

FROM FR. DEO

September 13, 2026



How often must I forgive?

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God is good, all the time...All the time, God is good!

This 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time invites us to reflect on one of the most difficult aspects of Christian life: forgiveness. Our culture often equates strength with toughness and the capacity for revenge, while labeling forgiveness as weakness. For some people, forgiveness seems out of reach, even impossible. When someone hurts us, our natural reaction may be: "I will never forget what you did; I can't forgive you; I don't want to be hurt again, or I just want peace." Yet Jesus invites us to choose a different path—the path of mercy and forgiveness.

Why do we need forgiveness? Forgiveness is essential in our personal lives, families, and communities. Without it, anger and resentment can trap us in the past and distort our relationships. Sirach reminds us: "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight." And the prophet asks, "Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?" Forgiveness consists in letting go of resentment and refusing to let anger control our hearts. It does not mean forgetting or accepting abuse. It means choosing healing over resentment, and peace over revenge.

In Matthew 18:21–35, Peter asks Jesus, "How often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answers, "Not seven times but seventy-seven times." Jesus is not asking us to count; He is teaching us that forgiveness should have no limits. Through the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus reminds us of a simple truth: we are people who have received God's forgiveness, and therefore we are called to extend that same forgiveness to others.

Forgiveness is a process that may take time, prayer, and courage. Yet every step toward forgiveness brings greater freedom and peace. As St. Paul reminds us, "None of us lives for oneself." Our lives are connected and our forgiving can create space for healing of wounded relationships, building bridges through reconciliation, and bringing peace to our sisters and brothers.

This week, let us ask ourselves: Is there someone I need to forgive, or someone from whom I need to ask forgiveness? How many times must I ask for or offer forgiveness? All the time! We should never grow tired of asking for or offering forgiveness to our brothers and sisters, because God never tires of forgiving us. May He give us the grace to forgive others as we have been forgiven in Christ.

Parish News: We are happy to announce that Children's Liturgy of the Word returns this weekend! We invite our children to join us for a special opportunity to hear and reflect on God's Word in a way that is meaningful and engaging for them. Also, mark your calendars for our Family Mass on Sunday, September 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Next Saturday is our 6th Annual Parish Social! We will begin with Mass at 4:00 p.m., followed by an evening of food, drinks, music, and fellowship. Please join us and invite your family and friends. Your presence matters because you belong here!

I invite you to consider participating in the Rescue Project program, an opportunity to deepen our faith, encounter Jesus, and grow together as a community. Come with an open heart, invite a friend, and discover the joy of the Gospel. It starts tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

St Elizabeth of the Trinity, Pray for Us!

See you in church!

In Christ,
Fr Deo

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