



THE ONLY CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BERMUDA NAMED AFTER AN ANGELIC BEING.

Our Parish Community

September 13, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 27:30–28:7 / Romans 14:7–9 / Matthew 18:21–35

The Debt We Have in Common

THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

As we hear today's Gospel of the servant whose enormous debt is forgiven, yet who refuses mercy to a fellow servant owing far less, we cannot help but ask: how can this be? This is the first question that comes to mind. How could a person be forgiven so much and then, just a few minutes later, refuse to forgive something inconsequential in comparison? Selfishness doesn't really explain it. Being so full of oneself doesn't explain it. Being completely dense and obtuse is perhaps closer to the truth, but even that explanation comes up short.

The truth is that the exaggeration of the debt is secondary to the story. What is essential to the story is the invitation to reflect on what it means to be a human being. It is to acknowledge that, when all is said and done, everyone owes a huge debt. No one is exempt from gratitude. An honest acceptance of who we are—completely and totally dependent on God who created us—is the core truth. To be so disconnected from this truth as to not recognize one's own dependence and be completely unaware of the need to be grateful—that is the real challenge the story considers.



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How am I at forgiveness—with others and with myself?



Can one refuse mercy
to a sinner like oneself, yet
seek pardon for
one's own sins?
SIRACH 28:4

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General (c) 705 0236

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www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm

Sunday: 10:15am

Saturday 7:00pm (Neo-Catechumenal Mass).

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance



Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend.
May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES...

September 12/13th - THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Fred Anderson
10:15AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Joyce Lee
Collection: Jesse Almeida

September 19/20th - THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Joshua Blee EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: Lucy Attride-Stirling
Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS...

September 12/13th - THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For THOSE Suffering the Devastation of Natural Disasters
10:15AM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners

September 19/20th - THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners
10:15AM The Souls In Purgatory



SEPTEMBER 5/6th Collection:
\$615.00

THANK YOU!!!



A Beautiful Call to Serve ALTAR SERVERS

St Michael's Church will soon
be inviting young people to
consider serving at the altar.

Bishops Corner...

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

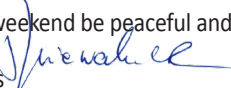
On the 17th of September every year, the Franciscan Family celebrates the feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis, commemorating the marks and the manifestation of the wounds of the Passion of Jesus on the body of St. Francis. The Saint of Assisi is known for great devotion and love for the Passion of Christ. He spent many hours contemplating the immense, merciful love of Christ who for the love of us accepted to live and die in extreme poverty in order to redeem us. The mountains were always his favourite spots for prayer, away from the noise of the city, alone, contemplating "Love is not loved" for days and hours on end.



The Saint of Assisi received the stigmata — the bodily wounds of Jesus Christ — on the 17th of September 1224, during a retreat of prayer on Mount La Verna in Tuscany, Italy. As the biographer describes, "Francis saw a six-winged seraphic angel that held the figure of a crucified man. He felt a sudden, burning pain as marks resembling nails appeared on his hands and feet, along with a deep gash on his right side. He is the first person in recorded history to officially receive the stigmata.

This commemoration will provide our Diocese with the third community occasion of the community celebration of the Plenary Indulgence in the Jubilee Year of St. Francis. **There will be a special Mass at St. Anthony's Church in Warwick at 7:00pm. There will be priests available for confession from 6:15pm.**

May your weekend be peaceful and your week good!

+ Wes 
Bishop Wes



MOUNT SAINT AGNES ACADEMY

Auditorium Renovation

Please see the letter attached sharing the news of the Auditorium renovation. Every Dollar raised for this much needed upgrade will help continue the legacy started by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax in 1890.

Now 136+ years later, the work continues with dedication to continually improve and upgrade the MSA facility. Please consider being a part of this fundraising initiative



LET'S TALK
MENTAL HEALTH

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health illness or suicidal thoughts, please call: 236-3770 weekdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm (MWI) 911 or 239-1111 (24/7 Crisis hotline)

St. Vincent de Paul Society Donations

Donations can be made by Direct Deposit to: BNTB BD\$ 20006060476711100 or US\$ 8400784730010.

Memo Field: Identify your name and purpose of donation. i.e. "In memory of..." (IMO and the name of person).

Email (Optional): send to svdp@northrock.bm for confirmation and acknowledgement.

DONATIONS IN CASH: Please use the Poor Boxes in your parish churches or the envelopes provided and place these in the collection baskets.

PSALM 102:8

**THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE
SLOW TO ANGER AND RICH IN MERCY**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Pastor's Point . . .

Dear Parishioners,

This week I will focus upon another online resource from Hotmart via Instagram that has the following description. It is called THE BIBLE MAP which "explore(s) the lands, cities, journeys, and historical places of the Bible through detailed maps (really 1 page summary sheets) that bring Scripture to life and make the biblical world easier to understand". Also, included on most of the one page sheets has the following: origin, number of chapters, the author, topics addressed, key characters, main theme, book summary, date of writing using colourful symbols and figurines with simple explanations. It cost \$9.99 via PayPal.

The only thing that I would say it is lacking is that only 59 of the 73 pages are present. Unfortunately, I cannot find the other 14 books which are not listed to download. As you know the Catholic Bible has 46 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books which is a grand total of 73. Will let you know of if I discover them. I think I will write the creator of this reality on Instagram. If this is helpful by all means use it, however it does not replace taking up the Word of God in your hands and reading/reflecting on it. I must admit, the creativity of each summary sheet would cause me to get interested since when I was growing up there was not much colour and creativity in presenting the Word of God. This generation has a lot more at its disposal compared to my generation.

God bless,



Fr. Joe, Pastor & Vicar General of the DOHB.



WORDS OF LIFE

"We pray to you, O Lord, that we always recognize each member of this human family as being made in your image and beloved by you, with worth and dignity."

USCCB, "Prayer to Heal Racial Division"

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the Church there is...a place for everyone, and... every Christian is called to proclaim the gospel and bear witness in every environment.... Thus, this people shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the gospel to purify them and to raise them up.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 11, 2026

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

PREPARATION • JANUARY 2027

Is your child ready to begin preparing for First Holy Communion?

Interested? Contact St. Michael's Parish
stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com



FRANCESCO ALBERTI / UNSPLASH

Dear Padre,

If Catholics say the Confiteor at Mass, then why do we still need to go to confession?

Recall when Jesus told Simon and his fishing companions to lower their nets after they had caught nothing. (See Luke 5:1-11.) When their boats began to sink with so many fish, Simon fell at Jesus' feet and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Likewise, at Mass, we're so filled with awe upon entering the presence of God that we become aware of our own sinfulness.

The penitential act prepares the assembly to enter the celebration in a proper spirit of humility. The priest and the faithful observe a period of silence to acknowledge their sinfulness and confess their awe of Christ's love and mercy. This is expressed in different forms, one of which is the Confiteor, a general confession that invokes the support of the communion of saints and the specific community gathered at Mass. It includes the instruction to strike one's breast, an ancient gesture of humility and penitence. (See Luke 18:13; 23:48.) The rite concludes with the priest's absolution, but it "lacks the efficacy of the sacrament of penance" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 51). Thus, the penitential act isn't a substitute for absolution from sins confessed in the sacrament of penance, particularly serious, mortal sins. Rather, it prepares the faithful as a unified community to properly listen to God's word and celebrate the Eucharist worthily (*GIRM* 46). ✱



ZULFUGAR KARIMOV / UNSPLASH

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- **St. Michael's Parish Pastoral Council** will meet on Tuesday, September 25th at 6pm in the hall.
- **The EMMAUS Bible Study** will re-start on Tuesday, September 15th. Have a great summer everyone.
- Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist celebration - Saturdays at 7:00pm
- **The Holy Rosary** will be said each Wednesday evening at 5:30pm, led by Lucy Attride-Stirling. Everyone is welcome to come and spend some quiet time and please join us.

St. THERESA'S

- St. Theresa's Cathedral summer opening hours are:
Monday-Friday 7am-4:30pm
Saturday 8:30am-7:30pm
Sunday 8am-7pm
- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- The 9:00am Saturday Portuguese Mass will resume on Saturday, 29 August 2026.
- The 12:10pm resumed each Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- Praying the Rosary is on each Wednesday at 10:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration /Rosary on Thursdays is cancelled for the month of September, as Fr. Vivien will be out of the Island, resuming on Thursday October 8th.
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

- **Opening hours** - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** that can assist for 2 hours/week on Saturdays from 12-2PM, or as a fill-in for any absences. If you can assist, please call 292-0416 or drop by in person. Thank you

"Lord, thank you for your willingness to go the distance to protect your flock. Help me realize that you can be found everywhere, and you are always trying to remind me of your love."

Teresa Tomeo
Walk Softly and Carry a Great Bag

Save the Date

Missionary Childhood Rally

100th Anniversary of World Mission Sunday

"One in Christ, united in Mission"

For children ages 5 to 14. Saturday, 17th October 2026 from 9 am - 1 pm in the Mount Saint Agnes Academy Auditorium.

Please RSVP to diocesanbermuda@gmail.com by Monday, 21st September 2026



Back to SCHOOL Blessing

A NEW YEAR.
A NEW ADVENTURE.
God is with you! ♥

 STUDENTS You are amazing!	 FAMILIES You are loved!	 TEACHERS You make a difference!	 STAFF You are appreciated!
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 **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**
10:15 AM | ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

 **COME RECEIVE A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR A SUCCESSFUL & JOY-FILLED SCHOOL YEAR!**



Alumni Cocktail Evening

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

No matter your graduating year, we'd love to see you at our Alumni Cocktail Reception

on
SEPTEMBER 18
FROM
5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM
AT
MSA

To RSVP, click on the QR Code below:



MSA
MOUNT SAINT AGNES ACADEMY

Our Sunday Readings

SIRACH 27:30 – 28:7
 PSALM 103:1-4,9-12
 ROMANS 14:7-9
 MATTHEW 18:21-35

Forgive

SIRACH 27:30 – 28:7

Reading closely

1. Why do people cling to anger?
2. How might the LORD take vengeance on the vengeful?
3. What might the prayer of a vengeful person sound like?
4. What might the prayer of a person who's struggling to forgive sound like?
5. Why is it foolish for the unforgiving person to expect mercy from God?
6. How could remembering *death and decay* help a person to let go of anger and forgive?
7. What *commandments* might the author have in mind (v.7)?
8. How might thinking of God's *covenant* help someone to forgive?

Living the word

9. How readily do you forgive others?
10. Are there any injustices that you find unforgivable?
11. How does long-held anger affect a person?
12. Do you tend to think of God as forgiving you or as holding you strictly accountable for your sins?

THE FIRST READING

Guide to the moral life

The Book of Sirach is also called the Wisdom of ben Sira (son of Sirach) and The Book of Ecclesiasticus (from the Greek word for *church*). The book was written in the second century BC, so Jews ultimately considered it too recent a work to include in their list of sacred scriptures.

However, this book was widely used in the early church, especially for instructing those who were new to the Christian faith. As passages like this one show, the work contains good guidance on how to live as God intends.

Vengeance kills

The author echoes the Jewish law, expressed in passages like Leviticus 19:17-18: "You shall not bear hatred for your brother..." To do otherwise is to disobey God, who alone is judge.

The author reminds us that as mortals we depend entirely on God to sustain our lives (vv.5-6). If we bear hatred toward others, we implicitly tell God, who is love itself, that we don't want to be part of eternal life with him.

MATTHEW 18:21-35

1. What might have prompted Peter's question?
2. Do you think the disciples were ever angry at each other?
3. Place yourself in the parable.
If you were the master...
 - a. Why do you plan to sell your indebted servant and everything connected to him?
 - b. Why do you forgive the loan rather than give the servant more time to pay it back?
 - c. Do you have any misgivings about forgiving the entire debt?
 - d. What do you feel when you hear how the servant treated someone indebted to him?
 - e. What will happen to that servant once he goes to the torturers?
 If you were the first servant...
 - f. How did you accumulate such a large debt?
 - g. What do you think of your master?
 - h. How do you feel when your debt is erased?
 - i. What all runs through your mind when you attack the man indebted to you?
 - j. How do you react when your master finds you and has you arrested?
4. What might the disciples have said to one another privately about this story?
5. What does the parable teach you about yourself?
6. What does the parable reveal about God?
7. How does this passage challenge you?

THE GOSPEL READING

Setting limits

Peter wants rules about how much to forgive. Jesus replies that forgiveness is the rule. Given the teaching right before this one, however, it seems that Jesus is telling us to forgive someone who repents. He also wants us to pray in order to know how to respond to a persistent sinner (vv.19-20).

Lamech

In Genesis 4:23-24 a man (Lamech) declares that if anyone hurts him he will take revenge "seventy-fold," which means that his revenge is limitless. Jesus opposes such endless vengeance. His followers must be like God, whose mercy is

without limit. If we want to be part of God's kingdom, we must imitate God who reigns over it.

Community glue

This passage is the last one in a section on how to be church (18:1-35). By placing it at the end, Matthew emphasizes the necessity of forgiveness. People sin and make mistakes. If we hold grudges against each other, our faith community won't survive.

Change of heart

The parable doesn't quite fit Peter's question. It doesn't describe forgiving someone many times but forgiving them on a large scale. The debt of the first servant is so great that he couldn't have ever repaid it. The second servant owes an amount that could be repaid.

Although the situation of the first servant changed, the servant himself did not. When his debt was forgiven, he did not embrace his experience of mercy. Because he didn't share the forgiveness he received, he lost it. The story warns us that God's forgiveness must be shared if we are to keep it.

PRAYER

by St. Catherine of Siena

Merciful Lord,
it does not surprise me that you forget completely the sins of those who repent. I am not surprised that you remain faithful to those who hate and revile you.

The mercy which pours forth from you fills the whole world. It was by your mercy that we were created, and by your mercy that you redeemed us by sending your Son.

Your mercy is the light in which sinners find you and good people come back to you.

Your mercy is everywhere...

Your justice is constantly tempered with mercy, so you refuse to punish us as we deserve.

O mad Lover!

It was not enough for you to take on our humanity; you had to die for us as well.