



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

Our Parish Community

September 6, 2026

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ezekiel 33:7–9 / Romans 13:8–10 / Matthew 18:15–20

[Jesus said,]
“For where
two or three
are gathered
together in my
name, there
am I in the
midst of them.”

MATTHEW 18:20

Like a Gentile or a Tax Collector

ANN M. GARRIDO

As someone who works in the field of conflict management, I like to think that all situations can be worked out if we go about it in a skilled manner. If we use the right words. Ask the right kinds of questions. It’s embarrassing to admit that even the best “tools” in my “conflict belt” sometimes still effect little change. Today’s gospel can be consoling in a strange way. It acknowledges that even when we use all the tools we have on hand to heal a relationship, it doesn’t always work out. Sometimes, we may need to become strangers to one another, at least for a while—like a Jew to a Gentile or a tax collector.

Of course, when Jesus says “treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector,” it is important to consider how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors. He healed the centurion’s servant. He ate in Zacchaeus’ house. Jesus did not see Gentiles and tax collectors as enemies and did not treat them as such. Rather, Jesus understood Gentiles and tax collectors as those with whom he might start a relationship should the opportunity present itself. The past cannot be rewritten, but perhaps a different kind of future is still possible. Is there a relationship in your life that feels beyond healing at this point and from which perhaps you need some distance? Is it still possible to treat the other person with the kindness Jesus showed toward Gentiles and tax collectors? *



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Could I improve how I handle conflict with others?

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

Parish Administrator: Karen Marsh (c) 799 0842

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

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 5/6th - THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Laura Blee EM: Karen Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Lucy Attride-Stirling
Collection: Karen Marsh

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

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

MASS INTENTIONS...

September 5/6th - THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM For Those Returning to School, College, Education Everywhere
10:15AM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners

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

Bishops Corner...

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

It took a while to put everything together that was needed, but I am content that finally I am able to let you know that within the Diocesan Lenten Almsgiving we have collected the amount of \$7,783 for The Family Centre, and the funds have already been transferred to them, to support their initiatives and activities. I am very grateful to all who contributed to this Special Collection, and I thank you for your understanding and generosity. In Lent 2027, we will organise this form of charitable giving again, towards a different charity.

I would also like to let you know that after much consideration, consultation and discussion, I have decided to begin to hold a Sunday Mass in Tagalog. This Mass will be celebrated every Sunday at 4:30pm in St. Michael's Church. Fr. Dandy and Fr. Vivien are to oversee the implementation of this initiative. The Mass will begin to be celebrated on the 4th of October 2026.

I hope and pray that this new pastoral initiative will respond to the needs of the Filipino community who are right now the most practicing non-English group in our Diocese.

Have a restful long weekend and a good week!

+ *Wes J. Michael*
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)



AUGUST 29/30th Collection:
\$879.00

Votives: \$4.00

Poor Box (SVdP): \$10.00

THANK YOU!!!



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

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.

"God is your Creator, Redeemer, and advocate. Be at home with him, for he lives in you. God wants you to be so much a part of him that you and he can live in fellowship."

Henry Libersat
Catholic and Confident

Pastor's Point . . .

Dear Parishioners,

I had a restful August with me going to the beach, resting, playing with my kitties, relaxing, but also spending time looking at what is online regarding our faith as I will be preparing for the Sept. to June season.

WELLSPRING OF TRUTH - There is more information about our Church online and available to those interested. One such source of info. is WELLSPRING OF TRUTH which is a complete "Catholic Theology Course" consisting of 46 video modules of Catholic Theology plus study workbook bundle. It is a full scope of Catholic doctrine, from Scripture to Church History to Christian Philosophy, plus 2 hours of clear, fluid video instruction, full PDF edition to read or print, high-resolution video and audio, with subtitles included, flexible by design, watch it, read it, or listen in the background.

They emailed me on August 24 emphasising the following: "We do want to clarify something important: your purchase is entirely digital — there is no physical shipment being sent to Bermuda, so you won't need to forward any invoice to Mailboxes Unlimited or worry about customs paperwork for this order. Everything (the video course, Workbook, and all companion books such as the 50 Saints guide, Prayer and Examen Companion, finally Theology Glossary) is accessed instantly online, right to your device." They promise to be faithful to the teachings of the Church. This is great use of technology.

I will be describing more sites going forward in an effort to make you aware and maybe peek your interest in the faith that I love and hopefully you love s well.

God bless,

fr. 
Fr. Joe

PS: If you come across any similar sites, please let me know as I will check them out for accuracy.



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The Church is at the same time an earthly community and the mystical body of Christ, a visible assembly and a spiritual mystery, a reality present in history and a people journeying toward heaven (Lumen Gentium, 8; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 771). The human and divine dimensions integrate harmoniously, without one overshadowing the other.... [The Church] is a reality that is both human and divine.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 4, 2026

The quotations from Pope Leo

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CHRISTIAN HARB / UNSPLASH

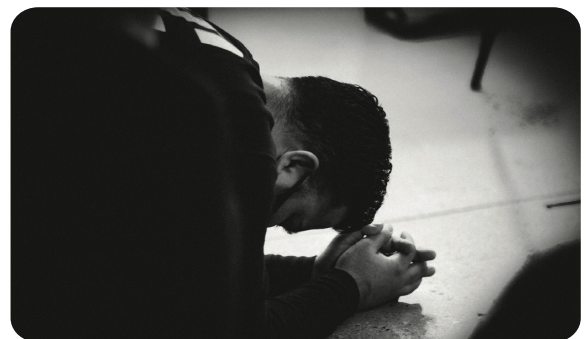
Dear Padre,

I had not been to confession for decades until recently, and I've probably committed mortal sins I can't remember. I want God's forgiveness, but I'm unsure how to get it at this time.

You ask if God has forgiven you for sins that you may have committed in the past but that you don't remember now. You say you have been to confession recently.

A mortal sin has three criteria: it is seriously wrong; the person knows it is seriously wrong; and the person is free to commit the sin or not. In the case you are describing, you don't even remember what the mortal sin might have been, or even if there was one. So, no, you don't have to confess something you don't remember. Also, you have already gone to confession recently, and you sound truly repentant for your past sins. You do not indicate that you were deliberately trying to hide any sins from the priest. So, you have already been forgiven, not only for the sins you remembered but also for those you don't remember. That is why usually we will say something like "for these sins and for those I may have forgotten" when we go to confession.

The bottom line is that confession is for you to experience God's mercy. It is not to test how good your memory is. Be at peace. God loves you and particularly wants you to experience the peace that comes from his forgiveness. *



JOHN TYSON / UNSPLASH

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR / DearPadre.org

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- **Davon Campbell** is St. Michael's new communications representative and Parish Council Member. She has been working on some new flyers to reach out to our Parishioners. Please see the Flyers in the email blast. Click on the links to view and on our Bulletin boards. Through St. Michael's social media we hope to share new opportunities coming to our Parish.
- **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 here at ST. MICHAEL'S
EACH WEDNESDAY**

Starting Wednesday, September 9th at 5:30pm, Lucy Attride-Stirling will lead the Holy Rosary at St. Michael's Church. 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. starting from September 9th.
- 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

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!

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

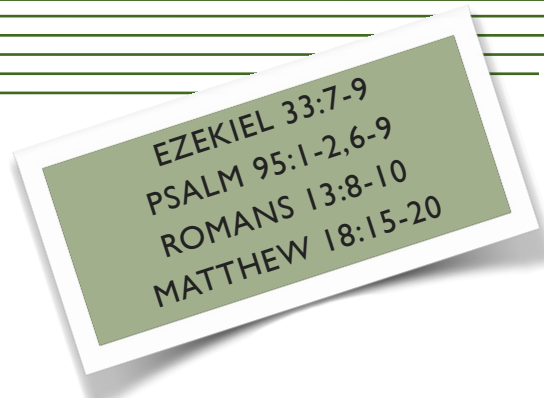
CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

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



Guarding God's People

EZEKIEL 33:7-9

Reading closely

1. How does God address Ezekiel?
2. What exactly does God want this prophet to do?
3. How might God have held Ezekiel responsible for not warning people?
4. How might Ezekiel have tried warning people?
5. What might Ezekiel have felt when people ignored his warning?
6. How do you think Ezekiel's life changed after God gave him this role?

Living the word

7. Have you ever been an Ezekiel to someone?
8. Has someone ever been an Ezekiel to you?
9. What do you think is most challenging about being a watchman?

THE FIRST READING

Enemies without

Ancient cities had watchmen on the city walls who would blow a trumpet if they saw an enemy approaching. If people ignored the warning, the city might be conquered, but this wasn't the watchman's fault. If a watchman failed to warn people of danger, however, the blame was his.

Enemies within

As watchman, Ezekiel isn't to look for enemies coming from outside Israel but from within it. When Israel hears the prophet's warning, the nation should prepare to battle not its enemies but its own grave sin.

The penalty Ezekiel faces if he fails to warn God's people is as severe as the penalty the people face: death. The penalty might reinforce the idea of a harsh Old Testament God, but God calls Ezekiel to be a watchman so that people will turn away from sin and be saved (see v.11).

Son of man

God calls Ezekiel *son of man*, a human being who mediates his word. In this case, God's word is a warning of his coming judgment. A later prophet uses a similar term for one who receives God's power over the earth (Daniel 7:13-14).

Jesus drew on the meaning of *son of man*, the only term he readily applied to himself. As God's incarnate word, he both proclaimed and ushered in God's kingdom. At his trial he assured his opponents that he would yet triumph and return to exercise God's judgment (Matthew 26:63-64).

MATTHEW 18:15-20

Reading closely

1. What sins are so serious they should be addressed by a Christian community?
2. What effect might a particular sin have on a Christian community?
3. What would make the procedure Jesus outlines here effective?
4. What would make this procedure ineffective?
5. How might a whole community help a sinner?
6. What might *treat him as you would a Gentile or tax collector* look like?
7. What do you think are the differences between the authority given to Peter (16:17-19) and the authority given here to the whole church?
8. What does this passage reveal about the early church?

Living the word

9. a. Have you ever seen this procedure used?
b. What was the outcome?
10. Would you follow this procedure if you saw the need? Why/Why not?

THE GOSPEL READING

Clear guidelines

In the fourth book or section of Matthew's Gospel Jesus tackles the problem of sin within the Christian community. In this passage he outlines a procedure for dealing with individual Christians who are committing a serious sin. He adapts the procedure from Judaism.

- ☐ Step 1: Talk with the person privately.
- ☐ Step 2: Talk with the person in the presence of 1-2 other people who can both confirm the points you're making and hear the other person's response.
- ☐ Step 3: Bring the matter to the attention of the whole community. If the person still refuses to repent, exclude him/her from the community.

Serious sin makes the whole community look bad and can lead others to sin. This three-step procedure protects the community and gives the serious sinner every possible chance to change.

Avoiding hypocrisy

Those who talk with the sinner must do so prayerfully and with love. Jesus takes a harsh stance against hypocrisy (Mt 23). He also warns us to vigorously root out sin from our own lives (18:6-9).

Like a Gentile or tax collector

Jews tried to keep apart from *Gentiles* (non-Jews) and *tax collectors*, who raised money for Rome, their foreign conqueror. Because Jesus reached out to people who felt unloved and excluded, he probably isn't instructing his followers to treat sinners unkindly or simply to forget about them.

Authority

In Jewish tradition it was said that when two devout Jews gathered to reflect on God's law, God was with them. Jesus adapts this familiar saying to assure his church that when they follow the proper procedures humbly and prayerfully, he will uphold their decision.

Excommunication

Excommunication is the penalty in canon law (the Catholic Church's legal system) for sins like renouncing one's faith or causing schism. Someone who's excommunicated isn't allowed to participate in aspects of Church life like the Eucharist. The penalty of excommunication can be lifted through the Sacrament of Penance and, in more public cases, through a formal statement.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
today let us hear your voice;
open our hearts to your love.
When we sin, help us to admit it.
When we persist in sin,
give us the strength and wisdom to ask for help.
When someone points out our sin,
humble us to receive correction.
When we must point out someone else's sin,
help us to speak with gentleness and love.
Today let us hear your voice;
open our hearts to your love.
We ask this in your holy name. Amen.