

The parable of the unforgiving debtor: "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 . . . ?"

"So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18: 21-35

Graceless survival

He may have had the desk next to ours. She could have been assigned to the same shift we worked.

They were nice enough. But not terribly dependable. Yeah, we were there for the paycheck, sure. But we also took some pride in our work. We realized that our success depended on the success of the whole enterprise. So we focused on our doing our jobs well and helping others do their jobs well so the business would flourish and grow.

But not him. Not her.

Their focus was on themselves. They did exactly what they were contracted to do - no more, no less. They were competent, but not terribly invested. They followed the company employee policies to the letter. Clocked in exactly at nine, gone by 5:01.

If they were wronged or had a grievance, management heard about it immediately. Mid-level managers took care of it to keep peace and avoid distractions. If something went wrong, their first interest was not correcting the problem but making sure there was documentation on file shielding them from responsibility.

Beneath their superficial cordiality, they saw us, not as co-workers, but as obstacles to their own advancement. And when someone was promoted over them, they made life difficult for everyone.

The unforgiving servant of today's Gospel works in a lot of places. Every profession has their share of unforgiving servants. They are about survival - theirs.

Their self-centered attitude makes a lot more work for all of us.

The great sin of the unforgiving servant in today's Gospel is his refusal or inability to realize the grace of God in his midst. He has work that provides for his family; his own debt has been forgiven by an understanding and compassionate boss - and, for the obtuse servant, that's all that matters. He possesses no sense of gratitude for the good extended to him; he cannot see that he is part of a world bigger than his own wants and needs. He reasons that the king's forgiving of his debt is something he is entitled to, that survival is the name of the game and he found a way to win. But to forgive as he has been forgiven - only a fool would do that. But that is the Kingdom of God that Jesus comes to reveal: a perspective of life that is built on gratitude for the gift of life itself, gratitude that compels us to generosity, justice, and, yes, forgiveness. May we possess the spirit of gratitude for all that we have been given - and forgiven - and may that spirit enable us to create God's Kingdom here and now, in which forgiveness is joyfully offered and humbly but confidently sought, mirroring the mercy and forgiveness of God, the compassionate Father of us all.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
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www.sacredheartcparish.ca

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Tues at 7:00 pm Wed, Thurs, Fri at 10:00 am

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Marriages: Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

September 17, 2017
24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (September 9/10)

Regular Collection	\$ 1758.68
Building Fund	\$ 38.05
Bingo Proceeds	\$ 854.05
Mass Stipends	\$ 60.00
Donations in Memory Cecilia Companion	\$ 275.00
Votive Candles	\$ 76.80

MASS INTENTIONS

Sept 18	No Mass
Sept 19	Brian Griffin
Sept 20	John & Nora Griffin/Augustus Payne
Sept 21	Theresa Gushue
Sept 22	Cecilia Companion
Sept 23	Bernadette & Anthony George
Sept 24	Mass for the Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
September 23	
Jennifer Noseworthy	Marie Byrne Joan Penney
Carol Reid	Eileen Moore
September 24	
Mike Leonard	Doreen Jones Don Gallant
Hedy Kenny	Anna House
Communion to the Sick	
Joan Penney	

A NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULE IS AVAILABLE AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH. This schedule covers October 2017 to September 2018. If you are unable to perform your duties on a scheduled day, please find a replacement.

COMMUNION MINISTERS A special meeting of our communion ministers will be held on Thursday, September 28th at 7:30 pm in the Church Archives room.

BIBLE STUDY The group will meet in the Church archive room on **Monday, September 18 at 7:00 pm.** We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.'

PARISH COUNCIL The next meeting takes place on **October 2nd at 7:00 pm** in the Church Archives room.

WEDNESDAY MASS – CHANGE OF TIME The priests of the diocese will be taking part in a Study Day on Wednesday, September 20. Mass for that day will take place at 7:00 pm.

THANK YOU We would like to thank those who donated prizes to our latest Bingo. Debbie Allen, Mike Basha, Donna Beales, Evelyn Beales, Dianne Bennett, Sharon Bennett, Marjorie Blanchard, Colleen Boland, Bill Brake, Edward Brake, Mary Brake, Michelle Brake, Regina Brake, W.C. Brake, Jeanne Brown, Eileen Buckle, Karen Buckle, Sandy Buckle, Nora Burton, Hilda Butt, Joan Butt, Marie Byrne, Roberta Canning, Cathy Carroll, Marina Cashin, Christine Chadderton, Joanne Connolly, Helen Cook, Lynn Coombs, Linda Corbett, Lena Curnell, Margaret Dalley, Barbara Dicks, Amelia Dicks, Theresa Dobbin, Vivian Donahue, Rosemarie Doody, Marie Mitchell, Barbara Neville, and Bill Peddle. Together we raised over \$850.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

The regularly scheduled Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction takes place this Sunday, September 17th. Exposition begins at 2:00 pm, during adoration the Rosary will be recited and time will be left for silent prayer. Benediction takes place at 3:00 pm.

LADIES GROUP FUN NIGHT Open to members of the ladies group on **Friday, September 22** at 6:45 pm in the parish house.

MARY'S KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To all men and women of the parish: **Sacred Heart is responsible for Mary's Kitchen for the month of September** and has been asked to provide deserts. We also need 4-5 people to help serve meals. If you are able to help with this worthy cause, please call Veronica at 639-7216. Thank You.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to assist our Men's Group in erecting a new sign in our cemetery on Saturday, September 23 (weather permitting).

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL will be holding its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 20th, at 7:00 PM in the basement of the Cathedral. Any parishioner wishing to join or attend is more than welcome.

HUMOUR: LIFE AFTER DEATH!

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees.

"Yes, sir," the new recruit replied.

"Well, then, that makes everything just fine ..."

the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you."

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The theme throughout today's readings from Holy Scripture has to do with forgiveness. We must always appreciate that forgiveness is a two way street. We need to seek forgiveness as all of us are likely to do. However, forgiveness is also something we need to grant to others.

Some scholars consider Matthew's Chapter 18 from where our Gospel Reading comes today as perhaps among His most personal

teachings to His disciples and others as spiritual leaders. There is no question that the Lord is in the process of preparing His followers for the time when they (we) must continue His Kingdom without His physical presence. He is trying to build up the sense of fellowship and cohesion among His flock.

Thus, He focuses on how to build up cooperation and unity in those who work to build His Kingdom. He makes it clear that for us to accomplish that requires forgiveness and reconciliation. The lesson for us is quite basic: we need to know and appreciate and understand the grace of Jesus and respond by learning how to forgive our sisters and brothers (all sisters and brothers in our Christian and Catholic fellowship).

Christ always forgives us if we come to Him with a humble and repentant heart, and He expects the same from us. We need to forgive others just as we are forgiven. As Jesus warns us in today's Gospel: "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother (and sister) from your heart."

COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IN CANADA is being taken up in all parishes across Canada on the weekend of September 23-24. Each diocese participates in financing the four regional assemblies (Atlantic, Ontario, Quebec and the West) and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The President of the CCCB, the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., has described this Collection as an invitation to "all the faithful to participate in the life and mission of the Church through their active involvement in the life of their parish community, their prayers, their diverse charisms, their moral support and the contributions of their time and talents."