

September 13th, 2020 – 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 18:21-23

LOVE and FORGIVENESS

In the [Gospel](#) reading, Peter wants to know how many times he has to forgive someone who sins against him. What is the number of times, Peter wants to know, that he has to forgive that sinner? But this question is confused. There is no such number as the one Peter is looking for. There is no limit on the number of times we have to forgive someone who has sinned against us.

We are able to understand the point of this Gospel story if we see the connection between love and forgiveness. Refusing to forgive is refusing to love, and it is never acceptable not to love. That is why it is never right to withhold forgiveness either.

The relation between love and forgiveness also helps us see the difference between forgiving a wrongdoer and enabling him to continue in his wrongdoing. Love wants the good for the beloved. A person who forgives a sinner loves that sinner; and because she loves him, she has a heart for his good. A wife who continues to live with a husband who beats her isn't forgiving him. She's helping him to get worse. There is nothing loving or forgiving about enabling a person to get worse. For her to forgive her husband is for her to want his good, even in the face of his bad treatment of her. But his good requires, first of all, that he stop hurting her, and then that he repents his terrible treatment of her.

If he is unrepentant, if he rejects goodness and love, then she can *want* the good for him anyway. But her forgiveness of him will be like a gift that can't be given because he won't receive it. Then the best she can do for him is to keep a distance from him, so that he doesn't get worse by continuing to hurt her.

God's love is like this, too. God's forgiveness is always there, and so is God's love. Because God

loves every person, God offers the good to everyone too, no matter what that person's sins may be. God does not keep a careful distance from us when we sin. What stands between us and God is only our own unwillingness to receive the gift God is offering.

If we will only not reject it, the gift of God's love and forgiveness will be given to us *and* received.

-Eleonore Stump

Readings This Sunday

Reading I: Sirach 27:30-28:7

Reading II: Romans 14: 7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-23

Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 55: 6-9

Reading II: Philippians 1: 20C-24, 27A

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16A

Finance / Stewardship Collection: The plate last weekend was **\$3,039**.

Scripture Study and Lectures at St. Bernard In Memory of Fr. Eric Freed...

Several people have mentioned how much they miss scripture study. In memory of Fr. Eric Freed we will begin again by discussing The Reformations for 12 weeks: 9/13-11/29 with one 20-minute lecture per week, in the St. Bernard Church Hall right after the 10:30 mass. We will meet every Sunday. There will be study notes, but no coffee. Those who stay for the lecture will clean their own spots. –Deacon Frank Weber

Welcome back to Holy Mass! Although Religious Education will begin a bit differently this year with at-home instruction, we hope to return to in-person classes as soon as we are able. For registered families, we will have Catechists available after Masses monthly for questions or by phone. Please fill out your registration form and return by October 1 to one of the church offices, by email to sacredsaintccd@gmail.com or register online at sacredheartweb.org or saintbernards.org. Call Kim at 442-2233 with any questions! Thank you!
Grace and Peace

Eureka Holy Mass Intentions

Saturday 12

4:00 pm SJ Mass for the People

Sunday 13

7:30 am SJ Arleen Mitchell †

9:00 am SH VanderVeldt Family Int.

10:30 am SB Jim & Martina Traylor †

12:15 pm SH Abel Rodriguez † (Sp)

4:30 pm SH Paul Vevoda †

Monday 14

12:15 pm SB Virginia & Russell Schoelen †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

Tuesday 15

7:30 am SJ In Honor of God the Holy Spirit

5:30 pm SH Fr. Eric Freed †

Wednesday 16

12:15 pm SB Felix Salvi †

6:00 pm SH Adoration

7:00 pm SH For the healing and support for the victims of clergy sexual abuse. (Sp)

Thursday 17

7:30 am SJ No Intention

5:30 pm SH No Intention

Friday 18

12:15 pm SB Anna Marie Agnoli Pappalardo †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

Saturday 19

4:00 pm SJ Mary Gierak Hoffman †

Sunday 20

7:30 am SJ Mass for the People

9:00 am SH Dan Freitas Int.

10:30 am SB Lisa & Ernie Domingo †

12:15 pm SH No Intention (Sp)

4:30 pm SH Diana Clauser Int.

Please pray for : Courtney Train, Marilyn Ziblich, Baby Olivia, Monica Rose Clinewerk, Chad Kryla, Don DeHennis, Basil & Santos Mainus, Harold Giacomini, Chet Branum, Florence, Fran Hill, Isela Adams, Lindy Timmerman & Family, Mary James, Dave Silverbrand, John Bertain, Denise Sledge, James Iron Shell, James Lemon, Wm. Hahn Family, Rose Ann Hurst, Armado De Los Santos, Judy Mill, Julia Walters, Connie Mather, Steve Mill, Ryan Pepper, Fred Pepper, Paul Shabata & Family.

God our Father, you have promised to remain forever with those who do what is just and right. Help us to live in your presence. For the honor of your name, lead us and guide us. Call our prayer line leader Toni at 445-3616-24/7.

The Knights of Columbus will be selling the last of their tickets after the Sunday Masses for the long-delayed Pot O Green drawing. Prizes will be drawn at our next meeting on October 6th.

The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Feast Day-September 14th

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.
—Franciscan Media

Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Sept 15th-St. Bernard (d. 1153) wrote, *Truly, O Blessed Mother, a sword has pierced your heart.... He died in body through a love greater than anyone had known. She died in spirit through a love unlike any other since His. (De duodecim praerogativis BVM).*