

Limitless Forgiveness

What 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

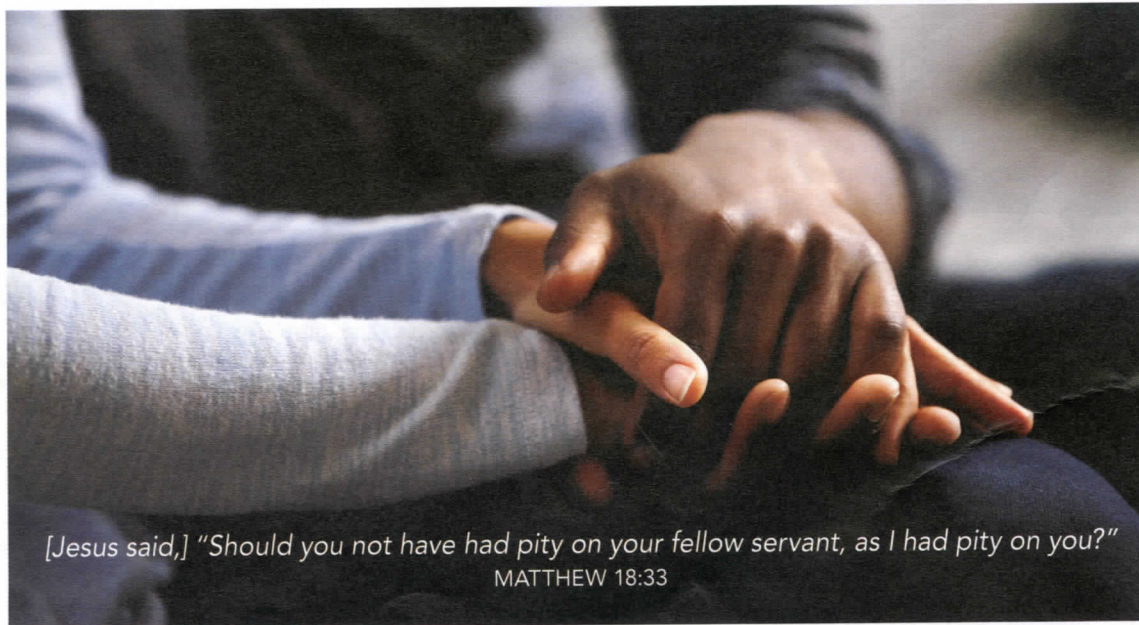
deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

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

AIVANAKA/SHUTTERSTOCK

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020—TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"How precious is your mercy, O God! The Children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 36

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life. Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, seven is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a sevenfold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us? Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us. This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10, 12). So, we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.



9/6: Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,975.00

9/6: Children's Offering: \$3.00

9/6 Picnic Donations: \$200.00

9/6 Building Fund: \$310.00

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Ministries for September 20

Rosary: Volunteers

Offertory: Henry Hilscher Family

Ushers: Jeremy Vaculin & Henry Hilscher

Altar Servers: Camryn Green, Colby Green, Garrison Prcin

Sanctuary Light: September 7th-13th: Denise Michna by Glenn & Kelly Laurence

Eucharistic Minister: Cynthia Prcin

Lector: Brad Vaculin



Prayer Chain...Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and to all those who have been affected by the Covid-19 Virus and for the following: Doris Matocha and Monsignor Victor Goertz. Prayers are powerful! To be added to the prayer chain, please contact: **Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net**

MARAK MASSES — September 13-20, 2020

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today- 9/13	10:15am	+ Deceased members of John & Regina Marak Family by Cecilia Marak
9/16 —Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Dorothy Vaculin by Mary Stanislaw + John David Thompson by Leroy & Kathy Vansa
9/20—Sunday	10:15am	Catechist Sunday for the Religious Education Teachers & Students

CYCLONE MASSES —September 13-20, 2020

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today - 9/13	8:15am	+ Rosa Pechal by Daniel & Lindsay Gibson
9/15—Tuesday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Mallory & Barbara Miller
9/17—Thursday	7:00am	+ Michelle Crews by Sindy Greenwood
9/18—Friday	7:00am	+ Shirley Skala by Bill & Carol Smetana
9/19—Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Lucille Greener by Monica Mikeska
9/20—Sunday	8:15am	+ Randolph Green by Family

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **TODAY: NO BAKE/ BAKE SALE:** The KJZT JRS. will be sponsoring a No/Bake Bake Sale. This would have been the Marak Picnic Day. The KJZT Home Office will be matching up to 50% of the funds raised up to \$1,000.00. These proceeds will all go to the church to help subsidize the missing picnic proceeds. If you have not donated as of yet to the picnic funds, please do so when the JRS. will be collecting funds.
- **TODAY: HOLY LAND SPECIAL COLLECTION:** Those who did not use their envelopes for the Holy Land on April 10th, please do so for this collection or please specify the donation is for the Holy Land.
- **TODAY:** The REP teachers will be commissioned during Mass for the upcoming school year. Thank you for your faithful service and dedication. God Bless You!
- **SEPTEMBER 15TH:** KC meeting at 7:30pm in Cyclone.
- **SEPTEMBER 20TH:** St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Marlin will be having their Fall Festival. Drive Thru only—\$10.00 per plate—11am—1pm. For more information see flyer on bulletin board in the church entry.
- **SEPTEMBER 20TH:** Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Corn Hill Annual Bazaar from 11am—2pm—Drive thru only—\$12.00 per plate—For more information see flyer on bulletin board in the church entry.
- **THANK YOU:** A great big thanks to St. Anne's Altar Society and Cynthia Prcin for furnishing the refreshments after Mass to honor Fr. Ranjan's Birthday. May God Bless all of you!

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.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



HILARY SISKAN OSAMAN / PEXELS

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



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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

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A Redemptorist Ministry