

Sunday September 13th, 2026
THE TWENTY-FOURTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
- YEAR A

(Sir. 27:30—28:7, Rom. 14:7-9, Mt. 18:21-35)

THEME: THE WAY OF INFINITE FORGIVENESS

Introduction: "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Therefore, we are all beneficiaries of divine mercy. Having been forgiven, we owe forgiveness to others who offend us. Our failings may spring from human weakness, but unforgiveness is a fruit of wickedness. The forgiven servant was not called wicked when he owed his master, but when he sought vengeance against his fellow servant.

Limitless Forgiveness: Peter was thinking in terms of a limit to forgiveness. For him, "seven times" should be enough. But Jesus breaks the measuring tape and recommends forgiveness as a way of life. Grace is characterized by limitless generosity, flowing from God's own immeasurable mercy.

When Jesus says, "seventy times seven," he recalls Lamech, a descendant of Cain, who boasted of unlimited vengeance (Gen. 4:24). Jesus reverses this: instead of responding to enemies with limitless vengeance, his followers are called to respond to offenders with limitless forgiveness. Since God forgives without limit, his children must do the same.

The Parable: In the ancient Near East, sin was pictured as debt, while forgiveness was likened to a merciful creditor canceling that debt. The Lord teaches that the gift of God is received to be given: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" (Mt. 6:12).

The servant's enormous debt signifies the sins of humanity. To be forgiven such an infinite debt points to the boundless mercy and grace of God. Such grace is meant to transform its receiver. We are therefore called to imitate God's infinite mercy.

Conclusion: On the Cross, Jesus Christ canceled the record of our sins (Col. 2:14). What we have received, we are to give to others. Jesus teaches, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Mt. 5:7). If we forgive others, we shall receive forgiveness from the Lord.

Read the entire reflection at:

<https://stpeterchurchaz.com/reflections/f/the-way-of-infinite-forgiveness>

Facts about the Vatican

The sepulcher of St. Peter is within these grottoes

The Sepulcher of St. Peter is reached by descending a double ramp of stairs from the marble floor of the new basilica. Called the Confessio, in honor of S. Peter's statement of faith, the area is an enclosed balustrade and is decorated with multi-colored marble floor and walls. The sepulchral chamber is located in the central niche of this area.

By Fr. Jeffery Kirby, S.T.L.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

9:00 am Mass + Margie Gowey by the Gowey Family

11:00 am Mass +Poor Souls in Purgatory by Joe Turner

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 9:00am Carlos Borquez & Abbey Figuera by Luz Maria & Carlos Borquez

Tuesday 9:00am Edward & Robert Gerlach by Lora Harrison

Wednesday 9:00am +Margaret Zumo

Thursday 9:00am Michael Grindey by Eileen Tyrrell

Friday 9:00am +Meridith & +Elizabeth Ketring by Jessica Williams; Deric Knight by Patti Knight

Saturday 9:00am +Poor Souls in Purgatory by Joe Turner

PRAYER TREE - LET US PRAY FOR:

Charles and Cristina Rand, Laurie Becker, Elijah Baca, David Baca, Fallon Walker, Judy Bragg, Maria Archuleta, Joe Warne, Larry Tyrrell, Tom Malone, Eva Orona, David & Geri Silva, Jeannette Davis, Angela Gonzales, Joe and Margie Tapia, Bernice & Roxanne Chavez, Lilly Hill, Sophie Pena, Lydia Gonzalez, Sophie Montoya.

TO MAKE PRAYER REQUESTS Please contact the church office at (928) 333-4423. Leave a message, if there is no answer, please include your name and phone number with information.