

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
 IN ORDINARY TIME**

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

We do not deserve God’s mercy, but we can live it.

The Christian life is a communal life, not a solitary one. Thus, it entails times of being reconciled to God and with one another.

Saint Paul explains why it is necessary for us to be reconciled with each other if we ever have hope of being reconciled with God. We are the Lord’s, we belong to Christ, and we are to conform ourselves to him: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. We are a community of believers. We are all sinners, and need to give and receive from each other what we need from the Lord – mercy. We are meant to treat others the way God has treated us in Christ, sharing with them the life-giving and forgiving love of Jesus.

“What does that look like, exactly?” we might ask. This is at the heart of Peter’s question in today’s Gospel. “What does forgiveness look like, Lord, forgiving my brother seven times?” That seems like a reasonable number, does it not? Especially if it is for the same thing? Except Jesus said seventy-seven times was the answer. And lest we get stuck on the exact numbers rather than the larger point, Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant. Completely upside down in his debt, with no hope to repay it, and he must throw himself completely on his master’s mercy.

His debt is miraculously forgiven! Yet, rather than reforming his life, changing his heart, and sharing with others the mercy just shown him, the servant imprisons someone who owes him a much smaller amount. In response, the master hands him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.

Jesus suggests that he owes us nothing, but he has given us everything. He has forgiven the worst things we have ever done. He would forgive the worst things we could ever imagine. And yet, with all that mercy to draw from, free for the taking, he still finds us holding grudges over much smaller wrongs done to us by the hands of another.

All of us belong in Jesus’ “debtors’ prison,” but he came to set the captives free. It is true that we don’t deserve the mercy God has shown us in Christ. We can’t earn it and we can’t repay it. But we can live it. We can forgive, and we can seek forgiveness. And as “seventy-seven” represents the limitless nature of God’s mercy toward us – so we can make it represent ours to one another.



REV. M. J. BERNARD DORÉ, PASTOR
 DEACON FERNANDO BOTELHO, DEACON ASSISTANT
 116A DANIELSON PIKE · FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND 02825
 PHONE (401) 647-3664
 EMAIL: CHURCH@STPAULSFOSTER.ORG
STPAULSFOSTER.ORG

OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM 7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

ST. PAUL’S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	September 16
8:30 AM	Men’s Coffee & Gospel
5:00 PM	Mass: Debra NajECKi (RIP)
Sunday	September 17
8:00 AM	Mass: Therese Trofi (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00AM	Mass: Marie Tetreault (RIP)
Monday	September 18
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Leon Pelletier (RIP)
Wednesday	September 20
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Grandchildren of Mary O’Reilly
Friday	September 22
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Mass: Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Mass: Bruce Green (RIP)
10:00 AM	Mass: Anthony Lena (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
 A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

2023 Catechism Classes

We have mailed out Catechism registration forms for the 2023-24 session. If you have a child entering first grade, or if you are new to St. Paul's, please call or email the office.

Sunday October 1, there will be a **Family Meeting at 9am** to discuss this year's catechism program. Families will receive the class schedule and catechism books. This will be followed by the 10AM Mass in which your young people will take part.

Catechism Registration Sponsor

Would you consider sponsoring a child in the Catechism program? If you are willing to be a sponsor, take a card from the bulletin board and fill it out and we will follow up with more information. Thank you!



Second Collection _ Sept 16/17r Senior Priest Retirement Fund

Catholics throughout the Diocese have a unique opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our senior priests. **This week's second collection will benefit the Senior Priest Retirement Fund**, a significant source of support for priests that provides for basic needs such as food, housing, transportation and medical care. Please consider your generous support of this important effort that benefits those who have selflessly served the faithful for decades. For more information about the senior priest retirement fund, or to donate online, please visit www.srpriestri.com.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – Sept 9/10
\$2,879.00

Thank you for your support!

Silver Rose Prayer Service

In 1960, the Columbian Squires, a youth organization of the Knights of Columbus, wanted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. This group of young men in Monterrey, Mexico, came up with the idea of running a rose to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe near Mexico City.

The rose was chosen to commemorate St. Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses, an important part of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This started a worldwide tradition in which a Silver Rose is taken, from church to church, and placed in an image of Our Lady.

This has become an occasion for prayer, especially for the intention that our society grows to respect all of human life, from the moment of conception to natural death—and everyone in between!

Today, the Silver Rose will arrive at St. Paul's before the 10:00 Mass, after which we join in this special service of prayer, which will include Rosary and Benediction of Blessed Sacrament. This will take the place of the 4th Sunday Eucharistic Adoration this month.

The Beauty and Truth of Catholic Teaching on End-of-Life Issues

Peter J. Colosi, PhD, Associate Prof. of Philosophy at Salve Regina University, and guest speakers, Dr./Deacon Timothy Flanigan, MD, Tracy Laignon, Esq., Chris Dilorio, and Fr. Bob Bailey, will present a series of three talks discussing the fullness of Catholic teaching on suffering, death, and dying, and will explain the false premises of the pro-euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide movements. This series will help us to better understand and carry out Christ's mandate to care for the sick and dying in a manner that honors God and respects the dignity of persons.

Dates are **October 5, 12, 19 - 7- 8:30 pm** at **St. Philip Church Parish Center**, 622 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI. Cost is \$15 per person. Please go to this link for more info on how to register: <https://www.saintphilpreled.com/deeper-discipleship-for-adults.html> or contact Veronica Plante, Director of Religious Education at 401-949-0330 or reled@saintphilip.com.

12 Quotes That Will Change the Way You Attend Holy Mass

1. When the Eucharist is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the divine victim immolated on the altar. ~ St. John Chrysostom
2. The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass. ~ St. Augustine
3. The best time to ask and obtain favors from God is the time of the Elevation." ~ St. John Bosco
4. The celebration of Holy Mass is as valuable as the death of Jesus on the cross. ~ St Thomas Aquinas
5. St. Teresa was over whelmed with God's Goodness and asked Our Lord "How can I thank you?" Our Lord replied, "ATTEND ONE MASS."
6. "My Son so loves those who assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that, if it were necessary He would die for them as many times as they've heard Masses." ~ Our Lady to Blessed Alan.
7. When we receive Holy Communion, we experience something extraordinary –a joy, a fragrance, a well-being that thrills the whole body and causes it to exalt~ St Jean Vianney
8. There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us. ~ Saint Jean Vianney
9. Be eager to go to Mass on week-days also, even if it costs a sacrifice. Our Lord will reward you with His Blessings and make you succeed in your undertakings ~ St. Don Bosco
10. When we have been to Holy Communion, the balm of love envelops the soul as the flower envelops the bee. ~ St Jean Vianney
11. It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass. ~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina
12. If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy.~ St Jean Vianney