

Theme Sharing

God's Forgiveness

(24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The First Reading recounts a story from Exodus about the Israelites worshipping a golden calf as their god. They committed this treacherous act just after God had proclaimed the Ten Commandments to their leader Moses on Mount Sinai. And what an unforgivable act against the Lord their God who had delivered them out of slavery in Egypt! God was mindful of his promise to their ancestors of a land of milk and honey and a people as numerous as the stars of heaven. Despite his people's unfaithfulness, God would always remain faithful in his promise. The story ends with God's forgiveness of the Israelites at the intercession of Moses on their behalf.

In the Second Reading, Paul bears witness to God's mercy and forgiveness. Despite being a great sinner, he was accepted and hand-picked by God and entrusted with a mission to spread the gospel. A persecutor turned apostle filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul's conversion was a significant event in the early Church, sparking amazement to many and resentment by others. Paul reiterates that conversion is always possible as long as we have faith and love in Christ. He also believes that his sinfulness and subsequent conversion may just be part of God's divine plan.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son no doubt is familiar to all of us. Today's reading depicts a scene of a father deeply concerned about his wayward son who had gone to a distant country. All along he had been hoping and waiting for the son's return. So when his son did repent and set on his way home, the father was waiting for him. When he was still a far way off, the father saw him and was filled with compassion: "he ran up to his son, put his arms around him and kissed him". God's love and mercy is the same for sinners. When we have sinned against him, God waits patiently for our repentance. He moves with compassion when we are truly repentant of our sins; he forgives us and rejoices over conversion. God's love for us is shown in the person of Christ who suffers and dies so that we may be reconciled with our heavenly Father. This is further illustrated elsewhere in the gospel in the story of Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector who was repentant of his past sins and

seeking to see Jesus. Jesus accepted him and told him that he would stay at his house. In response to his critics, Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost". (Luke 19:10)

We often don't realize how merciful and forgiving God is to sinners. Luke uses the parable to exhort us to show mercy and acceptance towards our once fallen but since reformed brothers and sisters in our midst. The relationship between us and God should be one of love, not usefulness or self-interest. In the parable, the father exhorted the elder son to accept his born-again brother. He did not treat lightly the loyalty of his elder son. On the contrary, he affirmed his loyalty and said, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours".

There is not the least of unfairness in the parable of the father's treatment of his two sons. He was merciful and he gave new life to the son who was dead in sin. The parable assures us that God is always our merciful and loving Father, be we his prodigal or faithful sons. We are surely proud of having such a heavenly Father.

Stewardship

And the Lord changed his mind. (Exodus 32: 14)

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them because he is the Son of God, God, who changed his mind. Is your mind made up? Is your mind made up about the homeless in our city? the addicts? the prostitutes? Is your mind made up about those more conservative than you, those more liberal? Is your mind made up about your colleagues, your sisters and brothers in the church, or the family members with whom you have disagreed? And the Lord changed his mind. What about you?

Year of Faith

Oct 11, 2012

Nov 24, 2013

Open the Door of Faith

The Goal for Year of Faith in our parish:

Catechetical Studies Refresher;
Spend ten minutes a day to meditate on the Bible and to study the Catechism.
Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is

dead. James 2:17

Year of Faith Passport by Centennial Committee

Have You Got your Passport? Pick up your Year of Faith Passport from your parish or the Catholic Pastoral Centre, and take time to visit any of the 7 churches, along with special events in the diocese. Have your passport stamped at any of these churches or events, and then follow the instructions on the inside back cover of your passport. If you have questions please call the Pastoral Centre at 403-218-5500.

Parishioners can pick up the passport at Church entrances

Pope Francis's words

In this Year of Faith, let us remember that faith is not something we possess, but something we share. Every Christian is an apostle.

News & Others

Pope's Homily at Vigil of Prayer for Peace

"And God saw that it was good"

It says to us simply that this, our world, in the heart and mind of God, is the "house of harmony and peace", and that it is the space in which everyone is able to find their proper place and feel "at home", because it is "good".

God's world is a world where everyone feels responsible for the other, for the good of the other. This evening, in reflection, fasting and prayer, each of us deep down should ask ourselves: Is this really the world that I desire? Is this really the world that we all carry in our hearts? Is the world that we want really a world of harmony and peace, in ourselves, in our relations with others, in families, in cities, *in* and *between* nations? And does not true freedom mean choosing ways in this world that lead to the good of all and are guided by love?

Look upon your brother's sorrow – I think of the children: look upon these... look at the sorrow of your brother, stay your hand and do not add to it, rebuild the harmony that has been shattered; and all this achieved not by conflict but by encounter! May the noise of weapons cease! War always marks the failure of peace, it is always a defeat for humanity. Let the words of Pope Paul VI resound again: "No more one against the

other, no more, never! ... war never again, never again war!"

"Peace expresses itself only in peace, a peace which is not separate from the demands of justice but which is fostered by personal sacrifice, clemency, mercy and love".

Brothers and Sisters, forgiveness, dialogue, reconciliation – these are the words of peace, in beloved Syria, in the Middle East, in all the world! Let us pray this evening for reconciliation and peace, let us work for reconciliation and peace, and let us all become, in every place, men and women of reconciliation and peace! So may it be. Details at Vatican website

Diocese of Calgary

Social Justice Ministry

Final days of CCCB & CCODP Joint Solidarity Campaign for Crisis in Syria. The CCCB and Development and Peace have partnered together for a special emergency campaign for the Syrian Crisis, which ends Sept. 14th. This campaign will assist Syrian refugees. The Diocese of Calgary is accepting donations for this appeal. Please:

- send a cheque payable to your parish earmarked "Syrian Relief Effort".
- send a cheque payable to the Diocese earmarked "Syrian Relief Effort" and sent to the Pastoral Centre, 120 17th Ave S.W., Calgary AB T2S 2T2.
- Online donations using PayPal or credit cards are now acceptable by clicking on the Donate Now button on our diocesan website and directing the funds to "Syrian Relief Effort".

Office of Vocations

Evening of Prayer for Vocations. You are invited to a holy hour of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life on Sunday September 29, 2013. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7:30 pm at St. Anne's Parish, Calgary. For information call Fr. Gaffney at 403- 245-2753.

Parish Activities

OLPH Fundraising Bazaar

With your generosity and hard work, the September 8 bazaar was a huge success. We raised a total of \$7,319.25.

May God bless you and your family!

OLPH Young Adults Group

Young Adults Group in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church invites parishioners between post-secondary to those considering family life to be members of this parish group and join in our upcoming events.

Mission Statement: As young adults, we strive to unify the Church by providing leadership within our Parish while building a stronger faith in God.

For more information about any of the upcoming events or to register for OLPH Young Adults Group, please feel free to contact us at olphyoungadults@gmail.com.

OLPH Pastoral Care Team and Health Care Apostolate, RC

Diocese of Calgary will have a workshop –

"How to Forgive....4 steps to Forgiving" to all parishioners.

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2013

Time: 9:00am to 2:30 pm

Venue: OLPH Church Upper Hall

Registration Fee: \$40.00 (includes manual, breakfast , coffee break & lunch)

Registration or further information, please call Sr. Magdalena Chan (690-2973) or (265-7926)

Permanent Diaconate Ordination

Parishioners are invited to the Ordination of Permanent Deacon of Edward Lam of our Parish on Sunday October 6 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral by Bishop Frederick Henry. Let us pray for him to become a God's good faithful servant.

Evening Celebration Banquet will be held at Central Grand Restaurant on Sunday October 6 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30/person, and will be sold at the Religious Article Centre on Sept 8 & 15 after each mass, or from Parish Group representatives. All parishioners are welcome.

Together in Action 2013

Theme: "You will be my witnesses" Our parish's final target is \$50,000. As of September 8, our campaign has received a total of \$ 32,821.25. We plead for your ongoing support. Donation envelopes can be picked up from both the front and the side entrances. Let's take action now!

Weekly Activities

Mon, Wed, Fri 16, 18, 19

OLPH Senior Centre

Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon

Place: OLPH Church, Upper Hall

Friday 20

Faith Sharing Group (Sacred Heart)

Time: 7:30p.m.-10:00p.m.

Contact: Doris Ho 403-271-6884

Saturday 21

Legion of Mary (meeting)

(Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium)

Time: 9:45a.m.

Place: K of C Room

Tai Chi Lesson

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Yoga beginner class

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Young Adults choir practice

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: OLPH Upper Hall

Sunday 22

Fr. Joseph Birthday Blessing Sunday

School and Youth Group

Time: 10:00 a.m. Mass

R. C.I.A.

Adult Catechumenate Class

(Cantonese, Mandarin and English)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Sunday School

Time: 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Place: Office Building

Youth Choir- choir practice

Time: 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m

Place: Office Building

Imitating Christ

Chapter 25 :

Zeal In Amending Our Lives

There is one thing that keeps many from zealously improving their lives, that is, dread of the difficulty, the toil of battle. Certainly they who try bravely to overcome the most difficult and unpleasant obstacles far outstrip others in the pursuit of virtue. A man makes the most progress and merits the most grace precisely in those matters wherein he gains the greatest victories over self and most mortifies his will. True, each one has his own difficulties to meet and conquer, but a diligent and sincere man will make greater progress even though he have more passions than one who is more even-tempered but less concerned about

virtue.

To Be Continued

Stories Faith Sharing

Eternal Eyesight

I received good news at my eye checkup last month—my faraway vision has improved. Well, I thought it was good news until a friend informed me: "Faraway vision can improve as we age; close-up vision may diminish."

The report made me think of another kind of improved faraway vision that I have observed in some Christians. Those who have known the Lord for a long time or who have gone through great trials seem to have a better heavenly vision than the rest of us. Their eternal eyesight has gotten better and their close-up "earthly" vision is diminishing. Because the apostle Paul had that type of eternal vision, he encouraged the church in Corinth : "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory The things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal".

For now we struggle with our "eyesight." There's a tension between enjoying all that God has given us in this life, yet still believing about our future: "To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here." Seeing Him will bring perfect vision.

Read More Know More Ten Commandments

The Third Commandment

"Remember to keep holy the Lord's day."

1. Why did God command the Sabbath to be kept holy?

Because He completed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day. The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. 'Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church.'

2. How are Catholics obliged to keep Sunday holy?

a. They are obliged to attend Holy Mass on

Sunday.

- b. They are to abstain from doing unnecessary work on Sunday.
- c. They are to avoid shopping on Sunday.
- 4. The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: 'On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.' 'The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day.'
- 5. A parish is a definite community of the Christian faithful established on a stable basis within a particular church; the pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop." It is the place where all the faithful can be gathered together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. The parish initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life: it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ's saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and brotherly love.
- 6. You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests.
- 7. What would excuse a person from his obligation of attending Mass?
Illness, or the duty of attending the sick. A necessary obligation during the hours of the Holy Mass.
- Living at a great distance from a Church where a priest will be celebrating the Holy Mass. (Note: If a person must walk versus driving, a "great distance" is judged differently. For example, it would not be unreasonable to have to walk 2 miles to Church, or to drive 30 miles to Church every Sunday).
- 8. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.
- 9. Besides attending Mass and abstaining from work, how are we recommended to spend Sunday? We are recommended to spend it in a manner becoming the Lord's Day; attending an afternoon or evening service in the Church, and devoting some time to devout reading and prayer.
- 10. Are we forbidden from participating in

any form of amusements on Sunday? No. Such amusements and relaxations as are innocent in themselves may be indulged in, so long as they do not interfere with our religious obligations.

主日分享

天主的寬赦

常年期第二十四主日

本主日的讀經一記述以色列人拜金牛的故事。天主預備頒佈了祂的十誡，而祂的子民以色列便放肆到了拜金牛的地步。這真是一個不可寬恕的罪過。但天主既然許諾給他們先祖一塊土地和許多子孫，決不能撤銷這許諾，把災難降在他的子民身上。這故事就以天主寬赦他的子民拜金牛的罪為結束。

在讀經二聖保祿宗徒更現身說法，也為天主的寬赦作出了見證。他原是罪人，天主卻信任他、揀選他，付給他一個使命。那是當時新生的教會中一件盛事。在別的耶穌所揀選並曾與耶穌一同度過一段生活的宗徒眼中，保祿，那曾經迫害過他們的人，遽然也滿渥主寵，像他們一樣當起宗徒來，真是一件奇特而激起反感的事。保祿給我們指出，只要有信德和在基督內的愛，回頭悔改常是可能的。不但如此，他更認為自己的犯罪和後來的回頭悔改，都是天主的上智計劃。

福音中蕩子的比喻是大家都很熟悉的。比喻中的父親為了他兒子離棄家庭流蕩在遠方而不斷焦慮。一直盼望著兒子有朝一日終於要回家，由此可見天主不忘記罪人而耐心等待罪人回頭歸化的態度。比喻中的父親看到了兒子，便動了憐憫的心。動憐憫的心：這也是天主對罪人的經常態度。天主本性仁慈，本來就愛寬赦人的罪。比喻中的父親，由於對兒子的憐憫，一看見兒子，便首先"跑過去，抱住他的脖子，熱情地親吻他。" 天主就是這樣。我們可在耶穌的身上體會出來。譬如，在匝凱的故事裡，耶穌知道了那位稅務員要見自己，並有悔改的心意，便自動到他家去。在這個故事中，耶穌更又宣佈說："人子來，是為找尋及拯救迷失了的人。"

人們往往不懂得天主的寬赦。大概就是為了這個緣故，聖路加特意藉著耶穌這個比喻，向他的讀者們強調好好接納那些會犯過罪、而現在卻同他們一起生活在同一教會內的人。在天主與人之間的首要關係不是利益，而是愛。比喻中的父親毫無貶低長子的忠誠的意思，相反，他著實予以肯定。“孩子，你常和我在一起，我所有的一切都是你的。”

父親對他決無不公道之處。但是父親仁慈，把生命重新賜給會死了的兒子。所以，不論我是回頭的蕩子，或者是常和父親在一起的長子，天主總是我們仁慈的父親。我們以此為傲。

節錄自梵崗電台

信德年

打開信德之門

本堂為教友實行再慕道的金句：

每日十分鐘默想聖經及研習教理；

信德若沒有行為，自身便是死的。

雅各伯書 2:17

卡加利教區信德年朝聖團護照

教宗本篤十六世將給予全體信友信德年的全大赦。有鑑於此，卡加利教區所編制的教區朝聖團護照，有助於教友獲得此恩寵，詳細資料，請聯絡教區百年籌備委員會。電話(403) 218-5500 或電郵 receptionist@calgarydiocese.ca

教友可在教堂入口處拿取教區朝聖團護照，作為防身之用！

教宗方濟各的話

在這信德年內，我們當記得信德不是我們的專屬物，信德當被分享。每位基督徒都是使徒。

新聞及其他

教宗方濟各主持和平祈禱守夜禮：

教宗說：“在天主的幫助下，在和平之後聖母瑪利亞的注視下，一切皆有可能！”

教宗向衆人發出呼吁：“請注視你兄弟的痛苦，不要增加你兄弟的痛苦；要重建已破碎的和諧。這不是經由衝突所能達成的，而是藉由相遇！願戰

亂的噪音止息！戰爭總是標示和平的失敗，它總是人性的挫敗。願保祿六世教宗的呼聲再次回響：‘不要再有互相對抗！不要再有戰爭，不要再有戰爭！’‘和平祇能以和平顯示自己，和平與正義的要求需要互相呼應，在個人的犧牲、寬容和仁愛中增長’。

教宗最後說：“兄弟姐妹們，寬恕、對話與修和在可愛的敘利亞、在中東、在全世界都是和平的言語！讓我們為修和祈禱，為和平祈禱；讓我們為修和工作，為和平工作；讓我們每個人在各種環境裡成為修和與和平的人。” 詳細內容請參閱梵蒂岡電臺訊

堂區活動

永援聖母堂 TIA 筹款賣物會

永援聖母堂於九月八日舉行堂區籌款賣物會。多謝各位教友及善會的齊心合力，出錢出力，共籌得善款 7,319.25 元。願主祝福你們！

卡城天主教牧靈部與永援聖母牧靈關愛組合辦公開講座

主題：4 個階段及步驟邁向寬恕之道....

日期：2013 年 10 月 5 日（星期六）

時間：上午 9 時 至下午 2 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

費用：\$40.00 (包括講義, 早餐, 茶點及午餐)

歡迎堂區教友參加。詳情請向陳修女 690-2973 或 265-7926 報名及查詢。

永援聖母堂青年團

永援聖母堂青年團誠意邀請所有即將步入大學校園及所有青年教友參加這個為我們而設的組織，並參與我們即將舉辦的活動。

宗旨：作為年輕人，通過加深對信仰的認識及教堂的服務，從而促進個人的成長及加強我們與天主的關係。

欲了解及加入我們這個大家庭，請隨時與我們聯絡：

olphyoungadults@gmail.com

終身執事慶典

卡城亨利主教將於十月六日星期日下午三時，在聖瑪利主教座堂授予本堂

林偉良弟兄 (Edward Lam) 終身執事。歡迎所有教友參加，並繼續為他祈禱，使他成為天主善良忠信的僕人。晚上六時於亞洲軒酒家晚宴，每位 \$30 元，可於 9 月 15 日在聖物部購買。

2013 教區公益金，齊來獻愛心

主題：「...為我作證人...」

2013 年教區公益金 (TIA)，籌募經已展開。本堂今年的目標是 \$50,000 元，截至 9 月 8 日，捐款已累積 32,821.25 元。捐款信封可在聖堂入口處拿取。就讓我們立即行動，慷慨解囊。

活動一週

星期一、三、五 16, 18,20

永援聖母松柏軒

時間：上午 9 時至正午 12 時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期五 20

信仰小團體 (Sacred Heart)

時間：晚上 7 時 30 分至 10 時

聯絡：Doris Ho 403-271-6884

星期六 21

聖母軍

(聖母軍聖母無玷聖心支團)

時間：早上 9 時 45 分(開會)

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

楊式太極班

時間：上午 10 時至正午 12 時

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

瑜伽初班

時間：下午 2 時至下午 3 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

永援聖母青年團練習聖詩

時間：下午 6 時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期日 22

阮神父祝福生日的主日學、

青年會會員

時間：10 時彌撒

成人慕道班 (粵語、國語及英語)

時間：上午 9 時 30 分至 1 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

主日學

時間：上午 10 時至下午 12 時 30 分

地點：寫字樓大廈

青少年聖詠團-練習聖詩

時間上午 11 時至下午 12 時 30 分

地點：寫字樓大廈

師主篇

第二十五章、勤於改過自新

有一件事最能阻擋人修德前進，堅心定改，就是怕困難和鬥爭的苦。人若果然勇往直前，忍受患難凌辱，他修德前進，比別人要快的多。因為人越得勝自己，克治私情，他前進的也越多，得的聖寵也越大。人所該克治得勝的，多寡不一。有人雖然偏情多，但勇敢修德，比那偏情少而懈怠修德的人，長進的更多。 待續

靈修小故事

這就是耶穌！

祂為我們的過犯受害，為我們的罪孽傷。

邁克爾·布朗是在紐約長大的猶太裔孩子，對屬靈的事並不感興趣。他的生活重心是要成為樂隊的鼓手，同時他也深受濫用藥物的困擾。然而就在那時，有些朋友邀請他去教會，在那裡他感受到關愛及人們關心的代禱。經過短暫的信仰掙扎後，邁克爾接受了耶穌作為他個人的救主。

對一名頑固剛慢的猶太裔少年而言，這是一個巨大的轉變。一天，他對父親提起，他聽過舊約聖經裡的經文描述主耶穌，他父親不禁感到懷疑，問道：「在哪裡？」邁克爾打開聖經，高興地驚呼：「就是祂，這就是耶穌！」的確，這就是耶穌！布朗今天已是一位聖經學者及作家，當時他藉著衆信徒的幫助及聖神的引導，他經歷了救恩，這救恩改變生命、饒恕罪，並將豐盛的生命賜給所有信靠這位「多受痛苦」之救主。耶穌就是「為我們的過犯受害」，並為我們死在十字架上的那一位。

這位惟一能改變我們生命的耶穌，聖經已經向我們顯明。

知多一點點十誡

第三誡 守瞻禮主日

教會的規定：教友在主日及當守的法定慶節（即是瞻禮）有責任參與全彌撒。

我們在這一天慶祝主的日子，舉行主的感恩祭，慶祝逾越奧跡。根據宗徒的傳統，參與感恩祭應在整個教會內，首先奉為當守的主要法定慶節。教會法典規定，同樣該遵守的，有我們的主耶穌基督的聖誕節、主顯節、耶穌升天節、基督聖體聖血節、天主之母節、聖母始胎無原罪節、聖母升天節、聖若瑟節、聖伯多祿聖保祿宗徒節、諸聖節。

慈母聖教會並不禁止我們在安息日享受正當的娛樂，但必須先該尋求天主的國和他的義德，應盡恭敬天主的本分。在安息日，如果沒有什麼特別重大的事，即非做不可的事，必須全守安息日——主日。教會的規條更確切地規定上主的法律：主日及當守的法定慶節，信徒有責任參與彌撒。信徒除了此責任外，仍可以做其他光榮天主的事，即是愛主愛人的事。（注：彌撒是指全彌撒，即是由彌撒開始直至結束為止）

故意不盡參與主日彌撒者，難免不犯重罪。參與主日彌撒，並不祇是個人的責任，其實是整個團體的權益，個人的缺席，帶來整個團體的損失，這就是信徒守主日的嚴重本分之所在。無論在慶節本日或在前一天晚上、即是前夕，參與任何地方舉行的天主教禮儀彌撒者，即滿全參與彌撒的誠命。基督徒除非有重大的理由而不能參與或出席，如疾病、照顧嬰兒……或獲得自己主任司鐸的豁免，不在此限。信徒要明白，參與主日共同舉行的感恩祭，是歸屬和忠信於基督與他的教會的明證，即是公開宣誓信仰，信徒以此証實自己在信、望、愛三德內的共融，一起為天主的神聖及對天主的救援的希望作證。