



1st Reading: SIR 27:30—28:7

Responsorial Psalm: PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Second Reading: ROM 14:7-9

Gospel: MT 18:21-35

## Love and Forgiveness - They go Together!

Last Sunday and this Sunday, the Gospel readings are from Matthew, chapter 18. This chapter is known as one of the five discourses Matthew provides and is known as the *Discourse on the Church*. Remember last week (MT 18:15-20) talked about how to deal with disagreements in a community and the need for forgiveness to bring the community together, “for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” But how many times does one need to forgive?

This week, the *Discourse on the Church* continues, as we hear the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. The parable comes as a response to Peter’s question, “How often must I forgive?” In this parable, Jesus gives us the secret to forming a patient, forgiving heart. It consists in recognizing the hurtfulness of our own sin, and thereby perceiving the vastness of God’s goodness in forgiving it - not just 7 times, but rather 77 times, a number that symbolizes perfection and completeness. In other words then..

As we are called to live the Gospel in the world, we are called to not only ask forgiveness, but to truly and freely give forgiveness. Just as the King forgave the debt of his servant, God graces us with an abundance of forgiveness, but just as the servant could have done the same to fellow servant, we are called to give forgiveness.

As we gather together in community for the Mass, we remember this important action of forgiveness as we say *The Lord’s Prayer* together, asking to be forgiven only in so far as we forgive others. Take time to reflect on the words of *The Lord’s Prayer*.

## September 14th - Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Why this date? Take a look at part of the timeline!

326 A.D.: St. Helena discovers the True Cross in Jerusalem on May 3rd.

335 A.D.: Constantine dedicates the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on *Sept. 14th*.

614 A.D.: Jerusalem is invaded by the Persians who steal the True Cross.

629 A.D.: The True Cross is recovered and brought back to Jerusalem on *Sept. 14th*.

@HOME - be creative and decorate a beautiful cross to display in your home.

## September 15th - Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

What are the Seven Sorrows of Mary? The Seven Sorrows were foretold to Mary by the Priest Simeon. The feast was inserted into the Roman calendar in 1814, and Pope Pius X fixed the permanent date of September 15 for the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary (now simply called the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows). The key image here is our Blessed Mother standing faithfully at the foot of the cross with her dying Son. Learn more about this feast at

[catholiceducation.org](http://catholiceducation.org)

## Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[catholiccompany.com](http://catholiccompany.com) - *The Very Interesting History Behind the Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross - (Teens & Adult Faith Builder)*

[LoyolaPress.com](http://LoyolaPress.com) - *Exaltation of the Cross (Family Faith Builder)*

[CatholicSprouts.com](http://CatholicSprouts.com) - *49 Crafts to celebrate the Cross (All Ages) We would love to share images of crosses you made!*

[CatholicCuisine.blogspot.com](http://CatholicCuisine.blogspot.com) - *Feast of St. Hildegard, Sept. 17 Spice Cookies (All Ages Faith Builder)*

[Franciscanmedia.org](http://Franciscanmedia.org) - *St. Hildegard of Bingen: Doctor of the Church (Teens & Adults Faith Builder)*



### Did you know...

Whenever he caught sight of a Catholic church in the distance, St. Francis was known to kneel down and give praise to God. Often he would say the following words that he passed on to his friars:

*We adore you, O Lord Jesus Christ, in this church and all the churches of the world, and we bless you, because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world. Amen* ([Aleteia.com](http://Aleteia.com))

Celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross with this prayer!



AND FORGIVE US  
OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE  
FORGIVE THOSE WHO  
TRESPASS AGAINST US.

Visit [ChurchPop.com](http://ChurchPop.com)  
“18 Elements in the  
Lord’s Prayer”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**Question for Children:** Jesus says we should forgive from our heart. When did you ask forgiveness of someone you hurt? How did you feel?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus challenges us to forgive. Who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to ask forgiveness?

**Question for Adults:** Jesus tells us to forgive seventy times seven, which means always and forever. Name a time this past week when you forgave someone. Name, too, a time when you accepted another person’s forgiveness.

