



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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NOT FORGET HOW GOD IS

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Today, the Gospel talks to us about forgiveness (cf. Mt 18:21-35). Peter asks Jesus: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" (v. 21).

Seven, in the Bible, is a number that indicates completeness, and so Peter is very generous in the assumptions of his question. But Jesus goes further, and answers him: "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven" (v. 22). He tells him, that is, that when one forgives, one does not calculate; that it is good to forgive everything, and always! Just as God does with us, and as those who administer God's justice are required to do: forgive always. I say this a lot to priests, to confessors: always forgive, as God forgives.

Jesus then illustrates this reality through a parable, which again has to do with numbers. A king, after being implored, forgives a servant the debt of 10,000 talents. It is an excessive, immense value, ranging from 200 to 500 tons of silver: excessive. It was an impossible debt to settle, even by working a lifetime: yet this master, who recalls our Father, forgives it out of sheer "pity" (v. 27). This is God's heart: he always forgives, because God is compassionate. Let us not forget how God is: he is close, compassionate and tender. This is God's way of being. Then, however, this servant, whose debt has been forgiven, shows no mercy towards a fellow servant who owes him 100 denarii. This too is a substantial sum, equivalent to about three months' wages — as if to say that forgiving each other costs [money]! — but not at all comparable to the previous figure that the master had forgiven.

Jesus' message is clear: God forgives incalculably, exceeding all measure. This is how he is; He acts out of love, and gratuitously. God is not bought, God is free, he is all gratuitousness. We cannot repay him, but when we forgive a brother or a sister, we imitate him. Forgiving is not, therefore, a good deed that we can [choose to] do or not do; forgiving is a fundamental condition for those who are Christians. Every one of us, in fact, is "forgiven": let us not forget this, we are forgiven, God gave his life for us, and in no way can we recompense him for his mercy, which he never withdraws from his heart. However, by corresponding to his gratuitousness, that is, by forgiving one another, we can bear witness to him, sowing new life around us. For outside of forgiveness there is no hope; outside of forgiveness there is no peace. Forgiveness is the oxygen that purifies the air of hatred. Forgiveness is the antidote to the poisons of resentment, it is the way to defuse anger and heal so many maladies of the heart that contaminate society.

Let us ask ourselves, then: do I believe I have received from God the gift of immense forgiveness? Do I feel the joy of knowing that he is always ready to forgive me when I fall, even when others do not, even when I am not even able to forgive myself? He forgives: do I believe that he forgives? And then: can I in turn forgive those who wrong me? In this respect, I would like to propose a little exercise to you: let us try, now, each one of us, to think of a person who has hurt us, and ask the Lord for the strength to forgive them. And let us forgive them out of love for the Lord: brothers and sisters, this will do us good; it will restore peace to our hearts.

May Mary, Mother of Mercy, help us to accept the grace of God and to forgive each other.

POPE FRANCIS — September 17, 2023

Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada—September 19–20

The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will take place next weekend. When you give, your offering begins in our parish but reaches far beyond it. It helps support the mission of our diocese and joins the gifts of Catholics across the country in supporting the shared work of the Bishops of Canada. Together, this support makes possible work that no single diocese or eparchy could accomplish alone such as providing catechetical resources for families, young people and parishes, to promoting respect for human life and the dignity of every human person and accompanying migrants and refugees. Your gift helps strengthen the Church here at home and supports its mission across Canada. Please give prayerfully and generously next weekend.

Mass of the Feast of the Canadian Martyrs

Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Jesuits in Huronia

Saturday, September 26 at 12:00 pm and Eucharistic Adoration from 2:30–4:30 pm

Martyrs' Shrine, 16163 ON-12, Midland Ontario, L0K 1R0

Join us in thanksgiving for the witness and intercession of the Canadian Martyrs.

MULTICULTURAL MASS All are warmly invited to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our Diocese at the **Multicultural Mass on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King**, 700 King St. West, Hamilton. The Mass will be celebrated by The Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A., Bishop of Hamilton, and followed by a multicultural celebration in McNally Hall. All are welcome!

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 12 **5:00 PM**

*Intentions of the Ray & Diplock Families
+William & Stella Dombroskie*

Sunday, September 13 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, September 15 **11:00 AM**

*Our Lady of Sorrows
Intentions of Alyssa Grimberg*

Wednesday, September 16 **11:00 AM**

Saints Cornelius and Cyprian

Thursday, September 17 **11:00 AM**

Intentions of Alyssa Grimberg

Friday, September 18 **11:00 AM**

+Mary Runstedler

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 19 **5:00 PM**

+Omar Quintero

Sunday, September 20 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XXIV Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 12 de septiembre **7:00 PM**

+Pedro Antonio Molina +William Rodriguez

Domingo 13 de septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 15 de septiembre **12:00 PM**

Nuestra Señora de los Dolores

Miércoles 16 de septiembre **12:00 PM**

Santos Cornelio y Cipriano

Jueves 17 de septiembre **12:00 PM**

Viernes 18 de septiembre **12:00 PM**

XXV Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 19 de septiembre **7:00 PM**

+Marco Antonio Perez

Domingo 20 de septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Come on out to the **Annual Garage Sale at St. Francis of Assisi Church** (49 Blueridge Ave, Kitchener) on Saturday September 19th! This event runs from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.! There are many treasures to be discovered including: books, puzzles, toys, jewelry, dishes, decorative items, bikes, electronics and more! We hope to see you there.

Note: Blueridge Ave is closed at Queen St. You can access the church via Gatewood or Lakeside