

## Limitless Forgiveness

**W**hat makes seven such an important number?

It's the symbolism. It signifies wholeness, completeness, and totality. So, seventy-seven (or seventy times seven in some Bible translations) suggests infinity. Peter was exaggerating when he suggested that he might forgive his brother seven times. He presumed that if he acted in this way, his behavior would demonstrate the immeasurable extent of his personal graciousness. Jesus' response implied that there should be no end to our forgiving another. To underscore the significance of this magnanimity, Jesus offered God (in the guise of the king who forgave a huge debt) as the exemplar of forgiving.

Forgiving another's offense against us could well be one of the most difficult things we are asked to do. To ask for forgiveness does not seem as difficult. After all, when we bump into a perfect stranger in an elevator, we say, "Forgive me." But to forgive someone who has

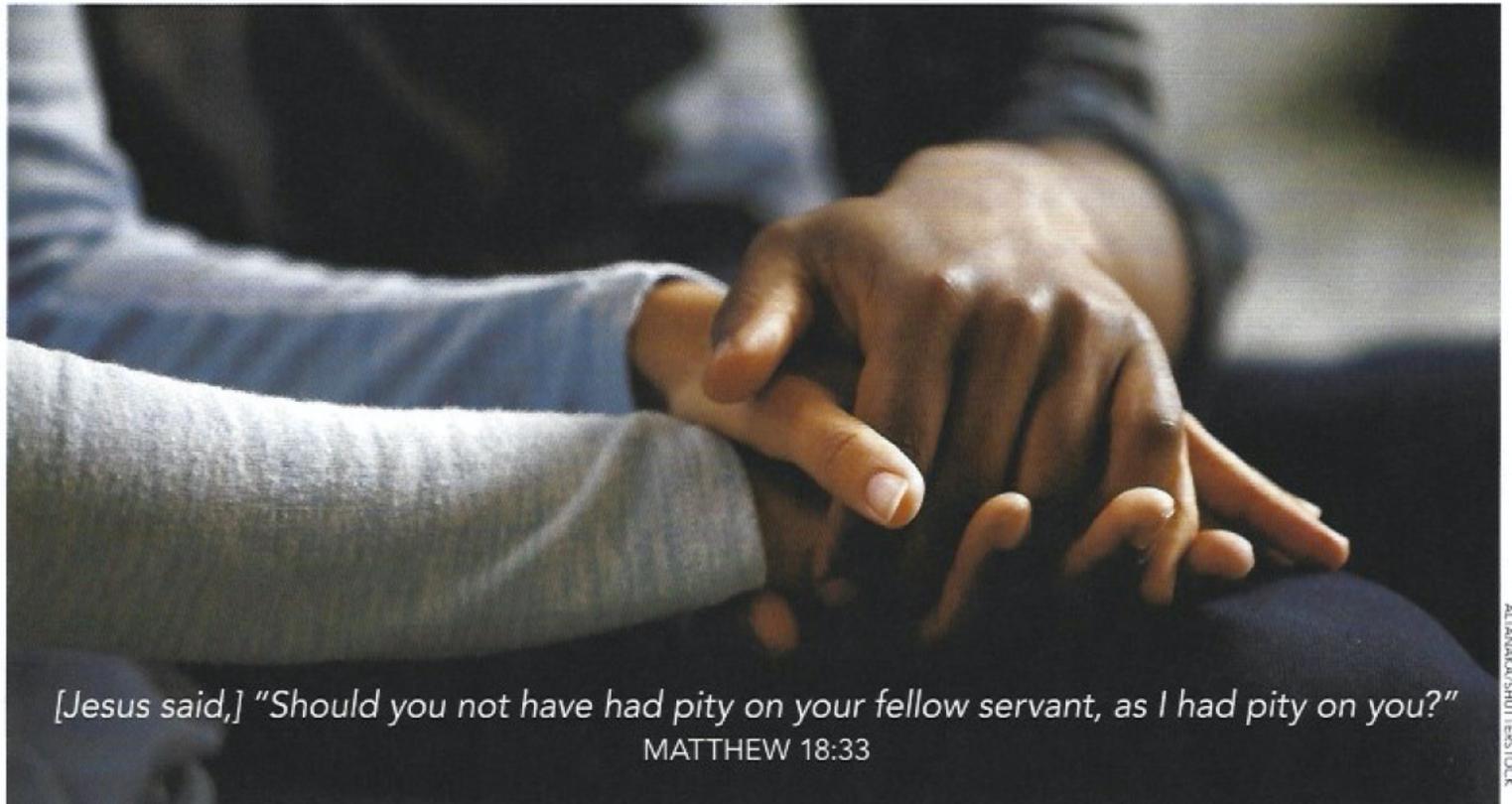
deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

We all carry debts to others. Both the first reading and the Gospel passage remind us that the debts owed to us by others in no way compare with the debt we owe God, and yet God shows us compassion and forgives us. If we are grateful children of a compassionate God, we will want to be like God and we will forgive others.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ Say the Lord's Prayer slowly, reflecting on "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."
- ✦ Do you carry resentment in your heart? Does clinging to it lessen its burden in any way?



*[Jesus said,] "Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"*

MATTHEW 18:33

**Parish of the Visitation  
and St. Raymond  
St. Andrew's Church**

Fr. Garry Giroux, Pastor Office: 315-384-4242  
315-389-5401

Rev. Andrew J. Amyot, Pastor Emeritus at PVSR 315-384-2064  
Dcn. Lawrence Connelly, Retired 315-384-4879  
Dcn. John Levison at SA, PVSR 518-594-7610  
Dcn. Phil Regan at SA, PVSR 315-353-9917

**Masses: Saturday: St. Andrew's~ 4:00pm**  
**Sunday: Church of the Visitation~ 10:30am**  
**Confessions: Saturday: St. Andrew's Church from 3:15pm to 3:45pm**

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

- Sat Sept. 12 – **Sacrament of Penance** 11:30am – 12:00pm **ST. PATRICK'S**  
3:15pm – 3:45pm **ST. ANDREW'S**  
4:00pm **ST. ANDREW'S** – Gertie LaBaff by Ernie LaBaff
- Sun Sept. 13 - 8:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** – Intentions of the People of the Parishes  
10:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Deceased Members of the L.M. Murphy Family by Rita
- Mon Sept. 14 - 7:45am **ST. ANDREW'S** – Betsey Bell O'Brian by Jim & Nancy Besaw  
All Souls Intentions by the Parishioners
- Tues Sept. 15 - 8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Leo Bond by Joan & Lawrence Varney  
9:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** – James Buckley by the Estate of Elizabeth Goodrich
- Wed Sept. 16 - 9:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Shirley Shoen by Nancy Demo & Family  
Liz Agen by Ted & Kathie Ashley
- Thurs Sept. 17 - 7:45am **ST. PATRICK'S** – Charmaine Mclaughlin by Sondra & John Castle  
8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Dorothy & Kelly Lawrence by the Family
- Fri Sept. 18 – 8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – All Souls Intentions by the Parishioners
- Sat Sept. 19 – **Sacrament of Penance** 11:30am – 12:00pm **ST. PATRICK'S**  
3:15pm – 3:45pm **ST. ANDREW'S**  
4:00pm **ST. ANDREW'S** – Intentions of the People of the Parishes
- Sun Sept. 20 - 8:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** – Jim Thompson by Jim Dawson  
10:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Donald & Dawn LaBarge by the Byrne Family



“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ...I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.”

**SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/norfolknorwoodraymondville/>  
Website: <https://norfolknorwoodraymondville.org>  
Email: [visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com](mailto:visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com)

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp burned this week at The Church of the Visitation for John K. O'Brien by Gil & Carol Gonthier.

You can memorialize the sanctuary candle for an offering of \$10.00. Please contact the parish office.

**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING – TITHING**

*How much time have you spent this week in prayer for others and for the work of the Church?*

**Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond**

**September 5-6, 2020** – \$4,151.00  
Adult Env. \$3,440.00/Plate \$10.00  
Maintenance \$300.00, Mass \$20.00, Repairs \$10.00  
Memorial Foundation \$196.00, Ogdensburg Diocese \$25.00

**St. Andrew's Church**

**September 5-6, 2020** – \$2,076.00  
Adult Env. \$1,322.00/Plate \$462.00  
Maintenance \$230.00, Fuel \$10.00,  
Easter Flowers \$10.00, Holy Land \$10.00  
Catholic Charities \$5.00, Ascension \$5.00  
Catholic Home Missions \$5.00, Catholic Relief \$7.00  
Catholic Communications \$5.00, Mission Co-op \$5.00

Please remember to keep social distancing, wear your mask and call to reserve a seat at the weekend Masses – Thank you!

**Office for the Parishes:** 3 Morris St., Norfolk, NY 13667, 315-384-4242

All mail to Visitation Rectory, PO Box 637, Norfolk, NY 13667

**Email:** [visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com](mailto:visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com) **Website:** [norfolknorwoodraymondville.org](http://norfolknorwoodraymondville.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:30am-1:30pm, **Parish Secretary:** Tammy LaBarge

**Religious Education:** Director of Faith Formation - Carol O'Brien Gonthier

## **RESERVATIONS FOR WEEKEND MASSES**

To ensure we are compliant with the limits imposed by social distancing at our Masses, parishioners *must* call the parish offices to make a reservation for the Mass they wish to attend. When the limits have been reached for one weekend's Masses, you can then reserve for the following weekend's Masses.

Please call 315-384-4242 to reserve at either the 4:00pm Mass at St. Andrew's, or the 10:30am Mass at the Church of the Visitation. Call 315-389-5401 to attend the 8:30am Mass at St. Patrick's. Leave your name, Mass you wish to attend, and how many.

All persons at risk due to age, a weakened immune system or other health concerns should remain at home for their own safety. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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## **LIFECHAIN SUNDAY**

October 4, 2020 Stand up for LIFE at this year's LIFECHAIN! Join in the 33rd annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life. Rain or shine. All faiths are welcome! Bring a friend! Signs are provided. LIFECHAIN practices social distancing. Please stand 25 feet apart. For information about the LIFECHAIN in your area, visit [www.lifechain.net](http://www.lifechain.net)

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## **MASS AT HOME**

Participating in Mass at home is participation in a real and valid liturgy. Even though we are not physically together for Mass, we are united in our love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We are in God's presence as we listen to God's word in the Scripture and acknowledge the Lord's presence in the Eucharist. Area Masses being offered can be found at this link

<https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>

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## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

In times of crisis, when it is not possible to receive the Body of Christ, it is acceptable to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion is a deep routed desire to receive Jesus and to remain close to Him even though we are unable to be physically present with our faith community. It also applies to situations when we are present in community but cannot receive the Eucharist.

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## **EDUCATING CHILDREN IN A SAFE, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

As we approach the start of the school year, Catholic School administrators, principals and faculty, as well as the pastors and Christian Formation staff in our parishes, are working diligently to provide students with a learning environment that is safe, healthy and conducive for their intellectual, spiritual and social growth.

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

In his Encyclical on the Environment, Pope Francis said, "access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival." You can help conserve water by avoiding buying new "water-intensive" products such as cotton, electronics, and paper, which all require a lot of water in their production. Also, try buying used clothing and recycled paper whenever possible. In doing so, we can be stewards of the earth and conserve water for our spiritual brothers and sisters who don't have access to safe drinking water.

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## **VIRTUAL FALL RETREAT**

### **Putting Forgiveness and Love into Practice**

Retreat time will explore Scriptures on forgiveness and consider some of the barriers and aids to making these teachings a reality in our daily lives. The retreat will be virtual using Zoom on the computer. It includes presentations, time for personal prayer and reflection with optional times for sharing. Facilitators will be Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Molly Amoriell, and Jane Wells. Date: September 19-20. For more information, contact [srbethssj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethssj@gmail.com) (315-212-6592). Free will offering gratefully accepted.

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## **PLANNED GIVING**

**PLANNED GIVING: How to Transfer a Gift of Stock**  
Gifts of stock can be given to benefit our parish, the Capital Campaign, your favorite Catholic School, programs, ministries, Missionary Projects and the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The proceeds can be restricted according to your wishes, or directed to an endowment fund held in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg. For more information, contact the Diocese at 315-393-2920 or Email [slalone@rcdony.org](mailto:slalone@rcdony.org).

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## **PRAYER DURING CORONAVIRUS**

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary,  
We, your children of every nation,  
Turn to you in this pandemic.  
Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great.  
Grant that we might deposit them at your feet,  
Take refuge in your Immaculate Heart,  
And obtain peace, healing, rescue,  
And timely help in all our needs.  
You are our Mother.  
Pray for us to your Son.  
**Amen.**

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## **RETURNABLES**

Stepping Stones is still collecting returnables and appreciate those who have continued to drop them off at the rectory garage. If you need them picked up please let us know. Keep them coming!

## **PVSR PRAYER LINE – LET US PRAY**

Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer emotionally, spiritually, or physically especially for, *Harvey Pearson, and All who have been affected by Covid-19*. If you wish to have someone listed for one month, please contact the Parish office at 315-384-4242.

*Anyone from **Our Catholic Parishes** may request to have a person included in the bulletin for prayers. We will adhere to the practice of including a name for one month before removing it. Prayer can always be requested again at any time.*

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## **ST. ANDREW'S PRAYER LINE**

Members of our Parish who would like a member of their family or a close friend put on our Prayer Line are asked to call either Doreen Valade @ 315-212-5729 or Ann Miller @ 315-353-2950. Please be sure the person we will be praying for agrees to this before you call. Everything you share with us is kept confidential.

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## **FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE**

### **How to Evangelize in Uncertain Times September 26, 12-3pm**

The Organizers of the Annual New Evangelization Summit are offering a free Online Evangelization Conference on how to evangelize during this uncertain time. The speaker for this one-day event are George Weigel, Tim Glemkowski, Michelle Thompson, Father Jon Bielawski and Dr. Mary Healy. The Conference is hosted by Michael Dopp and Josh and Lisa Canning.

The Conference is free but registration is required. Register at <https://uevangelize.org/virtualsummit/>.

If there is interest, the Diocese of Ogdensburg Office of the New Evangelization will offer a follow-up conversation to unpack the conference on Saturday, October 3 at 10am via Zoom. To register for the followup conversation, email Marika Donders at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org).

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## **SEASON OF CREATION**

### **September 1 – October 4**

Season of Creation is an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home starting September 1 – the World Day of Prayer for Creation – and continuing to October 4 – the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This year, the celebration takes place in the Laudato Si' Year of celebration called for by Pope Francis, and we are invited to take part.

The Laudato Si' group and the Faith and Ecology groups around the diocese are planning opportunities for learning more about the issues presented through three Zoom discussion: September 3, September 17 and October 1. All three sessions will run from 7pm to 8pm. Details are still being finalized and will be posted on the diocesan [Laudato Si' Webpage](#) and [Facebook Page](#).

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## **VIRTUAL PRIEST DISCERNMENT SESSIONS**

### **Attention Men Hearing the Call Zoom in to Priest Discernment**

High School Junior men & older are invited to join Father Howard Venette & guests for 60-minute virtual discernment sessions on the following Sundays at 3:00 PM:

Sept. 20, Oct. 4 & 18, Nov. 1, 15 & 29, Dec. 13

Contact Father Venette at

[hvenette@gmail.com](mailto:hvenette@gmail.com) for meeting access.

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## **SAFE ENVIRONMENT CORNER**

Did you know...in 2019, New York State became the 37<sup>th</sup> state to enact Erin's Law. The law requires all public schools to teach classes to students in kindergarten through eighth grade about preventing sexual abuse and exploitation. The legislation mandates that these prevention classes include practical and age-appropriate instruction on how to recognize the warning signs of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and resources on how to find help. The law takes effect on July 1, 2020. For more information, visit <http://www.erinslaw.org/>

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## **WADDINGTON, NY/ZOOM - VIRTUAL ADULT**

### **FAITH FORMATION: What Happens When We Die**

The Last Things: Judgement, heaven, hell, purgatory. These are all teachings of our faith. It's important for us to get a good grasp on what we believe. Knowing that what we believe must be rooted in scripture and not in popular beliefs. Msgr. Aucoin is offering a series of sessions via ZOOM on what we call in Catholic teachings "The Last Things." With the assistance of videos from Bishop Barron, we will offer five sessions with these topics:

- What will happen when we die?
- Does God really send people to Hell?
- Why Purgatory is actually a good thing...
- What can we know about angels?
- What is the goal of Christianity?

This program will be offered online via Zoom. The meetings will be on **5 Wednesdays; September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14, at 7 pm**. Each session will be no more than one hour. If you are interested in participating, you will need to register email Msgr. Aucoin at [pastor@mwcatholics.org](mailto:pastor@mwcatholics.org)

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

A Tip for celebrating the Jubilee of the Earth, the theme for this year's Season of Creation (Sept. 4 – Oct. 4): Jubilee is a time for repairing. As we witness the volume of trash generated in America, [Dumpsters.com](#) reports that nearly 20% of trash comes from plastics, like bags, packaging, disposable beverage containers, etc. What's in your trash? Take a few minutes this week and check to see what is in your trash can before you pay for it to be taken to a landfill. What is one way you could repair the damage to our "common home" by reducing the amount of plastics in the trash?

**PVSR Altar and Rosary Society and the  
Knights of Columbus Council #11544**

invite you to join  
them in the  
54 Day Novena  
for our Country.



All you need to do to participate is to pray the Rosary daily with intentions for the protection and provision for the USA and the world. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

**EGYPT AND THE GREAT NILE CRUISE**

**11 Days: November 8-18, 2021**

Egypt and the Great Nile Cruise

11 Days November 8-18, 2021

Cairo, Luxor, EDFU, Kom Ombo, Aswan,  
Memphis, Sakkara

**Hosted by Fr. Donald A. Robinson**

\$3499 From New York\*

For more information, please contact

Fr. Donald A. Robinson, 315-493-3224

or email [donrob4@twcny.rr.com](mailto:donrob4@twcny.rr.com)

\*Air/land tour price is \$2899 plus \$600 gov't  
taxes/airline surcharges

Don't Miss This Trip of a Lifetime!

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT CORNER**

Did you know...taking away internet access because a child has made a mistake online rarely solves the problem. Taking away access in our current environment would likely do far more harm than good. Beyond affecting a child's ability to complete distance-learning tasks, it would all but completely isolate them from friends and other family; a support system that is essential right now. If you must, **limit access** (shorter window for digital socializing, gaming, restricted use to certain public areas of the house, etc.) **rather than** removing it entirely.

**BISHOP'S FUND**

The **2020 Bishop's Fund Appeal** will be kicking off in parishes on the weekend of September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. You will be receiving a letter and materials from Bishop LaValley in early September explaining all the ministries the BFA supports as this annual appeal is vital in assisting parishioners from all over the Diocese of Ogdensburg in so many ways.

**PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Lord Jesus, look with tender mercy upon the multitudes of our day who bear the indignities of injustice everywhere. Raise up leaders in every land dedicated to Your standards of order, equity, and justice.

**FAITH FORMATION**

Our Faith Formation team is in the process of putting plans together for our new year. Please take a moment to listen to Bishop LaValley's message posted on the diocesan website pertaining to Coronavirus and the reopening of catholic schools and religious education programs.

Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/cWr0zDwy4Fg>

**Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond  
and St. Andrew's**

**Parish Faith Formation Program Questionnaire**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are in the process of planning the best way to provide our Faith Formation program this year given the current Covid-19 environment.

Will you take a few minutes to complete the attached survey and return via mail (PVSR, PO Box 637, Norfolk, NY 13667) or email ([cgonthier@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cgonthier@twcny.rr.com))?

Address it to Carol Gonthier,

PVSR & SA Faith Formation Director.

Your response is greatly appreciated.

1. If we provide in person classes in a socially distanced format with masks, would you send your children?

Please circle: Yes No

2. What approach would you prefer? Please check one:

**In Person classes** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lessons provided** to you for the month with an in-person family gathering each month \_\_\_\_\_

**Hybrid:** Some lessons in-person; some lessons on-line (hybrid) \_\_\_\_\_

**Full virtual program** (materials supplied for family formation led by the parent) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What resources would you need to provide religious instruction at home? (e.g., a bible, textbook, lesson plans, etc.)

4. Does your family have access to reliable internet? Yes No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of attending members \_\_\_\_\_

# Dear Padre,

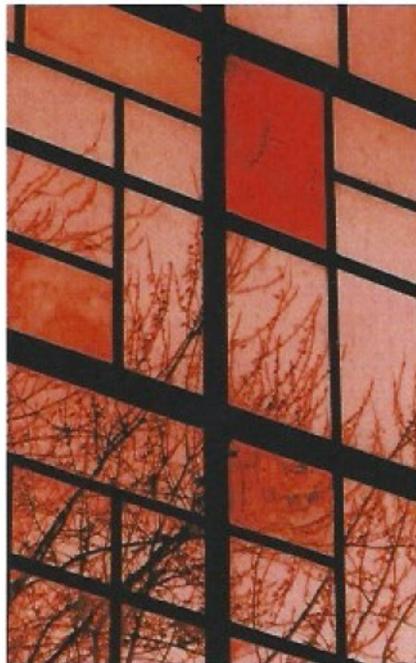
## We knew a beloved priest whose death was self-inflicted. What is the Church's stance on suicide?

**I** offer my heartfelt sympathy to you and the faith community for this tragic loss. "We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2280). Those who take their own life to end personal suffering assume a decision-making that belongs to God alone. However, the Church also acknowledges that "grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide" (*CCC* 2282).

At the same time, the Church relies on the compassion of God, who fully knows the intensity of suffering that triggers suicide. Therefore, the Church pastorally states: "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (*CCC* 2283).

How, then, does the Church specifically pray for those who've committed suicide? Generally they're not deprived of full burial rites in the Church, which consoles the living and commends all of the dead "to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins" (*Order of Christian Funerals*, 6). Nor are they deprived of burial in a Catholic cemetery—a sacred place that helps bring peace to those confronted by the sudden death of a suicide.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



HILARY SUSAN OSMAN / PEXELS

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*The increase in the rates of suicide in your cities, as well as bullying and various kinds of neediness, are creating new forms of alienation....I ask you to pay special attention to [the young] and their needs. Try to create spaces...of generous and selfless love...to everyone, and not only to those who have "made it."*

—MEETING WITH BISHOPS, TOKYO, NOVEMBER 23, 2019



## Calendar

### Monday

SEPTEMBER 14  
*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
Nm 21:4b–9  
Phil 2:6–11  
Jn 3:13–17

### Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 15  
*Our Lady of Sorrows*  
1 Cor 12:12–14, 27–31a  
Jn 19:25–27 or  
Lk 2:33–35

### Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 16  
*Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs*  
1 Cor 12:31—13:13  
Lk 7:31–35

### Thursday

SEPTEMBER 17  
*Weekday*  
1 Cor 15:1–11  
Lk 7:36–50

### Friday

SEPTEMBER 18  
*Weekday*  
1 Cor 15:12–20  
Lk 8:1–3

### Saturday

SEPTEMBER 19  
*Weekday*  
1 Cor 15:35–37, 42–49  
Lk 8:4–15

### Sunday

SEPTEMBER 20  
*Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Is 55:6–9  
Phil 1:20c–24, 27a  
Mt 20:1–16a