

*Monthly study guides can be used in personal prayer and for small group reflection.*

## JULY 2026

### SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

### REFLECT:

1. This reading contains a famous passage called the “Shema,” after the words “Hear, O Israel ...” (*Shema y’Israel* in Hebrew). It is often considered to be a key to understanding the entire law given under Moses. Why do you think it carries that much significance?
2. What does it mean to love God with your whole heart, self and strength? What might this look like in practice? What keeps us from doing this?
3. Why do think this passage is concerned with handing this commandment on to one’s children?

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### READ: A selection from *Via Fidelis* – The Christian Family (pg. 28)

We recall from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for the education in the virtues” (#2223).

In our efforts to know the faith, we assure parents of our support. We desire for families to be empowered with the spiritual and catechetical resources and encouragement they need.

### REFLECT:

1. As we continue this year centered on catechesis, we are confronted in this passage with the fact that the Church recognizes that parents are the first catechists of their children. Why is this an important fact?
2. How should one’s faith shape one’s role as a parent? What is the “difference” that being a Christian makes in how one approaches parenting?
3. Can you think of some good examples of Christian parents either within your own family or those you know? What qualities do these individuals exhibit that make you think of them?

