

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO  
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER  
ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR 902-366-2927  
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346**

**TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer, Calvin Harnish, Agnes Casey, Corrine Munroe, Gerry Parker, Gelly Parker, Paul Horne, Sr. Alma, Marie Parker, Fr. Jonathan

*The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at  
[www.cansoparishes.org](http://www.cansoparishes.org)*

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

**Saturday, September 23** - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*  
- 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - †*Francis Marr*

**Sunday, September 24** - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*William "Junior" Peitzsche*  
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †*Maxine Feltmate*

**WEEKDAY MASS TIME**

**Thursday, September 21** - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

**COMMUNION CALLS** - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

**REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS - *Forgiveness***

*Forgiveness is the pill for every ill. To forgive seventy times seven, is to forgive without limit. When your spouse or sibling offends you, when your colleagues mock you, when your teacher or lecturer hurts you badly, when your parents or neighbours accuse you falsely, when people don't appreciate what you do but deliberately misunderstand you, when you are called names and castigated, the Lord who is the great physician teaches that we should take a dosage of his pill called FORGIVENESS as often as the occasions arise.*

*A Christian who cannot love or forgive is not a Christian. Such a person is only wasting his or her time coming to church. A Christian who cannot let go of hurt or pain cannot be considered a Christian. A Christian who keeps records of people's offenses and refuses to forgive cannot be considered a Christian either. We are invited to look at ourselves and examine if we are truly living by what God wants from us. Let us pray for that inner strength to be compassionate when our survival instincts say something else. Let us pray for the inner strength to be humble, to pick up the rubbish even when we are in a commanding position. Let us pray for the inner strength to be magnanimous by taking on a large heart.*

## **STAR OF THE SEA NEWS**

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, October 10 at 6:15 p.m. We welcome new members. Please help out!

### Ministries Schedule, September 24

Lector - Donna Lewis

Cleaners - September 24 - 30 - Baker girls

***We are inviting parishioners to serve as Sacristans, Ushers and Altar Servers for Funeral. Please contact Fr. Jonathan for more information.***

**Glebe Hill** - There will be no public access through the glebe hill due to the condition of the road. **The church and Glebe can be accessed through Chapel Street.** Thank you for your cooperation. We are working on having the road repaired.

## **EVENTS - STAR OF THE SEA**

Trivia Night - Saturday, September 23, 7:00 p.m. - Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall. Pre-register by September 21, teams of 4

Club 100 Tickets - are available from committee members, draw date is September 26.

## **ST. AGNES NEWS**

Bingo - will resume in September.

### Upcoming Fund-raiser -

donations/prizes are needed and would be greatly appreciated! Date of draw will be announced later.

## **ST JOSEPH NEWS**

**Weekly Bingo - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.**

## **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Star of the Sea (27)</b>    | 545.00 |
| Loose                          | 140.00 |
| <b>St. Agnes (15)</b>          | 230.00 |
| Loose                          | 10.00  |
| <b>St. Vincent de Paul (5)</b> | 60.00  |
| Loose                          | 10.00  |
| <b>St. Joseph (16)</b>         | 225.00 |
| Loose                          | 15.00  |

## **NOTES**

### The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer

Shrine - The gift shop is open, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday including Sundays and Holidays. The Shrine is always open.

Divine Mercy Chaplet - St. Ann's Parish Church, Guysborough, Sept. 27, 6:00 pm Join in celebrating the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by Benediction.

Mass for Shut Ins - Mass for Shut Ins will soon begin its 61st season. Starting October 15, will air Sunday mornings on the CTV channel. Contact coordinator, Nick Vince, at [nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca) for scheduling details or for donations.

CBU Student Retreat - Spend a day with a variety of fun activities. For all Students, For all spiritualities Free rides available, Free supper - Sunday, October 15, 1pm-7pm. 8430 Highway 105, Kranna Retreat House, Big Pond. For Registration, Contact: Basil Benoy, [basilbenoy731@gmail.com](mailto:basilbenoy731@gmail.com). Sponsored by CBU Chaplaincy and Newman Society

NATIVITY SCENE - Star of the Sea Church requires a new Nativity Scene. The present one is in deplorable condition with some of the figurines taped together with duct tape. We are asking for donations to help with the cost of replacement. Donations may be placed in Sunday Collection, Etransferred to [support@cansoparishes.org](mailto:support@cansoparishes.org), or dropped off at the parish office.

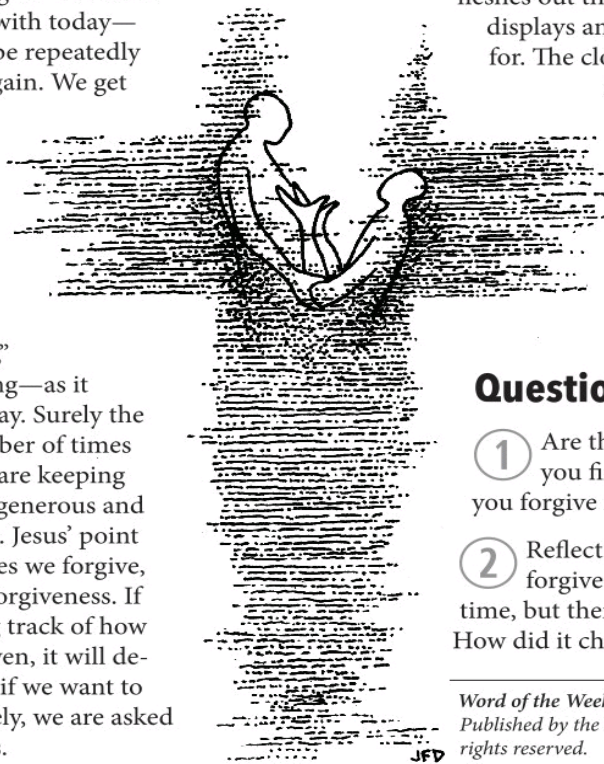
# A Serious Business

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- Sirach 27:30-28:7 - Call to forgiveness and mercy ►
- Romans 14:7-9 - To live and die for Christ
- Matthew 18:21-35 - The merciless official

Jesus was an extraordinary teacher, but most of his teachings weren't "new" or "original;" he drew them from the wealth of his Jewish traditions and scripture. We see an example of this today in his teachings about forgiveness after reading from Sirach's instructions on the subject. Sirach wrote about 150-200 years before Jesus' time. On his part, Sirach based some of his teachings on wisdom from even earlier in Jewish history.

This is the second week in a row we read some of Jesus' teaching about the importance of forgiveness. Peter's question about how many times we must forgive someone else (seven times?) suggests that in their day people struggled with what some of us still struggle with today—forgiving others only to be repeatedly hurt and disappointed again. We get the sense that Peter may have thought he was generous in offering to forgive someone seven times. Jesus' answer, which can be translated either as "77 times" or "70 times seven times," would have been shocking—as it probably still is to us today. Surely the point isn't the exact number of times we forgive because if we are keeping count, we aren't entirely generous and free with our forgiveness. Jesus' point is not the number of times we forgive, but the "quality" of our forgiveness. If we imagine God keeping track of how many times we are forgiven, it will detract from the mercy. So if we want to be forgiven fully and freely, we are asked to do the same for others.



"Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"

### Sheepish Question:

Who have I failed to forgive? Why?  
Who has surprised me with mercy?

The parable about the merciless official which follows fleshes out the spirit of forgiveness that God displays and which Jesus asks us to reach for. The closing warning or threat of punishment for those who do not forgive suggests how seriously Jesus wants his listeners to take this issue. We may not like the image of a Father God who will torture those who are not merciful, but it serves to wake us up to the graveness of the issue at hand.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 Are there situations or people whom you find easier to forgive, and whom you forgive repeatedly?
- 2 Reflect on an experience of struggling to forgive someone, perhaps for a very long time, but then finding the freedom to do so. How did it change you?

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