

## Calendar

**Monday**

SEPTEMBER 2

*Weekday*

1 Thes 4:13–18

Lk 4:16–30

**Tuesday**

SEPTEMBER 3

*St. Gregory the Great,*

*Pope and Doctor  
of the Church*

1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11

Lk 4:31–37

**Wednesday**

SEPTEMBER 4

*Weekday*

Col 1:1–8

Lk 4:38–44

**Thursday**

SEPTEMBER 5

*Weekday*

Col 1:9–14

Lk 5:1–11

**Friday**

SEPTEMBER 6

*Weekday*

Col 1:15–20

Lk 5:33–39

**Saturday**

SEPTEMBER 7

*Weekday*

Col 1:21–23

Lk 6:1–5

**Sunday**

SEPTEMBER 8

*Twenty-third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

Wis 9:13–18b

Phm 9–10, 12–17

Lk 14:25–33

# Dear Padre,

**Life seems to be an endless grind of work, family responsibilities, and more work? Can you help me find meaning in my work?**

**Y**ou've hit upon one of life's great mysteries! We struggle to make sense out of our work, our pain, and our joy. There's no simple answer to your question, but let's begin by looking at nature.

Leaves fall when autumn presages winter. Cold winds howl, and spring eventually refreshes us before the summer swelter envelops us. Again and again, one season must "die" before the next one gives life. A similar process happens within us. Our work, tears, and lonely times are part of a cycle of death and rebirth. Like the changing seasons, these open us to new growth.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: "Work honors the Creator's gifts and the talents received from him. It can also be redemptive. By enduring the hardships of work...[we] collaborate in a certain fashion with the Son of God in his redemptive work" (CCC 2427). Christ went this way before us, and he will be with us in our difficulties.

Work can be difficult, hectic, and sometimes seem senseless. But we can

trust that Christ is present in these ups and downs. We can let go of anxiety and say, "Jesus, I trust you are with me now, in this moment of work or pain, and that together we will get through this."

May you find hope this Labor Day weekend amid your struggles through the wonderful journey of life.

—Fr. Pat Grile, CSSr

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## *A Word from Pope Francis*

*One must not exaggerate the "mystique" of work. The person "is not only work"; there are other human needs that we must cultivate and consider, such as family, friends, and rest. It is important, therefore, to remember that any work must be at the service of the person, not the person in the service of work.*

—Letter to conference on human development, November 23, 2017