



HOLY TRINITY PARISH

Hudson and Germantown, New York

429 E. Allen St. P. O. Box 323 Hudson, NY 12534

September 17, 2017

PHONE: (518) 828 - 1334

WEBSITE: www.holytrinityhudson.org

E-MAIL: holytrinityhudson@gmail.com



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

REV. ANTHONY BARRATT
Pastor

DEACON RICHARD WASHBURN
Deacon

REV. WINSTON BATH
Pastor Emeritus

HOW MANY TIMES SHOULD WE FORGIVE...?

(24th Sunday, Year A)

Our readings this weekend really continue from where we left off last weekend. Then, Jesus gave us a pattern or a model of how we should deal with hurts and wrongs in a mature and Christian way. It is what we might call a Christian process of reconciliation. It is a powerful and wonderful antidote and alternative to the usual way that such hurts or wrongs are tackled. Then we have our Gospel today where, not surprisingly, St. Peter, impetuous and keen as ever, asks Jesus a question that could very much be our question: OK, so how many times should I forgive someone...? A good question: how many times indeed!

The first thing Jesus does is to correct Peter's idea that forgiveness is somehow an accounting process: a sort of variation on three strikes and you are out. No: Jesus clearly says you must forgive someone an infinite number of times; that is, we are asked to forgive *always* (this, by the way, is the Biblical meaning of the phrase "seventy times seven"). We can be sure that this idea would have shocked St. Peter and the other disciples. There was, at the time, a general law of retribution, or perhaps better put restitution, for wrongs and hurts called the "lex talionis" (and eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth). Incidentally, this law is still present in many cultures today. Jesus however, seems to cancel this well-established law.

So, Jesus then goes on to explain *why* this unlimited forgiveness needs to be the hallmark of his disciples: a new law of forgiveness and restitution. He uses the simple parable of the two debtors to explain exactly why we need to forgive others always. It is clear that we are in the position of that first servant. God, in his infinite love and mercy, has forgiven us an impossible debt that we owe to him, as we see in Jesus' own death and resurrection. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And, as St. Thomas Aquinas observed, "the power of God is seen, above all, in the act of his forgiveness and the use of his mercy, for the way He has of showing his supreme power is to pardon freely." We cannot hope to pay this debt, whether it be all our faults and failings, or whether it be all the blessings that we know that we have received from God.

Well then, if we have been *forgiven* (and we

might also say *given*) so much, can we not then forgive those who are in debt to us (for example, if they have wronged or hurt us)...? After all, we echo this when we say the words of the Our Father "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." I guess the question is: "do we...?" But, there is yet more about forgiveness in Jesus' words. Yes, as we have seen, Jesus gives us the motivation or perhaps the reason why we should forgive others: because God has forgiven our "debts." However, showing forgiveness though is not really some sort of grudging duty or obligation, something that we have to do just because we have been forgiven. It can be life-giving too. As St. John Chrysostom puts it beautifully: "nothing makes us so God-like as our willingness to forgive."

Forgiving others can lift our Spirit and help us grow as sons and daughters of God. That is why Jesus speaks about binding and loosing towards the end of the Gospel passage. Not forgiving can bind us just as much as the person who has wronged us is bound in debt to us. An unforgiving hurt can sour us and it can be very toxic: whole lives have been blighted by such unresolved and unforgiven hurts. This is why Jesus asks us to forgive others "from our heart." If we do this, our forgiveness may or may not be accepted. Indeed, it may not even be acknowledged. That lack of acceptance of forgiveness would be sad indeed, but at least we can be "loosed" from the hurt.



Fr. Anthony



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Sign up now!

I am holding a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class for 4-5 couples in my home in Gallatin, NY. The class would meet weekly for 9 weeks starting Sunday 10/1/17 @ 6 pm for approx 1.5 hrs. The material fee is \$109 per family.

FPU not only teaches you how to budget, aggressively pay off debt, build an emergency fund, save for college, retirement, etc. but it is focused on giving and being hugely generous.

One of the big things that most couples get out of the FPU is how to budget and manage their money together. You also do not have to disclose any of your personal information that you do not wish to share. The classes consist of watching a video and some short exercises and (optional) discussion after. The videos really just speak for themselves and motivate you. The course is truly life changing for so many, myself included!

If you are curious about the course, see the link below. Also, the Total Money Makeover book is a great supplement but definitely not a requirement.

<https://www.daveramsey.com/store/prod614.html>

NEEDED:

ASST. CATECHISTS - RESURRECTION

Want a rewarding faith experience? Share yourself with students in our Resurrection Faith Formation Program. Teach our children while growing in the knowledge of your faith.

Resurrection's program needs one or two assistants who can work as a team. Our program meets on Sunday mornings from 10 am to 11 am just prior to Mass.

Since the safety of our children is important we do require the following screenings:

- Attend a one-time Virtus training session, offered locally
- Agree to a background check paid for by the parish
- Sign and agree to several Diocesan Safe Environment codes
- Fill out a Catechist application

Please call Arlene Liepshutz [518-537-6136](tel:518-537-6136), if you need more information or if you are interested in serving in this vital ministry. Please consider this — we have a WONDERFUL community of catechists and students.

MASS BOOK FOR 2018 NOW OPEN

(Request forms available at church entrances)

A PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANES HARVEY & IRMA

Lord God, we pray for the victims of the disasters in Texas and Florida, that you would comfort the lives that were spared Lord, and that you receive into your loving arms those who perished.

Lord, please bless those who are doing everything they can to help these people and also make sure that things run smoothly in repairing and restoring these communities.

Please help the victims to have patience and also help family members to be reunited. Lord, we pray that you will ensure that the victims do not come under any illnesses from these disasters, and we also pray that there will be enough food and clean water and proper shelter for everyone.

Lord, please touch the hearts of the world to continue to pray for these people and also to donate whatever they can to help rebuild.

Over \$8,000 has been donated so far....

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Trash & Treasure Donations

Our next Trash and Treasure sale is Columbus Day Weekend. We are now accepting new and lightly used household items and furnishings. If you have items that you would like to drop off, please call St. Mary's

Volunteers needed - Germantown Food Pantry

The Germantown Community Cupboard, our local food pantry, needs volunteers for various times throughout the week to join in this ministry. Both men and women are needed who can help for 1½ or 2 hours during the week. Some positions **do not** require heavy lifting.

We would also appreciate anyone interested in picking up food items at various locations using their own truck or trailer (Lifting 40 lb. boxes is required.)

Our schedule includes volunteers needed for:

Saturday & Tuesday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:30 am

Saturday & Tuesday morning pickups (with a truck)

Wednesdays from 2-4 pm or 4-6 pm when pantry is open

Cleaning of pantry during the week (flexible times) monthly

Friday pickups in Hudson (with a truck)

Join our great volunteer team. Call Arlene Liepshutz at 518-537-6136 for further information and to volunteer.

**The Third Orders: A Series of 3 Presentations
for Laypeople**

The Third Orders, sometimes called Secular Orders, are communities of lay people who come together to learn how to live in this world using the guidance and wisdom of a particular spirituality of an established Catholic religious order. The wisdom gained from the spirituality can be incorporated into everyday life, bringing a sense of order, a greater depth and focus into our spiritual journey. Come hear from local laypeople active within these Orders how you can enrich your spiritual life. Open to high school students and older. **Thursday, Sept. 21: The Carmelite Third Order. Thursday, Sept. 28: The Franciscan Third Order. Thursday, Oct. 5: The Dominican Third Order.** Each talk begins at 7 p.m., St. Mary's Academy, 301 Allen St., Hudson. No charge; light refreshments pro-

SUB NIGHT!

Make sure your dining plans for Friday, September 22, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., includes a stop at the Academy for a Sub prepared by the Christian Service Committee. Subs will be \$8.00 each.

Sub items will include meatballs, pepperoni, sausages, peppers, and onions. **Curb service will be provided.**

Diocesan Marriage Jubilee

The **45th Annual Marriage Jubilee Celebration** sponsored by the Office of Lay Ministry Formation will be held **Sunday, October 1st, 2017 at 2:00 PM at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, corner of Eagle St. and Madison Ave., Albany, New York.**

Couples celebrating their **25th, 40th, 50th or other special wedding anniversaries** are invited to attend this celebration. Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger will celebrate the Liturgy at 2:00 PM and greet couples and their guests at a reception in the gathering area at the Cathedral immediately following Mass.

Please register through the Rectory at 828-1334.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY:

The Knights of Columbus are seeking a candidate for a career opportunity representing their insurance program. We offer a complete benefits package with this full-time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please contact Michael Rodriguez, General Agent, at 518-934-1032 or Michael.Rodriguez@KofC.ORG

SACRAMENTS

The sacraments are wonderful gifts from God to us. Through outward, visible signs; the sacraments are channels of God's love and mercy and so they draw us in to the life of the Trinity. They therefore also continue the saving mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in and through His body, the Church. Below is some information on how to make contact regarding the celebration of the sacraments.

BAPTISM: Congratulations! If you would like to arrange preparations and a date for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

RCIA: For those enquiring about the Catholic Faith or wishing to complete their sacraments: welcome! Please contact the Parish Office and we will be very glad to help you further.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated on Saturdays 2.30-3.45 pm in Hudson, before and after Masses in Germantown, or at anytime by appointment. (Note: it is best to call ahead first to check on the availability of a priest)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Priests regularly visit the hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. Please do contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is in need of the anointing of sick.

MARRIAGE: Congratulations! So that proper arrangements (paperwork, preparations etc.) can be made, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Anthony at least six months before the desired date.

VOCATIONS: If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, please con-

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others remains, and is immortal. — Albert Pike

HUDSON

Regular Offertory Last Weekend (Sept. 10).....	\$5,869.00
Evangelist.....	\$ 388.00

GERMANTOWN

Regular Offertory Last Weekend (Sept. 10).....	\$1,486.00
Heat & Fuel.....	\$ 308.00
Seminarian Support.....	\$ 35.00

THE WEEK AHEAD

READINGS AND HYMNS (HUDSON)

Reading: p. 223 Opening Hymn: # 295 Closing: # 502

WEDNESDAY, September 20

■ **The Friendly Kitchen:** If you have a few hours to spare, please consider meeting us at the Academy kitchen at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, **September 20th**, to help prepare, cook, and serve our monthly Wednesday night meal for the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. New comers are always welcome. No long term commitments. Just come when you can. Desserts are gladly accepted.

THURSDAY, September 21

■ **Our Lady of Grace Prayer Group** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Church. Please join them to pray for the Holy Father, all priests and religious, for the needs of our parishes, for peace in our hearts and all nations, along with prayers for personal petitions. For further information call Linda or Charlie Meicht at 828-3435.

■ **Bible Study:** 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Rectory

■ **Third Orders of the Catholic Church -**

Talk:

7:00-9:00 p.m., St. Mary's Academy Confer-



**Religious Education starts
in Hudson and Germantown
Sunday, September 24th, 10:00 a.m.**

**St. Mary's Academy - Hudson
Fr. Gerken Hall - Germantown**

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Weekday (September 18)

7:15 AM Mary Jane Fisher - Rosa & Buddy Pfeil

Harold Hallenbeck - Elaine Erickson

TUESDAY: Weekday (September 19)

7:15 AM Robert Briggs - Charles & Mary Ann Vieni

Michael DeLibertis - Dee Marotta

WEDNESDAY: Weekday (September 20)

7:15 AM Mary Jane Fisher - Raymond & Carol Paul

Harold Hallenbeck - Judy Flick

THURSDAY: St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist (Sept. 21)

7:15 AM Barbara & Peter Olchowyc (Health) Special Intention-
Ann Skibo

Harold Hallenbeck - Sharon & Alvin Zempko

FRIDAY: Weekday (September 22)

7:15 AM Viola Pulcher - Family

Harold Hallenbeck - Charles & Linda Meicht

9:00 AM John Fellin (B'day) Special Intention -

(G'TWN)

Liepshutz

Family

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: (September 23)

4:00 PM Edward J. Ziemba - Wife Helen & Family

(HUD) Kathryn McDonald - Theresa Bachdam

Jennie Gambino - Joanne Gambino & Family

5:30 PM Living & Deceased of our Parish

(LNLTH)

SUNDAY MORNING MASS: (September 24)

9:00 AM Kathryn McDonald - Groat Family

(HUD) Edward Nitsky - Barbara Othote

Joanne H. Williams - Skidmore Family

ily

11:00 AM Maria & Luigi Godio - Filomena Pallante

Readings for the Week of Sept. 17

Sunday: Sir 27:30--28:7/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Rom 14:7-9/
Mt 18:21-35

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7-9/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-10, 17-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/
Mt 20:1-16a

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