

Saint Paul the Apostle Church

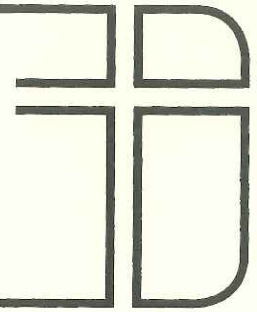
Conventual Franciscan Friars

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 13, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

May the Lord grant you his peace and all goodness from the heavens. One week ago, the Sacred Scriptures have us a good formula for how to lovingly correct someone and move forward in harmony (***Matthew 18: 15 – 20***). Today we are challenged to go even further when it comes to dealing to the forgiving those who trespass against us (***Matthew 18: 21 – 35***).

When anger which at times can be justifiable crosses the line and turns into personal hostility with a desire for vengeance, the line has been crossed into sin and depending on the severity of one's rage, it can even be mortal fracturing not only a relationship with another person, but with God. Harboring anger creates a giant barrier when we look to be forgiven for our sins (***Sirach 27: 30 – 28:7***).

In St. Paul's letter to the Romans it is very clear "**whether we live or die, we are the Lord's**" (***Romans 14: 7 – 9***). This means we are sons and daughters of a God who is merciful, heals, and always willing to forgive.

The Parable in today's Gospel from Matthew highlights that God's forgiveness is unlimited and challenges us to have the same compassion and mercy towards those who have injured us. Jesus says we must forgive not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Even though numbers appear to be proposed, first by Peter bringing up the number seven and Jesus counter proposes with the number seventy-seven times, there is no score card to keep, but a desire to bring about forgiveness that will bring true healing and peace. Difficult and depending on what kind of conflict has injured us we might first thing impossible. Let us not forget as we hear throughout the Sacred Scriptures, nothing is impossible for God. Sincere and consistent prayer for all of the graces and virtues to begin healing from past hurts is a wonderful beginning to healing and peace.

In preparation for our outdoor Sunday Masses please bring your own chairs and depending on the weather blankets, jackets or sweatshirts, hats, umbrellas, and sunscreen. While there is no limit to the number of people who can attend our outdoor Masses, the health and safety protocols issued by the public health authorities **MUST BE COMPLIED WITH AT ALL TIMES.**

Specifically, temperature and brief health screening upon arrival, observing six feet of physical distancing and **WEARING OF MASKS THE ENTIRE TIME YOU ARE ATTENDING THE MASS.**

Your patience, understanding, and cooperation are truly appreciated and I am proud of our community and its resolve to join me and the friars in keeping our parish functioning well and most of all staying safe and healthy. To my corps of volunteers who have given of their time so generously for preparation, setup, health screenings, and wrap-up after the Mass ends, your efforts are greatly appreciated forever.

Please note that the Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still in place until further notice and the Sunday Mass is still available online via our **You Tube Channel St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church-Pismo Beach BEGINNING EVERY SATURDAY AT 5:30 PM.** Our Daily Mass is now being **Livestreamed Monday – Friday at 8 AM** also on our **You Tube Channel.** Even though Mass is not being celebrated publicly Monday – Saturday, the Mass Intentions are still being fulfilled as well as remembered in our daily Franciscan Community prayers.

Our parish website <https://www.stpaulspismobeach.com> contains the most recent weekly bulletin, links to the Livestreamed Daily Mass and Online Mass on Sundays, as well as links to my weekly message to you, updates from Bishop Garcia and myself as they become available, and a safe user-friendly option for online giving.

If you need assistance with the online giving system, please contact our Parish Administrative Assistant Christopher Garza at admin@stpaulspismobeach.com as well at his direct telephone extension **(805)773-2219 Ext. 102.**

For those of you unable to make it to Mass at this time and wish to continue sending in your weekly contribution you may continue do so by the US Mail, dropping it off at the Rectory using the Rectory door mail slot, or using the online giving option described above. In order to keep an accurate record of your offerings, please include your weekly contributions envelope as well as write it on the check. No donation is too small and all are joyfully received with great gratitude.

May Almighty God be with all of you this day and always.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv.