

First Reading: *Sirach 27:30—28:9*

Those who seek God's mercy must be merciful toward others.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12*

A song of praise to God who is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: *Romans 14:7-9*

We belong to the Lord.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 18:21-35*

Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the

king an enormous sum of money.

Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>

Parish News

Pontifical Collection: Donations can be placed in the specially marked basket set out at the Masses on September 12th and 13th. The Pontifical collection for the Custody of the Holy Land will be collected on Sunday September 13, 2020 for the benefit of the Church and the Christians of the Holy Land. The Pontifical Collection in support of the Holy Land, usually collected on Good Friday, was cancelled when churches were closed due to the pandemic. **Pope Francis has requested that it be taken up on Sunday the 13th of September – a date close to that of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.**

This feast celebrates Christ's saving work and also reminds us of faithful Christian pilgrims, like St. Helen when she found the relics of the Holy Cross in the 4th century, who have committed themselves to preserving the holy sites as places of worship that sustain our Christian culture and history of salvation. The annual Holy Land Collection not only helps to maintain churches and shrines located at holy sites, but, above all, helps to support the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works that the Church undertakes in caring for the local population. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, invites you to be in solidarity with the Church and the Christians in the Holy Land. On behalf of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, and entrusted with this care, I sincerely thank you in advance for your support. *Fr. Robert Mokry, OFM Commissary of Holy Land*



Update on the Sacraments:

For the students who began preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation this past winter, we have wonderful

news: **Our First Eucharist Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 3 at 3:00 in the afternoon; the Celebration of Confirmation with Father Lukas will also take place on October 10 at 3 pm.** We thank the students and parents for their patience and resilience as we all navigated through the uncertainty and changing circumstances of this past year. At this time, these celebrations will only be attended by the students and their families but we ask that you keep them in your prayers.

Faith Formation

For those unable to attend, consider watching Mass on television on the following networks:

Salt + Light TV (Daily at 4:30 & 9:00 am, 1 & 8:30 pm)

EWTN (Daily at 6 & 10 am, 5 & 10 pm)

Vision TV (Daily at 6 & 10 am)

TELUS Optik TV Channel 876 is now providing livestream from our Diocese: *To access the livestream, go to Channel 876 after you turn on TELUS Optik TV, and select the [Diocese of Calgary](#) tile with the left/right arrows on the remote control. Click the OK button one more time to expand to full screen video.*

Mass and Intention Schedule

Tuesday, September 15	6:30 pm	(Spec) Charmaine Moffatt
Wednesday, September 16	9:00 am	+ Pauline and Anthony Pascut
Thursday, September 17	9:00 am	+ Bob Porter
Friday, September 18	9:00 am	(Spec) Doreen Dart
Saturday, September 19	7:00 pm	+ Conchita Felisilda
Sunday, September 20	8:00 am 10:30 am	(Spec) St. Anthony's Parishioners (Spec) Debi Kennedy

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9 am – 11 am

Sacraments

Reconciliation: The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 5:30 – 6:30 pm Saturday evenings and by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office or email Fr. Lukas at fr.lukas.d@gmail.com.

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office at (403)823-2683 to arrange an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact the Parish Office at least 6 months prior to your desired date.

Scripture Readings

Monday, September 14: *Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

Numbers 21.4-9 | Psalm 78 | John 3.13-17

Tuesday, September 15: Hebrews 5.7-9 | Psalm 31 | Luke 2.33-35

Wednesday, September 16: 1 Corinthians 12.31-13.33 | Psalm 33 | Luke 7.31-35

Thursday, September 17: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 | Psalm 118 | Luke 7.36-50

Friday, September 18: 1 Corinthians 15.12-20 | Psalm 17 | Luke 8.1-3

Saturday, September 19: 1 Corinthians 15.35-37, 42-50 | Psalm 56 | Luke 8.4-15

Sunday, September 20: Isaiah 55.6-9 | Psalm 145 | Philippians 1.20-24, 27 | Matthew 20.1-16



ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church is an inviting family community united in Christ.

Pastor: Rev. Lukas Drapal

Email: fr.lukas.d@gmail.com

Secretary: Jennifer Ferro | **Book Keeper:** Linda Lacher

Pastoral Council Chair: Brian Viczko | **Finance Council Chair:** Mary Pavich

CWL President: Joanne Dumaine | **K of C Grand Knight:** Tony Ibrahim

Couples for Christ: Cen and Tess Felisilda

Parish Mission

Family: To encourage participation of children and families in the Church Community by offering family focused events.

Faith Building: To promote and host Church education, Bible Studies, and Parish Missions.

Liturgy: To formalize our Liturgy and elicit committed parishioners to participate in all aspects of the Liturgy.

Environment: To promote clean and well-maintained premises and decorate to highlight the Liturgical Seasons.

Social: To have a Social Committee to plan and hold Parish activities.

**24th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 13, 2020**

Today's readings all carry reference to the central theme of forgiveness and the importance of showing God's mercy to others in order to receive it ourselves. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the unforgiving servant to teach of the need to always forgive our neighbour. We hear today about a man who pleads for forgiveness but is unwavering in his refusal to grant the same. This ironic tale

showing the hypocrisy of society aptly presents both the power and difficulty of forgiveness. As recited in the Lord's Prayer and detailed in the readings of today's Mass, we are challenged to demonstrate our desire for God's unconditional love and compassion through our practice of the Golden Rule each day. We are reminded in today's Gospel how new life through forgiveness far outweighs the cost of any debt owed. Yet, just as the king's remission of the servant's debt mirrors God's invaluable and boundless grace, we, too, must never overlook our calling and responsibility to model the same to each of our brothers and sisters in Christ. For as we will one day be judged based on our life's body of work as testament of our faith, let us always seek to reflect Jesus' love by modelling his forgiving mercy in both words and deeds. *Matt Charbonneau, Ottawa, ON* LWC Vol. 26 No. 9 Pg. 79

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