



*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

**Our Vision:** *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

## THIS SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026

# WE SHALL NOT TRESPASS

### The Spirit of Reconciliation

Last Sunday's readings pointed to mutual forgiveness and reconciliation within the faith community, and this Sunday the theme gravitates over the same sphere, making it even more outstanding and central.

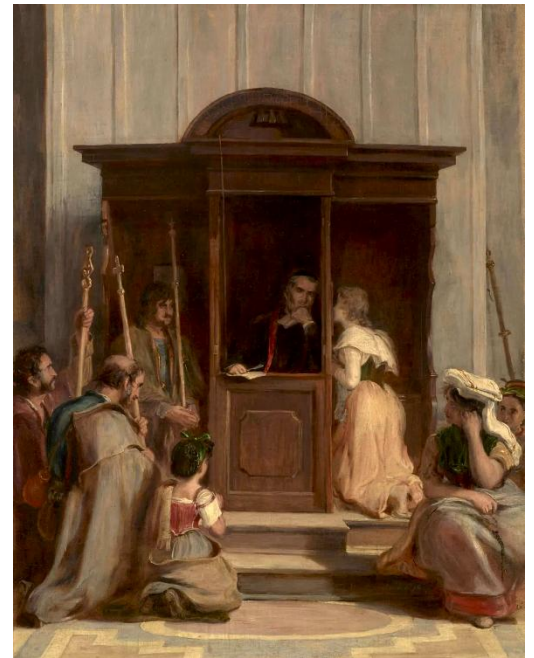
It goes without saying that this theme was central in Jesus' teaching. In last Sunday's sermon we pointed out that when Jesus taught His followers to pray, giving them what we know as the Lord's Prayer, the only topic He elaborated further on was forgiveness. Jesus insisted on the need to forgive those who sin against us if we are to be forgiven by our Heavenly Father.

When I was a boy, I often heard people in my hometown in Cuba say, "let God who is divine forgive them; I can't," (In Spanish, of course). I later learned how universal the idea put forward in this saying is. It is like stating that in order to forgive those who have wronged you, you must possess a quasi-divine nature.

"To err is human, to forgive divine" is a well-known saying in the English language. However, the way it is used points in a different direction. It is the acknowledgement of human error while, at the same time, highlighting the great virtue of those who forgive others.

We all know that some people are more prone to forgive than others. We also know how hard it is to forgive someone who has hurt us in horrible ways, like murdering someone we love, for instance. Pretending to forgive because it is "the Christian thing to do" will not work, simply because God knows our very being better than we do. Forgiveness may become a long and arduous process in some cases, and there may be cases when we are not able to forgive, but we must always strive to do so.

Fortunately, we have the Holy Spirit on our side to aid us in this endeavor. This Sunday's Collect is short but really substantial. It simply asks God to "mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts". After acknowledging that "without you we not not able to please you."



The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit of Truth. It is the one who defends us from error and evil, the one who comforts us in our tribulations, and the one who sustains us in our efforts to do God's will. Jesus Christ Our Lord taught us that the Church's mission is God's mission, and it is no other than the mission of reconciliation.

As long as we are still living in error, we continue to "trespass" against God and against our neighbor. In this world where we are not God's perfect image yet, the only way we can express our mutual love is through the exercise of forgiveness, because that is the essence of the recognition that we also sin against God and our neighbor.

This Sunday's Old Testament reading, Genesis 50:15-21, brings us the story of Joseph facing the brothers who had cruelly sold him as a slave because of envy and hatred. Now Joseph is in a position where they are subjected to his decision. Instead of taking revenge, Joseph not only forgives them, but provides for them and their descendants, thus showing God's mercy in his actions.

Psalm 103 reminds us that God "forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities." The psalmist also adds, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us."

In his Letter to the Romans, chapter 14, St. Paul insists on the need to refrain from passing judgment upon other followers of Christ because of their different ways of considering what must or must not be eaten, or some other local customs. He reminds them that we will all stand before the judgment seat of God, and be accountable to Him.

And this Sunday's Gospel reading (Matthew 18:21-35) has Peter asking Jesus how many times he should forgive a member of the church sinning against him. Peter suggests seven as a good answer, since seven is a number indicating completion and perfection. However, Jesus shocks him with a different figure: seventy-times seven.

In fact, Jesus is not setting any specific limits here. He just uses multiples of seven pointing to a number that becomes more than anyone can foresee in terms of forgiveness.

And then He tells the well-known parable of the unforgiving servant. We all know the teaching involved here. It is the same as in the Lord's prayer: "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Again, we are reminded by Him who forgave even those who crucified Him that mutual forgiveness is the cornerstone of the reconciled world God intends for us to share.

*Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector*

## READINGS FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 50:15-21 + Romans 14:1-12 + Matthew 18:21-35  
+ Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

# CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10:00 AM. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

**SUNDAY      September 13th, 2026    The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church**  
Join Zoom Meeting from our website at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)  
Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**  
Ages 5 to 12 in the Parish Hall, from 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

**Christian Formation for Adults (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)**  
Youth and adults around noon after the Mass in the Library  
Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

## OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally