

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor, Rev. Phi Nguyen Pastor Emeritus, Rev. James Barrett Associate Pastors, Rev. Arthur Bautista Rev. Jose Baptista, SFX Deacons, Michael Neba Francis Duc Nguyen David Pham Joseph Thuan Than Accountant, Jim Masini Religious Ed, Cynthia Splatt Music Ministry, Steve Burke & Howard Schneider

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:00 pm (English) 6:00 pm (Vietnamese) Sunday 10:00 am (English) 12 noon (English & Vietnamese) Weekdays Monday-Saturday 8:00 am (English)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 3:00-3:30 pm (English) On 2nd & 4th Saturdays : (English & Vietnamese)

RECTORY OFFICE

(773) 764-0615 2324 W. Chase Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm & 1:00-5:00 pm **Parish Website:** www.smmchicago.org/parish

> Activity Center 7341 N. Claremont

> > Holy Hands (773) 764-0615

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

In this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 18: 21-35, Jesus teaches us to forgive without limit. Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" (Matthew 18: 21)

It could be in Peter's mind that he was being generous offering to forgive seven times. And he hoped that Jesus would be agree with him. But the answer from Jesus was totally different. "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:22) In other words, there is no limit in forgiveness.

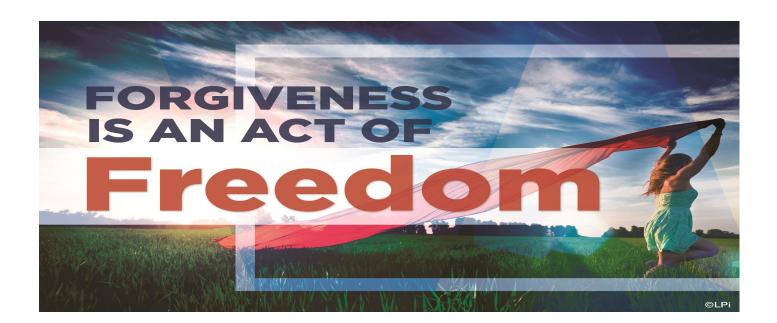
To explain this matter, Jesus tells the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18: 23-34) – the story of a servant who owed his master a huge amount. Knowing that the servant has no way to pay the debt, with compassion, the master forgave him the loan and let him go. However, this servant treated his fellow servant so badly. His fellow servant owed him a very small amount comparing to the amount he owned his master. Even though he knew that his fellow servant could not pay the debt at that moment but he insisted to payment. He put his fellow servant in prison until he paid back the debt.

The whole affair was brought to the master. *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." (Matthew 18:32-34)

Through the parable, Jesus' teaching about forgiveness was very clear. Forgive and you be forgiven. Indeed, oftentimes we treat others so hardly and badly. We want others to treat us easily but we on the other hand do not want to treat others that way. Clearly, this act is opposite of what true charity demands.

Let us all heed and take the teaching of our Lord into our own life. Let us all try our best to go beyond ourselves. Let us all be generous with each other as God has been so generous with each of us. We are to forgive as God forgives. We forgive others seven times seventy times because we treasure the unending mercy that God has shown us.

Fr Phi Nguyen



Holy Child Jesus Parish Contributions

If you currently make your contributions to Holy Child Jesus Parish at St. Timothy, St. Henry, or St. Margaret Mary, please continue to do so and make your contribution payable to whichever church you are currently contributing to. We are in the process of obtaining a Federal Tax ID number and will then set up our banking accounts. We will keep you informed of our progress.

And if you'd like to make a contribution today, please see the ushers at the break. They have baskets ready for you. We support our faith through our works, our prayers, and our contributions to the parish. Please make a prayerful contribution.

Thank you for your generosity and all that you do for Holy Child Jesus Parish.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

COLLECTION REPORT

September 6, 2020	
Sunday Envelope Budget	\$8,942.00
Sunday Envelope Actual	\$2,710.00
Loose Money	\$ 574.00
Total Collection	\$3,284.00
Variance	(\$6,232.00)
Weekly Budget Amount	
Envelopes Used	54

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We have a core group of volunteers at Holy Child Jesus Parish at St. Margaret Mary Church that has done a fantastic job assisting at Mass. We hope to have more of our parishioners so we can expand our group. Volunteering is a way to give back to the parish, to help build our community. You don't have to be here every week—once a month would help us tremendously.

Please call the parish office at (773) 764-0615 or email Art Blumberg at <u>art.blumberg@holychildjesusparish.org</u> for more information.

Dear Parishioners of the Archdiocese of Chicago,

I hope that you are safe and healthy during these challenging times. This year we had to move our Holy Land second collection due to the pandemic to September 13th. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection for Christians in the Holy Land invites us to be more connected to this special place and reminds us that, as a global Church, our faith extends beyond our local parishes and communities. This invitation is enriched by an opportunity to learn about and support the work happening today in the very land where these mysteries unfolded.

Pope Francis has asked us to support the work of Franciscans in the Holy Land who care for holy places and the Christians who live there. These generous gifts are integral to supporting parishes, schools, and orphanages; building and repairing houses for Christians; preserving holy shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets; and providing care for seniors in Bethlehem and Nazareth. Now more than ever, we are called to stand with our sisters and brothers as witnesses to peace in the Holy Land as they face increased violence, poverty, and migration.

This year, individuals may also make their gift online at https:// give.archchicago.org/site/Donation2

Thank you in advance for supporting the impactful work of the Church in the Holy Land through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald Hicks Vicar General

R

RCIA and the Search for God

Are you searching for God? Do you, or someone you know, feel a calling toward the Catholic Church?

RCIA—the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—is a program for adults who are considering entering the Catholic Church and have not been baptized, for baptized non-Catholic Christians who wish to join the Catholic Church, or for baptized Catholics who wish to complete their Sacraments of Initiation (Holy Eucharist and Confirmation). We also welcome Catholics who would like to study their faith more deeply.

In RCIA, we talk about the presence of God in our lives and in the world. We share our faith and pray. We study Scripture and how it speaks to us today. We learn about the Church, its beliefs, and its sacraments. We explore what it means to be Catholic and to live a Christian life. We learn from each other as we journey together on a pilgrimage of faith.

RCIA sessions will begin in early October. We are determining if the sessions will be in-person with social distancing, remote, or a hybrid. If you have a preference, please let us know. Your input is valuable to us.

Please consider RCIA if you have been contemplating entering the Church or completing your Sacraments of Initiation. You may know someone who has inquired about the Church or has not completed the Sacraments of Initiation. Spread the good news!

If you would like more information, please call Holy Child Jesus Parish at St. Margaret Mary Church at (773) 764-0615. You may also email Fr. Arthur Bautista at <u>arbautista@archchicago.org</u>, Art Blumberg at <u>arthurblumberg@sbcglobal.net</u>, or Cindy Shaw at <u>cshaw@archchicago.org</u>.

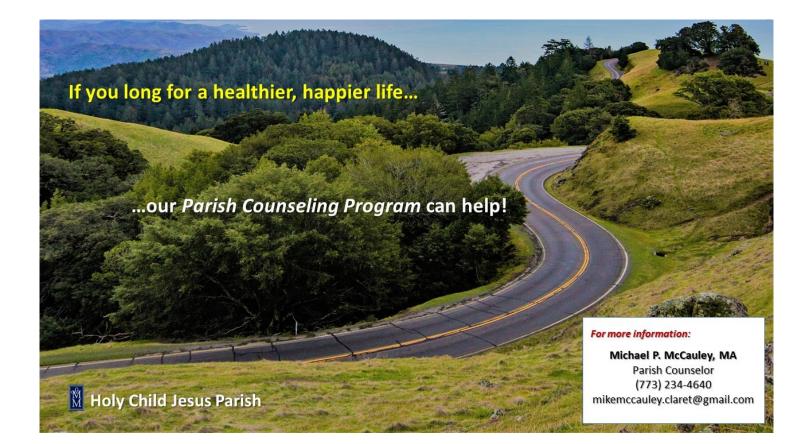
You may also fill out the form below and drop it off at any of the church rectories in Holy Child Jesus Parish.

Is God calling you? Welcome his presence!

RCIA 2020-2021

NAME _____

PHONE_____



WOMEN'S CENTER NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

In our nation, approximately 1 million abortions are per formed each year. The babies aren't the only victims of abortion. The other victims are their mothers, who, in many cases, were pressured into the abortion. Sooner or later they experience horrible grief and depression. At the Women's Center we try to help women struggling with a problem pregnancy and save them from grieving later.

This is your opportunity to join our 1ST VIRTUAL 5K WALK FOR LIFE by walking where you are and when you want! Register early to be eligible to win prizes. The date for the walk if Saturday, September 26, 2020. Don't let the virus stop you from saving babies. For information, please go to GoTWC.org or call 773-794-1313.

Seeking donations: We need 4 car seats for 20 to 40 lb., plus 3 infant car seat/carriers (all less than 7 years old), 4 high chairs, 5 strollers, 3 baby carriers, 4 pack 'n plays, 3 toddler beds, 3 cribs, 2 exersaucers and 4 baby swings. We have a great need for baby food and all brands of baby formula (especially Enfamil Formula, the yellow box). All baby food must be in date. Also needed are diapers in sizes 5 and 6 only, and receiving blankets, all sizes of pull ups, new pacifiers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, lotion and breast pumps. These items cannot be picked up unless accompanied by baby furniture.

The families who receive these donations are grateful for your generosity. For a delivery address or if a pick up is needed, please call 773-794-1313.

REST IN PEACE

Our blessed Lord has called home **Angelo Salutillo** for whom we promise our prayers that he may live in joy in His presence.



BAPTISMS

+Anahi Nicole Castaneda, daughter of Erick & Marlene (Uribe), received new life in the Lord through the waters of Baptism this past weekend. May her parents and godparents be a light to her life.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: sm office spaces \$300-\$600/mo, perfect for 1-8 person office, quiet environment, 24 hr access, Neal Gallo, 773-743-6565 or Neal.gallo.gznm@statefarm.com; 3 bdrm, 1500 sq ft, 3rd fl, Peg, 773-274-7534. **MASS INTENTIONS**

Sunday, September 13 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time English 10:00 am Wayne Haukap Julita Trovela Ana Taras Bilingual English & Vietnamese 12:00 pm Deceased members of Holy Child Jesus Monday, September 14 **Exaltation of Holy Cross** 8:00 am Chuck Baggarly - anniversary Ed Daugherty Tuesday, September 15 **Our Lady of Sorrows** 8:00 am Deceased members of Holy Child Jesus Wednesday, September 16 Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian Deceased members of Holy Child Jesus 8:00 am St. Robert Bellarmine Thursday, September 17 8:00 am Deceased members of Holy Child Jesus Friday, September 18 8:00 am Deceased members of Holy Child Jesus Saturday, September 19 St. Januarius 8:00 am Deceased members of Holy Child Jesus English 4:00 pm Patrick M. Sullivan Ann Donohue Vietnamese Deceased members of Holy Child Jesus 6:00 pm Sunday, September 20 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time English 10:00 am Sarah Vega Ana Taras Julita Trovela Marie Schmid Bilingual English & Vietnamese 12:00 pm Deceased members of Holy Child Jesus

SACRAMENTS

Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least three months in advance.

Baptisms: On the 2nd (in English) and 3rd (in Vietnamese) Sundays of the month following the 12 noon Mass.

R.C.I.A

Program/Process for adults interested in the Catholic Faith (Sept.-April). Call the Rectory for information.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome our new parishioners and invite them to register at the rectory.

FOCUS ON THE WORD

September 13, 2020 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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?