

# Dear Padre,

## Why are churches doing away with the confessionals?

In many churches, when it is feasible, the traditional confessional box is modified or even replaced by a more spacious, less darkened reconciliation room. In 1974, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops decreed that “small chapels or rooms of reconciliation be provided in which penitents might choose to confess their sins through an informal face-to-face exchange with the priest, with the opportunity for appropriate spiritual counsel.” Later, a further elaboration recommended austere furnishings and decoration in this space, “with nothing superfluous in evidence beyond a simple cross, table and Bible. The purpose of this room is primarily for the celebration of the reconciliation liturgy; it is not a lounge, counseling room, etc. The word ‘chapel’ more appropriately describes this space.” If a reconciliation chapel does not provide a fixed screen or grille between the penitent and confessor, it must be offered elsewhere, according to canon law. “The purpose of this norm is...to afford the penitent anonymity if he or she desires and to make certain that there is no suspicion of impropriety in the confessor-penitent relationship” (Code of Canon Law, 964 commentary).

Ideally, the environment of the reconciliation chapel helps the penitent and confessor feel they are “on holy ground” (Exodus 3:5) in encountering God in this sacrament. It offers an inviting sacred space to celebrate a powerful expression of God’s mercy and unconditional love. ●



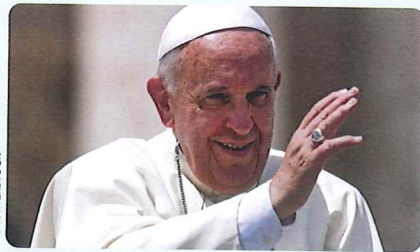
PASQUALE SENATORE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
September 18 Weekday 1 Tm 2:1–8 Lk 7:1–10	September 19 Weekday 1 Tm 3:1–13 Lk 7:11–17	September 20 Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs 1 Tm 3:14–16 Lk 7:31–35	September 21 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Eph 4:1–7, 11–13 Mt 9:9–13	September 22 Weekday 1 Tm 6:2c–12 Lk 8:1–3	September 23 St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest 1 Tm 6:13–16 Lk 8:4–15	September 24 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 55:6–9 Phil 1:20c–24, 27a Mt 20:1–16a

### Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists’ *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit [ScrupulousAnonymous.org](https://ScrupulousAnonymous.org).



SHUTTERSTOCK

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

As I was celebrating Mass, I paused, touched by a phrase... from the book of Sirach....“Remember the end of your life, and cease from enmity.” A beautiful phrase! Think of the end! Think that you will be in a coffin...and will you take hatred there? Think of the end, stop hating! Stop the resentment.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 17, 2023

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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



## Forgive and Forget?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

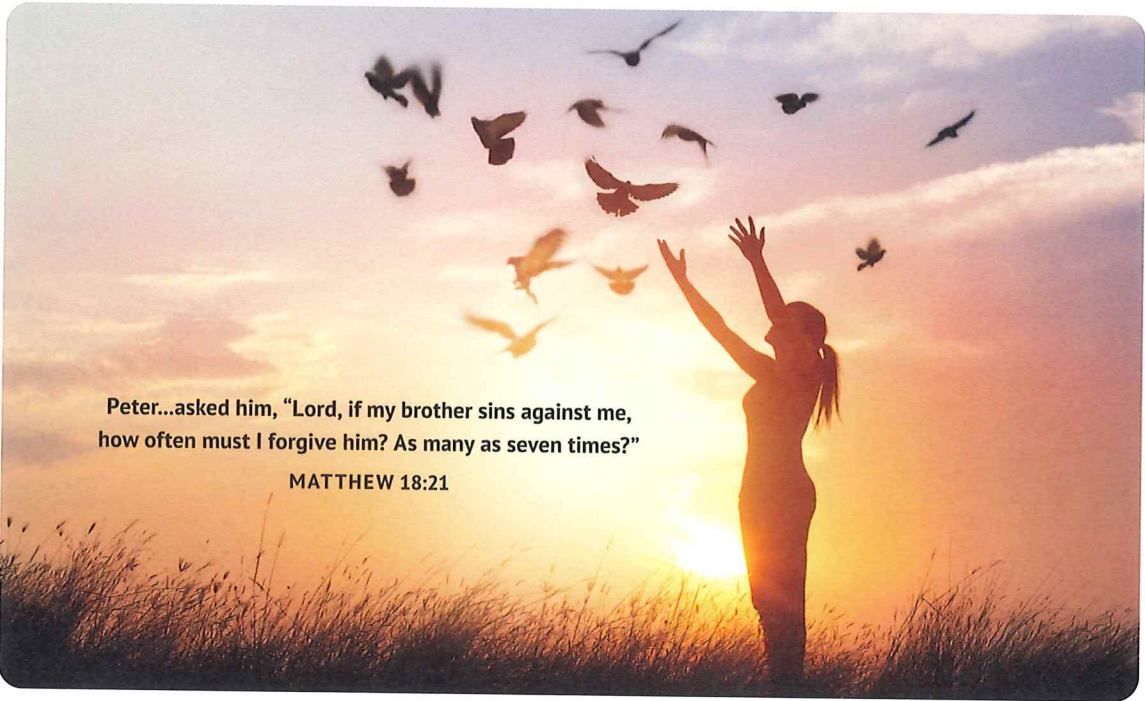
Terry Anderson was an American reporter in Lebanon when he was abducted by terrorists in 1985. He was held captive by them until his release in 1991. After his release he was asked if he forgave his captors. His response? “I’m a Christian and a Catholic, and it’s really required of me that I forgive, no matter how hard that may be.”

It’s been said that forgiveness is the most difficult thing we have to do, simply because all too often we do not feel like forgiving. Nor is forgiveness about overlooking the injury as if to say, “Oh, that’s OK. Don’t worry about it.” Forgiveness may not even mean being able to be nice. Sometimes the pain may be too much. Forgiveness as Jesus lived it is a choice one makes to care about the other. It is the gift of wanting what is best for the other even at times in the midst of our own pain. “Forgive and forget” is not always possible. At times the pain not only lingers but also throbs as if the wound continues to ooze and weep. Then we cannot forget. Yet it is possible to make the choice to care.

What do we do if we cannot even bring ourselves to do that much? Perhaps then we can at least ask God to bring goodness into that person’s life. And if that seems too difficult, then ask God to do what we cannot. That simple choice may very well be the seed that eventually sprouts into healing and peace in our own spirit. ●

### Reflect

When have you been able to forgive even though memory of the pain lingered?



Peter...asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

MATTHEW 18:21





Rectory & Parish Office  
600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860  
Mailing Address: PO Box 983  
Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405  
Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

**24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**9/16/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**

**Servers:** Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

**Reader:** Karen Burden

**E.O.HC:** Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

**9/17/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Servers:** Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

**Reader:** Alvin Bergkamp

**E.O. HC:** Robert Longoria, Kyle Berning

**25 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**9/23/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**

**Servers:** Lucy, Jonathan, & Nathan Gannett

**Reader:** Tom Bachman

**E.O.HC:** Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

**9/24/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Servers:** Cade & Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

**Reader:** Julie Kaps

**E.O. HC:** Del & Julia Kaps

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Saturday, Sept. 16</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>For the people</b>
<b>Sunday, Sept. 17</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>D. Jenes Family</b>
<b>Monday, Sept. 18</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>David Hoang</b>
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 19</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Gary Sack</b>
<b>Thursday, Sept. 21</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Jerry Burden</b>
<b>Friday, Sept. 22</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>David Hoang</b>
<b>Saturday, Sept. 23</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Eddie Catlin</b>
<b>Sunday, Sept. 24</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>For the people</b>

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

**September 17, 2023**

**24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*"The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion." (Psalm 103:1-2)*

Why is it so hard to forgive? It is, isn't it? We don't like it when we have been wronged. We don't like it when someone else treats us unfairly or cruelly or without regard for our feelings. We don't like it when people lie to us or take something precious from us or mock us or are mean to us. And we are still invited to, required to, commanded to forgive. "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-35)

My friends, forgiving is not simply saying the words, "I forgive you." Nor is it forcing someone else to do x, y, or z before we will forgive them. Nor is it continually bringing up the past every time a new situation arises. Rather, it's deeper than that. It's more complete than that. It's more "forgetful" than that. In other words --- it's more loving than that, more God-like.

And so, let's be sure we truly believe that we both need God's forgiveness and that he does indeed forgive us. And let's also be sure that we want for others the same things that we want for ourselves. We might just find that forgiving is easier than we thought. Fr. Peter

The Diocesan Matrimony Anniversary Mass will be celebrated Oct. 22, 3:00 pm, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City. Bishop John Brungardt invites couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, or other significant anniversary in 2023, and guests, to this special Matrimony Anniversary Mass and dinner. Register by Oct. 9 online @ <https://form.jotform.com/90425952763160> or mail in form below. Catholic Diocese 910 Central Dodge City, KS 67801

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Wife \_\_\_\_\_ Husband \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Yrs. married \_\_\_\_\_ Total # attending \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Language for Certificate \_\_\_\_\_

**COLLECTION** for September 10, 2023: Envelopes: \$775; Loose: \$124; Online Giving: \$1412.24; Total \$2432.24; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under + 671.07

**CHURCH PROJECT GOAL** \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$35889.77 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

**SAINT ANTHONY’S & CHRIST THE KING CCD (PSR) 2023-2023**

All classes this year will be on Wednesday night at 6:30pm sharp. First Class will be September 20 beginning at 6:30pm.

**PARISH BREAKFAST—RIGHT AFTER MASS** You are invited to join us for food & fellowship on Sunday, September, 24 served by our K of C Council.

**BUDGET SHOP** We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, September 23 and Tuesday, September 26. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated. And “Thank You” ahead of time.

**O.C.I.A (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)** Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or finding out more about the teachings of the faith? Consider joining the St. Anthony’s OCIA program. The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith. The process invites participants into discernment, prayer, and spiritual formation. If you’d like to join us, please call please call Fr. Peter (620-355-6405) or Mrs. Karen Burden (620- 355-6388) If any adult Catholic who hasn’t been confirmed and would like to be confirmed this coming Easter Please call Fr. Peter (620-355-6405) or Mrs. Karen Burden (620- 355-6388) On behalf of the Catholic faith community of the St. Anthony, we look forward to welcoming you.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK** How do I see myself letting resentment or bitterness build up in my heart? Who do I need to reach out to and forgive?

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (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.

**UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 18:21-35)**

**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 “seventyfold,” which means that his revenge is limitless. Jesus stands against 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 adhesive** 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. The situation of the first servant changed but not the servant himself. His heart was unmoved by his experience of having his debt forgiven. Because he didn’t share the forgiveness he received, he lost it. The parable warns us that God’s gift of forgiveness must be shared if we are to keep it.

(oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

**UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK - (Sirach 27:30-28:7)**

**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. This book was widely used in the early church. As passages like this one show, the book contains good guidance on how to live as God intends. The book was thus readily used for teaching converts how to live.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION SEPTEMBER 17,2023**

*“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” – Romans 14:8* This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

*“Si vivimos, para el Señor vivimos; y si morimos, para el Señor morimos. De manera que, tanto en la vida como en la muerte, pertenecemos al Señor.”- Romanos 14:8* Esa es la esencia de la corresponsabilidad - todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que somos es un don de Dios.No somos los "dueños" de nada, somos simplemente “administradores" de los dones que Dios nos ha dado, especialmente en nuestras propias vidas.Ore al Señor, diariamente, y pregúntele como lo llama a vivir la vida que Él ha destinado para usted.

**NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**  
**ENCOUNTER**

**REFLECTION:**

In the Gospels we hear stories about the people who encountered Jesus—a woman at a well, a rich man, a group of fishermen. But what about the people that are not recorded (John 21:25)? How many thousands of people did Jesus encounter?

An encounter with Christ is always loving, but it may not always feel good. A true encounter challenges us because Jesus contradicts those things in our hearts that are not good. While Jesus is always for us (Romans 8:31), he opposes anything that might hurt us. When we encounter Jesus, he is an adversary against the sin in our hearts and the habits and vices that prevent us from being holy.

Two people encountered Jesus in this way. The first was a woman who was gathering water at a well. Jesus called out her disordered attachment to affection and the ways she was looking for love but settling for counterfeits. The second was a rich man who had a disordered attachment to money that prevented him from loving others. The woman encountered Jesus and left changed, telling everyone about him. The man was disappointed and left sad. Both encounters were challenging, and both people left changed.

Many people experienced Jesus, and surely many encountered him that we do not hear about. But what about you? Have you had an encounter with Jesus that left you changed?

“Encounter” isn’t necessarily a feel-good experience. The word comes from two Latin roots—“in” and “contra”—which, taken together, signify the meeting of adversaries. To encounter someone is to face contradiction. When we meet him, we are presented with a choice: let go of what holds us back from holiness and grasp the hand of the Savior, or remain in sin. Regardless of our choice, we leave a different person.

One thing is for certain: when we encounter Jesus, we are changed forever. Even if we choose not to follow Jesus, something is radically different.

**PRAYER:**

Jesus, many people have experienced you, but I want to encounter you. Show me the places in my heart and in my life where I am far from you, and give me the grace I need to let them go so I can love you fully and embrace your call in my life. Amen.

**CHALLENGE:**

Make a commitment and plan to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation sometime in the next seven days. What if you rearranged your schedule and went today? The Sacrament of Reconciliation requires us to confront our sins and disordered attachments, but it is always an encounter with the mercy of Jesus.

**TWENTY– FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Each one, teach one**

Teachers, preachers, and professors have their place. But most of us learn life lessons more broadly. The first school is our home environment. Groups we affiliate with and wider media influences also communicate their values. In 1935, the Vatican called for special acknowledgment of how our parish catechists pass on the faith. While it's right to honor our DRE or religion teachers on this Catechetical Sunday, let's recall too the role of parents and indeed all parishioners in modeling a life rich in love, generosity, compassion, and forgiveness. Catechists literally "echo" the example of Jesus. Deliver your echo boldly! (Preparetheword)

**VIGÉSIMO CUARTO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**  
**Cada uno, enseñe a otro**

Los maestros, predicadores y profesores tienen su lugar. Pero la mayoría de nosotros aprendemos las lecciones de la vida de forma más amplia. La primera escuela es nuestro entorno familiar. Los grupos con los que nos relacionamos y las influencias más amplias de los medios de comunicación también nos transmiten sus valores. En 1935, el Vaticano pidió un reconocimiento especial de la forma en que nuestros catequistas parroquiales transmiten la fe. Si bien es correcto honrar a nuestros DRE o profesores de religión en este Domingo de la Catequesis, recordemos también el papel de los padres y, de hecho, de todos los feligreses en el modelado de una vida rica en amor, generosidad, compasión y perdón. Los catequistas literalmente "hacen eco" del ejemplo de Jesús. ¡Hazte eco con valentía!