

Dear Padre,

If Catholics say the Confiteor at Mass, then why do we still need to go to confession?

Recall when Jesus told Simon and his fishing companions to lower their nets after they had caught nothing. (See Luke 5:1–11.) When their boats began to sink with so many fish, Simon fell at Jesus' feet and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Likewise, at Mass, we're so filled with awe upon entering the presence of God that we become aware of our own sinfulness.

The penitential act prepares the assembly to enter the celebration in a proper spirit of humility. The priest and the faithful observe a period of silence to acknowledge their sinfulness and confess their awe of Christ's love and mercy. This is expressed in different forms, one of which is the Confiteor, a general confession that invokes the support of the communion of saints and the specific community gathered at Mass. It includes the instruction to strike one's breast, an ancient gesture of humility and penitence. (See Luke 18:13; 23:48.) The rite concludes with the priest's absolution, but it "lacks the efficacy of the sacrament of penance" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 51). Thus, the penitential act isn't a substitute for absolution from sins confessed in the sacrament of penance, particularly serious, mortal sins. Rather, it prepares the faithful as a unified community to properly listen to God's word and celebrate the Eucharist worthily (*GIRM* 46). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES HARRIS

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the Church there is...a place for everyone, and... every Christian is called to proclaim the gospel and bear witness in every environment.... Thus, this people shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the gospel to purify them and to raise them up.

GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, MARCH 11, 2026

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FRANCESCO ALBERTI / UNPLASH

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

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, 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

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Sept 13, 2026 The Debt We Have in Common

THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

As we hear today's Gospel of the servant whose enormous debt is forgiven, yet who refuses mercy to a fellow servant owing far less, we cannot help but ask: how can this be? This is the first question that comes to mind. How could a person be forgiven so much and then, just a few minutes later, refuse to forgive something inconsequential in comparison? Selfishness doesn't really explain it. Being so full of oneself doesn't explain it. Being completely dense and obtuse is perhaps closer to the truth, but even that explanation comes up short.

The truth is that the exaggeration of the debt is secondary to the story. What is essential to the story is the invitation to reflect on what it means to be a human being. It is to acknowledge that, when all is said and done, everyone owes a huge debt. No one is exempt from gratitude. An honest acceptance of who we are—completely and totally dependent on God who created us—is the core truth. To be so disconnected from this truth as to not recognize one's own dependence and be completely unaware of the need to be grateful—that is the real challenge the story considers. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How am I at forgiveness—with others and with myself?



Can one refuse mercy to a sinner like oneself, yet seek pardon for one's own sins?

SIRACH 28:4

Today's Gospel reading directly follows [last week's Gospel](#) in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

NEEDED Mass Intentions: Please consider having a mass for your loved ones living and deceased.

Mass Schedule & Intentions					
For the week of September 13, 2026					
Mon.	Sept..	14	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Sept.	15	7:00 AM	SJ	Lyndi Walz
Wed.	Sept.	16	5:30 PM	SA	Jim Hickey †
Thurs.	Sept.	17	5:30 PM	SB	All Souls (Nursing Home)
Fri.	Sept.	18	8:30 AM	SJ	Jerome Vieyra †
Sun.	Sept.	20	8:00 AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	Sept.	20	9:30 AM	SA	Leonard Mackley †
Sun.	Sept.	20	11:00 AM	SB	Mark Pnndorf †
Quotes for Today Saint John Chrysostom (347-407) Sept 13					
“As water extinguishes fire, so prayer extinguishes the heat of the passions.”					



Cotter Johnston Sept. 14th
Rod Brestel Sept. 15th
Steve Frey Sept 20th



Mr. & Mrs. Jim Phelps Sept. 15th

Ministry Schedule

Date Sept 20	St John’s	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	Sunday 8:00 AM	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
Hospitality	Youth	Aleta & Conrad P.	Rod & MaKayla D.
Lector	Youth	Mary A.	Mike P.
Server	Youth		Breckn D. & Hadley B.
EMHC	Rex & Kristie W.	Aleta & Conrad P.	Steve & Kristen B.
	Music:		Communion to shut ins Kristen B.

St. John’s

Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 6, 2026
Total Collection: **\$809.00**

CCD Sept 16th
Pre -5th Grade 3:45 to 5:15 PM
6-8th Grade 6:30 to 8:00 PM

St. Agnes

Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 6, 2026
Total Collection: **\$556.00**

Thrift Store
Open Sept 24 & 25th 9AM to 4PM

OCIA All Parishes

(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

is the Catholic Church’s official process for adults to prepare for and receive the sacraments of initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist—typically culminating at the Easter Vigil.

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, please contact Fr. Mike or the church office at 636-2421.

St. Boniface

Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 6, 2026
Total Collection: **\$1003.00**

***CCD**
Pre to 3rd Wed. 9/23rd 4 to 6 PM
4th to 12th Wed, Sept 16th 6:30 to 7:30 PM
Confirmation Retreat at Holy Spirit church 11AM to 4 PM

Come Monday to Good Life Nursing Home to pray & say the rosary at 2 PM

Alpha

Are you curious about Jesus? Please join us to unpack the Christian faith! Wednesdays, starting September 16th, at the Callaway library. 6:15-7:30. Please contact Emily for more information 308-660-0984