



DAY	FEAST	READINGS	TIME
Mon 14	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Psalter Week IV	Num 21, 4b-9 or Phil 2, 6-11; Jn 3, 13-17.	6:00 PM
Tue 15	24th WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME Psalter Week IV Our Lady of Sorrows	Hebr 5, 7-9; Jn 19, 25-27 or Lk 2, 33-35.	6:00 PM
Wed 16	24th WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME Psalter Week IV SS. Cornelius & Cyprian	1 Cor 12, 31-13, 13; Lk 7, 31-35.	6:00 PM
Thu 17	24th WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME Psalter Week IV St Robert Bellarmine	1 Cor 15, 1- 11 Lk 7, 36-50.	6:00 PM
Fri 18	24th WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME Psalter Week IV	1 Cor 15, 12-20; Lk 8, 1-3.	Mass: 12:15 PM Holy Hour: 7:30pm
Sat 19	25th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME—Sunset Psalter Week I	Is 55, 6-9 Phil 1, 20c-24. 27a Mt 20, 1-16a.	Novena: 5:30 PM Mass: 6:00 PM
Sun 20	25th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME Psalter Week I	Is 55, 6-9 Phil 1, 20c-24. 27a Mt 20, 1-16a.	9:00 AM

Family Connection

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity. Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.

Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

Issue 2020/37

For Private Circulation Only

13th September 2020

24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Reading I: Sir 27, 33-28, 7

Responsorial Psalm: 102, 1-2. 3-4. 9-10 11-12

Reading II: Romans 14, 7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18, 21-35

Revised Roman Missal: 560 (Bahasa 1433)



REFLECTION

The Our Father includes two petitions that are fundamental for the life of a Christian: *"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"*. Jesus answered Peter's question about the limits of forgiveness with a parable about two hearts: the heart of the king, representing God *"rich in mercy"* who forgives and forgets all our debts; and the heart of the unjust servant who chokes his debtor without an ounce of compassion. Sisters and brothers: if we do not take advantage of God's mercy at the opportune time we risk hearing our condemnation at the final judgment, distancing us forever from Divine Love.

1. The first thing we must do is forgive, but up to what point? The Christian attitude is unique. It means ardently seeking reconciliation with one's enemies. It means never holding a grudge or hoping that the other will just recognize his fault and admit how little he knows. It means being humble and not thinking that one's own imagined reasons for justice will always prevail. This call from Jesus to live a life without seeking revenge or trying to make others pay back *"all they have done to us"* is truly a very demanding challenge. We need to examine our consciences today to see if we are really following this gospel teaching, especially as regards that person who it is hardest for me to get along with. Then we need to take the necessary steps to change. Do we work hard at forgiving? Do we fight against rancor?

2. The condition for being forgiven is being the first to forgive. This is the meaning of the Our Father: *"as we forgive those who trespass against us."* When someone knows that he himself is forgiven, he in his turn is quicker to forgive. He who has received free of charge, in his turn gives free of charge. As St. Cyprian teaches: *"There where you were wounded, you are now cured. Love those who you used to hate, those very ones you could not bear."*

3. Vengeance has no place among Christians. There is no place for the law of the Talon: *"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."* Our community, our family, our workplace, our friends – all of this is a natural place for acceptance and forgiveness. Let us look around us and ask ourselves: how do we treat others? Are we building a world of vengeance or a universe of forgiveness? God is more human than we are, and when we imitate his behavior, we ourselves become more human.

Peter's question is also very human: *"How often must I forgive my brother? Seven times?"* But God puts no limits on his generosity: *"I tell you, not just seven times, but seventy times seven times."* Neither should we put limits when the time comes to forgive our brother. The strength of the Lord will lead us to live in harmony with the way God himself has treated us: we, like Him, will strive to be *"rich in mercy"*.

Announcement

Sunday School and COM classes

There is no Sunday School or COM classes this Sunday. Sunday School and COM classes resumes on 27th September.

Good Friday Collection (13th September)

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection. This year, since measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus prohibit gatherings in our churches, the traditional Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land has been postponed to September 13th. Please give what you can. God bless.

Holy Hour (18th September)

There will be no Holy Hour on Friday, 18th September as the Confirmandi are having their retreat here during this time. Please keep them in your prayers.

Infant Baptism (19th September)

The next Infant Baptism is scheduled for Saturday, 19th September 2020 @ 2 PM. Parents and godparents are requested to attend the pre-baptism instruction on Tuesday, 15th September @ 7:30 PM. Please register with the Parish Office before 15th September.

Liturgy Meeting (26th September)

The next meeting of the Liturgical Committee members will be on Saturday, 26th September 2020 @ 2 PM. Please try to have your own sub-committee meeting prior to this meeting. We will also discuss all the upcoming liturgical activities for the rest of the year.



GOOD FRIDAY
SUPPORT CHRISTIANS
IN THE HOLY LAND
NOW
Pontifical Good Friday Collection

 The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be held on
Sunday, September 13, 2020.

**Please Give
Generously**

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SERIA

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14th

This feast was observed in Rome before the end of the seventh century. It commemorates the recovery of the Holy Cross, which had been placed on Mt. Calvary by St. Helena and preserved in Jerusalem, but then had fallen into the hands of Chosroas, King of the Persians. The precious relic was recovered and returned to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius in 629. The Emperor Heraclius tried to carry the Cross back to Jerusalem on his shoulders. He was clothed with costly garments and with ornaments of precious stones. But at the entrance to Mt. Calvary a strange incident occurred. Try as hard as he would, he could not go forward. Zacharias, the Bishop of Jerusalem, then said to the astonished monarch: "Consider, O Emperor, that with these triumphal ornaments you are far from resembling Jesus carrying His Cross." The Emperor then put on a penitential garb and continued the journey.

O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

2020-2021 RCIA Classes

Episode 4: What's our Story?

Your life is a story, and it's caught up in the great story of humanity. This great story, as we see in the Scriptures, shows us the amazing love story that is God's pursuit of man. The God that is love created us so we can ultimately be with his love. We were made to be with God. Union with God is so central to the purpose of life that we even see the afterlife in these terms. Our definition of Heaven is union with God, and Hell is the absence of him. Your life has a plot. Your life has purpose. Your life has value. We need to see how we fit into this big love story to begin to know why we exist. And that love of God isn't abstract—it has a face and name: Jesus.

If you know someone who is searching or thinking of becoming a Catholic, please invite them to this program in the Conference Room. This Search session is on every Thursday at 7:30 PM.