

## Limitless Forgiveness

**W**hat 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

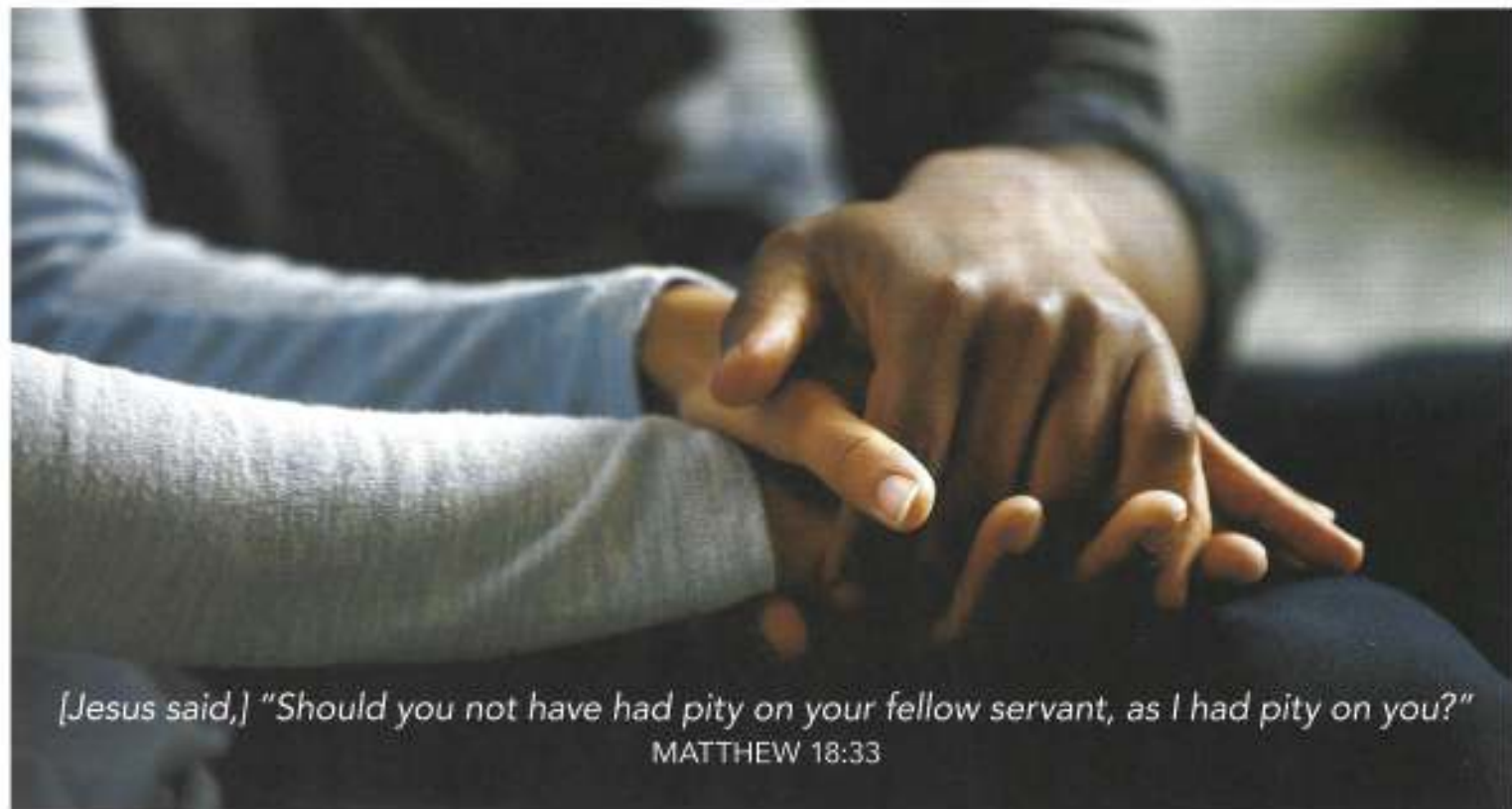
deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

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



**Holy Trinity Catholic Church**



**St. Thomas More Catholic Church**



**St. Patrick Catholic Church**

**\*\*Main Office\*\***

**Holy Trinity Church & Rectory**

212 S. Main St.

PO Box 159

Cherry, IL 61317-0159

Phone: (815) 894-2006

Office Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

And on Facebook at

"Bureau Catholic Churches".

**Mass Schedule**

Weekdays - Tuesday 12:15pm and

Thursday - 8:30am

Saturday Confessions - 3:15-3:45 PM

or by appointment

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 PM

Sunday Mass - 8:30 AM

**\*Pastor of the Three Churches**

Fr. Patrick Fixsen

Email: frpat.fixsen@gmail.com

**\*\*Upcoming Events At Church\*\***

**All Events On Hold**

**\*\*Emergency Phone\*\***

**For All Three Churches**

**815-664-8241**

**St. Thomas More Church**

302 Chestnut St.

Dalzell, IL 61320

Phone: (815) 663-6201

Email: StTMoreDalzell32@gmail.com

**Mass Schedule**

Weekday Mass -

Wednesday & Friday - 8:00AM

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:30 PM

**Sunday (Last Chance) Mass-**

**5:30 PM**

**Adoration Room**

Open Monday-Friday 8AM-8PM

Saturday & Sunday -

8AM Until After 5:30PM Mass

**Divine Mercy Prayers**

Every Friday 3:00PM

**\*\*Upcoming Events At Church\*\***

**All Events On Hold**

**St. Patrick Church  
(Office at Holy Trinity Church)**

106 Church St.

Arlington, IL 61312

Phone: (815) 894-2006

**Mass Schedule**

Sunday Mass - 10:30 AM

**\*3 Churches Pastoral Assistant**

Julie Hollinger

Email: JulieHTC@outlook.com

**\*\*Office Hours\*\***

Holy Trinity - Tues, Thurs, & Fri.

- 9AM-12PM

St. Thomas More -

Wed - 9AM - 12PM

**\*\*Facebook:** Use Link on Home Page - www.bureaucatholic.org

**\*\*Upcoming Events At Church\*\***

**All Events On Hold**

**Daily Mass Intentions for  
Masses the Week of September 14, 2020**

Monday

**\*\*www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 5:30PM\*\*HT**

† No Mass

Tuesday

**\*\*www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 9:00AM\*\*HT**

† Mary Catherine Wujek

Wednesday

**\*\*Facebook Link - 9:00AM\*\*SP**

† Dec Mem Ira Ritchie Fam

Thursday

**\*\*www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 9:00AM\*\*HT**

† Purgatorial Society

Friday

**\*\*Facebook Link - 9:00AM \*\*STM**

† Dolly Abney

**Next Weekend's Mass Intentions  
Weekend of September 19-20, 2020**

**Offered For**

Saturday:

**\*\*Facebook Link - 4:00PM \*\*STM**

† Dennis & Lori Domkuski

Sunday:

**\*\*www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 9:00 AM\*\*HT**

† For The Parishioners

St. Patrick, Arlington - 10:30 AM

† No Mass

**\*\*St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 6:00 PM (Last Chance Communion)**

† No Mass (Only Holy Communion)

**(\*\*Recommendation Watch Our Mass Online Or EWTN Mass Before Receiving Communion)**

### Latest Offering's

Holy Trinity - \$0.00  
St. Patrick - \$0.00  
St. Thomas More - \$0.00

### Visit Venerable Fulton Sheen At Cathedral in Peoria

Monday - Friday 12pm - 2pm  
Saturday 3pm - 5pm  
(Re-Opened Again)

### Ministry Schedule For Next Weekend

#### Holy Trinity

##### LECTOR

Saturday - 4:00PM - ?  
Sunday - 8:30AM - ?

##### SERVERS

Saturday - 4:00PM -  
?

Sunday - 8:30AM - ?

##### COUNTERS

Sunday - 8:30AM -  
? & ?

### \*\*Mass Intentions\*\*

We are in need of Mass Intentions for weekday Masses. The Masses on the web are a great occasion for family members not living in this area to pray with us for family members who have died. Please consider having a weekday Mass for a deceased member of your family and thank you. Mass intentions can be paid through our online giving program, mail or dropping by our office.

### \*\*Recurring Special Church Events\*\*

Wednesday's - Rosary - 6PM (On Website)  
(Rotates Between 3 Churches)

Friday's - Divine Mercy Chaplet - On Website -  
3PM - St. Thomas More Adoration Chapel

Third Monday of the Month -

Mass for Reparation of Sins & Rosary -  
5:30PM (No Wednesday Rosary That Week)

### Our Limited Church Reopening

We have two churches being used for Masses presently on the weekends but all three for Masses during the week. The occupancy for the three is as follows: St. Thomas More (Dabzell) - 40, Holy Trinity (Cherry) - 30 and St. Patrick (Arlington) - 45.

For weekends, it is best to sign up for a place to sit in social distancing seating through our website. During the weekdays, it is helpful but if you forget to sign up or call in, there is plenty of seating so just come. At St. Thomas More, come through the front door of the church. At Holy Trinity, come through the doors on the parking lot side of the church. And at St. Patrick, come through the front doors unless there is a physical impairment then use side door.

Please remember, masks are to be worn during Mass, except when receiving Holy Communion, and then when leaving the Church. There are arrows in the aisles for the flow of people traffic during Holy Communion. And Holy Communion will be offered after the Final Blessing at each Mass. And we have been asked to not congregate in Church after Mass or in the parking lot. (And yes I know this is one of joys of coming to Holy Mass!)

Currently, we are using St. Patrick Church on the next three Sundays for the Sacrament of Confirmation at 3pm. After we are finished, we will reopen for a weekend Mass.

St. Thomas More confessions will be in the hall going forward. There is a kneeler in the corner of the hall closest to burn pit outside hall. It is setup for face to face or behind the screen. The kneeler or chair will be sanitized in between penitents. Please wear a mask! Please enter through the adoration room vestibule door. Thank you!

### Confessions

The next confessions will be at Holy Trinity in parking lot on Saturday, September 19th from 11-11:45am.

### This Week's Update

This weekend we are celebrating First Communion with some wonderful boys and girls as they receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist. Also we are confirming 13 of 39 young men and women for our first group to be confirmed over the next three weekends. With the virus, it has been hard to work out celebrating these sacraments. Now seemed like a good time to take care of these sacraments to fulfill this need.

Also St. Thomas More is beginning this week to make ravs. They developed a plan to social distance in the hall for their safety in making the ravs. However, they are over 200 lbs. behind as they start up. God bless them for what they do to help St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

According to the Covid guidelines, we are unable to keep the missalettes in the pews for Mass. So what we are doing is handing out the missalettes to be kept in your possession and bring with you when you come to Mass or watch it online. We have some at the entrances of the churches if you haven't gotten one yet.

This weekend we celebrate the 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time. The theme of this past week was hypocrisy and forgiveness but also being forgiving. This is one of our greatest challenges as human beings to let go of things done against us. And this is why we pray for forgiveness and our ability to forgive others in the "Our Father". So we have to ask ourselves this question: if we believe that God forgives us, why can't we forgive others? May God always protect and be with us!

Fr. Pat Fixsen

# 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.



HEALING SPIRITS OSWALD / THE BEELLS

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

### 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, and 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