

Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray,
your own sins will be forgiven.

Sirach 28:2



September
13
2020

St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503
www.stjohnsaltoona.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com, allinall214@gmail.com

Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net

Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - inaugh@aol.com

Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net

Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - dj219@msn.com

Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - mark.krepich@gmail.com

Ken Dumire - Maintenance

NEXT WEEKEND'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Sept. 19 - 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 20 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky,
Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Sept. 20 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Gary Johnson

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 19 - 4:00 PM - Keaton Swope, Sophia Raneri
Sun. Sept. 20 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Mai Linh Do
Sun. Sept. 20 - 11:00 AM - Estella & Evie Koch

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Sept. 19 - 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Billy Sweet,
Betsy Lloyd, Judy Sneath
Sun. Sept. 20 - 8:00 AM - John Becker, Jane Becker
Helen Miller, Jane Strasser
Sun. Sept. 20 - 11:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark, Walter Bloom,
Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Sept. 19 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker
Sun. Sept. 20 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Sept. 20 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Kenneth
Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson

SACRISTAN

Sat. Sept. 19 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
Sun. Sept. 20 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Sept. 20 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Sept. 19 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Mary Haenig
Sun. Sept. 20 - 8:00 AM - Amber & Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Sept. 20 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY - 4:00 PM
SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM
MONDAY • WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM
TUESDAY • THURSDAY • FRIDAY - 8:30 AM

*We will continue to record Sunday Mass
for those unable to attend and post it on our Fa-
cebook page and website.*

SEASON OF CREATION
SEPTEMBER 1-OCTOBER 4

"...water seeds already
planted, knowing that
they hold future promise."
Archbishop Oscar Romero

**PRAY AND TAKE ACTION
FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

A Few Words from the Pastor:

YOUR HOLY CROSS: On Monday we celebrate the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, also called the Exaltation of the Cross. This feast was observed in Rome before the end of the seventh century, commemorating the recovery of the Holy Cross by St. Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine. The liturgy of the Cross is a triumphant liturgy. When Moses lifted up the bronze serpent over the people, it was a foreshadowing of the salvation through Jesus when He was lifted up on the Cross. Our Mother Church sings of the triumph of the Cross, the instrument of our redemption. To follow Christ we must take up His cross, follow Him and become obedient until death, even if it means death on the cross. We identify with Christ on the Cross and become co-redeemers, sharing in His cross.

We make the Sign of the Cross before prayer which helps to fix our minds and hearts to God. After prayer we make the Sign of the Cross to keep close to God. During trials and temptations our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross. At Baptism we are sealed with the Sign of the Cross, signifying the fullness of redemption and that we belong to Christ. Let us look to the cross frequently, and realize that when we make the Sign of the Cross we give our entire self to God — mind, soul, heart, body, will, thoughts. Throughout this week, let us pray the simple prayer we say at Stations:

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,
Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the
world.*

MEETING FOR FAITH FORMATION PARENTS: In this “year like no other,” we are moving forward in planning for the instruction of our children in the Catholic Faith. An important meeting for parents will be held next Sunday, September 20th, at 9:15 in Bailey Hall.

COMMUNION IN THE CIRCLE TIME CHANGE: Because our second mass on Sunday now begins at 11:00 AM, Holy Communion will only be available in the front circle at 12:30.

THE SEASON OF CREATION – This year, the theme for the season is “Jubilee for the Earth”. We are invited to consider the integral relationship between rest for the earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. This particular year, the need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID pandemic. Pope Francis said that the coronavirus pandemic presented a “decisive moment” for people to examine their habits of energy usage, consumption, transportation, and diet, to eliminate the superfluous and destruction aspects of our economies in favor of “life-giving ways” to trade, produce, and transport goods. “In some ways, the current pandemic has led us to rediscover simpler and sustainable lifestyles. The crisis, in a sense, has given us a chance to develop new ways of living. Already we can see how the earth can recover if we allow it to rest: the air becomes cleaner, the waters clearer, and animals have returned to many places from where they had previously disappeared,” said the pope. “Today we need to find just and sustainable ways of living that can give the Earth the rest it requires, ways that satisfy everyone with a sufficiency, without destroying the ecosystems that sustain us.”

CREATION CORNER – Throughout this Season of Creation we will highlight in our bulletin, as well as on website and Facebook page, insights and suggestions that will keep us focused on this important time!

CONFIRMATION DATES SET: We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. John’s on Monday evening, September 28th at 7:00 PM, and again on Wednesday evening, September 30th at 7:00 PM.

September Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

Respect for the Planet’s Resources

We pray that the planet’s resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.



DEACON GENE’S BOOK: Many people over the years have spoken and written about how to live with **Abandonment to Divine Providence**. Saying that in simple terms, Deacon Gene has been sharing the phrase “**focus on the moment and trust in God’s love**” for almost 29 years. He has now written a book which explains the origin and the meaning of that phrase. The objects of the book are to help us learn why it can be so life-changing when we learn to respond to **the grace of each moment** in our life **as we receive it**, and why trusting in God’s love makes all the difference in our journey of faith. Deacon Gene and his wife, Barbara, decided to purchase enough books to give **every parish family** a copy. Deacon Gene just asks, if you would like, you accept a book and read it. Then, if you agree that it would benefit others and if you are willing and able, you would **pay it forward** by adding a donation to the envelope tucked in the back of the book. Envelopes can be dropped in the collection or mailed to the address on the envelope. Every donation will be used to purchase more books to be given away.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Sunday, September 20, at 9:15 AM - Parent meeting in Fr. Bailey Hall (gym) to distribute materials and the schedule for the fall semester of Faith Formation. REGISTRATION FORMS are available in the Gathering Space at Church as well as on our website on the Faith Formation page. We ask that parents register students for the fall semester as soon as possible so that we may order the books we need. **All Catholic school students in 9th, 10, & 11th grade should register for Confirmation.**

SCRIP TIP: The new mobile app, RaiseRight by Shop-WithScrip, is simply the right way to fundraise. Shop gift cards from more than 750 top brands to earn on your daily purchases. Anytime you want, anywhere you go. Get the app: <https://www.raiseright.com/>

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Jesus calls us, as his disciples, to a new way of life, the Christian way of life, of which stewardship is part. But Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually by name, each one of us clergy, religious, lay person; married, single; adult, child. Each has a personal vocation. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan. The challenge, then, is to understand our role, our vocation, and to respond generously to this call from God. Christian vocation entails the practice of stewardship. In addition, Christ calls each one of us to be stewards of our personal vocations, which we receive from God. (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/stewardship/index.cfm>, 1/8/2018)

Stewardship at St. John's

August 30, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 4,928.00
Loose	\$ 272.18
Children's Offerings	\$ 3.00
Missionary Cooperative	\$ 100.00
Catholic Register	\$ 20.00
Catholic Education	\$ 25.00
Catholic University	\$ 35.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 1.00
Retired Priest Medical	\$ 100.00
Food Bank Donations	\$ 195.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$ 5,679.18</i>
Online Giving	\$ 2,108.00
Total Offertory	\$ 7,787.18

Restore*Repair*Rejoice

Payments/Donations \$160,596
Pledge Payment Committed 20,092
Total Pledges/Donations \$180,688

Catholic Ministries Drive: Goal - \$44,423

Last Update: July 31, 2020
Payments/Donations \$ 33,605
Pledge Payments Committed \$500
Total Gifts \$ 34,105

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at giny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

**Adam • Aiden • Cari Ann • James Aubrey
Julie Beiswenger • Scott Brenneman • Robert Cole
Betty Dennis • Michael DeStefano • Bernadine Farrell
Kathy Felty • Mary Ann Flinn • Helen Fornwalt
Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell • Ken Hartman
Denny Horton • Randy Horton • Mary Jo Ivory
Brian Kopp • Amy Langenbacher • Lisa
Sherri Maffettone • Louis Jack Mathias • Bryson Miller
Mildred Miller • Susie Miller • Barbara Moore
Ailani Myers • Stan Neal • Patricia Olson
Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher • Karen Price
Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker
Vicki Riley • Allison Ritchey • Olga Romerowicz
Mike Rudolph • Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter
Steve Stefanon • Tim Temofonte • Patty Teufel
Lois Werfel • Carol White • William Wieland
Noah Wills • Milan & Family • Dorothy Yingling**

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

David Ganz

George Wieland, brother of Bill Wieland

May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

NEW CARD MINISTRY: We are asking for volunteers to send one or two greeting cards (Thinking of You or Get Well) each month to those on our prayer list. Please sign your name to the list on the kiosk as you choose a name (s) - something like a pen pal. Addresses will be provided. We hope this card sending ministry will continue in this way, since we are no longer able to sign cards as a group each month. If you have any questions, please call Ginny (695-7671), Mary (207-0185) or the office (942-5503). The recipients have enjoyed receiving cards from our parish and we want them to know we continue to think of them, pray for them, and especially now, keep them close to our hearts.

HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP 2020-2021: Thank you to those who have already sent in their \$150 sponsorships. Envelopes are still available in the Gathering Space. If you are not able to handle this in person, please get in touch with Mary Lee Madigan-Davis, 931-2651 or mlmdcreek@aol.com. Your donation will provide tuition, books, supplies, lunch and uniform to your student. Having a funded budget guarantees the school can run with security and gives such wonderful hope to our sister parish, Saints Peter and Paul in Marmont, Haiti.

CHICKEN BBQ: The Knights of Columbus of Hollidaysburg will hold their 41st Annual Hand in Hand Chicken BBQ to benefit Shriner's Hospital on Sunday September 20th from 10AM-Unil Sold Out. 324 Bedford St. Hollidaysburg. Diners are \$10 and "Take Out" only. To purchase tickets call 695-4752 and leave a message or get them at the door.

EVERY SUNDAY IS SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION:

We are still asking for donations for our local food bank. The need is great at this time for non-perishable food items, home and personal cleaning supplies, and pet supplies. *Thank you for your help!*

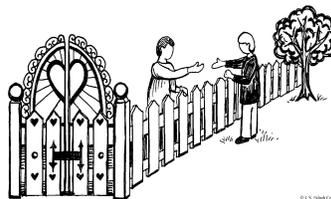
HOAGIE SALE: The Knights of Columbus Council #551 (Altoona) will sell 12-inch hoagies (ham, salami, bologna and provolone) on Thursday, Sept. 24 for \$5 each. Orders can be picked up Sept. 23 from 7 to 8 p.m. or Sept. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 1508 12th Avenue (alley entrance). To place an order email kofc551@gmail.com by Sunday, Sept. 20 by 6 p.m. To join the Knights of Columbus, email kofc551@gmail.com or visit our Web site at www.kofc551.org and click on join us.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS MEETING: The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Prince Gallitzin Court 2625 will meet on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7 PM in the St Rose of Lima social hall. However, food and drinks will not be served. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

THE FRIARS' NOOK GIFT SHOP HOURS & JOB OPENING:

The Friar's Nook Gift Shop will continue to have modified hours of Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM for the month of September. This gives time to search for a Gift Shop Manager, and the info about the position is below:
Gift Shop Manager: The Friar's Nook Gift Shop located in Hollidaysburg, PA is seeking a Gift Shop Manager to oversee the day-to-day functions of a Roman Catholic gift shop with a heavy emphasis in standard retail practices. The Gift Shop Manager should be dependable, self-motivated, and able to work well with other employees and customers. For a full job description, go to www.thefranciscanfriars.org/jobs.

CREATION CORNER: "All of us have to work, each from his or her own place in the world; indeed, we must work together, irrespective of religious conviction, racial origin, and professional discipline. Our efforts will remain meaningless and fruitless if they remain fragmented and isolated. For, the protection of the world's natural beauty is one consideration, one concern, one song, to the glory of God and all creation. *Patriarch Bartholomew*



**Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
September 13, 2020**

Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray,
your own sins will be forgiven.

— Sirach 28:2

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, September 13 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
 11:00 AM - Mass for *Matthew Geishauer* requested by Jackie Gates & Jeanie Burger
 12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

Monday, September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

6:00 PM - Mass for *Joe Robeson*

Tuesday, September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bob & Diane Long for their 60th Wedding Anniversary* requested by Dee Schmerbeck

Wednesday, September 16 – St. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

5:00 PM - Confessions
 6:00 PM - Mass for *Josephine Sclafani* requested by Mary & Ray King

Thursday, September 17 – Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Kathleen Bastian* requested by Richard & Joyce Lowe

Friday, September 18 – Weekday

8:30 AM - Morning Prayer & Communion Service

Saturday, September 19 - Vigil of 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 PM - Confessions
 4:00 PM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by Tony & Anna Rose Eckenrode

Sunday, September 20 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Robert Francis Shiber, Jr.* requested by Sharon Itell
 11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
 12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
 Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
 Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13; Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22; Lk 7:31-35
 Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50
 Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3
 Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15
 Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray,
your own sins will be forgiven.

Sirach 28:2



Sunday Readings

September 13, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1

Sir 27:30 — 28:7

Wrath and anger are hateful things,
yet the sinner hugs them tight.
The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance,
for he remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.
Could anyone nourish anger against another
and expect healing from the LORD?
Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself,
can he seek pardon for his own sins?
If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath,
who will forgive his sins?
Remember your last days, set enmity aside;
remember death and decay, and cease from sin!
Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor;
remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12

R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He will not always chide,
nor does he keep his wrath forever.

Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Reading 2

Rom 14:7–9

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. 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. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Gospel

Mt 18:21–35

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. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. 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."

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Peter asked,
“Lord,
how often
must I forgive?
As many as
seven times?”

MATTHEW 18:21

GOD’S MERCY

In many of our relationships with others—friends, spouse, neighbors, or co-workers—often the most difficult times come when someone damages the relationship. There are moments when only apology and forgiveness can lead to healing. In this week’s readings, we are reminded how our connection with God is woven into our relationships with others. God is the source of all mercy, and all of us stand in need of forgiveness. As we are able to accept the mercy of God deep within our hearts, we become empowered to show mercy to others. When things go badly in our relationships, we can remember that God is present at the center of these difficult moments. God is offering grace to ask forgiveness, to receive apology, and to accept the forgiveness extended to us.

FORGIVEN AND FORGIVING

In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls his followers to forgive “seventy-seven” times. In other words, stop keeping track when forgiving others. But when we are hurt, this is really hard to do. In fact, to protect ourselves from further hurt, we might be inclined to do the opposite, and lash out. Jesus teaches the futility of this approach.

Jesus’ parable of the unforgiving servant reminds us that in the course of our lives we have harmed others, and so distanced ourselves from God. We have also been harmed by others. Like the servant, we sometimes owe a debt, and sometimes others owe a debt to us. Here we are invited to stop the cycle of pain with the grace of mercy. We are called to imitate our God, who forgives wholeheartedly.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

It is also tempting to view this teaching on forgiveness in isolation. This would suggest that the burden is placed entirely upon the offended person to go on forgiving, without mentioning any accountability on the part of the offending person. This interpretation can often be dangerous. The call to forgive should never be used as a cover for bullying or for oppressive relationships of any kind.

It is helpful to consider all of chapter 18 in Matthew’s Gospel, which teaches about forgiveness and reconciliation, and the exercise of authority in the Christian community. Last week’s Gospel (Matthew 18:15–18) provides guidance on how Christians can call to accountability someone who has hurt others, to protect the weak, and to seek reconciliation as a community. The parable we hear today reminds us that, like the master who protected the second servant from the cruelty of the unforgiving servant, God seeks to guard the most vulnerable from harm.

The Gospel of Matthew presented an alternative to the violence-based order of his day. Matthew described Jesus’ vision of community, in which power is used at the service of all and the vulnerable are protected and cherished.

TODAY’S READINGS

Sirach 27:30 — 28:7
Psalm 103:1–4, 9–12
Romans 14:7–9
Matthew 18:21–35

TWENTY-
FOURTH
SUNDAY
IN
ORDINARY
TIME
SEPTEMBER
13
2020

God's Word for Children

Each day, we choose again
what is most important in our lives.

The days of the week are shown below with ideas of
what we could live for. In each sun, cross out the last word
and write "the Lord" beneath it. As Paul told the Roman people
(Romans 14:7-9), it is the only way to lasting happiness!

Sunday
Live for fun

Monday
Live for vacations

Tuesday
Live for excitement

Wednesday
Live for sports

Thursday
Live for pets

Friday
Live for food

Saturday
Live for money

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Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We should always forgive others, because God always forgives us.
That's why Jesus told Peter to forgive his brother
not seven, but seventy-seven times.

Circle the two numbers in each box that add up to seventy-seven.

65 12 22 59 = 77

29 43 10 34 = 77

26 48 51 17 = 77

8 69 5 = 77

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The master of that servant
 let him go and
 forgive him
 the loan.
 Matthew 18:27

CATHOLIC CORNER

ABOUNDING IN MERCY

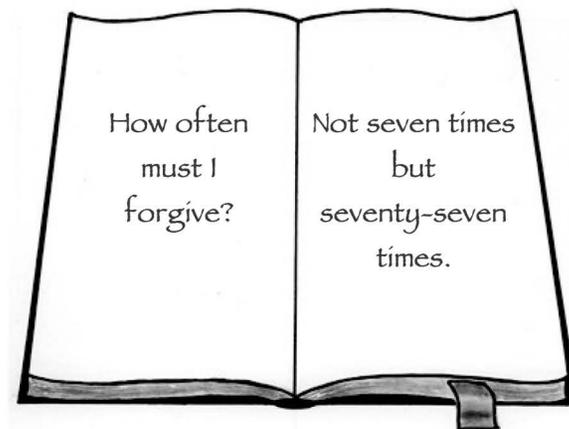
Have you ever said “I’m sorry” to someone? How does it feel to ask for forgiveness when you know you have hurt someone? We ask God’s forgiveness for our failures at the beginning of every Mass when we pray the Penitential Act.

Has anyone ever asked you for forgiveness? Is it easy to forgive? God is always ready to forgive. Psalm 103:8 assures us, “Merciful and gracious is the LORD, / slow to anger, abounding in mercy.”

We also receive God’s gift of mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation. This sacrament offers us a chance to reflect on our lives—to think about what we’ve said and done and to say we are sorry for the bad things. It reminds us that God loves us and forgives us when we have sinned. Have you celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation yet or are you preparing for it this year? You might want to visit the reconciliation room or confessional in your church.

Each part of the sacrament of reconciliation is meant to help us experience God’s mercy.

1. *We read scripture.* When we read about the life of Jesus and the mercy of God, we can compare our lives to the way that Jesus asks us to live. What should we keep doing? What do we need to change? Read Matthew 18:21–22 in your Bible.
2. *We confess our sins.* Think about one or two things that you want to change in your life so you can become more like Jesus. Share this with the priest.
3. *The priest gives us a penance.* A penance may be an action, a prayer, or both. It helps us think about how we can begin to change our lives.
4. *We usually recite the Act of Contrition.* Do you know this prayer that says we’re sorry and wish to change? If not, ask your parents to help you learn it.
5. *We receive absolution.* Absolution means that we are freed from the sins we have confessed. In God’s name the priest says, “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” We respond, “Amen.”
6. *The priest may say, “Go in peace.”* We go forth forgiven, having experienced God’s mercy and love, ready to forgive others.





Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

For further information, please call the Parish Office.

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