

READERS

Fr. Richard is inviting all Readers and those persons interested in becoming Readers to a meeting on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 10:30am in the church. Please make an effort to attend this important meeting.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Will be hosting a "September to Remember" annual fundraiser on Sunday, September 24, 2023 from 11:30am to 3:00pm in the hall. Tickets cost \$3000.00

ORGAN RECITAL

All are invited to an Organ Recital with the very esteemed Organist, Mr. Chase Loomer on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 4:00pm at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity. Tickets cost \$5000.00.

WOMEN'S CURSILLO

The first Women's Cursillo will take place from Thursday, October 12 to Sunday, October 15, 2023 at the Stella Maris House of Prayer. Please contact Nicole Jacobs for further details at [876-390-6115](tel:876-390-6115) or via email: nickybryan@gmail.com.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

All Catechists involved in the RCIA and Children's Sunday School ministries will be commissioned at the 6:00pm Mass on Saturday, September 16th and the 7:00am and 9:00am Mass on Sunday September 17th. Please make an effort to be present.

RCIA

Classes resume on Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 4:00pm in Room 2 at the Pastoral Centre. Adults interested in becoming Roman Catholic or have not yet received the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation are invited to attend.

E.M.H.C.

Fr. Richard will commission and recommission all new and existing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at the 6:00pm Mass on Saturday, September 23rd and the 7:00am and 9:00am Mass on Sunday, September 24th. Persons who attended the recently held workshop will receive their certificates. Please make every effort to be in attendance.

ARCHBISHOP'S DEVELOPMENT FUND

This is a reminder that the Archbishop's Development Fund Campaign was launched on Pentecost Sunday. This year the target for Stella Maris is \$3,500,000.00. The end date for this year's collection will be on November 26, 2023 the Feast of Christ the King. Please give what you can to assist us in meeting our target.

Stella Maris Church Community

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Website: www.stellamarischurch.com



Pastor: Rev. Fr. Richard Brown
Associate Pastor: Fr. Patrick Kihugi

Church Council Chair : Winston Ormsby
Finance Chairperson : Neville LynFatt

MASS TIMES: Sunday 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
Monday – Saturday 6:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION: Appointment/Announced

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Year A - September 17, 2023

Today's Readings

1st Reading: Sir. 27: 30--28: 7
2nd Reading: Rom. 14: 7-9
Gospel Reading: Mt. 18: 21-35



Response: The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy



Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

Sunday Connection – Loyola Press

Happy Birthday

17th September
Savannah Chung ♦ Neil Grant ♦ Andrea Hitchener ♦
Ariane Howell ♦ Theodore Thomas ♦

18th September
Laverne Belnavis ♦ Tania Brown ♦ Michele Johnson
Mary Olga Lee ♦ Paul Pasmore ♦ Andrene Wilson ♦

19th September
Angel Beswick ♦ Nia Collings ♦ Wendy Fox ♦
Claude Hughes ♦ Tiffany McDaniel ♦

20th September
Chad Ziadie ♦ Coleen Chong ♦ Michael Jones ♦
Jessica Harding ♦ Michelle Williams ♦
Susanna Kim ♦

21st September
Darren Chin ♦ Tyrrel Reid ♦

22nd September
Winston Atkinson ♦ Stephanie Richards ♦
Joy Miles ♦ Kyle Millwood ♦ Leya Belnavis ♦
Rosemarie Thomas ♦ June Wright ♦ Natalie Bravo ♦

23rd September
Christopher Crichton ♦ Conselyn Porter ♦
Stephen Summers ♦

Happy Anniversary

18th September ❖ Steve & Vanderlyn Hanna
19th September ❖ Justice Lloyd & Carol Hibbert
20th September ❖ Peter & Diane Tapper
23rd September ❖ John & Shela Waite

"He who knows how to forgive prepares for himself many graces from God. As often as I look upon the cross, so often will I forgive with all my heart."

St Faustina

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