

**Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

Peter approached
Jesus and asked him,
"Lord, if my brother sins against
me, how often must I forgive?
As many as seven times?"

Jesus answered,
"I say to you, not seven times
but seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18:21-22



St. Ann's Church

652 Main Street, PO Box 488, North Oxford, MA 01537

Rectory # 508-987-8892

To help us to keep in touch with you please email us at stannsrectory@hotmail.com

Please check out our website for live streamed Masses www.stannschurch.us

Please send prayer requests to StAnnParishPrayerline@hotmail.com

Fr. Michael Lavalley, Pastor

Deacon James Denning (Retired)

Mary Lajoie, Administrative Assistant

Peggy Moynahan, Religious Education Secretary

Dennis O'Brien, Maintenance Director

CONFESSIONS

Fr. Michael is able to hear confessions outdoors in the Chapel in the Woods throughout the season. If weather is inclement, he can also meet you in the parish hall for the Sacrament. To schedule an appointment please call him at the Rectory #508-987-8892. Confessions are available by appointment only during this time.

Saturday, Mass 4:00 pm Live streamed directly to our website www.stannschurch.us

Sunday, Mass 9:00am & 11:00 am

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Friends in Christ,

This Sunday's Gospel seems extremely relevant to our times. This is because one of the main themes within it is DEBT. We often think of debt as a modern phenomenon, concerning credit cards and loans. But, the surprising fact is that debt was a serious problem in Jesus' society.

The rate of taxation was high and the Romans collected taxes through a system of brokers (tax collectors) who were free to charge taxpayers an additional fee for their services. It was the brokers who determined what that fee was. Often, brokers acted in a greedy and exploitative way towards taxpayers. Some people, with few resources, were forced into debt just to survive. When they took out loans it was with the knowledge that there would be severe penalties if they did not pay them back including confiscation of their property and the sale of themselves and their families into slavery to repay the debt they owed. Imagine living with that kind of pressure!

The king in the parable in the gospel forgives his servant a fortune in debt out of compassion for him. Yet, this servant refuses the same compassion and mercy to one in debt to him. As a result, the king punishes him severely. Jesus warns that if we want forgiveness from God we have to be willing to generously forgive others from our hearts.

Biblically, sin is often referred to as a 'debt.' In the 'Our Father,' we can say '...forgive us our DEBTS as we forgive those in DEBT to us.' When we sin against others, we hurt them and owe them our love, assistance and admission of guilt. When others sin against us, we owe them our charity and prayer, as well as our sincere seeking from God the ability to forgive them from our hearts. The more we have been hurt, the harder it is to forgive. Often, when we think about forgiveness, we must first admit that we "can't" on our own power and ask God for His power to do this in us.

We are indebted to Christ for His sacrificial death for our sins that won for us God's forgiveness. As we consider how much God has forgiven us, let us pray for the grace to be generous in forgiving.
In Christ, Fr. Michael



Handicap Ramp Replacement

Our honey sale continues in the parish. All proceeds are dedicated to the repair and replacement of our handicap ramp. Jars of honey are \$10 each and may be ordered either by calling the Rectory, e-mailing us or speaking to Fr. Michael after all Masses. We are also accepting donations towards the ramp replacement if you'd like to assist us in this way. Our goal is to work on this project before Winter sets in. Thank you for your help with this essential maintenance concern.



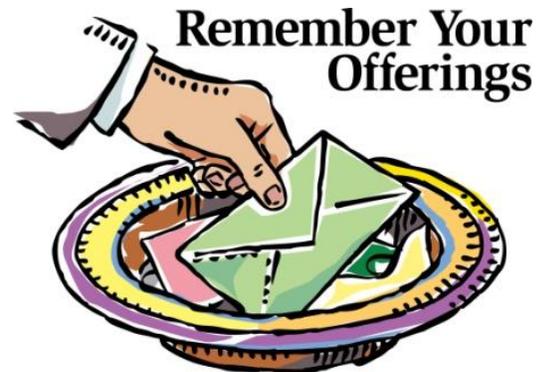
- Saturday, Sept. 12 4:00 pm Peter Stanley, requested by SVDP.
- Sunday, Sept. 13 9:00 am Walter P. McCarthy, requested by his wife.
11:00 am Anne Marie Faust, requested by the family.
- Monday, Sept. 14 8:30 am Ralph LePore, requested by SVDP.
- Tuesday, Sept. 15 8:30 am George Gemme, requested by Anna Maria Gemme.
- Wednesday Sept. 16 8:30 am Ann Beesley, requested by SVDP.
- Thursday, Sept. 17 8:30 am Steven Prunier, requested by SVDP.
- Saturday, Sept. 19 4:00 pm Elizabeth Gaddis, requested by St. Ann's Parish.
- Sunday, Sept. 20 9:00 am David P. Ackley, requested by Eileen Amorello & Family.
11:00 am Robert Burke, requested by St. Ann's Parish.

Offertory for Sept. 4 through September 10

Offertory	\$ 2,524.00
Maintenance	\$ 160.00
Bottles & Cans	\$ 38.15
Online Giving	\$ 355.00
Other	\$ 278.00
Total	\$3,315.15

SVDP (Mail)	\$ 190.00
Online Giving	\$ 10.00

To donate to SVDP on line please visit our website



*Thank you to all who have contributed to our parish financially during this difficult time.
Online giving can be found on our website stannschurch.us*

Announcements

- **Office Hours at the Rectory are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-12.** Fr. Michael will be available to meet with parishioners outdoors at this time.
- For anyone wishing to send a card to Deacon Tom his address is: Deacon Tom Creamer, 359 Leadmine Road, Fiskdale, MA 01518.

To request that a sick loved one be remembered at Mass, please send an email to stannsrectory@hotmail.com by **Friday morning** in order for us to include the names on the prayer list for the Masses on the weekend or speak directly to Deacon Jim before Mass.



If you are a parishioner and are in need of assistance, please call #508- 987-8892 and leave a message on the SVDP private line and someone from the SVDP will return your call. Maybe you have lost your job and are behind on your utilities or can't afford to have oil delivered. We can help. We also can point you in the direction of other resources that are available.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE at stannschurch.us

Scripture Readings

Sunday	September 13
Sir 27:30—28:7/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35	
Monday	September 14
Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17	
Tuesday	September 15
1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35	
Wednesday	September 16
1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Lk 7:31-35	
Thursday	September 17
1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 7:36-50	
Friday	September 18
1 Cor 15:12-20/Lk 8:1-3	
Saturday	September 19
1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Lk 8:4-15	
Sunday	September 20
Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feast of St. Therese the Little Flower

The parish is invited to celebrate the Feast of St. Therese at a special Mass on Wednesday, September 30th at 7:00 pm. Novena prayers and veneration of a first class relic of St. Therese. Please join us.

Yard Sale

St. Ann's will be holding a one day Yard Sale on Saturday, October 17th, from 7:30am to 2:30 PM. Items generously donated by the family of Jack Flynn and other donations will be sold outside only on the front lawn. We are in need of volunteers to help with this event.

Please come to a planning meeting on Monday, September 21st at 6:00 pm in the parish hall.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING 1.....SIR 27:30—28:7

Wrath and anger are hateful things,
yet the sinner hugs them tight.
The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance,
for he remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.
Could anyone nourish anger against another
and expect healing from the LORD?
Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself,
can he seek pardon for his own sins?
If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath,
who will forgive his sins?
Remember your last days, set enmity aside;
remember death and decay, and cease from sin!
Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor;
remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM...PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

**R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger,
and rich in compassion.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and
rich in compassion.**

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and
rich in compassion.**

He will not always chide,
nor does he keep his wrath forever.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and
rich in compassion.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and
rich in compassion.**

READING 2.....ROM 14:7-9

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and
no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the
Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then,
whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is
why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord
of both the dead and the living.

ALLELUIA.....JN 13:34

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL.....MT 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my
brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As
many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you,
not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why
the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who
decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he
began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him
who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of
paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along
with his wife, his children, and all his property, in
payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did
him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will
pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the
master of that servant let him go and forgave him the
loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his
fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount.
He seized him and started to choke him, demanding,
'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his
fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I
will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the
fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.
Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened,
they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master
and reported the whole affair. His master summoned
him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave
you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should
you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had
pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him
over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole
debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each
of you forgives your brother from your heart."



ST. PAUL CENTER FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

By Dr. Scott Hahn
The Debt We Owe

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

Sirach 27:30-28:7

Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life.

Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel, with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant - who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their Master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, "seven" is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a seven-fold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us?

Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us.

This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10,12).

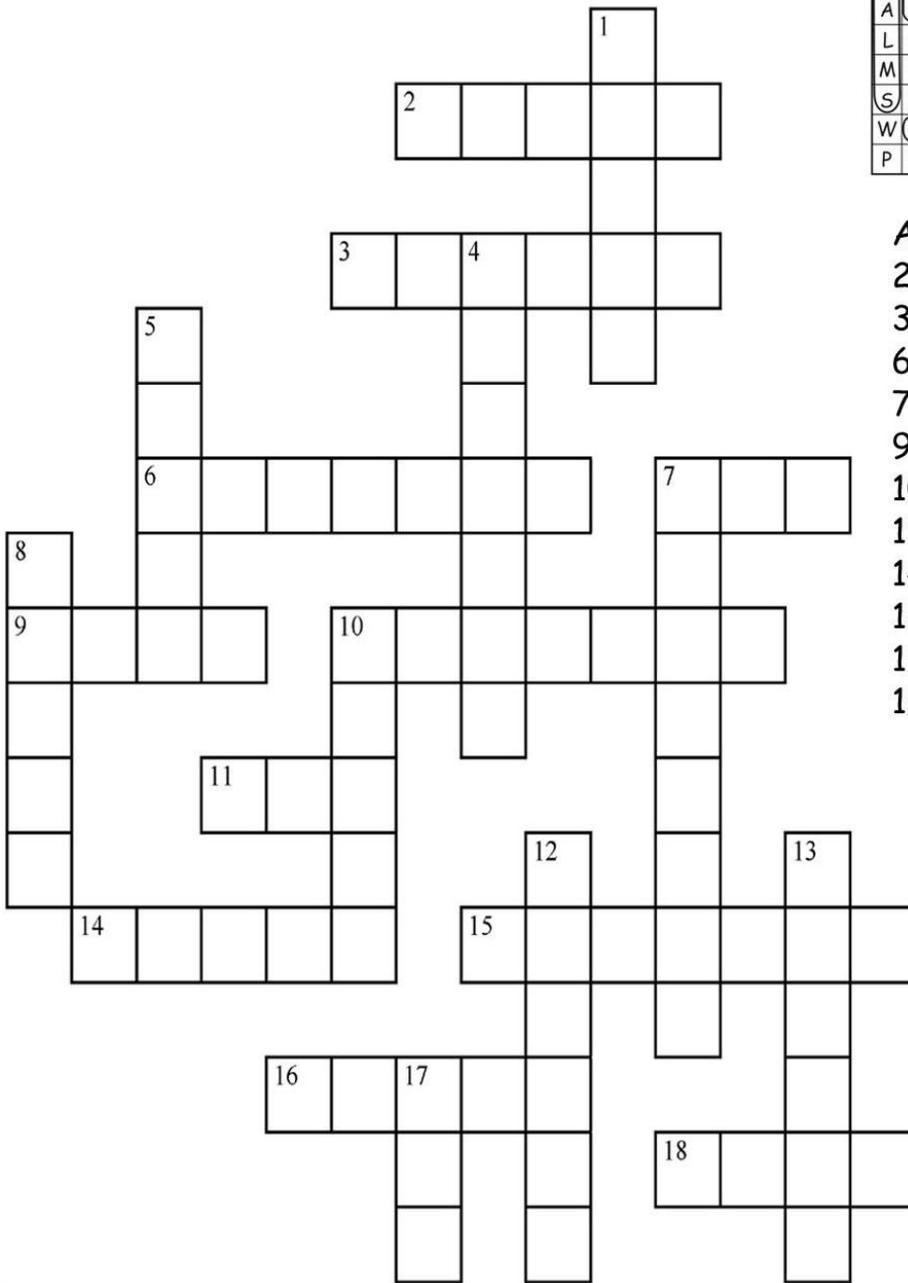
So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com

CROSSWORD

Last week's wordsearch

S	H	O	U	S	E	G	J	S	O	L	H
T	W	L	O	V	E	U	N	K	I	I	M
P	A	I	D	G	E	I	W	O	N	N	E
S	R	W	C	F	I	L	N	Q	R	I	G
A	N	R	B	K	A	T	M	P	E	P	O
L	C	O	H	M	E	C	H	U	R	C	H
M	T	N	U	L	J	D	K	O	Z	A	U
S	R	G	Q	L	I	S	T	E	N	X	Y
W	W	O	R	D	G	Z	C	F	W	V	D
P	V	B	S	X	A	Y	K	N	E	E	L



ACROSS

- 2 Number
- 3 Boss
- 6 Pardon an offense
- 7 Give money
- 9 Direction
- 10 King lives here
- 11 Debt
- 14 A request to God
- 15 Male relative
- 16 Died for our sins
- 18 God does this

DOWN

- 1 Disciple
- 4 Slave
- 5 Presents
- 7 Land
- 8 Love comes from here
- 10 On front of leg
- 12 Jail
- 13 God does this with sin
- 17 To act against God

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