

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

24TH 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." - Mt 18:21-22

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray, your own sins
will be forgiven. (Sir 28:2)



PSALM

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



SECOND READING

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.
(Rom 14:8)



GOSPEL

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
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What right do we have to limit the amount and degree of forgiveness we show to others when we are so desperately in need of it ourselves? In not wanting someone who hurt us to downplay or forget the gravity of their wrong, we cling to anger, resentment, and wrath as a way of maintaining control. It is a way to acknowledge and express our deep hurt. We fail to realize that in doing so we hold ourselves hostage to these destructive feelings and actually become mired in the bondage of sin. All we gain is further alienation from ourselves, others, and especially God. We are no longer free but tethered to all of this unresolved negativity. Don't we really want to let it go? The fact is that we need to.

A good self-reflective posture will quickly show us that when the shoe is on the other foot and we are the ones in need of forgiveness, we desire it above anything else. This is especially true with our relationship with God. It is hypocritical to want one thing for ourselves and something else for another. Yet, many act in precisely this way.

Perhaps we think that in offering forgiveness, even for the most grievous of wrongs, somehow excuses the person of their wrong and makes it almost acceptable. This is what makes revenge, retaliation, and punishment so attractive. We see forgiveness as being an eraser that easily wipes away the offense without consequence. Or, we may believe that in offering forgiveness I must somehow forget the wrong and open myself as a victim of even greater possible hurts in the future. In fact, forgiving my sister or brother of their wrongful actions or attitudes involves none of this. It does not erase anything or position me vulnerably as a doormat to be walked on.

Forgiveness is an act of freedom that restores honest dialogue, shares true, and heartfelt feelings and acknowledges the consequences of an action. It admits that the wrong has caused a hurt that must be healed and squarely positions responsibility on the offender. The act of forgiveness recognizes our sinfulness and brokenness. It also admits that the most saintly among us is capable of doing very grave and deep harm to another person. It sees that we all can be victims of our passions and works in progress that deserve unlimited chances to get it right. With forgiveness, I release myself from the bonds of negativity and pursue a path of restoration, wholeness, and healing. I do not forget the wrong nor do I dismiss it. Sometimes, we have to stay far away from the one who hurt us. But we can still heal internally and be free.

For the one who wants to be forgiven and the one who needs offer forgiveness, the journey can be an adventure in learning what brought us to this place and what is needed to move forward. This is exactly how God treats us. Why would we not want to do the same for others?



A REFLECTION FROM FR. MICHAEL SYJUECO...

Recently, a friend of mine shared an article written by Ginny Barbour Seagle about gaslighting. I find it interesting so I'd like to share this with you.

"What is Gaslighting?"

The term originates in the systematic psychological manipulation of a victim by her husband in Patrick Hamilton's 1938 stage play *Gas Light*, and the film adaptations released in 1940 and 1944. In the story, the husband attempts to convince his wife and others that she is insane by manipulating small elements of their environment and insisting that she is mistaken, remembering things incorrectly, or delusional when she points out these changes. The play's title alludes to how the abusive husband slowly dims the gas lights in their home, while pretending nothing has changed, in an effort to make his wife doubt her own perceptions. The wife repeatedly asks her husband to confirm her perceptions about the dimming lights, but in defiance of reality, he keeps insisting that the lights are the same and instead it is she who is going insane.

In this day and age when there is a lot of conflicting news coming out in social media and even in the main media, it's hard to determine what is fake news and what is not. We seem to be living in a perpetual state of gaslighting. The reality that we are being told at times is in complete odds with what we are seeing with our own eyes. The problem is when we question the "reality" being presented to us against the reality that we are seeing, people judge us with all sorts of labels like, yes, crazy, or racist or bigots. I wonder about whether or not we are being "gaslighted."

Gaslighting, it seems, has become one of the most pervasive methods that many people in our society have used to forward their own agenda. When your opinion is against the majority because the reality that you're seeing is opposed to the reality that they claim, people call you crazy or prejudiced. For this matter, gaslighting has made it ultra-challenging for Christians nowadays to be faithful to their faith because if they did, they are hurled all kinds of labels, including that favored word, bigot. This to me is rather unfortunate because the only "crime" a Christian may have committed is his or her faithfulness to the Gospel. I should not be surprised, however, because Jesus himself has given us a heads-up: "You will be hated by all because of my name (Matthew 16:22). If you ever ask yourself if you're crazy, just because what you're seeing is not the reality of what people are telling you, chances are you are not. But, it's good not to be arrogant as well. Listen and verify what they are seeing and examine your conscience. If you're conscience tells you otherwise, listen to your conscience. Don't think you're crazy. For Christ says: "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12). I find Seagle's advice in her article very helpful: "Trust your eyes over what you are told. Never listen to the people who tell you that you are crazy because you are not, you're being gaslighted. Sophocles said: "What people believe prevails over the truth." That's probably what people with some strong agenda are trying to exploit.

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Mass INTENTIONS

Monday, September 14

Raymond Yoon+

Ernie Lipari Sr. +

Irma Hernandez +

Tuesday, September 15

Monica Facchino+

Chris Pacifico+ (Birthday)

Gregory Banta +

Wednesday, September 16

Consolacion Sanchez+

Antonio Almazan Arroyo+

Corazon Bautista San Diego +

Thursday, September 17

Francis Xavier Nguyen+

Renato & Teresita Baluyot (50th Anniversary)

Dante Nieva (Birthday/Healing)

Friday, September 18

Joseph Tha Nguyen+

Maria Oanh Nguyen+

Isave Nam Nguyen+

Saturday, September 19

Rosel Jarvis (Thanksgiving)

Clark Seegmiller+

Mendoza - Lu Family (Healing & Thanksgiving)

Saturday/Sunday, September 19-20

Saturday, 430PM

John Bui+

Dominic Bien Nguyen+

Mariano T. Sy +

Saturday, 630PM

Jacob Nguyen Le Minh Tang+

Sunday, 8AM

Maria Yen Pham+

Oscar Martin (Birthday)

Norma Aguinaldo+

Sunday, 10AM

Joseph Tha Nguyen+

Maria Oanh Nguyen+

Isave Nam Nguyen+

Sunday, 12PM

Eliazer Visenio+

Alejandro Reyes Sr. +

Felicidad Glover+

Sunday, 4PM

Teresa Nguyen Xuan Huong+

Ronald Davis+

Sunday, 6PM

Carl & Soledad Sinsay +



This week, we also pray for ...

✠ Aproniano Siruno+

✠ Violeta Corazon Tolentino+

✠ Ryan Bob Penaflor (Birthday)

✠ Felipe Seguritan+

✠ Gina Pacifico (Birthday)

✠ Janelle Duong (Birthday)

✠ Edwin Agustin (Healing)

✠ Santos Negrete (Healing)

✠ Harvey Todd (Healing)

stewardship

FINAL TOTALS FOR THE FIRST COLLECTION, WEEK OF AUG 31-SEPT 6, 2020

OFFERTORY

Masses \$ 3,916.64

Drop/Mail \$ 4,368.00

Online Offertory \$ 6,951.00

Total: 12,634.00

If you are interested in donating on-line, please visit our webpage at www.sfoasj.com and click on

Online Giving

Or scan



to get started with this convenient giving option.

Thank you in advance for your generous giving.

Reflection

"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." (Romans 14:8)

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God daily and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

"Porque si vivimos, vivimos para el Señor, y si morimos, morimos por el Señor; entonces, si vivimos o morimos, somos del Señor." (ROMANOS 14:8)

Esta es la esencia de la corresponsabilidad: todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que somos es un regalo de Dios. No somos "dueños" de nada, somos simplemente "administradores" de los dones que Dios nos ha dado, especialmente nuestras propias vidas. Ore a Dios todos los días y pregúntele cómo le está llamando a vivir la vida que Él pensó para usted.



This Weekend's Readings

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I

Sirach 27:30-28:7

Reading II

Romans 14:7-9

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Next Weekend's Readings

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I

Isaiah 55:6-9

Reading II

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16a

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

- SUN 9/13** Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8]/Rom 14:7-9/
Mt 18:21-35
- MON 9/14** Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/
Jn 3:13-17
- TUE 9/15** 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 31:2 and 3b, 3cd-4, 5-6, 15-16, 20
[17]/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
- WED 9/16** 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 [12]/Lk 7:31-35
- THR 9/17** 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 [1]/Lk 7:36-50
- FRI 9/18** 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15 [15b]/Lk 8:1-3
- SAT 9/19** 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14 [14]/Lk 8:4-15
- SUN 9/20** Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 [18a]/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/
Mt 20:1-16a

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

- Sunday:** 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
- Monday:** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of Sorrows
- Wednesday:** Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
- Thursday:** St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
- Next Sunday:** 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Deciding to travel the challenging road of forgiveness is choosing a journey toward greater freedom. Resentment, anger, and clinging to past hurts not only keep open wounds that long for healing but bring us down paths that are eventually self-destructive. Harboring grudges and withholding forgiveness not only shut down relationships with others, but with God and myself as well. To choose to forgive another person, regardless of how grave the wrong, is a choice to be released from bondage to past wounds and scars and to pursue the gift of life and love again. Who among us has not wrong or sinned against another? We certainly would want God to understand, forgive, and show mercy upon us. It is hypocritical of us to not extend that same grace to our neighbor.



*Speak,
for your
servant is
listening.*

— 1 SM 3:10 —

IN 2020, THE CHURCH WILL CELEBRATE CATECHETICAL SUNDAY ON SEPTEMBER 13,



2020,
under the
theme

of "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." Our parish catechists are formally commissioned for the task of handing on the faith to children, youth and adults at our 10:00 am Mass. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each baptized person plays in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

As your Pastor, I want to encourage all parents and guardians to also make plans for your children's ongoing faith formation, as our own programs commence in just a couple of weeks. Your parish stands ready to help you in fulfilling this pledge. Over the summer, our faith formation staff (Lisa & Kevin) have been hard at work preparing for this new year of learning and living our Catholic faith. We have programs for children in pre-school through high school. Our vision of faith formation, structured to engage children and youth in a process, that is instructional, challenging, and fun. Please refer to the Sunday Bulletin or our parish website for more information.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT – AUGUST 2020



Thank you to everyone, who continue during this pandemic, to support the mission and ministries of our parish during the month of August. Our average weekly collection was **\$14,678 (9%**

increase vs. July 2020). You also generously donated to various important causes in our August (second collections) at **\$6,075 (\$1,215 a week.)** This brings our August weekly total to **\$15,893.** We budgeted our Sunday Offertory income for the current fiscal year (4 weeks) at **\$140,823** and received **\$126,504 (-\$14,319).** Any additional income helps us to pay-down our \$2 million debt. As you know, we are dependent upon you, our parishioners, for our living-out our parish mission.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION APPEAL



The Annual Catholic Education Appeal is this Sunday, September 13. This second collection provides financial assistance to many of our Catholic

families who desire a Catholic education for their children. Your generosity supports the tuition aid program for elementary and high school students in our Catholic schools. Your partnership and support of the Annual Catholic Education Appeal is greatly appreciated



as we make this a successful campaign for our students.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WON \$15,000?

Isn't that a fun question? Well, it's only possible when you participate in

our **St. Francis of Assisi**

Fundraiser Sweepstakes. It's

easy! Just visit our parish web page.

You can find all the information you need in one place there. At the same time, your support of this once-a-year fundraiser supports dozens of ministries that serve hundreds of people every month. Don't delay. Get your entries in today. Winners will be chosen on October 4th, our parish feast day. We also have an exciting **online auction:** vacation getaways, gift baskets and more. Everything you need to make your bid is on our parish home page. If you have any questions, just call the parish office. Thank you for your generous support.



Are all political issues and causes created equal?

As Catholics, we believe that there is true harmony and mutual dependence between social issues and the Catholic response to them. Every political and moral issue finds its source of meaning in the most fundamental principles revealed


to us by God in faith and reason. In this light, there is an order inherent in social and moral issues, just as there are an order and a unity in the virtues.

Some issues, such as the *life and dignity of the human person*, are more central because, without these directly protected, no other rights or actions can achieve justice and the common good. Visit www.cacatholic.org for more information on what principles should concern Catholics most and how this guides our personal evaluation of public policy and political candidates. Also, view the US Bishops publication *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* for timeless insights on timely social issues at

uscbb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/index.cfm.



Observing the Lord's Day

- 
1. Set aside a specific time and space for prayer; doing so helps us to mark those moments and spaces as sacred.
 2. Set aside times for family conversation, perhaps at a Sunday meal.
 3. Make time to call friends and relatives and check in.
 4. Connect with your parish, either virtually or in person, at Sunday Mass.
 5. Set aside time for quiet meditation;
 6. Pray before meals.
 7. Make time for the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
 8. Read and reflect over the Scripture readings for Sunday Mass.
 9. Reach out to others, parishioners, family, friends, especially the vulnerable.
 10. Offer thanks and praise to God for the grace of these divine encounters in prayer.
 11. Pray for our brothers and sisters who are oppressed in any way throughout the world, especially victims of racism.
 12. Commit ourselves to the mission which God sets before us: in our family, workplace, neighborhood, community.



GRANDPARENTS DAY

Lord God almighty,
bless our grandparents with long life,
happiness, and health.
May they remain constant in your love and be
living signs of your presence to their children and
grandchildren.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
AMEN

September 20, 2020
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Anticipated (Vigil)

4:30pm – Fr. Weisbeck
6:30pm – Fr. Vu (Vietnamese)

Sunday

8:00am – Msgr. Mitchell
10:00am – Fr. Stanley
12:00pm – Fr. Stanly
4:00pm – Fr. Vu (Vietnamese)
6:00pm – Fr. Syjueco



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH JOIN OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER SWEEPSTAKES!

**HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE
OF \$15,000!**

SECOND PLACE PRIZE: \$1,000

THIRD PLACE PRIZE: \$500

**Ticket Entries and more details are now available
online at <https://go.rallyup.com/sfoafundraiser>
or our parish website www.sfoasj.com!**

***NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO
ENTER OR WIN THE SWEEPSTAKE***



Entry Prices

25 Entries		\$25
75 Entries		\$50
200 Entries		\$100
400 Entries		\$150
600 Entries		\$200

Official rules:- This sweepstakes is a fundraising event for St. Francis of Assisi Church. All entries are considered donations. All entries must be received by 09/30/2020 11:59 PM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time. Winner Announced: 10/04/2020 11:45 AM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time. One free sweepstakes registration allowed per person during this event. Free registration entry can be found at: <https://go.rallyup.com/sfoafundraiser/maileentryrequest>. Conditional Winner(s) will be chosen through a random selection process by RallyUp or its representative. Odds of winning depend on the number of tickets held. A verification process will take place during which conditional Winner(s) will be required to sign paperwork re-confirming their eligibility and ability to participate. Additional information can be found at <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/business-and-professions-code/bpc-sect-17539-15.html>

Francis of Assisi is kicking off their 26th Annual Raffle Fundraiser. This is the Main Fundraiser for the parish. Due to the Covid-19, we are having an exciting online Sweepstakes. This will help keep everyone safe in this time of social distancing, while also complying with state and local regulations. All proceeds stay within our parish to fund many local programs in the community.

San Francisco de Asís está iniciando su 26º evento anual de recaudación de fondos para la rifa. Este es el evento principal de recaudar fondos para la parroquia. Debido al Covid-19, estamos teniendo un excitante sorteo en línea.

Esto ayudará a mantener a todos a salvo en este momento de distanciamiento social, al mismo tiempo cumplirá con las regulaciones estatales y locales. Todos los ingresos se quedan dentro de nuestra parroquia para financiar muchos programas locales en la comunidad.

Visite el sitio web:

**Annual Saint Francis of Assisi
Fundraiser**

Sweepstakes Sorteo anual de recaudación de fondos de San Francisco de Asís Por favor apoye a la parroquia participando en el sorteo y tendrá la oportunidad de ganar un gran premio de \$ 15,000.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

PRESENTS

**\$15,000
CASH**

ONLINE SWEEPSTAKES!

WWW.GO.RALLYUP.COM/SFOAFUNDRAISER.COM

**FOR A
CHANCE TO WIN \$15,000!**

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

This is a charitable fundraiser. No purchase necessary. To win, all entries considered donations. All entries must be received by 10/30/2020 11:59 PM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time. Winner Announced: 11/04/2020 11:45 AM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time. One free sweepstakes registration allowed per person during this event. Free registration entry can be found at: <https://go.rallyup.com/sfoafundraiser/maileentryrequest>. Conditional Winner(s) will be chosen through a random selection process by RallyUp or its representative. Odds of winning depend on the number of tickets held. A verification process will take place during which conditional Winner(s) will be required to sign paperwork re-confirming their eligibility and ability to participate. Additional information can be found at <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/business-and-professions-code/bpc-sect-17539-15.html>

LITURGICAL LIFE

3 EASY STEPS

To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



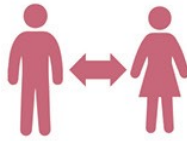
Wash Your Hands

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.



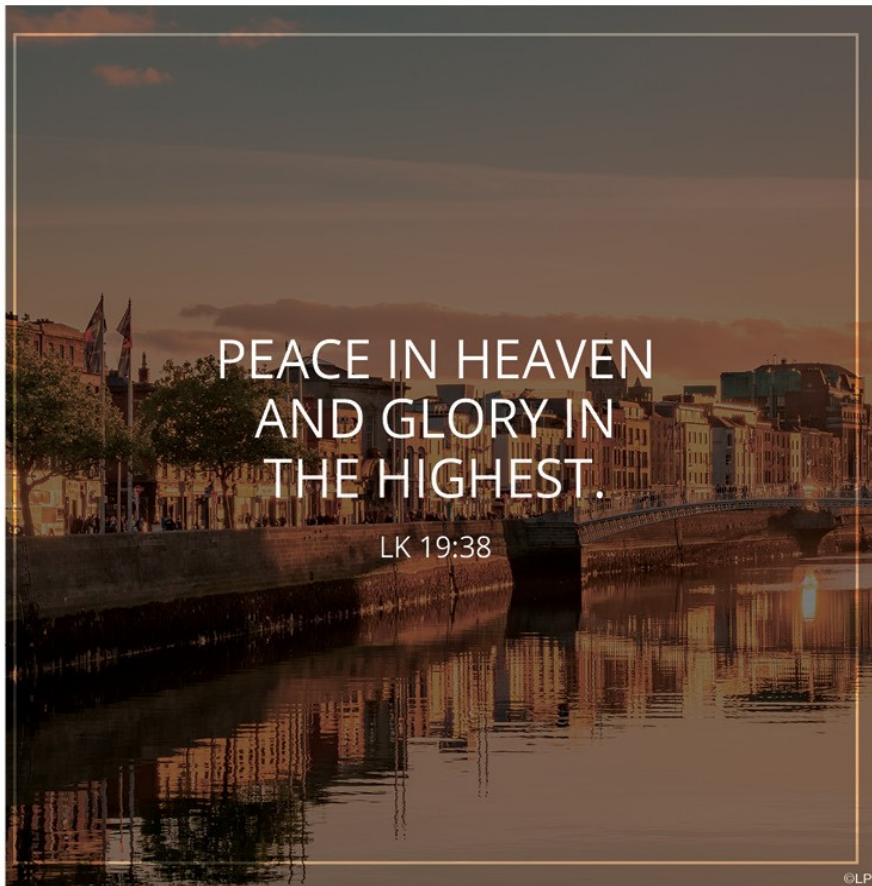
Don't Touch Your Face

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.



Keep Your Distance

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



“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.”

- Mt 18:33-35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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AMERICA & GUNS



After the Sandy Hook Elementary mass shooting on Friday, December 14, 2012 I was very sad, and outraged at the same time, that someone could kill 20 innocent six and seven year olds, and six of their teachers. I was angry that our laws did not prevent that tragedy from happening. I discarded the homily that I already had prepared for that Sunday and instead preached on the subject of violence and gun ownership. I could sense that many of our parishioners shared my feelings on the subject. I was sure that this particular time felt different from all the shootings before, and that real change would happen this time to prevent similar tragedies.

Of course, I was wrong. Nothing really changed, and even bigger tragedies followed when 49 people were shot to death in Orlando in 2016 and 59 in Las Vegas in 2017. According to Gifford's Law Center, guns kill 100 Americans every single day and many more are injured. What I was hoping would happen was something similar to what Australia and New Zealand did in the face of their own mass shooting tragedies. Their politicians came together on a bipartisan basis and dramatically restricted gun ownership, especially assault style weapons, buying out most of the existing guns. In addition, and even more importantly, the people at large felt a need for a dramatic change and voluntarily gave up their guns.

However, something different happened here. After each mass shooting gun sales actually, increase. They have also increased twofold during the last six months. Some attribute this latest phenomenon to the pandemic, protests against racism, and the coming elections. When we feel insecure and uncertain, we buy more guns. Why? I guess there must be an assumption that the world is full of potential enemies and some people seek to protect their life and property, because no one else will. I will never understand America's fascination with guns. Many states do not sell tobacco or alcohol to people under 21, but they sell guns and ammunition to 18 year olds. It is hard for me to comprehend that logic. Even teenagers (under 18) are allowed to use firearms in some states under certain circumstances. The 17-year-old in Kenosha, WI, who killed two people with his firearm, was in violation of that state's gun ownership laws, but he and his companions were actually given water by the local police and thanked for what they were doing. They were not arrested, even when he tried to surrender; instead, they were left free to return home to Illinois. Would a Black teenager have been treated the same way?

We have the highest civilian gun ownership rate in the world—twice as high as the second country on the list. There are more guns in the US than people. I am scared to think of what might happen this November when some may not agree with the results of the upcoming election. With such easy access to guns, it only takes a spark to ignite another tragedy.

I come back to the question that I posed in my previous reflection: Whom do we see when we look at each other? Do we see a potential enemy from whom we must defend ourselves with a gun? Jesus

teaches us that we should see a brother and a sister for whom we are willing to sacrifice our own desires. Jesus did not carry a deadly weapon, even though he was threatened and ultimately killed. His mission was one of healing broken relationships and gathering all people as one, so that the fullness of God's kingdom might come. Let us recall today's responsorial psalm, "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion".



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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."

– Mt 18:21-22

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LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The Jewish sage Sirach warns of the dangers of wrath, anger, and vengeance, urging rather forgiveness and pardon. How do you see this as the recipe for peace of mind?

Second Reading

Paul urges Christians in Rome to "live and die for Christ." How do you make Christ the ultimate concern in life?

Gospel Reading

The parable of the unforgiving servant teaches us that forgiveness ought to be reciprocal. What does this tell us about divine justice?

**"Do not be afraid
to take a chance on
peace, to teach peace,
to live peace...
peace will be the last
word of history."**

–St. John Paul II

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



WHO HAS TIME FOR LEAP? MUCH LESS AGREE? GO SLOW TO GO FAST....



I began writing about Dr. Xavier Amador's communication technique called LEAP Aug. 4. So far, we have covered an overview of LEAP (Listen Reflectively; Empathize; Agree; Plan). We also have explored applying the first two steps—Listen Reflectively and Empathize. As one who is painfully familiar with the situation of accompanying someone with mental illness who refuse to accept treatment, I understand a question frequently asked by exasperated parents and other family members: "Who has time to do this? It sounds great in theory. However, it must take a lot of time to employ LEAP!"

In his research, Xavier Amador, PhD, found that using LEAP to accompany your loved one as he or she decides to accept treatment, actually takes much less time than hours, years, decades of arguing, stalemates, and broken relationships. In the end, as it true of all effective communication, by going slow one goes fast. Moreover, both you and your loved one will savor the blessing of working together.

The "A" in LEAP stands for AGREE. The aim is to agree on goals you can both agree upon. Examples of such goals are to get a job, finish school or stay out of the hospital. Amador writes in **I Am Not Sick I Don't Need Help**: *"The more common ground you can find, the better. When you share the same goals, you can work together, instead of being at odds with each other."* Amador also advises to avoid speaking of symptoms (ex: delusions, talking to oneself, insomnia). Instead, focus on the goal: Stay out of the hospital and get a job. Amador stresses that by mutually agreeing on a goal, that is, something you and your loved one both agree on, you can offer a plan that both of you can accept. With patience and sensitivity, Amador offers six guidelines as you discuss accepting treatment with your family member:

- *Normalize the experience* ("I would feel the same way if I were in your shoes.")
- *Discuss only perceived problems/symptoms* (Statements such as, "I can't sleep at night because I am on guard. I am afraid they're going to hurt me," describe insomnia and paranoia stemming from a delusion. However, the words insomnia, and delusion never need to be used in your conversations.
- *Review perceived advantages and disadvantages of treatment* (whether rational or irrational; "I will gain weight." "I will lose my creative edge."" I will sleep better and fight less with my family.")
- *Correct misconceptions* (Antipsychotic medications are not addictive. Serious mental illness is not caused by one's upbringing or use of illicit drugs.)
- *Reflect back and highlight the perceived benefits* (So you would be more rested and feel better and fight less with your husband?"
- *Agree to disagree* (whenever areas of disagreement are brought to the surface.) p.569*

In Amador's examples, he stresses to discuss ONLY the problems (and symptoms) raised by your family member. And to discuss ONLY the advantages and disadvantages raised by your family member. In other words, "No Gotchas!" by bringing up other points to debate. As a final point on AGREE-ing, Amador says, *"Remember to always ask questions when you want to make a point."* By asking questions, you indicate you want to partner not pontificate. An example: "I think there is another benefit of taking medication that is not on our list. Would you like to hear what it is?" Again, Amador speaks of the **"Three A's"** when you are seeking agreement: 1) Apologize: "I want to apologize because my views might be hurtful or disappointing"; 2) Acknowledge your own fallibility. "I could be wrong. I don't know everything."; 3) Agree: I hope we can just agree to disagree. I respect your point of view. I hope you respect mine.") In my experience, practicing such **personal humility demands honest self-awareness, attentiveness in the here and now, prudence, and charity**. Certainly, these are virtues Jesus called us to when He exhorted us to repent—*Now is the time to change your heart!*

Amador, Xavier; I Am Not Sick. I Don't Need Help; Vida Press, NY.

--Barbara F. Zahner, BCC; 3GEN+ Mental Health Ministry; barbarazahner1@mac.com

Please be aware that we must all wear masks or shields to be in compliance.

DAILY MASS & SUNDAY MASS - TAPE DELAYED

Due to the instability of our Internet connection, our Daily Mass (Monday – Friday) will be broadcast by 11:00 am each day. Sunday Mass will now be available for viewing by 8:00 am

DAILY MASS

WE ARE NOW HAVING DAILY MASS (8:30AM) outside in the Memorial Garden Patio. We are able to have up to 50 attendees. No Reservations Needed

SATURDAY VIGIL AND SUNDAY MASSES

We are now able to have up to 50 people per Mass at our Weekend Masses. Every Monday between 9-10AM we will send a link through our constant contact emails. This link will go live at 10AM and you will be able to reserve up to 3 spaces. We ask that you try and give everyone a chance to attend and not sign up weekly. What we do suggest is if you would like to attend again, wait until THURSDAY after 3pm and if there are spaces still available, then you are welcome to fill them.

Please be aware that we must all wear masks or shields to be in compliance.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation and we look forward to seeing more of you at Mass!

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

This novena and Mass is held every Wednesday beginning at 7:00PM in the Memorial Garden Patio area. All are welcome.

Prayer for All Who Worry

When Jesus told us not to worry,
did he know about this?

About our businesses closed,
our rent past due,
our utility bills in a towering unpaid stack?
Did he know about all of us who can't afford to buy
in bulk

and thus are left without basic supplies?

Did He know about our doctors,

our nurses, our hospital staff

tired and terrified,

unable to protect themselves against an insidious
disease?

Did he know about our essential workers

afraid to miss a shift in contaminated quarters

for fear of losing their jobs?

Did he know about our working parents

torn between kissing their children and keeping
them safe?

Did he know about our elderly ones,

confined in their homes or facilities,

unable to receive a human touch?

Did he know about our children,

cut off from their parks and playgrounds,

from the simple act of hugging their friends?

I think he knew.

I think he knew, too,

that we couldn't help but worry—

a worry sometimes tinged with anger,

sometimes with grief.

I think he knew we couldn't help but worry.

And I think he wanted us to know

that he can't help but hold us.

He was right—

we can't add a single hour to our lives.

But we can choose to spend every hour

wrapped in his arms.

Amen.



Encountering Christ – Faith in Action.

ADA 2020 Parish Goal: \$219,233

Pledged: \$234,135 – Average Gift: \$484

You are amazing! Despite the tremendously difficult times, we are living in, your outpouring of generosity and support for our local Church of San Jose is a true sign of God's goodness. We have gone over our goal of \$220,000. We are so grateful to the 483 parishioners who turned in their gifts and pledges towards this year's ADA. St. Francis of Assisi will receive every dollar (\$14,912) from here on in (pledged and paid above our goal). We have a great potential for this rebate, over 200 parishioners pledged in 2019, but not yet in 2020. Please prayerfully consider making your pledge today. Just visit our parish web page and click on the ADA logo.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Life is not always easy on us and it can be hard to figure out the next step to take in our journey. We can even become immobilized by indecisiveness and fear about making the wrong move or choosing the incorrect path. I think of the song, *Should I Stay, or Should I Go*, as a mantra for many times in my life. Should I stay in this house, this job, or this car? Should I go here or there? When those times of decision surface, I usually turn to my wife, my friends, or even my children. Talking it out can help, and their perspectives give me more data to consider. When I lean on others to help me make a decision, it helps me become more confident in my choices.

Discerning the will of God is not easy either. Rarely do we understand God's calling clearly at first. God's calling is always more easily discerned within a community of faithful disciples. Our stewardship way of life can suffer greatly if we refuse to allow others to assist us in the process of discernment. What gifts or talents are needed for the task at hand? Where do I fit best into God's plan? Where is God leading me? No one should have to decide the answers to these questions alone. We need to always lean on the Body of Christ to help us see the path that God has laid before us. Without a little help along the journey, over time we might find ourselves stuck in the same place where we started.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Cremation and The Church

Question:

Can Catholics be cremated?

Answer:

As the practice of cremation becomes more and more common, it's important to know what the Church asks of families who have chosen this for a loved one who has died.

As the US Bishops observe on their website, "Ideally, if a family chooses cremation, the cremation would take place some time after the Funeral Mass, so that there can be an opportunity for the Vigil for the Deceased in the presence of the body." However, if cremation takes place before the Funeral Mass, the cremated remains can be present at the Funeral Mass and the appendix to the *Order of Christian Funerals* provides adaptations for the texts and rituals that are part of the Funeral Mass and the Committal.

The primary concern is that the cremated remains should be treated with the same respect given to any human remains. The *Order of Christian Funerals* instructs, "This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, and the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains on the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires" (no. 417).

It is becoming more and more common for parishes or diocese-sponsored cemeteries to include columbaria to house cremated remains in a way that respects Church teaching, allowing family and friends the opportunity to honor the remains of the one they have lost with dignity, reverence, and care.

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Jesus says to forgive each other seventy times seven or 490 times. That's forgiving once each day for more than a year. Put 490 jelly beans in a gallon "Forgiveness Jug." Each time you forgive someone, eat a jelly bean. When you realize that God has forgiven you, it is easier to forgive others from your heart. God fills you with his love, which is even better than jelly beans. Then you can forgive without holding a grudge.

PRAYER

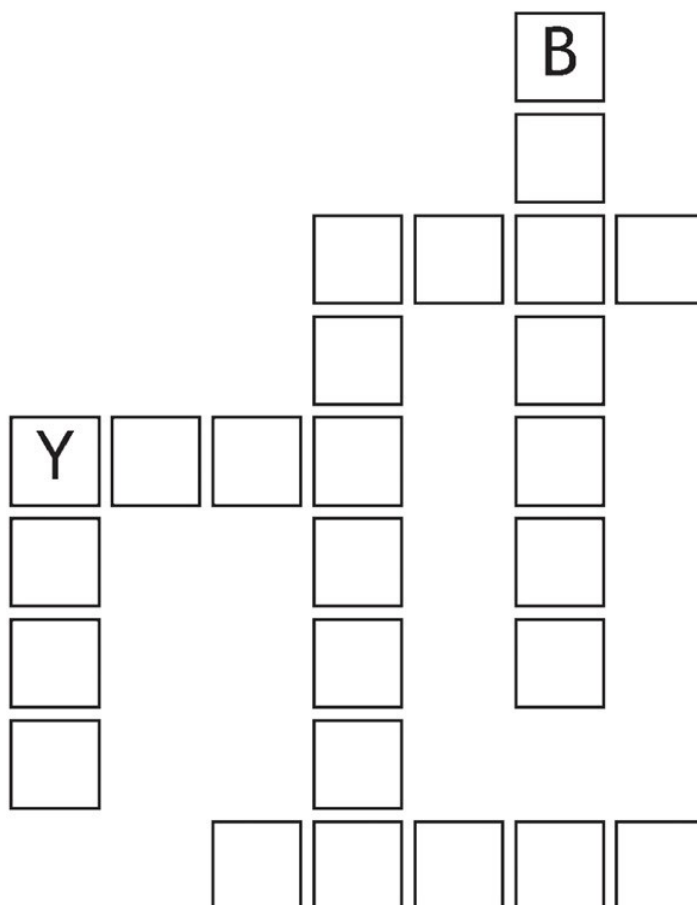
Lord, help me forgive other people completely and quickly.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will forgive those who hurt me because God has forgiven me.

KIDS CORNER

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:
Forgive your brother from your heart.



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Sign-up for Sunday Mass

If you would like to reserve a place at one of our 7 weekend Masses, you must use either our *PayBee* reservation system (PayBee.com) or contact the parish office. 480 reservations are only about 15% of the number of people who attended Mass each weekend before COVID-19. In a spirit of charity, we ask that you reserve a place for only one Mass each month, so that the other 85% of our parishioners have an opportunity to attend Sunday Mass. We will now record the Saturday vigil Mass which will be available by 6:00am on Sunday morning. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

A link to register for Masses will be sent out via email at 9:55AM. EVERY MONDAY. Registration will not be visible or opened up until 10AM.

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