

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020  
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. 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.



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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

**ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 12</b>
5:00 PM	Mass: Intentions of Fr. Doré
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 13</b>
8:00 AM	Mass: People of the Parish
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Cecile Doré (RIP)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 14</b>
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Intentions of the Dunn Family
6:30 PM	Knights of Columbus Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September 16</b>
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Madeline Oakley (RIP)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>September 18</b>
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Mass: Intentions of Mary Joseph
8:00 AM	Open for your Intentions
10:00 AM	Open for your Intentions

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING  
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

### Grateful for God's Providence

As of August 2020, Our Parish has pledged a total of **\$88,745** of our \$166,788 Parish Goal which puts us a 53% of our Goal. Pledge envelopes are available in the entrance of the church. Please consider making your pledge today!

### Catholic Charity Appeal

Our gift to the annual Catholic Charity Appeal makes a real difference in the lives of so many Rhode Islanders. Thank you to those of you who have made a gift to the Catholic Charity Appeal. If you have not already contributed, please consider making your pledge today. We are at **\$11,753** of our \$17,500 Goal.

### Commitment to Sunday Offertory

To help the parish meet its financial obligations through the summer months, we ask that you remain committed to the weekly offertory through the summer.

Please consider using the parish envelopes and mailing your weekly/monthly offertory contribution. Or consider the convenient option of setting up an automatic contribution online. Details below

#### Support St. Paul's

Set up a reoccurring donation (or make a gift at anytime) using our secure, online giving tool by ParishSOFT.

Visit our website at [stpaulsfoster.org](http://stpaulsfoster.org), and click the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you!

### Act of Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my life. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come then spiritually into my heart. So that I may embrace you and unite myself completely to you. And never let me be separated from you.*

#### Let's Stay Connected

We've been emailing a weekly parish update to help us stay informed and to share resources. Please add your name and email to the list via our website:

[www.stpaulsfoster.org](http://www.stpaulsfoster.org)

Your information is never shared with anyone else and is only used to communicate with you about the parish.



### Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Fr. Doré will be offering the **10AM Mass on Sunday, September 27** for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries this year. Please let us know if you will be able to join us for this celebration. A small reception will follow outside after Mass. Congratulations and Blessings!

#### Food Closet Ministry

This month we are in need of **Canned Tomatoes & Canned Vegetables, Dried Pasta, and Spaghetti-O's**The Food Closet is open every other Saturday morning 9:30- 11 AM

### Senior Priest Retirement Fund

After decades of faithful service, many retired priests continue to serve where they are needed, while others require assisted living, or nursing home care. Since priests are paid a very modest wage, they cannot rely upon Social Security to make ends meet. No longer able to rely upon parishes for basic living needs, senior priests depend on support from this challenged fund. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of many who have served faithfully for many years in ministry – some of whom continue to serve well after their 'retirement.' The collection is also our way of saying "thank you" for that service. **At Masses on September 19 & 20, our parish will join others throughout the Diocese in a collection in support of the Senior Priest Retirement Fund.** Please consider a generous donation in support of our senior priests. To learn how this fund benefits senior priests or make an online donation, [www.srpriestri.com](http://www.srpriestri.com). Thank you for your support of this worthy endeavor.

#### GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection - September 5/6  
**\$2,774.01**

Monthly 2nd Collection - Sept 5/6  
**\$2,019.00**

**Thank you for your support!**

### The Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

*Always stay close to our Lord, present in the tabernacle. Be completely absorbed by devotion to him there and never let go. ~ Saint Bernadette*

**1324** *The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch."* 137

**1327** *In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith:*

#### Catechism of the Catholic Church

*My dearest friends,*

*My home is often empty. Very few of my friends come to see me and visit. And when they do, it is usually because of some obligation.*

*They rush around seeking wealth, health and pleasure and almost never stop to say 'hello', and to be with me, and maybe listen to me. I've given them so much and they don't even acknowledge the gifts, much less thank me for them.*

*I guess the only conclusion I can come to, is that either they don't love me anymore, or else they don't even believe I'm here.*

*It makes me sad and lonely and hurt—an no one seems to care. Love, Jesus in the Tabernacle*

Most Catholics no longer believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. If they did, they would often receive Him during the week and would frequently visit Him to praise, adore, thank, and petition Him for all their needs. Their reception of the Eucharist on Sunday is a mere cultural habit that produces little change in their lives. The reason for this is because of the most outrageous robbery in the history of Christianity—Satan has stolen our precious treasure of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We are all sinners, and because of the blockage of sin in our hearts, Jesus is unable to come in with all His peace, joy, love, and light to make us new, whole, and happy. Mary, in her frequent apparitions all over the world, has urged us to return to the frequent reception of the cleansing, healing Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pope John Paul ii also has urged us to return to this beautiful sacrament. If we do, we will really be renewed by Jesus in the Eucharist, and we will fall in love with Him, and all of the Catholic Church will be totally renewed! What a wonderful gift! **Thanks be to God!**