



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 17th September 2017

Sunday Reflection – “As God forgives us, so should we forgive” Today's Gospel, as in previous Sundays deals with human relationship. The subject this week is one which concerns us all – forgiveness. This is at the very heart of the Christian message. Few can go through life without getting hurt. How do we cope with these hurts or wrongs to us? It is not easy. They can provide us with an opportunity to grow, or they can become stumbling blocks to our spiritual growth. We may be tempted to take refuge in self-pity which will lead to bitterness, anger, resentment. All of this can fester and poison our inner spirit, thus weakening our ability to love. But we can try another approach. We can begin to let go of our hurts, but we will need God's grace to help us. We can take our cue from the teaching and example of Jesus as we recall his prayer on the Cross “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”. We can try to rid ourselves of the burden of bitterness and resentment. As we enter into a process of reaching out in forgiveness to the one who offended us, we experience a sense of freedom, purification and healing. The heart that is wounded is renewed and healed. Forgiveness clears a path for God's spirit to enter the relationship and work on it. The basic truth here is that we are all offenders at some time or other in our lives. We are all sinners in need of reconciliation. Forgetfulness of our own sins leads to a lack of compassion, and we can end up becoming hurtful to each other. At the beginning of every Mass we are invited “to acknowledge our sins”. When we remember our own sins, we also remember that we are forgiven and this in turn should help us to forgive. When we pray the “Our Father”, we say, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”.

Feast of Our Lady of Dolours – This beautiful Marian Servite feast was on Friday last 15th September. It is the Patronal feast of our church and parish: “Our Lady of Dolours” (from dolor, Latin for “sorrow”) is also known as “Our Lady of Sorrows”. Mary experienced sorrows in her life. These sorrows were endured because of her love for her Son, Jesus Christ. Images of the Seven Sorrows of Mary are displayed in our church. There are also two striking images in our church to be noted: 1) The Calvary Altar shows Mary at the foot of the Cross – standing by her dying Son; 2) The Pieta shows Mary holding the dead body of her Son in her arms. These are powerful images of the compassionate mother, who by her faith and life transforms suffering through love into new life and hope. Mary is an icon of loving presence offering comfort and hope even in the midst of pain and sorrow. She is a wonderful Patron.

St Lorenzo Ruiz Feast Day: This Sunday September 24th at 2pm. The novena started on 15th.

Baptismal Course – We apologize for the delay in our Baptismal course, but this is due to a delay in the redecorating of our Founders Room. The next course will now be on Wednesday 27th September and Wednesday 4th October. Both sessions will be in the Church at 7.30pm. Parents must attend both sessions. Please get a registration form from the Parish Office in advance.

First Holy Communion – Application form 2017/18 is now available from the Parish office. Please Note: If your child was baptized in this parish, you do not need to enclose a Baptismal Certificate with the application; you only need to indicate the date and year on the application form. If you need to produce a Baptismal Certificate, your Registration will not be accepted unless it is with the Baptismal Certificate. Parish Office is open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (Lunch 1.30pm to 2.30pm). *Closing date for all applications is Sunday 24th September 2017.*

Interested in becoming a Catholic/Returning? Applications for next year's programme, are now available from the Parish Office. Contact Sr. Clementina or one of the Priests for more information about our RCIA Programme.

Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon – Thur 9am to 5pm

(Lunch Hour 1.30pm – 2.30pm)

Mass Times

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30pm

Sunday 8.30am

10am

(Spanish) 11.15am

12.15pm

7pm

Mon - Sat 10am

6.30pm

Sacrament of Confession

Mon - Thurs 6.15 – 6.30pm

Saturday 10.45 – 11.15am

6.00 – 6.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon – Thur 10.30 am – 11.15am

Rosary – Wednesdays 10.30am, followed by Tea/Coffee in the Founders Room.

Legion of Mary – Every Tuesday at 7pm in the Library. New members are welcome!

Charismatic Prayer Group: Is on Thursdays at 11am in the Founders' Room.

Saints Days

Tues 19th – St Januarius

Wed 20th – Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon

Thur 21st – St Matthew

Sat 23rd – St Pius Pietrelcina

Attention: In the next 3 weeks we shall address a very important part of our life together, ie. “Our Stewardship.” Are we good stewards in our Parish? Please give this matter prayerful consideration and let us all renew our commitment for the good of our Parish.