



**Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 13, 2020**

Forgive your neighbor's injustice;  
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.  
— Sirach 28:2

**FORGIVENESS**

Nearly ten years before, a son and father had parted ways when the business they shared went bankrupt. The son blamed the father. They did not speak to each other again.

Then the father became seriously ill. The mother called the son and told him he had better come soon. The son walked sheepishly into the hospital room. The father motioned his son to him and whispered: "Did you ever think you could do anything that would keep me from loving you?"

Resentment and anger are foul things, the first reading from Sirach tells us. Remember the last things. Stop hating. Live by the commandments. As St. Paul writes to the Romans, we are to live for the Lord and die for the Lord.

Jesus' parable in today's Gospel reminds us of God's compassion. The immense sin of humanity has been forgiven and stricken from the record. We are to forgive others in the same way.  
--J. S. Paluch Co.

**SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (c. 344-407) September 13**

"Speaking truth to power" may have become just another cliché, but doing precisely that cost John "the Golden Mouth" (*Chrysostom*) his diocese and, after exile and a forced march, his health and life. "Renowned for eloquence, heroic in suffering" (*Sacramentary*), John's scriptural insights still comfort and challenge. Mystical theologian, he bids Eastern Christians, whose principal Divine Liturgy bears his name, to lift up their hearts to "God ineffable, beyond comprehension, invisible, beyond understanding, existing forever, always the same." Model pastor, he warns Roman Catholics in the *Liturgy of the Hours* not to neglect God-in-the-flesh: "Would you honor Christ's body? Do not scorn his nakedness, honoring him here in church with silken robes, while neglecting him cold and naked outside. What use to burden Christ's altar with golden chalices, while Christ himself starves to death? What use dressing the altar with gold-woven cloths, while denying the shivering Christ the clothes he needs? Do not adorn the church while ignoring your needy brother: he is the most precious temple of all!" (Saturday, Twenty-first Week in Ordinary Time).  
-Peter Scagnelli, ©J. S. Paluch Co.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17  
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 19:25-27  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31 -13:13; Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22; Lk 7:31-35  
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50  
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3  
Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15  
Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-18; Phil 1:20c-27a; t 20:1-16a

**Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!**

For the month of **September** offerings:

PLEASE mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. *Include your offering envelope # with your donation.*

**August:** 1<sup>st</sup> Collections: \$9326. Rural Food: \$5691.

Add'l Op. & Capital Exp: \$2756.

9/13: Operating Expenses. 9/20: Capital Expenditures.

**Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:**

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA Zoom

**Finance Council [FC]:** TBA Zoom

**Liturgy Committee:** TBA Zoom

**St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044

**St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

**Every Friday, Centering Prayer:** cancelled for now

**Coffee & Goodies:** cancelled for now

**Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:** cancelled for now

**✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule**

All Mass Intentions requested before Covid-19 mid-March closure are now being rescheduled for Sunday outdoor Masses. New requests will be appended to later in the 2021 calendar.

9/13 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Jimmy Newlands

9/13 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

9/20 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo

9/20 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Bob Tiller

**Prayer Requests: Leave a message at 707-408-2650.** Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H., Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James, Pat P., Gerry, Loren, Dennis M.

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Grandparents Day; Catechetical Sunday

Monday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

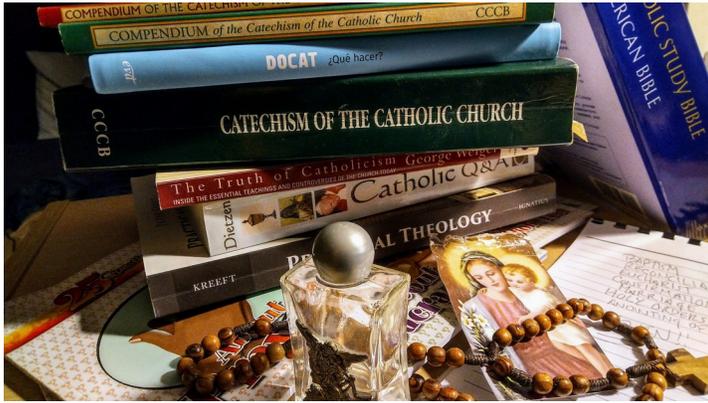
Tuesday: Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday: Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian

Thursday: St. Robert Bellarmine

Saturday: St. Januarius; Blessed Virgin Mary

**"Reflections on the Liturgy"** Each week, parishioner Patrick Griffith writes one or more reflections on Scripture, including the Liturgy for the coming Sunday. The objectives are to tie Scripture into our daily lives and address spiritual and moral issues of the world around us. The reflections can be found at <http://thesoulprosper.blogspot.com>. Selected reflections have also been recorded and posted on our website.



## Deacon-structing Catholic Basics: Catechism

by [Deacon Pedro](#) from [saltandlighttv.org](#)

Over the last month, I've been working on four episodes of our new summer series, *In All Things*. Since we wanted to do something fun and light, I decided to invite Catholic singers to join me for some Catholic trivia. As I prepared, I realized that there is so much of our Faith that we don't know (me included, as our blog editor, Kristina, can attest!) or have forgotten. With that in mind, I chose five categories: Scripture, Liturgy, Catechism, History, and Doctrine and propose that we do the following: Off the top of your head, try to see how much you know. The point is not to make you feel bad about what you don't know but to celebrate how much you do know.

I bet you know more than you think.

[Two weeks](#) ago we started with Scripture. I hope that it inspired you to pick up your Bible and memorize some Scripture passages or read up on some long-forgotten stories. [Last week](#) we looked at liturgy. Did you learn something you didn't know? I thought I knew all about the Liturgical Seasons and their colors, but Kristina pointed out some things I had missed (remember it's off the top of my head). I never learned that the Triduum is its own Liturgical Season, but it's true that it's neither Lent nor Easter, so it must be its own Season. [Note from the editor: You can look it up in the [General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar](#) (p. 7).]

(And thanks for pointing out that I missed Palm Sunday for days when the liturgical colour is red. I usually forget on Palm Sunday, and, boy, am I ever glad that I leave one of my red stoles at my parish!)

Today, let's look at our catechism. I guess everything that our Faith teaches is "catechism", but for this purpose, I would include under catechism everything that is not liturgical or scriptural, and also not doctrinal (we'll look at that in two weeks).

This week we will try to remember all those things that we learned way back in CCD or catechism class.

Let's start with some easy ones:

*Can you name the three persons of the Holy Trinity?*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*Can you name the three Archangels?*

Michael, Gabriel, Raphael

Let's go back to Confirmation Prep:

*Can you name the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit?*

(In the 7th episode of *In All Things*, the tables were turned and our guest, [PJ Anderson](#), asked me this very question. I was only able to name five. I'll remember all seven from now on.)

Wisdom, understanding, wonder and awe (fear of the Lord), counsel, knowledge, fortitude (courage), and piety (reverence) For a bonus point, do you know where in the Bible these can be found? (As a disclaimer, I don't know off the top of my head, but it's in the Book of Isaiah.) Look it up.

Part of what we do as Catholics is devotional. We love our devotions, especially the Marian ones. Perhaps the most common (and well-loved) is the Rosary. Even if you don't typically pray the Rosary, *can you name the four categories of Mysteries of the Rosary?*

Joyful Mysteries, Sorrowful Mysteries, Glorious Mysteries, Luminous Mysteries

I think most of us can, but, as a bonus, *can you name all 20 mysteries of the Rosary?*

I am going to try, off the top of my head:

*Joyful:* The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Birth of Christ, The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple and....?

*Sorrowful:* The Agony in the Garden, Jesus Carries the Cross, Jesus Dies on the Cross....? Anyone else get these confused with the Stations of the Cross? We'll look at those in a bit.

*Glorious:* The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Arrival of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption of Mary, and The Coronation of Mary (I guess those are the ones I pray the most!)

*Luminous:* The Baptism of Christ, The Wedding at Cana, The Proclamation of the Kingdom, The Institution of the Eucharist and....?

Now that I have completely humiliated myself, please help me out by telling me which ones I missed. [Note from the editor: *The Presentation in the Temple, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, and The Transfiguration.*]

Now let's look at the *Stations of the Cross*. Let's go with the traditional ones (I'll leave John Paul II's Scriptural ones for the real experts).

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus takes up his cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus
6. Veronica meets Jesus
7. Jesus falls for the second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus dies on the Cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross
14. Jesus is laid in the Tomb

I may have got some out of order, but I think I got them all!

OK. Let's move on to some that I actually do know.

A few years ago I noticed that I kept hearing people talking about the "Four Marks of the Church". I had heard that expression before but had no idea what it was.

*Do you know what the Four Marks of the Church are?* (Hint: they are not Mark the apostle, Mark the evangelist, Mark the disciple of Peter and Mark.... oh, you get my bad joke!)

We profess that we believe in the Four Marks of the Church every time we say the Nicene Creed: "I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church." That's it. The Four Marks of the Church are:

One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic

Last year we did an Advent preaching series at my parish about the Four Marks of the Church. Here's my homily for the Third Sunday in Advent: [The Church is Catholic](#).

Here's another one that most of you would know, but you probably don't know what they are called. I certainly didn't know that these three vows had a name: *The Three Evangelical Counsels*. *Do you know what they are?* Hint: They are the three vows that people entering consecrated life take:

Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience

Do you think you can name the Seven Deadly Sins? This is what I asked [Mikey Needleman](#) on Episode 11 of *In All Things*. He was able to name five (I probably wouldn't have done much better). Pride, Avarice (Greed), Envy, Wrath, Lust, Gluttony, Sloth. How about the *Works of Mercy*? There are seven *Spiritual Works of Mercy* and seven *Corporal Works of Mercy*. Do you know what they are?

I'll start with the Corporal:

Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Clothe the naked, Visit the sick, Visit those in prison, Shelter the homeless, and Bury the dead. (I almost forgot *shelter the homeless*. These are also inspired by a Scripture passage. Do you know what it is?)

I will not list the *Spiritual Works of Mercy*, because I am ashamed to say that I don't know them. Not off the top of my head. *[Maybe Kristina does? Kristina's answer: These ones are tougher...Instruct the ignorant, Counsel the doubtful, Admonish the sinner, Comfort the afflicted...that's all I've got! Not fair. I'm only supposed to correct you. :)]* But I promise that now I am going to look them up and memorize them.

Let's do one last one. This can be a BONUS. I won't give you the answer because I don't want to humiliate myself again.

We all know the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and we know that they are found (at least six of them) in the Book of Isaiah.

Can you name the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit?

For a *bonus* bonus, do you know where in Scripture they are found?

Phew! This was tough! Can you think of more catechism questions? Send them to me. Follow me on [Instagram @deaconpedro](#). I am posting one question every other day to see if we can continue the fun. You can also post questions for me. We may think that there isn't much point to knowing or memorizing these items from our catechism. Even though I would say they are basic, it's true. Memorizing the Spiritual Works of Mercy will not get you to Heaven. But doing them might. All these catechetical things are not just made up. The Church has developed them as part of that *Magisterium*, the body of teaching of the Church, based on Scripture and Tradition and based on our understanding of what has been revealed to the Church. They are tools that the Church has developed in order to help us get closer to Christ and ultimately get to Heaven. We don't have to memorize the [Baltimore Catechism](#), but we should know the basics.

[Come back next week](#) and let's look at History. How much do you know about the history of the Church: the saints, Church Fathers, the Inquisition, persecutions? The popes? Let's find out next week. In the meantime, [write to me](#) and tell me what you learned this week.



Every week, Deacon Pedro takes a particular topic apart, not so much to explore or explain the subject to its fullness, but rather to provide insights that will deepen our understanding of the subject. And don't worry, at the end of the day he always puts

the pieces back together. There are no limits to deconstructing: Write to him and ask any questions about the faith or Church teaching: [pedro@saltandlighttv.org](mailto:pedro@saltandlighttv.org). Follow him on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)



## Notes from the Office ...

1. Ella says: Due to the Corona virus restrictions we have no idea when we will be able to resume our CCD program. Some parishes, including St. Sebastian's in Sebastopol, are offering online programs. We don't. Families who don't want to wait until we are allowed to have in-person classes again, should enroll their kids in one of those programs. To learn more about St. Sebastian's program, read their online bulletin before 9/16: <http://stseb.org>
2. Fr. Bala says: Our parish is in need of a new Volunteer to be in-charge of the Department of Safe Environment for children and teenagers. Interested persons please come forward and contact Fr. Bala for further information, either in person or through his email: [govindu77@gmail.com](mailto:govindu77@gmail.com).
3. Fran says: If you have not been receiving the digital bulletin, please give the office your email address by sending an email to [philip.teresa@yahoo.com](mailto:philip.teresa@yahoo.com). (Due to Covid concerns, paper bulletins are not being passed out at this time.)
4. Please keep sick friends and families in your prayers. Let the office know of any names to add to the prayer list by leaving a message at 707-408-2650.

## CATHOLIC THEOLOGY NETWORK THE 7 BLOCKAGES TO ACCEPTING THE GOSPEL



### RELATIVISM

There is no such thing as right and wrong. It is simply a matter of personal opinion/taste. Hence Christianity, while it may be true for you, should not be "imposed" on others. Just like you don't "impose" your ice cream preference on others.

### MATERIALISM

That money, power, fame etc are all that matters to make a person happy. Hence, Christianity's talk about the dangers of money and pride would seem like a "loser" way of living.



### INDIVIDUALISM

That my happiness is the most important, with no reference to the community. Thus Christianity's call to love your neighbour as yourself can at best be done as calculated self-interest.

### SCIENTISM

That the only way to obtain truth is the scientific method. Hence Christianity's talk about the supernatural/faith etc. is dismissed as illusion.



### SECULARISM

That "religious talk" often leads to violence and intolerance and a non-religious "secular" sphere is ideal. Thus Christianity should be privatised and ought not to influence our day to day "secular" decision making.

### CONSEQUENTIALISM

That there is no difference between means and end, just calculating the end result will do. Hence Christianity's insistence that there are certain actions that are always wrong regardless of the consequences e.g. aborting an innocent baby, is seen as impractical.



### DUALISM

That I can split myself into the "mind" and the "body" with the mind doing whatever I desire with no need to take reference for the body. Thus any sexual ethic which goes beyond consent and safety is suspect.

"DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND." - ROMANS 12:2