



## Minute of Mercy

### FORGIVENESS

*Forgiveness, one of the most difficult things for people to do, is a decision of the will, made possible through prayer and perseverance.*

*“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34*

*Christ, being the greatest possible teacher, in the midst of His great suffering on the Cross, petitions the Father to do this very thing: forgive those who are persecuting Him. It is a love so strong, it conquers even death. And this demonstrates the efficacious effect of meditating upon the Way of the Cross.*

*God’s mercy is endless. He is always pursuing us and using the situations in our life to draw us closer to Him. His invitation extends until the moment we draw our last breath and He waits patiently for us to accept it. Through a constant examination of conscience, taking a look within ourselves to find the wrongs we have done against God and our neighbor, along with persistence in prayer, He will lead us to that knowledge, humility and action to reconcile ourselves to God.*

*When others have wronged us, it is only by God’s grace, through prayer, that our souls will be moved to forgive. The benefit of forgiveness to others will be monumental, not to mention the effects it will have on our own souls.*

*There is one important thing to note. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, while there are no limits to God’s mercy, anyone who deliberately refuses to accept His mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss. (CCC 1864)*

### Mercy in Action

*This week’s **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray for the strength and the grace to forgive someone who has been difficult to forgive.*