



Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 13, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sir 27:30–28:7

Rom 14:7–9

Mt 18:21–35

Limitless Forgiveness

What makes seven such an important number?

It's the symbolism. It signifies wholeness, completeness, and totality. So, seventy-seven (or seventy times seven in some Bible translations) suggests infinity. Peter was exaggerating when he suggested that he might forgive his brother seven times. He presumed that if he acted in this way, his behavior would demonstrate the immeasurable extent of his personal graciousness. Jesus' response implied that there should be no end to our forgiving another. To underscore the significance of this magnanimity, Jesus offered God (in the guise of the king who forgave a huge debt) as the exemplar of forgiving.

Forgiving another's offense against us could well be one of the most difficult things we are asked to do. To ask for forgiveness does not seem as difficult. After all, when we bump into a perfect stranger in an elevator, we say, "Forgive me." But to forgive someone who has

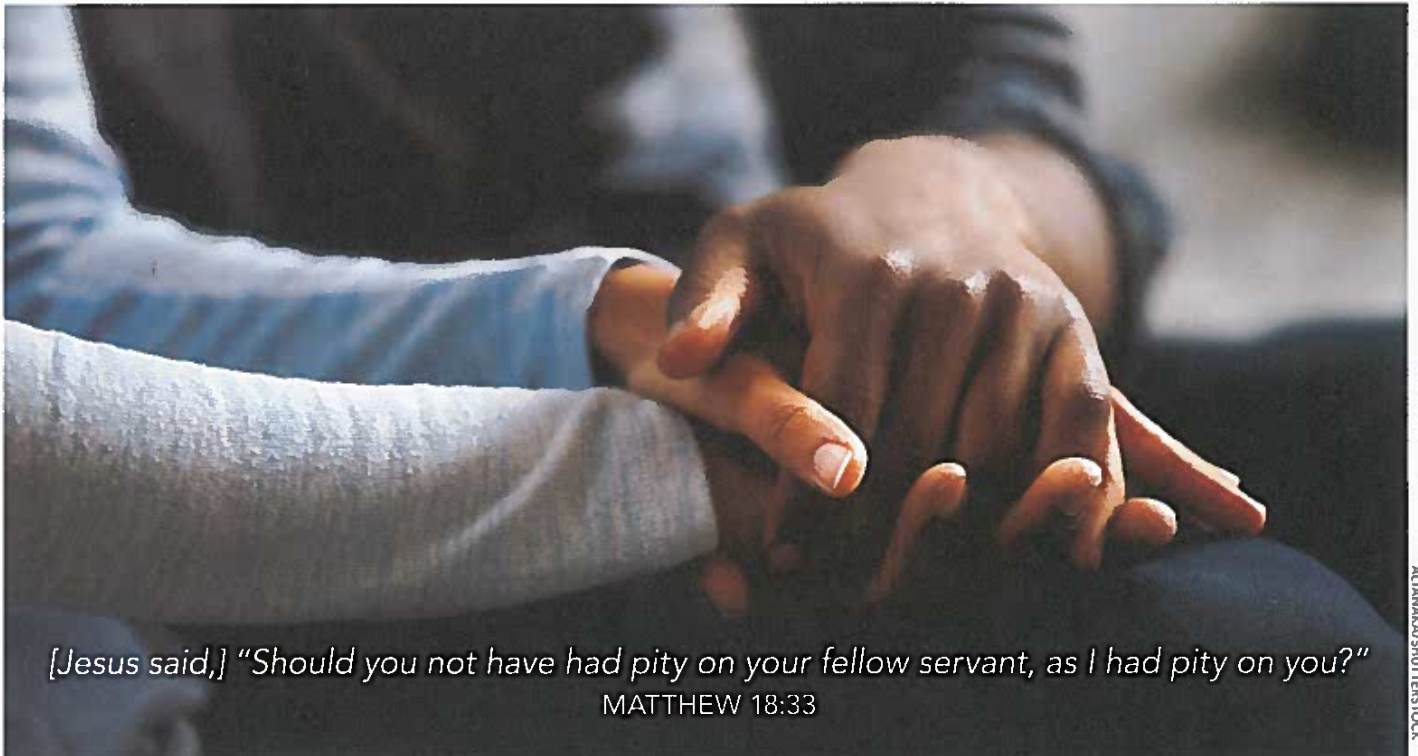
deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

We all carry debts to others. Both the first reading and the Gospel passage remind us that the debts owed to us by others in no way compare with the debt we owe God, and yet God shows us compassion and forgives us. If we are grateful children of a compassionate God, we will want to be like God and we will forgive others.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * Say the Lord's Prayer slowly, reflecting on "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."
- * Do you carry resentment in your heart? Does clinging to it lessen its burden in any way?



[Jesus said,] "Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"

MATTHEW 18:33

ALTANAKA/SHUTTERSTOCK



**St. Martin of Tours
Catholic Community
at Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

Mass Schedule

Monday – Thursday, 1205 at Fairfax Chapel

Saturday, 1700 at Belvoir Chapel

Sunday, 0930 at Belvoir Chapel
1100 at Fairfax Chapel

**Pre-Registration is required for weekend Masses.
The link to register is:**

[https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/
anim.cfm?i=563340&k=0767410A7F57](https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=563340&k=0767410A7F57)

**The Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed
and can be viewed from this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

Masses are recorded and can also be viewed later.

For More Information

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Catholic Chaplain

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Website: www.FortBelvoirCatholicCommunity.com

Facebook Page:

Fort Belvoir St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community

**1st Communion
& Mass Registration**



Due to COVID-19, religious education classes were cancelled before our children received some of their Sacraments including Reconciliation, 1st Communion, and Confirmation.

Presently, we are scheduling children to receive their 1st Communion during weekend Masses. While this will impact the number of congregants in the Masses, the children and teens, and their families will be able to share the celebrations with our Catholic Community. Thank you for your patience.

**1205 Daily Mass
Fairfax Chapel**

5675 21st Street, Ft. Belvoir

Because daily Mass has been moved to Fairfax Chapel, a much larger space than the Blessed Sacrament Chapel where it was previously held, we are able to increase our daily Mass capacity to 50 congregants. All social distancing protocols will be followed and masks must be worn while in the Chapel.

Catholic Office Space

Because of the ongoing serious mold issues at Woodlawn Chapel, CH(MAJ) Michael Lindsay and Louise Oliver, Catholic Coordinator, have been required to move out of their respective offices.

While we wait to move into our new offices, the best way to contact us is through email at:

**CH(MAJ) Lindsay:
Michael.p.lindsay.mil@mail.mil**

**Louise Oliver
FBCCInfo@gmail.com**



DIGITAL GIVING TO OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

You can now make a donation to our
Ft. Belvoir Catholic Community ONLINE!

**Simple, Safe, Secure Stewardship for our
Army Faith Communities**

To donate go to:

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Fort Belvoir, VA
Catholic - RCKA

Still unsure, watch a video about this
new program by going to:

<https://vimeo.com/451294408>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As our Catholic Community continues to
celebrate in-person Masses, the need for ministry
volunteers has increased.

Volunteers are needed to serve as:

- * Eucharistic Ministers
- * Lectors
- * Altar Servers
- * Ushers

No experience is necessary, as training is
provided. Current and former members of
ministry teams are also asked to respond to this
announcement.

Should you like to volunteer or have questions,
please email our new Liturgy Committee email
address: FBCatholicLiturgy@gmail.com.

Homily Notes

*Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray,
your won sins will be forgiven, Could anyone nourish
anger against another and expect healing form the Lord?
Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself can he
seek pardon for his own sins?" "Think of the
commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the
Most High's covenant, and overlook faults." (Sir
27:30-38:7)*

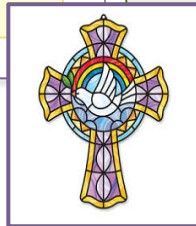
The Word Among Us has a great reflection on this
Sunday's readings: "At some point, each of us has
been hurt by a friend, family member, or
coworker. We can feel wounded and hold onto
our anger, to the point where it defines us a
victim. When Sirach wrote these words two
thousand years ago, he was clued into something
that modern psychologists are only now coming
to understand. Withholding forgiveness affects
our physical and mental health. It can elevate our
blood pressure, disrupt our sleep, and weaken
our immune system. It can decrease our ability to

trust people and reinforce a negative
mindset about life. When we choose to
forgive, even if the offender doesn't ask
for forgiveness, we stop being that
"wronged person." We overcome the
stress and bitterness and negativity that

were wrapped around us. Best of all, we open
ourselves up to the Lord's healing.

God knows everything we've gone through: the
ways we've been hurt and the ways we've hurt
the people around us. He forgives us, like the
master in today's Gospel. If we can let God's
forgiveness soften our hearts and break through
our guilt, shame, and sadness over the hurts we
have caused, we will find the grace to act the
same toward the people who have hurt us." (The
Word Among Us, pg. 34) Forgiveness is a
necessity for our spiritual, mental and even
physical health. If we continue to focus on anger
and un-forgiveness, we close our hearts, minds
and souls to the healing grace and love of God.
Forgiveness is the path to find healing and God's
grace.

Fr. Mike



Dear Padre,

We knew a beloved priest whose death was self-inflicted. What is the Church's stance on suicide?

I offer my heartfelt sympathy to you and the faith community for this tragic loss. "We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2280). Those who take their own life to end personal suffering assume a decision-making that belongs to God alone. However, the Church also acknowledges that "grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide" (CCC 2282).

At the same time, the Church relies on the compassion of God, who fully knows the intensity of suffering that triggers suicide. Therefore, the Church pastorally states: "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (CCC 2283).

How, then, does the Church specifically pray for those who've committed suicide? Generally they're not deprived of full burial rites in the Church, which consoles the living and commends all of the dead "to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins" (*Order of Christian Funerals*, 6). Nor are they deprived of burial in a Catholic cemetery—a sacred place that helps bring peace to those confronted by the sudden death of a suicide.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



HILARY SUSAN OSMAN / PEXELS

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The increase in the rates of suicide in your cities, as well as bullying and various kinds of neediness, are creating new forms of alienation....I ask you to pay special attention to [the young] and their needs. Try to create spaces...of generous and selfless love...to everyone, and not only to those who have "made it."

—MEETING WITH BISHOPS, TOKYO, NOVEMBER 23, 2019

Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 14
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm 21:4b–9
Phil 2:6–11
Jn 3:13–17

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 15
Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Cor 12:12–14, 27–31a
Jn 19:25–27 or
Lk 2:33–35

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 16
Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
1 Cor 12:31—13:13
Lk 7:31–35

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 17
Weekday
1 Cor 15:1–11
Lk 7:36–50

Friday
SEPTEMBER 18
Weekday
1 Cor 15:12–20
Lk 8:1–3

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 19
Weekday
1 Cor 15:35–37, 42–49
Lk 8:4–15

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 20
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:6–9
Phil 1:20c–24, 27a
Mt 20:1–16a

