



CONSOLATA SHRINE TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



17th SEPTEMBER 2017 - YEAR A

FIRST READING

Sirach 27:30-28:7

“Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done and then your sins will be forgiven when you pray.”

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Anger and wrath, these also are abominations and the sinful man will possess them. He that takes vengeance will suffer vengeance from the Lord, and he will firmly establish his sins. Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sin will be pardoned when you pray. Does a man harbour anger against another, and yet seek for healing from the Lord? Does he have no mercy toward a man like himself, and yet pray for his own sins? If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath, will he then seek forgiveness from God? Who will make expiation for his sins? Remember the end of your life, and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death, and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook ignorance.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103:1-4, 912 (R.8)

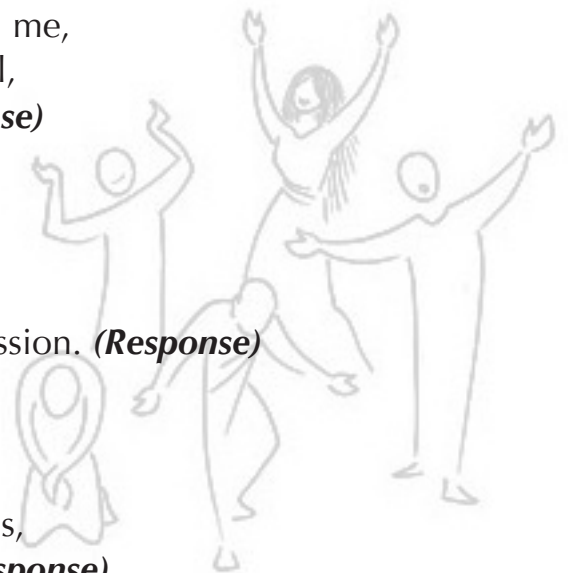
**Response. The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me,
his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits. **(Response)**

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion. **(Response)**

He will not always find fault;
nor persist in his anger for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults. **(Response)**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions. **(Response)**



SECOND READING

Romans 14: 7-9

“Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. for to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord



Alleluia

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, even as I have loved you.

Alleluia

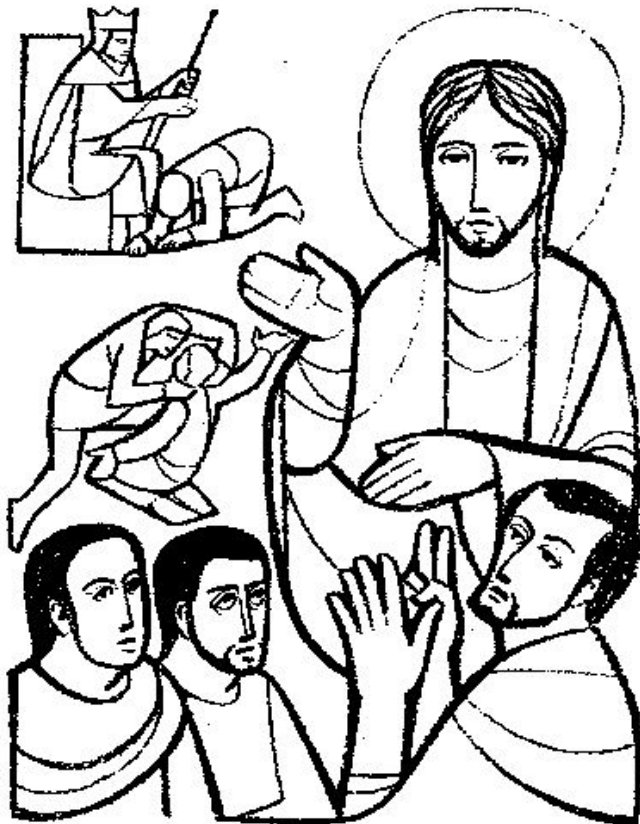


GOSPEL

Matthew 18: 21-35

"I do not say to you that you forgive seven times but seventy times seven."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made, so the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. "But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' "so his

fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. "when his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'you wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' and in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

THE DEBT WE OWE: by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life. Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, refuse mercy to those who have

done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel, with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their Master. It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, "seven" is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a seven-fold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins. But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means every time. We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful. But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us? Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the cross. As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us. This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ. So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

SASA WAKATI UMEFIKA

Sasa wakati umefika, wakushika nilicho nacho (mimi) kwa wema niende kwa Mungu nitoe zawadi.

Sasa wakati umefika, kwenda mbele ya Mungu wangu

(mimi) aone nilivyo andaa zawadi ya leo.

Nitamwambia Bwana pokea (hiki) kidogo nilicho nacho

Kwani Mungu wewe wanijua (mimi) siwezi hata kueleza

Nakusihi sana Baba unipokee,

Nigawie na Baraka niwe salama

1. Mema yote niliyokuwa nayo yametoka kwa Mungu,
Hivyo nami ni kosa kusahau kumshukuru.
Kwani kuwepo hapa leo hii ni kazi ya nani?
Kamwe mimi sitapata uwezo pasipo Mungu.

2. Mema aliyotenda Mungu nijibu lini na vipi?

mbona hofu yazidi kuwa ndani ya moyo wangu.

Mbele ya Bwana Mungu wangu kufanya siri ni bure,

yeye ndiye mpanga mambo yote ya wanadamu.

3. Pumzi inayonipa uhai inatoka wapi?
bila Mungu hakika mwanadamu siwezi kitu.
Nimepata zawadi leo ya kwenda kutoa Sadaka,
heri niende ya kesho siyo yangu ajua Baba.
4. Ewe muumba wa vyote duniani na vyote vya mbinguni,
mimi leo nakuja kwako Baba nihurumie.
Wewe ndiwe unayetawala kulala na kuamka kwangu,
juu yangu utake nini Baba kisifanyike.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Senior Youth Group will head to Adu, Malindi, for missionary work on the 29th September and travel back on 3rd October. In order to finance the missionary activities, the youth request for your foodstuff donations or monetary contributions. You may visit the desk outside the Gazebo for more information.
2. Next Saturday 23rd, there is on-going formation for children who have received 1st Holy Communion and not yet confirmation. It will be from 10 am to 1 pm.

3. Next Sunday 24th, there is children Mass at 9 am. Therefore, there will not be Sunday School Service. All children are invited and encouraged to attend.
4. **COUPLES** planning to get married are asked to register at the catechist's office for premarital counselling sessions. Session will start on 23rd of September.
5. The Parishes of Nairobi have organized a **MASS WEDDING** on 25th November 2017 at Holy Family Basilica to facilitate the reception of the graces of the sacrament of marriage. Come forward to regularize your situation of marriage in a meaningful way. Approach the catechist's office for more information.
6. The Charity committee has organized the **UPENDO DAY** for 30th September 2017. It is an opportunity to raise funds to assist the needy in the parish, especially those who need to go to school. It is also an opportunity to have fun together for a full day. There will be a walk, mass, and fun, a lot of fun, here in the compound of the Church. We invite you to get already now a T-shirt at Kshs. 1,000/- which has the purpose of raising funds towards this cause. Get it for yourself, for your family, for your friends! All from 7am up to 5pm. Please put it in your diary!
7. The meeting of the respective groups of **PROFESSIONALS** are meeting today as follows: **Bankers at 10.30am, Contractors at 12pm, Hospitality at 12pm, Lawyers at 1.30pm, Teachers & Lecturers at 1.30pm.** If you have not yet registered, you can participate and register during the meeting. For the venues look at the posters outside the Church.
8. The Construction of the **ALLAMANO CENTRE** to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking is on-going. We kindly request you to stop by the tables at the entrances of the church and get detailed information about the project. We also invite you to give your contribution or make a pledge towards the project. We thank all those who donated towards the project by participating in the Raffle. May God bless you all! The pay bill number 804877 and USSD *369*2# remains open for donations.
9. Consolata Youth Rehabilitation Programme (COYREP) is appealing for donations of the items below to be used at the Deepsea Nursery school. For more information, kindly visit the parish office or social work office. Used items are also welcome.


ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT COST (KES)	TOTAL COST (KES)
Swing	1	35,000/=	35,000/=
See Saw	1	25,000/=	25,000/=
Merry-go-round	1	25,000/=	25,000/=
Slides	2	25,000/=	50,000/=
Aluminium Plates	150	50/=	7,500/=
Plastic Cups	150	30/=	4,500/=
Spoons	150	15/=	2,250/=
Toys	Assorted	-	-
Children's Plastic Chairs	150	600/=	90,000/=
Desktop Computer	1	80,000/=	80,000/=

WEEKLY MEETING

- Pastoral Council meeting next Sunday at 10.30am

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Parish Priest's E-Mail: parishpriest@consolatashrine.org  @ConsoShrine

 Consolata Shrine, Westlands, Nairobi

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