



© J.S. Pallich Co., Inc. Excerpts from the *Lecternogy For Mass* © 2016, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993. All rights reserved. Photo: Anamatta/AdobeStock/17

Peter asked,
“Lord,
how often
must I forgive?
As many as
seven times?”

MATTHEW 18:21

GOD’S MERCY

In many of our relationships with others—friends, spouse, neighbors, or co-workers—often the most difficult times come when someone damages the relationship. There are moments when only apology and forgiveness can lead to healing. In this week’s readings, we are reminded how our connection with God is woven into our relationships with others. God is the source of all mercy, and all of us stand in need of forgiveness. As we are able to accept the mercy of God deep within our hearts, we become empowered to show mercy to others. When things go badly in our relationships, we can remember that God is present at the center of these difficult moments. God is offering grace to ask forgiveness, to receive apology, and to accept the forgiveness extended to us.

FORGIVEN AND FORGIVING

In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls his followers to forgive “seventy-seven” times. In other words, stop keeping track when forgiving others. But when we are hurt, this is really hard to do. In fact, to protect ourselves from further hurt, we might be inclined to do the opposite, and lash out. Jesus teaches the futility of this approach.

Jesus’ parable of the unforgiving servant reminds us that in the course of our lives we have harmed others, and so distanced ourselves from God. We have also been harmed by others. Like the servant, we sometimes owe a debt, and sometimes others owe a debt to us. Here we are invited to stop the cycle of pain with the grace of mercy. We are called to imitate our God, who forgives wholeheartedly.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

It is also tempting to view this teaching on forgiveness in isolation. This would suggest that the burden is placed entirely upon the offended person to go on forgiving, without mentioning any accountability on the part of the offending person. This interpretation can often be dangerous. The call to forgive should never be used as a cover for bullying or for oppressive relationships of any kind.

It is helpful to consider all of chapter 18 in Matthew’s Gospel, which teaches about forgiveness and reconciliation, and the exercise of authority in the Christian community. Last week’s Gospel (Matthew 18:15–18) provides guidance on how Christians can call to accountability someone who has hurt others, to protect the weak, and to seek reconciliation as a community. The parable we hear today reminds us that, like the master who protected the second servant from the cruelty of the unforgiving servant, God seeks to guard the most vulnerable from harm.

The Gospel of Matthew presented an alternative to the violence-based order of his day. Matthew described Jesus’ vision of community, in which power is used at the service of all and the vulnerable are protected and cherished.

TODAY’S READINGS

Sirach 27:30 — 28:7
Psalm 103:1–4, 9–12
Romans 14:7–9
Matthew 18:21–35

TWENTY-
FOURTH
SUNDAY
IN
ORDINARY
TIME
SEPTEMBER
13
2020

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

PHONE: (859)336-3569 EMAIL: stdom@bellsouth.net WEBSITE: stdomparish.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FORGIVENESS: Nearly ten years before, a son and father had parted ways when the business they shared went bankrupt. The son blamed the father. They did not speak to each other again. Then the father became seriously ill. The mother called the son and told him he had better come soon. The son walked sheepishly into the hospital room. The father motioned his son to him and whispered: “Did you ever think you could do anything that would keep me from loving you?” Resentment and anger are foul things, the first reading from Sirach tells us. Remember the last things. Stop hating. Live by the commandments. As St. Paul writes to the Romans, we are to live for the Lord and die for the Lord. Jesus’ parable in today’s Gospel reminds us of God’s compassion. The immense sin of humanity has been forgiven and stricken from the record. We are to forgive others in the same way. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WEEKEND LITURGY

First Reading: Remember the commandments and hate not your neighbor (Sirach 27:30 — 28:7).

Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion (Psalm 103).

Second Reading: Whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9).

Gospel: Forgive one another from your heart (Matthew 18:21-35).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13; Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15

Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (9/14-9/20)

Monday 8:30 AM: Joey Taylor

Tuesday 5:30 PM: **NO MASS**

Wednesday 10:00 AM: Gerald & Barbara Fogle

Thursday 5:30 PM: **NO MASS**

Friday 8:30 AM (School Mass Only): T.F. Smith & Boyce Carter

Saturday 8:30 AM: **NO MASS**

4:30 PM: Paul K. Mudd

Sunday 8:30 AM: Woody & Sharon Dean, Marsha Daugherty

10:30 AM: For the Parish

2:00 PM (Spanish Mass): Presider's Intention

LITURGICAL ROLES

Weekday Lectors: (Mon.) Katie Simms, (Tues.) No Mass, (Wed.) Wassie Parrott, (Thurs.) No Mass, (Fri.) Students, (Sat.) No Mass

Weekend Liturgical Roles for the month have been sent via email.

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

Weekday Mass Schedule this week: Fr. David will be away this week, but Fr. Pepper will be here to celebrate Mass on Monday, Wednesday & Friday, please see Mass Schedule & Intentions Section of the bulletin for Mass times.

Masses: Just a reminder to call ahead (Monday through Thursday) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of the two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at stdom@bellsouth.net. Seating charts are finalized on Thursday afternoons. Peace to you all!

Altar Society Dues: Every parish family is asked to contribute \$10. Please use the red & white envelope found in your September/October tithing packet. These dues help with the cost of candles, bread & wine, linens, vestments, altar cloths, decorations for holidays/special occasions, general laundering expenses, etc. Special thanks to the women of our parish who devote their time and talent to create an altar that exemplifies the glory to God.

Parish Religious Education Program: Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (September-April) Our RE program is open to students in grades K-8 who do not attend a Catholic school. Information packets have been mailed to all families who have children that were enrolled in last year's program. If you are a new family interested in enrolling your child/children, please pick up an information packet from the table in the narthex of the church, or stop by the parish office. Packets can also be downloaded and printed from the church

website (stdomparish.org>documents). If you have questions or need more information, please contact Angela Young at the parish office (336-3569).

Safe Environment Training: St. Dominic will host SET on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Training is limited to 50 people and is based on first come/first served basis. Every participant must wear a mask, and no one under the age of 16 will be admitted to the training. Anyone working with children on a regular basis, as well as field trip chaperones, must attend this training and have a background check that is less than five years old. This is a one-time training, if you have attended in the past, you do not have to attend again.

Catholic Higher Education Collection: NEXT weekend, our parish will take up the annual collection for Catholic Higher Education. Catholic colleges and universities strive to form students in the spirit of faith and educate them in the richness of the Catholic University intellectual tradition. This collection supports the Catholic University of America as well the two Catholic universities in our Archdiocese, Bellarmine & Spalding University. Please use the envelope found in your tithing packet when making your donation. Thank you!

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, World Peace, Healthcare Workers, Victims of Abuse, U.S. Military, Unborn & Elderly, Addictions, Beth Hellman, Dennis Rust, Reba Hamilton, Glenn Mattingly, Kyle Logsdon, Sr. Mary Louise Yurik, Jeannie Hatchett, Lames Thomas, Ashton Kelly, Katie Haydon, Edwin Thompson, Tammy Harley, Jane Rudd Volz, Dennis Newton, Lucille Spalding, Mary Devine, Roberta Williams, Jerry Craig, Larry Smith, Tom Miller, Margaret Faye Martin, Charlotte Disponett, Carolyn Greene, Marian & Wade Elliott, Sue Carter, Michael & Jennifer Jarboe, Debbie Hamilton, Buddy & Charlotte Smith, Wheatley Hamilton, Frank Peters, Corbin Noel, Dorothy Mattingly, Colin Walker, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.*

Tithing Contributions for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$27,011.86

MERCY

Dost thou wish to receive mercy?

Show mercy to thy neighbor. —St. John Chrysostom