

Limitless Forgiveness

What makes seven such an important number? It's the symbolism. It signifies wholeness, completeness, and totality. So, seventy-seven (or seventy times seven in some Bible translations) suggests infinity. Peter was exaggerating when he suggested that he might forgive his brother seven times. He presumed that if he acted in this way, his behavior would demonstrate the immeasurable extent of his personal graciousness. Jesus' response implied that there should be no end to our forgiving another. To underscore the significance of this magnanimity, Jesus offered God (in the guise of the king who forgave a huge debt) as the exemplar of forgiving.

Forgiving another's offense against us could well be one of the most difficult things we are asked to do. To ask for forgiveness does not seem as difficult. After all, when we bump into a perfect stranger in an elevator, we say, "Forgive me." But to forgive someone who has

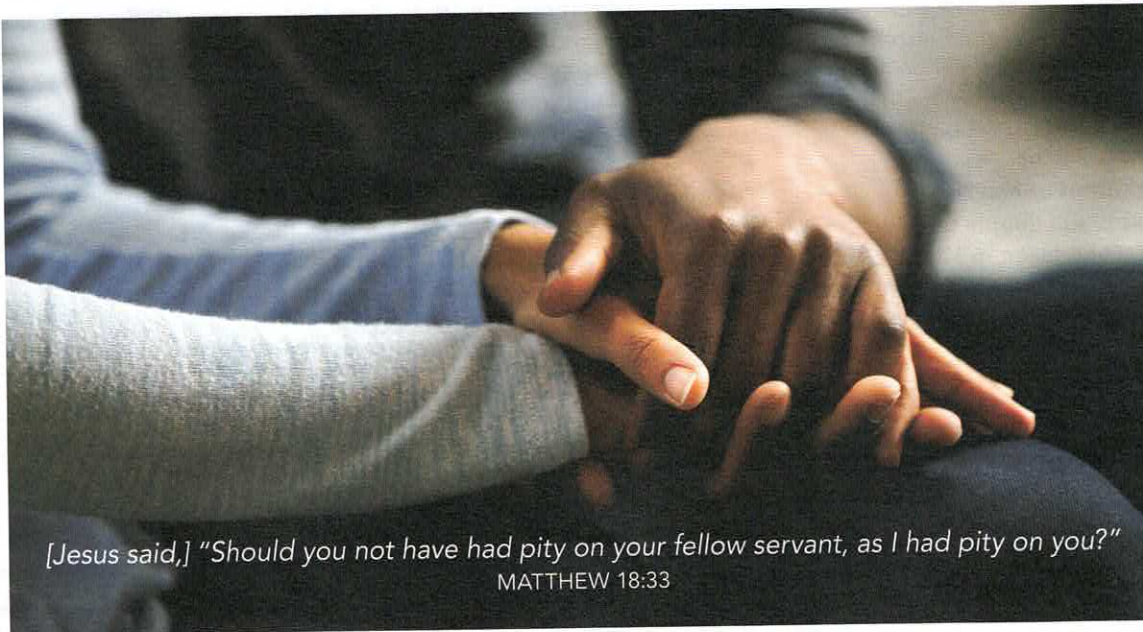
deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

We all carry debts to others. Both the first reading and the Gospel passage remind us that the debts owed to us by others in no way compare with the debt we owe God, and yet God shows us compassion and forgives us. If we are grateful children of a compassionate God, we will want to be like God and we will forgive others.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Say the Lord's Prayer slowly, reflecting on "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."
- ★ Do you carry resentment in your heart? Does clinging to it lessen its burden in any way?



[Jesus said,] "Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"

MATTHEW 18:33



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

115 N. First Street, Clayton, NM 88415

Office and Fax: (575) 374-8894 Email: sfxclayton@gmail.com

Rectory: (575) 374-8900 (After 9:00 PM-Emergency Only)

Missions: Des Moines, Folsom, Moses, NENM Detention Facility

www.sfxclayton.org

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jason Pettigrew
Deacon: Dcn Louis Montoya (Retired)
Business Manager/Finance: Theresa Gard
Secretary: Lucine Montoya
Religious Education: Rose Ramirez
Adult Religious Education: Rev. Jason Pettigrew

Parish Office Hours (CCD Building)

W, TH, F 1:00pm -5:00pm
Closed on M, TU and Church & Civil Holidays

Sacrament of Baptism

(Classes and Parents Interview)
Contact Pastor

Sacrament of Marriage

(Classes and Couple Interview)
Contact Fr. Jason -6 Months Prior

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

By appointment with the Pastor

SEPTEMBER 13TH

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

Weekend Mass: Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 10:30am

Daily Mass: (Wed-Spanish)-Fri at 12:10pm

Thurs at 5:30pm

Adoration /Confession: Tue 5:30-7:30pm Thurs 6:00-7:00pm

Honor of Our Blessed Mother Mass: 1ST Sat 10:30am

Confession: Saturday 4:00-5:00pm OR By Appointment

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00am (Oct 1 - May 31)

Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt

St. Joseph, Folsom

Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00 am (Jun 1 - Sept 30)

Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt

NENM Detention Facility, Clayton (For Residents/Staff)

1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday's Mass 2:00PM

Confession: Sunday 1:30pm—2:00


Nursing Home, Clayton

Every 4th Sunday 1:30 PM

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*This is my body, which will be given up for you.  
This is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.  
It will be shed for you & for all... so that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in memory of me.*

*Masses will be offered September 2020  
+ All the Departed Parishioner's & Family Members  
SI All the Sponsors, Benefactors & Supporters of SFX Clayton  
SI Good Health & Well Being of all Parishioners & Families*

|                       |                                                                             |                                                                            |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat, Sept. 12</b>  | +John Luther<br>+Jim Miller<br>+Eloy Gonzales                               | by Chip & Sammie Wood<br>by Chip & Sammie Wood<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter |
| <b>Sun, Sept. 13</b>  | +Jim Miller<br>+Angela Trujillo<br>OLOG +Augustine & Filia Fernandez        | by Chip & Sammie Wood<br>by Cindy Montoya<br>by Carlos & Bernie Fernandez  |
| <b>Wed, Sept. 16</b>  | +Patricia Osborne<br>+Jose Leon Turrietta<br>+Maria Miranda Turrietta       | by Laura Gonzalez<br>by Laura Gonzalez<br>by Laura Gonzalez                |
| <b>Thur, Sept. 17</b> | +Hipolito & Baudilia Miranda<br>+David Turrietta<br>+Edna Turrietta Osborne | by Laura Gonzalez<br>by Laura Gonzalez<br>by Laura Gonzalez                |
| <b>Fri, Sept. 18</b>  | +David Matias Turrietta                                                     | by Laura Gonzalez                                                          |
| <b>Sat, Sept. 19</b>  | +Patricia Osborne<br>+Joe Simoes<br>+Charlie Alsop                          | by Laura Gonzalez<br>by Belen Simoes<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter           |

#### Weekly Collections Summary: August/September 2020

|                 | <u>SFX</u>  | <u>OLOG</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| September 05-06 | \$ 1,630.05 | \$ 433.00   |
| August 29-30    | \$ 2,253.00 | \$ 373.00   |
| August 22-23    | \$ 1,245.50 | \$ 278.00   |
| August 15-16    | \$ 1,743.00 | \$ 385.00   |

Thank you so much for your generosity!

*Please visit the following very informative websites:*

[www.archdiocesesantafe.org](http://www.archdiocesesantafe.org)  
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[w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)  
[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

### Seminarian Support collection

September 13, 2020

Archdiocesan campaign for the support of  
local seminarian in their studies and formation

#### Announcement

**PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER DONATING  
YOUR TIME:  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR!**

**CCD Teachers    Confirmation Teachers  
Lectors                    Church Cleaners**

#### Lectors and Sanitizing after Masses

**Sat, Sept. 12** 5:00pm - Sammie Wood—Lector  
- Rose Alford—Sanitizing  
**Sun, Sept. 13** 10:30am - Andrea Naranjo—Lector  
- Sophie Arguello--Sanitizing  
**Sat, Sept. 19** 5:00pm - Shelley Carter—Lector  
- April Geary—Sanitizing  
**Sun, Sept. 20** 10:30am - Effie Walker—Lector  
- Donna Kimble--Sanitizing

#### ACA Pledge Goal Report

**St. Francis Xavier-Clayton**  
**% of Participation - 11.82**  
**Number of Families - 313**  
**Parish Goal - \$13,500.00**  
**% Goal Pledged - 71.81%**  
**% Goal Paid - 71.29%**  
**Total Pledge-\$9,694.00 Total Paid-\$9,659.00**  
**Short-\$3,841.00**

All Ministry schedules are updated  
monthly and posted on the church website.  
If you need to know when you serve,  
check [www.sfxclayton.org](http://www.sfxclayton.org)!!

# Dear Padre,

## We knew a beloved priest whose death was self-inflicted. What is the Church's stance on suicide?

**I** offer my heartfelt sympathy to you and the faith community for this tragic loss. "We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2280). Those who take their own life to end personal suffering assume a decision-making that belongs to God alone. However, the Church also acknowledges that "grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide" (CCC 2282).

At the same time, the Church relies on the compassion of God, who fully knows the intensity of suffering that triggers suicide. Therefore, the Church pastorally states: "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (CCC 2283).

How, then, does the Church specifically pray for those who've committed suicide? Generally they're not deprived of full burial rites in the Church, which consoles the living and commends all of the dead "to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins" (*Order of Christian Funerals*, 6). Nor are they deprived of burial in a Catholic cemetery—a sacred place that helps bring peace to those confronted by the sudden death of a suicide.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



HILARY SUSAN OSBANY / PEBBLES

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*The increase in the rates of suicide in your cities, as well as bullying and various kinds of neediness, are creating new forms of alienation....I ask you to pay special attention to [the young] and their needs. Try to create spaces...of generous and selfless love...to everyone, and not only to those who have "made it."*

—MEETING WITH BISHOPS, TOKYO, NOVEMBER 23, 2019



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## Calendar

### Monday

SEPTEMBER 14  
*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
Nm 21:4b–9  
Phil 2:6–11  
Jn 3:13–17

### Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 15  
*Our Lady of Sorrows*  
1 Cor 12:12–14, 27–31a  
Jn 19:25–27 or  
Lk 2:33–35

### Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 16  
*Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, and Martyrs*  
1 Cor 12:31–13:13  
Lk 7:31–35

### Thursday

SEPTEMBER 17  
*Weekday*  
1 Cor 15:1–11  
Lk 7:36–50

### Friday

SEPTEMBER 18  
*Weekday*  
1 Cor 15:12–20  
Lk 8:1–3

### Saturday

SEPTEMBER 19  
*Weekday*  
1 Cor 15:35–37, 42–49  
Lk 8:4–15

### Sunday

SEPTEMBER 20  
*Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Is 55:6–9  
Phil 1:20c–24, 27a  
Mt 20:1–16a

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