

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

September 13, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I am sure that we all are familiar with the statement: "To err is human, to **forgive** divine." Yet we know that true **forgiveness** can be difficult business. It is much easier for us to love the whole world than to forgive the person who lives or works next to us. It is so hard for the human heart to forgive especially when we have been hurt or wronged by someone we love and respect. It hurts our pride to have to forgive them since we think that we should have been treated better by them. The end result is we become angry, resentful and carry around a grudge which only pulls us down. It is so hard to **forgive** and **forget**. It is difficult for us to wipe the slate clean and simply let hurts and wrongs go. However, what seems to be impossible for human nature **is possible** with God's grace.

Christ-like **forgiveness** begins with a sense of empathy; putting our own perspective aside in order to see things from the perspective of those who hurt, disappoint, or fail us. Christ-like **forgiveness** is not easy; it means overcoming our own anger and outrage at the injustice waged against us and focusing our concern on the person who wronged us, rupturing their relationship with us. Christ-like **forgiveness** also means that we must possess the humility to face the hurt we have inflicted on others as a result of our own insensitivity and self-centeredness. Only in **forgiving** and seeking out **forgiveness** are we able to realize the possibility of bringing healing and new life to a pained and grieving situation. Jesus calls each of us to create within our families, schools, work places, communities and world that kind of environment in which **forgiveness** is joyfully offered and humbly, but confidently sought.

Today's Scripture readings remind us of the importance and necessity of forgiving one another and mending our interpersonal relationships. Our first reading from the Book of Sirach encourages us to practice forgiving and it prepares us for Jesus teaching in today's Gospel about being forgiven and forgiving others as God forgives. Much of what the author (Ben Sira) states in this book is common sense. Ben Sira reminds us that there is something in the human heart that likes to nurse grudges and mull over past hurts (real or imaginary) that we feel others inflicted upon us. As natural as this tendency is, it is self-defeating and self-destructive. Holding grudges or resentment makes it impossible to have peace of mind and heart. Only when we let go of what is consuming us and forgive the perpetrator can we have peace and get on with our lives.

In today's second reading, St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, Paul provides the theological argument for the necessity of Christian **forgiveness**.

*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

Sat Sep 12	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt, Robert Warniment
Sun Sep 13	8:00 a.m.	Wanda Kiene
Sun Sep 13	10:00 a.m.	Dennis Warren
Sat Sep 19	4:00 p.m	Diane Dietering
Sun Sep 20	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Sep 20	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman, Jan Schulte

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,365.00	Loose \$836.00
	Total	\$3,201.00
51 envelopes returned = 24%		



*Thank you for your generosity!  
Thank you also to those who give  
electronically!!*

## Assignments for September 19 & 20, 2020

**Money Counters: Deb Buck, Courtney Gerten  
4:00 p.m.**

**Cantor:**  
**Ushers:** John Parinello and Bob Minto  
**Lector:** Jim Kinn  
**E.M.:** Jennifer Tschuor  
**Servers:** Elizabeth Honse

### 8:00 a.m.

**Cantors:**  
**Ushers:**  
**Lector:** Shannon Wannemacher  
**E.M.:** John Schulte  
**Server:** Will Schulte

### 10:00 a.m.

**Cantor:**  
**Ushers:** Greg and Gabe Denecker  
**Lectors:** Chris Denecker  
**E.M.:** Cathy Hermiller  
**Servers:** Conner Gerten

## **Readings for September 20, 2020 25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 55:6 – 9  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 1:20 – 24, 27  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1 – 16

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... Jesus' death was a death to all forms of egoism. Christians share in Jesus' death vis-à-vis their baptism and are liberated from egoism. Thus the person who forgives from their heart experiences the liberating power of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Two divine qualities that appear frequently in Scripture are God's **mercy** and **forgiveness**. These qualities are exemplified in the Person of Jesus. Today's Gospel passage from Matthew focuses on these qualities of **mercy** and **forgiveness**. God asks us to **forgive** others as God forgives us.

Peter asks Jesus how often a person must forgive someone else. The general agreement of that time was one should forgive an offender a maximum of three times. Peter raises the bar significantly by suggesting that one should forgive an offender seven times. Jesus' response is that we should forgive seventy-seven times; meaning "an **unlimited** amount of times." The point being that **forgiveness** is a matter of love. Jesus then illustrates this by telling a parable about "The Unforgiving Servant" and his fate. The moral of the parable is simple: **Mercy** and **forgiveness** cannot be earned. These divine qualities should come from our heart and should know **no limitations**. We must remember all the times God has shown us **mercy** and **forgiveness** and do the same with others.

**Forgiving** others can be very challenging and difficult. However with God's grace we can love others as God loves us and we can **forgive** others as readily and completely as God forgives us. Let us pray and ask for God's grace to help us to have the courage and magnanimity of heart to **forgive** those who have hurt us. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

**Are you a Young Adult between the ages of 19-35** (single or married) and you would like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and strengthen your Catholic faith? Would you like to meet, pray, and socialize with other Young Adults in our St. Mary's Community? Would you like to come to ask questions and discuss topics that are relevant in your personal faith journey and in our Catholic Church today? If so, then I invite you join our Young Adult Ministry Group that we will be starting up in our Parish in the near future. If you would like more information, please contact Fr. John or Rachel. If you are interested in joining our Young Adult Ministry Group please leave your name and phone number with Rachel in the Parish Office. Thank you and God bless.

Peace, Fr. John

## Our seminarian, Travis Kahle's Address:

Travis Kahle

The Athenaeum of Ohio Mount St. Mary's of the West Seminary

6616 Beechmont Ave.

Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

*Please feel free to show your support and send him notes of encouragement!*



**Sign up for Remind from St. Mary's PREP Classes** Get information regarding PREP Classes sent straight to your phone! To sign up, please visit

<https://www.remind.com/join/82k4c8> and follow the instructions to get set up, or text @82k4c8 to 81010

**To join Remind for God Squad**, please visit, <https://www.remind.com/join/mrjswartz>

**MHCO Chicken BBQ Fundraiser** The Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio Service Group is hosting a Chicken BBQ Fundraiser to purchase a new transport van. Tickets are \$8/person and will be available before and after Mass until September 19. You can also contact Edna Conkling at (419) [REDACTED] (cell) or (419) [REDACTED] (home) to purchase your tickets. Thank you in advance for your support!!

# P.R.E.P

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** will begin on September 27 at the 10 a.m. Mass

**K-6:** Class will meet this Wednesday, September 16, from 6:30 – 7:30

**Jr High:** Classes begin September 20 from 11 – 12:45



## God Squad--High School Youth Group

**God Squad High School Youth** will start meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> following the 10 a.m. Mass until 12:45

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## Prayer for Vocations:

Send forth your spirit, Lord, into the hearts of your faithful people, that we may be conscious of our vocation to holiness and service to others. Grant that many of us may dedicate ourselves to you through the priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries.

We pray for the needs of our parish and diocese. Grant that we may always have sufficient good and holy priests and deacons, dedicated sisters and brothers, and committed lay ministers to serve our community.

We pray too for the Redemptorists, that generous men may join them to become zealous missionaries, preaching the gospel in word and action to the most abandoned, especially the poor.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

**RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** into the Catholic faith. RCIA is for anyone who:

- Is a non-baptized adult
- Baptized in another Christian church and is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, with or without the intention of becoming a member
- A baptized Catholic who never received Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation



**RCIA will be starting** in September. If you have any questions, please call Fr. John in the parish office at (419) 358 – 8631

**A very generous donor** has donated the Formed.org subscriptions to all the parishes in the Toledo Diocese. This is a great opportunity to watch video programs that explain the Catholic faith, explore the deepest meaning of marriage, receive Bible studies on a variety of topics and includes inspiring audio talks. To register, go to: <https://signup.formed.org/> and type in St. Mary or use our zip code, 45817, and click on our parish. Enter your name and email, and then check your email for a link to begin using FORMED. It's that easy!

**Missals will be available** for families to take home. This offer is for families who want the option to refer to the book during Mass. We ask that you do not leave the book at church, but rather you bring it from home and return it to home each week. Copies will be available in each entrance.

**If you are interested** in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Communion or a Proclaimer of the Word (Lector), please contact the office. We will be setting up a workshop soon for training on all the ministries. Look for the date soon and please let Fr. John know if you are interested.

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## **September – Pray for Holy Disciples**

We invite you to join in the diocesan-wide initiative to reconnect with our faith and one another during the months of September, October, and November.

### How to participate:

#### **Set aside 10 minutes a day**

Pray for the intention of holy disciples, particularly that the faithful of the Diocese of Toledo will become holier disciples.

#### **Make a Holy Hour**

Every Wednesday from 5 – 6 p.m. we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

#### **Learn the Diocesan Prayer**

Heavenly Father, with the redeeming cross of Christ Jesus your son, and the gifts of your Holy Spirit, renew and strengthen us, so that by our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we may foster Holy Disciples, Holy Families, and Holy Vocations, so as to become a more Holy Diocese of Toledo. We turn to Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, for her intercession and never failing prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Read a Catholic Book**

“Forming Intentional Disciples” by Sherry Weddell or  
“Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission” by John Wood.

#### **Go to [ReconnectToledo.org/September](https://ReconnectToledo.org/September)**

You'll find a collection of videos about discipleship

#### **Sign up for FORMED.org**

We have a subscription to Formed.org thanks to a very generous donor in the Diocese! You can find resources to strengthen your faith through movies, children's programs, bible studies, sacramental preparation, and more.

#### **What does it mean to be a holy disciple?**

Being a holy disciple simply means loving God with all of our heart and striving to grow closer to Him every day. This love for God overflows into everything that we do in life and illuminates our desires and priorities. Being a holy disciple ultimately brings peace and joy even in the midst of great suffering, because we continually learn how to offer the difficulties that we face to God in union with Christ. May God continually make Himself known to us in the midst of all of the circumstances of our lives, and may we always respond with ever more love for Him.