

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Readings: 1) Sirach 27:30–28:7 2) Romans 14:7-9 3) Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday Liturgy

The focus for today’s Mass is: Forgiveness is a choice that leads to life.

Life always offers us choices – will we hold onto anger or choose to forgive? Will we live with a spirit of compassion or withhold mercy? Will we hold onto hurts and grievances or extend a hand in peace? Living out the commands of God is no easy task, but if we show mercy and forgiveness to others, we are assured of the same from our heavenly Father.

Sirach tells the people, *Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.* Thus, they are to forgive their neighbor as they wish to be forgiven by the Lord. Paul tells the Romans, *None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord.* In the Gospel, Jesus answers Peter’s question of how often he must forgive by telling him the parable of the unforgiving servant.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

PRIEST:

Let us approach the Father with our prayers, confident of his infinite love for us.

**For the Church,
may the Lord bless her and keep her safe from all evil.
We Pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

**For harmony and justice in our nation and across the world.
We Pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

**For all who are sick in mind, body and spirit,
may the Lord be their strength.
We Pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

**For the faithful departed, may they rest in peace.
We Pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

**For the members of this community,
may the Lord fill us with love and truth and guide us in the ways of wisdom.
We Pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

**For our own personal intentions... (long pause).
We Pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**

PRIEST:

Heavenly Father, we entrust our prayers to you, through your Son, Christ our Lord.