

Limitless Forgiveness

What 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

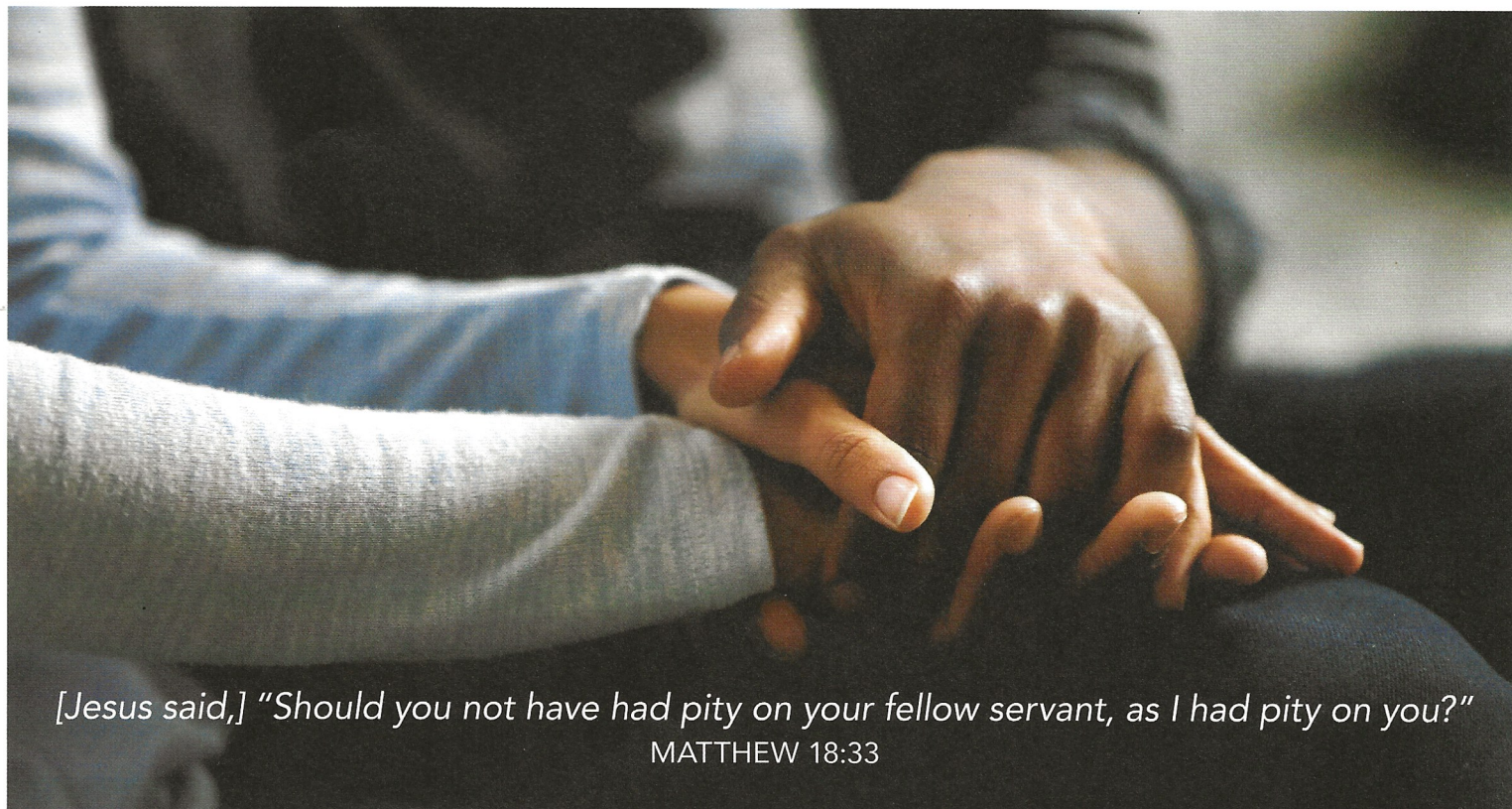
deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

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

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Pastor: Fr. Phil Schmitter – 810-252-4459

September 13, 2020 – Sunday

Please call Fr. Schmitter to make appointments for:
Baptism, Anointing of Sick, Confession, parish registration,
Communion to homebound, marriage preparations (9
months in advance), jail visits, and house blessings and
information about the Church.

Please call or have someone call Fr. Phil if you or a loved one
is in the hospital or is incarcerated.

Office Hours: Currently closed to the public

MASS SUNDAY: 9:45 a.m.: Limited Public

WELCOME ~ CELEBRATE

MASS at NOON: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

NO MASS at 9 am Friday this week

Attendable and Live Streamed: Welcome!

Mass Intention & Candle Remembrance Today

Amber E. Renick

Requested by Dianne J. Johnson

09/20 – Esther Verdun – Req. by KPC Ladies Auxiliary Ct #90

09/27 – Serena White – Req. by KPC Ladies Auxiliary Ct. #90

Introduction to the Celebration

Let us bless the Lord, who made heaven and earth,
who pardons our sins and crowns us with
compassion.

Stewardship

We are the stewards of the Lord's gifts to us –
the Lord is the master, we are His stewards.

Let's Keep Building Community:

Pray for those on our Prayer – Healing list.
Pray for them. Without Prayer, we are nothing!
Call, listen, to at least one parishioner each day!



Please hold these brothers and sisters in prayer for healing:

Camille Turner, Sharon Hennigar, Bob and Linda
Davison, Betty Allen, Barbara Logan, Bill W., Barbara
Staton, Robert and Jennie LaValley, Aurelia LaValley,
Patricia Gardner, Lorene Ferguson, Eula Collier, Irene
Tomlinson, Tamara Crupi, Sherri Woodard, Dorothy
Swift, Nina Poole, Tracy French, Scott Baker, Sue Kelly,
Jason Rogers, Judy Ridley, Michelle Cwiklinski, Lia
Jensen- Abbatt, Roberta Rouse, Mary Yaklin, Amber
Donajkowski, Kathleen Lyon, Dr Joan Martin, Joe
Rowlery, Mama Sol, Andrew Verdun, Dan Getty, Rose
Murphy, Audrey Renick, Lynn Steelman, Charlotte
Brent, Sr Joanne Fedewa, Virginia Rochelle, Douglas
Bland, Nancy White, Baby Hazel McKenzie, Tracey
Bernard, Carolyn Shannon, Kristen Smith, Jim Ryan,
Michael Raymond Garland, Kathleen Moore, Sherryll
Herrick, Baby Franklin Hoffman, Stevie Hoffman, Evan
Little, Pat Stokes, Lamar Hill, Wanda Nichols, Teresa
Milczarski, Fr Patrick Isichai, Toni Harrison, Nancy May,
Joan Renard, John Prince, Robert DuLong, Rick Davies,
Janay Ford and her baby, Mike, Danny Woods, Darlene
Verdun, Annette, Bernice Mitchell, Carl Weiskittel, Ken
Kreiger, Baby Chloe Carpenter, Baby Hazel, Nellie
Pinkney and Rob Whall.

Mass Intention & Candle Remembrance

Tuesday, September 15th at Noon

Mass is live streamed, not Adoration/Confession

**That we will be close to those who suffer
the pain of illness, limitation, poverty,
imprisonment, racism, war and depression.**

Catholic Charities ~ HOPE IN A BOX ~ September

Bar and Hand Soap

**As you attend Mass in person, we will continue to
live stream on Facebook. Invite family and friends
to join us if they are unable to attend or far away.**

Church Schedule for this week

- **Tues., Sept 15th:** NOON MASS: ADORATION / CONFESSION
Our Lady of Sorrows
- **Wed., Sept 16th:** NOON MASS
Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
- **Thurs, Sept 17th:** NOON MASS
- **Fri., Sept 18th:** No 9:00 am Mass
Homegoing for Joseph Edward Rowler, Jr. 1 pm

From the Desk of Fr Phil

My Dear Sisters and Brothers of Christ the King,

Last week we reflected on the scriptures, looking at how we lovingly correct each other and help each other to grow in holiness in our community. This week the scriptures lead us more deeply into mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation. How do we reunite or how do others receive the opportunity to be reconciling after moral failure? It was something the early Church had to face as people sinned seriously by adultery, murder, or being traitors (People who gave up the sacred books or divulged to pagans the whereabouts of Christians so they could be captured). The conversion of Saul the persecutor of Christians to St Paul the Apostle was not an easy thing for many to understand or accept. But the community had to give him a chance.

Reconciling has always been a challenge for humans whether in the family, a congregation, a nation or among friends. We do evil that hurts others or hurts us...now what?

The first reading invites us to let go of our anger. Sustained anger, anger that is fiercely held on to prevent us from reconciliation. For a little while that anger becomes our god and justifies everything we scream and snap at another. Romans reminds us that whether we live or die for the Lord, we are the Lord's.

Psalm 103 touts our God who is kind and merciful and slow to anger and rich in compassion. That is a compelling truth. And in Matthew 18, if we put ourselves in the parable as both persons seeking mercy, we will be led to forgive, let go, be merciful because we accept that we have received mercy over and over again from a God who sets no limits on his love.

This is something we can really do better with God's grace. It is not very easy to achieve by oneself. It is an area many of us still struggle with; it is important that we look at it under the light of the Holy Spirit. If we are mindful of this, the Holy Spirit can teach us how to act differently. So, that is my homework this week and I invite you to attempt growth in this area, too.

In God's love,

Fr Phil

We have a special church with a special organization with a special person in it!
The Father Dukette St. Peter Claver Court #90, in the Ladies Auxiliary
we have Grand Lady Robin L. Johnson.

During a recent St Peter Claver day Michigan Central Committee celebration via Zoom video, Robin was awarded the Symeria Banks award (who happens to be Vice Grand Lady Renae Banks Rowser's cousin). This award is granted to a Claver woman annually for her accomplishments serving her parish, the organization, and community beyond expectations.

We all as the CTK family should be proud of her!

Rudolph Verdun

Mission Statement: Christ the King Flint Roman Catholic Church is a faith community founded in the African American culture to answer God's "Call" to be a guiding light and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through our gifts and talents, we strive to evangelize and minister to our entire multi-ethnic community.

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



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