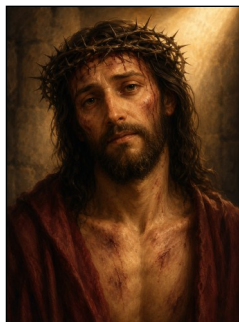


Jesus, Bruised for Our Iniquities

By Deacon Wigton



“Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.” These opening words from Sirach introduce the central message of the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: God calls us to forgive because we ourselves have been forgiven.

All of us have been hurt. Sometimes the injury was accidental—a careless word, a misunderstanding, or a thoughtless action.

At other times, however, the harm was deliberate. Someone knew that the words or actions would hurt us and chose them precisely for that reason. Such wounds can remain painful for many years.

We have all heard the childhood saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names can never hurt me.” It may have been intended to make children more resilient, but it simply is not true. Names can hurt. A broken bone usually heals, but a cruel word may continue echoing in a person’s heart for a lifetime.

Calling someone stupid, ugly, worthless, unwanted, or a failure can be devastating. A child who repeatedly hears such words may grow into an adult who still believes them. Gossip can destroy a reputation. Betrayal can damage the ability to trust. Rejection by someone we love can leave a wound that no one else can see. Words do not merely describe things; they can encourage or discourage, heal or injure, bless or curse.

How, then, can Jesus command us to forgive such injuries?

Peter asks Jesus, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Peter probably thought that seven times was extraordinarily generous. Jesus answers, “Not seven times but seventy-seven times.” Jesus is not replacing seven with another number to be carefully counted. He is telling Peter that forgiveness cannot be reduced to bookkeeping.

This does not mean that forgiveness is easy, nor does it mean that the injury was insignificant. Forgiveness is not pretending that nothing happened, excusing abuse, or abandoning the boundaries needed for safety. A person may forgive and still seek protection, report wrongdoing, or maintain distance from someone who remains harmful. Forgiveness also does not instantly restore trust. Trust must be rebuilt through honesty, accountability, and consistent change. Reconciliation is a further step: it requires repentance, safety, and the willing participation of both people. Forgiveness, however, can begin within the wounded person even when the offender remains unrepentant.

Forgiveness is not primarily a feeling. It is an act of the will.

If we wait until we feel like forgiving, we may wait forever. Our emotions do not always obey our decisions immediately. We may

sincerely choose to forgive and still experience sadness, anger, or painful memories. That does not mean our forgiveness is false. It means that the heart sometimes needs time to catch up with the will.

To forgive is to say, perhaps repeatedly: “Lord, I surrender this person and this injury to You. I will not seek revenge. I do not want hatred to control my heart. You are the judge; I place justice in Your hands.” The painful feelings may eventually diminish, but those feelings cannot always be the motive for beginning. We forgive first because Christ asks it of us and because we trust Him.

Jesus illustrates this through the parable of the unforgiving servant. A king forgives his servant an enormous debt—one the servant could never repay. Yet that same servant refuses mercy to another man who owes him a comparatively small amount. He accepts mercy for himself but will not extend it to someone else.

The enormous debt represents what God has forgiven in us. Every one of us stands before God in need of mercy. We cannot earn salvation or repay God for the gift of Christ’s sacrifice. Nevertheless, God releases us from our debt and welcomes us home. Once we understand the magnitude of that mercy, we can no longer cling comfortably to resentment against our neighbor.

This is why Sirach asks, “Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?” Resentment may initially seem like protection, but eventually it becomes a prison. We think that by holding onto anger we are punishing the offender, when often we are continuing to punish ourselves. The person who injured us may be peacefully enjoying life while we repeatedly reopen the wound.

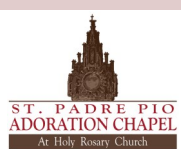
Saint Paul provides the foundation for letting go: “None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.” We belong to Christ. Therefore, even our wounds belong to Him. We do not have to carry them alone. We can bring them to Jesus, who was mocked, falsely accused, beaten, and crucified, yet prayed, “Father, forgive them.”

As we come before Jesus in the Chapel, we can present our bruised and bleeding hearts and can ask Him to “Make our hearts like unto thine”.

We may need to make that prayer many times. When the memory returns, we may have to forgive again—not because our first decision was insincere, but because healing often occurs gradually. Each time, we loosen our grip on the injury and place it once more into the hands of Christ.

Forgiveness does not change the past, but through God’s grace it can change the power that the past holds over us. It frees us to stop being defined by what someone else has done. Most importantly, it makes our hearts more like the merciful heart of Jesus.

The feeling of forgiveness may come later. The decision can begin today.



St. Padre Pio Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Located in the Old Convent Building at HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

6982 S. Schomberg Road * Cedar, MI 49621 * 231-228-5429 * mail@holyroarycedar.org

For more information about Adoration: <https://www.holyrosarycedar.org/st-pio-adoration-chapel>

Submissions for the Chapel Insert, contact: Carol Tondreau, 231-590-5598

*Faithfully
Praying since
June, 2012*

HOLY ROSARY PRAYER CORNER

Prayer feeds our lives. Prayer is a gift. It is a gift because Christian Prayer is based on knowing the Lord Jesus, and having the Holy Spirit stir and move through us in prayer. Please keep these intentions in your prayers.

Pray for those that are not able to attend Mass with us

Jill Anderson - Home * Ted Bodus - Woodside Assisted Living
John King - Home * Loraine Kulanda - Home
Kelly Priest - Lansing Area Asst. Living * Ruthie Popa - Orchard Creek.
Eunice Novak - French Manor * Joyce Novak - Maple Valley

Please call the office to correct & update this list.

Prayer for The Vocations in Our Diocese

Seminarians:

Rev. Mr. Christopher
'Jake' Belanger

John Mawby

Mark Steck

Cameron Tarsa

David Witkowski

Joseph Witkowski

Religious Life:

Sister Philomena Marie of Christ
Crucified (Gianna Belanger)

Margaret Foster
Christopher Witkowski



O Lord Jesus Christ, lead our Seminarians & Diaconates in Your unerring footsteps; so that they may serve as models of purity, possessors of wisdom and heroes of sacrifice. Teach them generosity and service; but above all, teach them to know You and to love You. ~ Amen



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT & THEIR FAMILIES

- Ken Artz — US Air Force
- Isaiah Belanger — US Navy
- Charles Berninger — US Coast Guard
- Nicholas Bryan — US Army
- John Bunek — US Navy
- Curtis Bunek — US Navy
- Keith Castle — US Marines
- Matthew Culver — US Navy
- Timothy Fisher — US Army
- Peter Freundl — US Coast Guard
- Daniel Guilday — US Navy
- Joshua Harris — US Coast Guard
- Bridget Kohler — National Guard
- Jesse Kohler — MT National Guard
- Jacob Kunde — US Air Force
- Austin McQueer — US Marines
- Collin Platts — US Army Nurse Corp
- Ryan Tondreau — US Army
- Andrew Turner — US Coast Guard
- Leif Vanderwerf — US Marines
- Capt. Daniel Weber, DO — US Army
- Sam Wigton — Law Enforcement
- Tim Wigton — MI National Guard
- Andrew Zeits — US Army

Most of us will never know the sacrifices that our military servicemen and women make to serve and protect us all. But what is often overlooked is the tremendous sacrifice made by their families. Starting with the spouses, the sons & daughters - and all the way down to the parents & extended family of those that serve as well.

Please keep them all in your prayers.

*Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb*

Luke 1:42



*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Recent Prayer Intentions

Hailie T. - Several Complicated Health Issues and High Risk Pregnancy

Bernadette Denoyer - Surgery Recovery

Conor Rigan - (from Ongoing Prayers below) - Recent brain scan shows new cancer growth - Conor has had 7 brain surgeries since birth!

Lord, please guide the doctors in their quest to save little Conor!

Pray For the Recently Deceased & Their Families

Joseph Miller * Mary Ann Harris
Gerald Schichtel * Bob Erickson * Bill Carlson
Craig McMillan * Griffin Arends * Clint Craker
William "Mr. Bill" Lyon * Fred Bruckner

~ ~ ~ CONTINUED PRAYERS NEEDED FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS ~ ~ ~

Jim Mattis - double amputee — Extreme health & life challenges

Larry Skendzel - Fall Injuries Recovery * Ryan - Kidney Transplant Healing

Pete Connor - Accident Recovery & Rehab. * Dave Popa - Surgery Recovery

Helmut Goral - Accident Recovery & Rehab. * Don Pahl & Family - Family Health

Semple Family - Home Fire Loss * Maxine Schoiperay - Aging Issues *

Dcn. Rene Hoenshied & wife, Jackie - Several Health Issues

Therese Rosinski - Acute Myeloid Leukemia in addition to her other cancer

Christian - Continued Recovery * Sabastian - Serious Injuries Recovery

Rosemary Hejka - Specialized Care * Eunice Novak * Kathy Darga

M & R - Serious Family Issues * Donakowski Family - Judith & Monica Health Issues

Cancer Patients:

Bishop Jeffrey Walsh * Ben * Kristen Bauer * Claire - Breast Cancer

Brecklyn Couturier - age 5 - Leukemia * Karol Czyka * Ted Fleis - Pancreatic

Kelly Winowiecki Florip * Peter Freundl * Martin Gallagher

Stephanie Hughes * Joe Garvin * Jaclyn Herman - BC * Kip Hewitt

Steve Johnson * Tim Keilty * Marilyn Lane * Margaret Ockert Lewis

Cynthia Leiby * Christopher McGlynn

Heidi Sedlacek Musser * Stephanie Klumpp Maeder * Jan Novak *

Dick Olds * Steve Packer * Francis Rosinski * Therese Rosinski

Tom Savage * Gordon Solomon * Craig Stallman * Herbie S.

Tina VanderWulp * Cindy Williams * Nikki Williams - BC * Christi *

Danielle - BC * Dan S. * Jan * Julia * Gabby - Melanoma * Kelly

Kathleen * Lori * Marissa * Patricia - Lung * Randy * Steve

* Ongoing Prayer Intentions *

* Chris Berkey - ALS *

* Mike Buell (GTACS) - Ongoing Health Challenges *

* Brittany C. - Brain Aneurysm Complications / Stroke Recovery *

* Delores (Ditto) Couturier - Stroke Recovery *

* Henry Gauthier - age 4 - Continued Progress in Development *

* Lucas P. - teen - serious food allergies and EOE *

* Conor Rigan - age 7 - Recent brain scan shows new cancer growth *

* Hailie Tondreau - EDS, POTS, Autonomic Dysfunction - High Risk Pregnancy *

* Randy W. (Buckley) - Parkinson's *

* Rich Zywicki - Continued Healing - Serious Head Injuries *

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Call Rita Wilson 231-499-3214 * Judy LaCross 231-883-1212