peter's brother Andrew brought him to Jesus, and Jesus "looked at him" with those piercing eyes of Divine Love Incarnate (John 1:42), Peter was especially chosen. The early undivided Church acknowledged this fact and held his office in a particularly high esteem.

Notice how the "church prayed for him unremittingly" the Acts of the Apostles tells us. Unremittingly means without slackening, persistent. And notice how the Lord responds. An angel is sent, and Peter's chains are broken. The same Holy Spirit is at work in the Church - and in each of us - today! Angels are real, and they are at work. What is needed for us to experience deliverance from the figurative chains which often bind us, caused by sin, wrong choices, or difficulties which we face with fear and not trust... is that courageous faith demonstrated by Peter. Have we asked the Lord for an increase in faith? Are we praying "unremittingly?" for the Church, for our leaders? For our families? Our Psalm response invites to do so. Hear these words of David: "I seek Yahweh and he answers me, frees me from all my fears. Fix your gaze on Yahweh and your face will grow bright, you will never hang your head in shame".

2. Paul writes to Timothy, a young leader whom he had discipled and placed in leadership over the Church at Ephesus. He writes: "I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith..." He tells the young man that he has been poured out as a libation. This is the call of every Christian. This is our call, today. We are not bystanders in Church history, we are participants. We are living in a time of battle.

We are engaged in a spiritual war for the men and women of this urgent hour. We face very real personal opposition from the devil in our own lives - and all around us. We must always remember that the struggle we face, even though it works itself out on so many different fronts, is, at root, a spiritual one.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus:

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Eph. 6:12,13)

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He also wrote these words to the Christians in Corinth: "For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (2 Cor. 10:4,5)

Let's face facts.

We live in an age where men and women have either entirely rejected God or act as though He does not really matter. It is an age where spiritual warfare is essential.

3. Our Gospel for today's Holy Mass is one familiar to us. Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say I am?" And it is Peter who responds correctly. "You are the Christ". Jesus tells him "You are Rock, and, on this rock, I will build my Church. And he did.... he does. He is still building His Church. Since at least the Third Century, Christians have commemorated this day as a Solemnity, the day when the two pillars of the Church, the great Apostles, Peter and Paul, met the Lord whom they served with such beauty, face to face in the communion of eternal love.

The Christian tradition celebrates the death of the saints, their *dies natalis*, as their day of birth to eternal life in Christ. To the early Christians death was viewed not as an end but as a "change of habitation." So today, for Christians who truly believe, it is no longer an enemy but a friend.

These two great pillars of Christianity were both martyred for the faith. Their Feast is celebrated together. Priests and deacons throughout the entire world wear Red at the Liturgy, symbolizing that the blood of the Martyrs, as the Second Century Church Father Tertullian so clearly proclaimed, "is the seed of the Church."

From the day when Peter's brother Andrew brought him to Jesus, and Jesus "looked at him" with those piercing eyes of Divine Love Incarnate (John 1:42), Peter was especially chosen. The early undivided Church acknowledged this fact and held his office in high esteem.

From the day the persecutor of the Church, Saul, heard the Risen Jesus ask the question "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me"(Acts 9:4), this former persecutor of the Way (Acts 22:4) became the Apostle to the Gentiles. In both encounters their names were changed, reflecting the interior truth of what occurs in every conversion and informs every vocation. These two men became, and still stand, as the pillars of the Church.

On this great Feast we need to rededicate ourselves to being true witnesses, willing to participate fully in this new missionary age of the Catholic Church. We need to imitate the heroic witness of Saints Peter and Paul. We need to ask for their prayers as well. St. Peter and St. Paul pray for us!



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## Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

June 30, 2026



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## Daily Reading for Tuesday, June 30th, 2026

### Reading 1, Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12

1 Listen, Israelites, to this prophecy which Yahweh pronounces against you, against the whole family which I brought up from Egypt:

2 You alone have I intimately known of all the families of earth, that is why I shall punish you for all your wrong-doings.

3 Do two people travel together unless they have agreed to do so?

4 Does the lion roar in the forest if it has no prey? Does the young lion growl in his lair if it has caught nothing?

5 Does a bird fall on the ground in a net unless a trap has been set for it? Will the net spring up from the ground without catching something?

6 Does the trumpet sound in the city without the people being alarmed? Does misfortune come to a city if Yahweh has not caused it?

7 No indeed, Lord Yahweh does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

8 The lion roars: who is not afraid? Lord Yahweh has spoken: who will not prophesy?

11 I overturned you as God overturned Sodom and Gomorrah; you were like a brand snatched from the blaze and still you would not come back to me -declares Yahweh.

12 So this, Israel, is what I plan to do to you. Because I am going to do this to you, Israel, prepare to meet your God!

### Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 5:4-6, 6-7, 8

4 You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil, no sinner can be your guest.

5 Boasters cannot stand their ground under your gaze. You hate evil-doers,

6 liars you destroy; the violent and deceitful Yahweh detests.



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7 But, so great is your faithful love, I may come into your house, and before your holy temple bow down in reverence of you.

8 In your saving justice, Yahweh, lead me, because of those who lie in wait for me; make your way plain before me.

## **Gospel, Matthew 8:23-27**

23 Then he got into the boat followed by his disciples.

24 Suddenly a storm broke over the lake, so violent that the boat was being swamped by the waves. But he was asleep.

25 So they went to him and woke him saying, 'Save us, Lord, we are lost!'

26 And he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened, you who have so little faith?' And then he stood up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

27 They were astounded and said, 'Whatever kind of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'



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## Questions for Reflection for June 30, 2026

1. Amos is one of what are called the "minor prophets" in the Hebrew Scriptures. The word minor does not speak to their importance. Rather, it speaks to the length of the Book in the Hebrew Scriptures. There are only nine chapters in this powerful prophetic book.

Amos was a shepherd of Judah whom the Lord called in the eighth century when the Northern Kingdom during the reign of Jeroboam had become corrupt and was committing unjust acts on their neighbors. They were not showing forth the Lord's plan in a way which would reveal Him to the Nations.

"The Lion roars". This powerful line depicts the forceful way in which the Lord wants His Prophet to expose this corruption, denounce it, and call Israel to repentance and conversion. The sin of oppressing the poor and crushing the needy has consequences. It incurs the wrath of the Lord. It still does. How do we treat the poor and the needy? How do we treat our neighbor?

2. Our Responsorial Psalm from David, also a prophetic voice in the Hebrew scriptures, reminds us that with the Lord there is always an invitation to experience His love and Mercy. He makes His way plain to us when we pray.

When we become aware that our behavior offends the Lord and is not in keeping with who we are as His son or daughter, the proper reaction is repentance. For Catholics, we also have recourse to the most beautiful Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of new beginnings.

3. The Gospel for today's Holy Mass is taken from the eighth chapter of St. Matthew's account. Jesus is getting into the boat with the disciples - then a great storm arises. He was asleep in the boat. In their fear, they awaken Him. They ask, "save us Lord." His response was twofold.

First, he spoke to them "Why are you so frightened, you who have so little faith?"

Then He spoke to the storm - and there was a great calm. Not only is this a powerful miracle which reveals that Jesus has the authority to calm storms, it speaks to us spiritually and allegorically. The Fathers of the early Church often interpreted the boat in such accounts as the Church. Jesus is always with us because we are with Him, in the Church, by virtue of our Baptism.

In the midst of difficulties, and they do come in life, it may seem as though He is asleep. But He is always in charge. Prayer is the path to overcoming every storm.