



### **Reading 1:** Sirach 27:30–28:7

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD’s vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High’s covenant, and overlook faults.

### **Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 103

*The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

### **Reading 2:** Romans 14:7–9

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

### **Gospel:** Matthew 18:21–35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”

## Deacon Augustine's Homily for Sunday, September 13, 2020

The willingness to forgive should be the mark of every true Christian. Wars, conflicts, tension and discord are the results of unforgiveness. Many have closed their hearts and have firmly decided that there is no room in their hearts to forgive others. Let us remember that "Two wrongs do not make a right".

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our readings today, tell us to let go the grudges, the anger, the wrath, the pain, the unforgiving spirit in us. We are called to show mercy and forgiveness to everyone who offends us. Without any exception.

Our first reading from the book of Sirach tells us, "Does a man harbor anger against another, and yet seek healing from the Lord? Does he have no mercy towards a man like himself, and yet pray for his own sins?". If we really want God to forgive our sins, we must also let go the anger we hold against our brothers and sisters. We hurt no one but ourselves when we do not forgive others.

For Peter, forgiving someone seven times was a perfect act because he was fulfilling the law. Let us remember that seven is a perfect number to the Jewish people. Hence the number seven is very significant in the socio-religious life of the Jewish community.

Beloved people of God, do we have to forgive seven times? To Peter, forgiveness has a limit. It may not exceed seven times. Hence, he asked Jesus, "How many times must I forgive my brother, must I forgive seven times?"

Jesus' answer shows that forgiveness is unlimited. For us, Jesus teaches us not to forgive seven times, but seventy times seven. We are to forgive as much as we are offended.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a very interesting but didactic story. Interesting, because we immediately judge this servant who was not willing to forgive the poor fellow who owned him just a modicum of debt as compare to his own huge debt which was cancelled by his master.

We think this unforgiving servant in Jesus' parable or story is someone other than ourselves. We think it is somebody somewhere. But when we reflect deep into our lives, we can see that we are not far from being this wicked and unforgiven servant.

As we sit in this chapel, our hearts are full of bitterness, retaliation, grudges, and resentment. We are not ready to forgive our brothers, sisters, neighbors, partners, co-workers, relatives among others. But we cry to God and raise our voice "Lord forgive us our sins".

Like, the unforgiven servant who did not show mercy to his fellow servant, we also ask for forgiveness when we sin or offend others, but when others offend us, we resort and cry for justice. When we are in debt, we cry for mercy, clemency and leniency; but when others are indebted to us, we cry and resort to justice.

James tells us "Merciless is the judgement on the man who has not shown mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgement". Are you and I ready to temper justice with mercy and forgiveness?

Beloved people of God, Sirach tells us in our first reading of today, "He that takes vengeance will suffer vengeance from the Lord, and will firmly established his sins. Did Joseph not forgive his brothers when they sold him into slavery? What about David? Did he not forgive Saul when God delivered Saul into the hands of David? Did Jesus not ask for forgiveness for those who crucified him? and so was Stephen when he was being stoned to death.

Jesus tells us in the seventh chapter of Matthew's Gospel "Do unto others, what you will want them do to you". Do you and I want others to forgive us, then let us forgive others us well. For God will not forgive us, if we do not forgive others from our hearts.

How do we put into practice, the words of our savior in the prayer he taught us "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" if we are not ready and eager to forgive others.

Our responsorial tells us, "The Lord is Compassionate and merciful". Yes, Our Lord is compassionate and merciful, and you and I who have been created in his image and likeness are called to be merciful, forgiven and compassionate.

Are we ready then to embrace and fulfill this responsibility as Christians, as Sons and Daughters of God? Let us forgive the faults and shortcomings of others, because the reward of God is greater than that of man.

You and me are praying for a better and peaceful world, society and nation. We all desire peace and progress, but can there be peace and progress and healing in the world if we do not forgive one another?

# Lectio Divina

Before you begin to read, take a moment to place yourself in the presence of God and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to pray.

1

## READ

Read the following passage for this upcoming Sunday's Gospel three times very slowly somewhere quiet.

### Matthew 20:1-16A

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

2

## REFLECT

Meditate on the passage by sitting in silence and allowing a word or phrase to jump out at you. Perhaps you even put yourself in the scene. What is God saying to you through this?

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3

## RESOLUTION

Make a concrete and simple resolution for the day or week ahead based on what God is telling you. Example: Today I will pray a decade of the rosary before I go to bed for my spouse.

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# 537 God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA 87 87 877



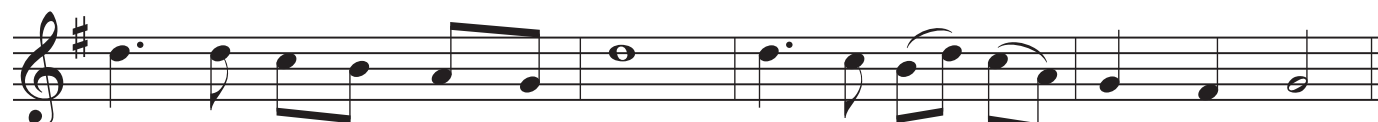
1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On thy peo - ple
2. Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us Scorn thy Christ, as -
3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to



1. pour thy pow'r; Crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry;
2. sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
3. thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,



1. Bring her bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
2. Free our hearts to faith and praise: Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
3. Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



1. For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
2. For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
3. Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-1969

John Hughes, 1873-1932

# 791 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

BEACH SPRING 87 87 D



1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy Like the  
 2. Souls of men, why will you wan - der From a  
 3. For the love of God is broad - er Than the



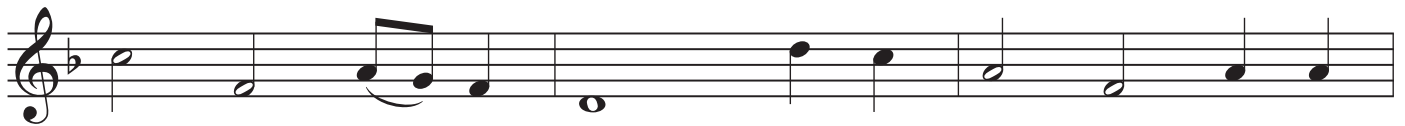
1. wide - ness of the sea; There's a kind - ness in his  
 2. love so true and deep? Fool - ish hearts, he still will  
 3. meas - ures of man's mind. And the heart of the E -



1. jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 2. find you Though the way be rough and steep.  
 3. ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



1. There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion In the  
 2. There is mer - cy for the sin - ner, And more  
 3. If our love were but more sim - ple, We should



1. blood that has been shed; There is joy for all the  
 2. grac - es for the good, There is wel - come with the  
 3. take him at his word, And our hearts would rest for -



1. mem - bers In the sor - rows of the Head.  
 2. Sav - ior; There is heal - ing in his blood.  
 3. giv - en In the mer - cy of the Lord.

## *In Christ Alone*

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fulness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The Son of God was glorified  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

# I Surrender

Here I am  
Down on my knees again  
Surrendering all, Surrendering all

Find me here  
Lord as You draw me near  
Desperate for You, Desperate for You  
I surrender

Drench my soul  
As mercy and grace unfold  
I hunger and thirst, I hunger and thirst

With arms stretched wide  
I know You hear my cry  
Speak to me now, Speak to me now

**I surrender**  
**I surrender**  
**I want to know You more**  
**I want to know You more**

*Like a rushing wind*  
*Jesus breathe within*  
*Lord have Your way*  
*Lord have Your way in me*  
*Like a mighty storm*  
*Stir within my soul*  
*Lord have Your way*  
*Lord have Your way in me*  
*(repeat bridge)*



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Thursday, September 17th · All day!

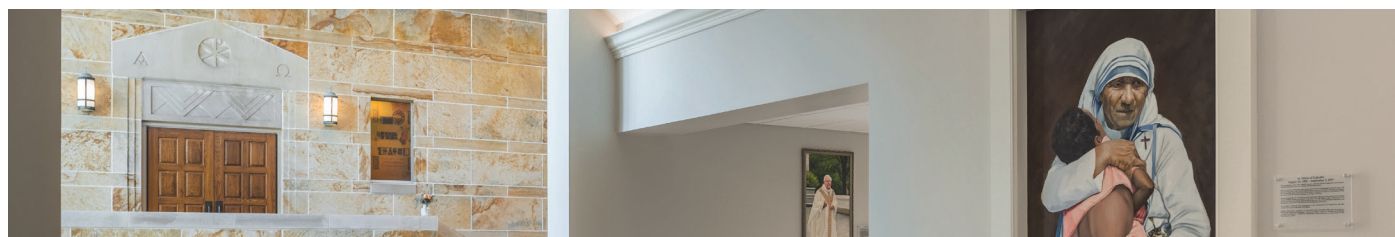
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## St. Catharine School Fall Mum Sale

Deadline is Sunday, September 20 · Pick-up is Friday, September 25

Our mum sale earns money for important initiatives such as tuition assistance, buses for field trips, and teacher wish lists. Last year we were able to use the funds earned from the sale to support the new playground.

Foertmeyer & Sons Greenhouse will be supplying us with fresh, premium products at an exceptional value. You have your choice of adorable pumpkin or monster pot (BatMum is a hanging basket) to dress up your porch for Halloween. Mumkins and Mumsters come with mum colors as pictured in the catalog. Replacement mums without decorative pots are available in 5 different colors.  
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Today	2nd Collection for the Holy Land
Sep 26	First Communion ( 3rd grade)
Oct 17	Confirmation (9th grade)

## Adoration Chapel

Open Sunday-Friday from 6:00am-9:00pm for quiet prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. All are welcome to make a visit any time. Do not underestimate the peace that will come from being with Jesus.

## Confession

Tuesday	6:30pm
Thursday	7:00pm (ADORE Night)

## Offering (September 6)

Total Offering	\$19,015.05
<u>Less 6%</u>	<u>\$1,140.90</u>
Net	\$17,874.15

## Bishop's Annual Appeal

BAA Goal	\$104,078.73
<u>-Pledges</u>	<u>\$94,030.00</u>
To meet goal	\$10,048.73

[www.stcatharine.com](http://www.stcatharine.com)

[info@stcatharine.com](mailto:info@stcatharine.com) · 614-231-4509

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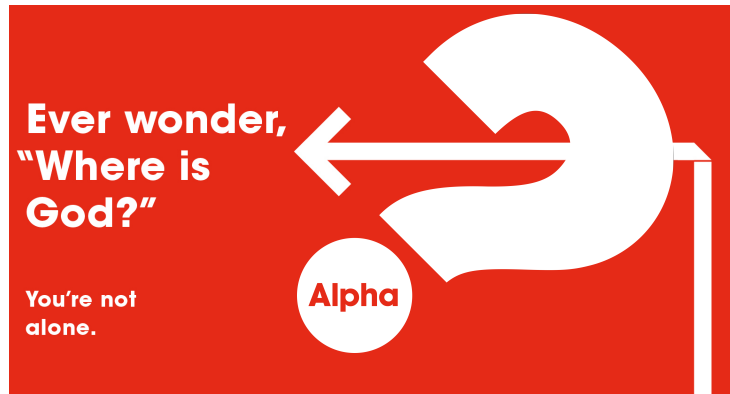
# What's happening at St. Catharine

A full calendar of events can be found online at [stcatharine.com/calendar](http://stcatharine.com/calendar)

## **Ablaze Family Faith Formation**

Begins today! Bags can be picked up in Parish Center.

Ablaze is designed to **reinvigorate the family as a place of faith and celebration** in the life of St. Catharine families. And it's for ALL families of the parish, both School and PSR. Ablaze is structured around two pillars: Faith and Feasting. Families will receive two bags per month (like a subscription box) with different activities, lessons, and ideas of how to increase the presence of Jesus in your homes. Head to [stcatharine.com](http://stcatharine.com) to register.



## **Alpha Online**

Mondays at 7pm or Thursdays at 8:30pm

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith run over 11 weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions such as "Who is Jesus?" and "Why and How Do I Pray?"

**Fall sessions begin September 21st and 24th.**

Head to [stcatharine.com](http://stcatharine.com) to register.

## **Eyewitness: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John**

Wednesdays at 7:00pm • Begins September 16th

Spend 10 sessions in the Parish Center or online with our new Director of Adult Faith Formation, Mike Denz, as he unpacks the extraordinary Gospel of St. John. Discover who Jesus is like never before from the words of the Beloved Disciple himself. Head to [stcatharine.com](http://stcatharine.com) to register.

## **Men's Breakfast**

Thursdays // 6:30am-8:00am • Begins September 24rd in the Parish Center

Join the men of St. Catharine every Thursday morning for a hot breakfast, coffee, and a short presentation on what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world. Get up a little earlier, and make the sacrifice for yourself, your family, and for your community. It will soon become your favorite day of the week.

## **High School Youth Ministry**

Every Sunday // 6pm-8pm • October 4th – December 6th in the Parish Center

Our new Damascus Youth Ministry Team is kicking off the semester with free tacos in the Parish Center. Open to all high school students! Questions? Contact Dorothy Allwein, [dorothy@damascus.net](mailto:dorothy@damascus.net)

## **Middle School Youth Group**

2nd & 4th Sundays // 6pm-8pm • Begins October 11th in the School Gym

A week later our Middle School Youth Group will kick off with pizza, games, prizes, prayer and more! Open to all students in 6th-8th grades. First Semester Dates: October 25th, November 15th, November 29th  
Questions? Contact Dorothy Allwein, [dorothy@damascus.net](mailto:dorothy@damascus.net)

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