

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Weekly Bulletin

Year 25, No. 25

SUNDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

Christ The King Catholic Church | P.O.Box CT 2110 Cantonments-Accra, Ghana
Tel. 233-302-775645 www.christthekingaccra.net Email: info@christthekingaccra.net
CTK School +233-302785200

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH THEME FOR THE YEAR

LET US REJOICE, FOR NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD - cf Is 61.2

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays

8:00am-5:00pm

Saturdays

8:00am-12:00pm

Sundays

8:00am-2:00pm

SUSPENSION OF USED CLOTHING RECEIPTS

The Parish has suspended receipt of used clothing as part of efforts to fight the spread of the Corona Virus. We will duly inform you appropriately when we commence again.

God bless you.



**CONGRATULATIONS!! REV. SR. MARY RITA TEYE,
ON YOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR FINAL VOWS**

FAREWELL MASS FOR REV. FR. EMMANUEL APPAH & ANTHONY AGNES ADU-MENSAH

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Appah our assistant Priest has been appointed Secretary to the Archbishop and will assume duty at the Holy Spirit Cathedral on the 1st of October, 2020.

Rev. Fr. Anthony Agnes Adu-Mensah will also proceed on Sabbatical (further studies).

In view of these the Parish is organizing a farewell Mass for them on Sunday, the 27th of September, 2020 during the 8.30 am Mass.

Societies and individuals are being encouraged to bring gift items for them on that day as a show of appreciation for their good work in the Parish.

24TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME, YEAR A

COMMENTARY ON READINGS

First Reading: We are urged not to exact vengeance against those who offend us. To forgive offences against us is a necessary condition for obtaining God's pardon for our own offences when we pray to Him.

(Sir 27:30. 28:7)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (PS 63)

"The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion."

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits. **Res**

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion. **Res**

He will not always chide,
nor does he keep his wrath forever.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **Res**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us. **Res**

Second Reading: We live and die for Christ and therefore we should refrain from judging our neighbours, because, in the end, it is God who judges everyone. (**Romans 14:7-9**)

Gospel: Today we read the parable of the unforgiving servant. Jesus warns us about the disastrous consequences of not forgiving one another from our hearts. (**Matthew 18:21-35**)

WEEKDAY READINGS & MEMORIALS 24TH WEEK IN ORDINARY, YEAR A

Monday	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Tuesday	Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Cor 12:12-14. 27-31a/Ps 100/ Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Wednesday	St. Cornelius and Cyprian 1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Ps 33/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday	St. Robert Bellarmine 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118/Lk 7:36-50
Friday	St. Joseph Cupertino 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday	St. Januarius /BVM 1 Cor 15:35-37. 42-49/Ps 56/Lk 8:4-15

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
Is 55:6-9/ Ps 145/ Phil 1:20-24. 27a/Mt 20:1-16

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy towards us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

FAMILY CONNECTION

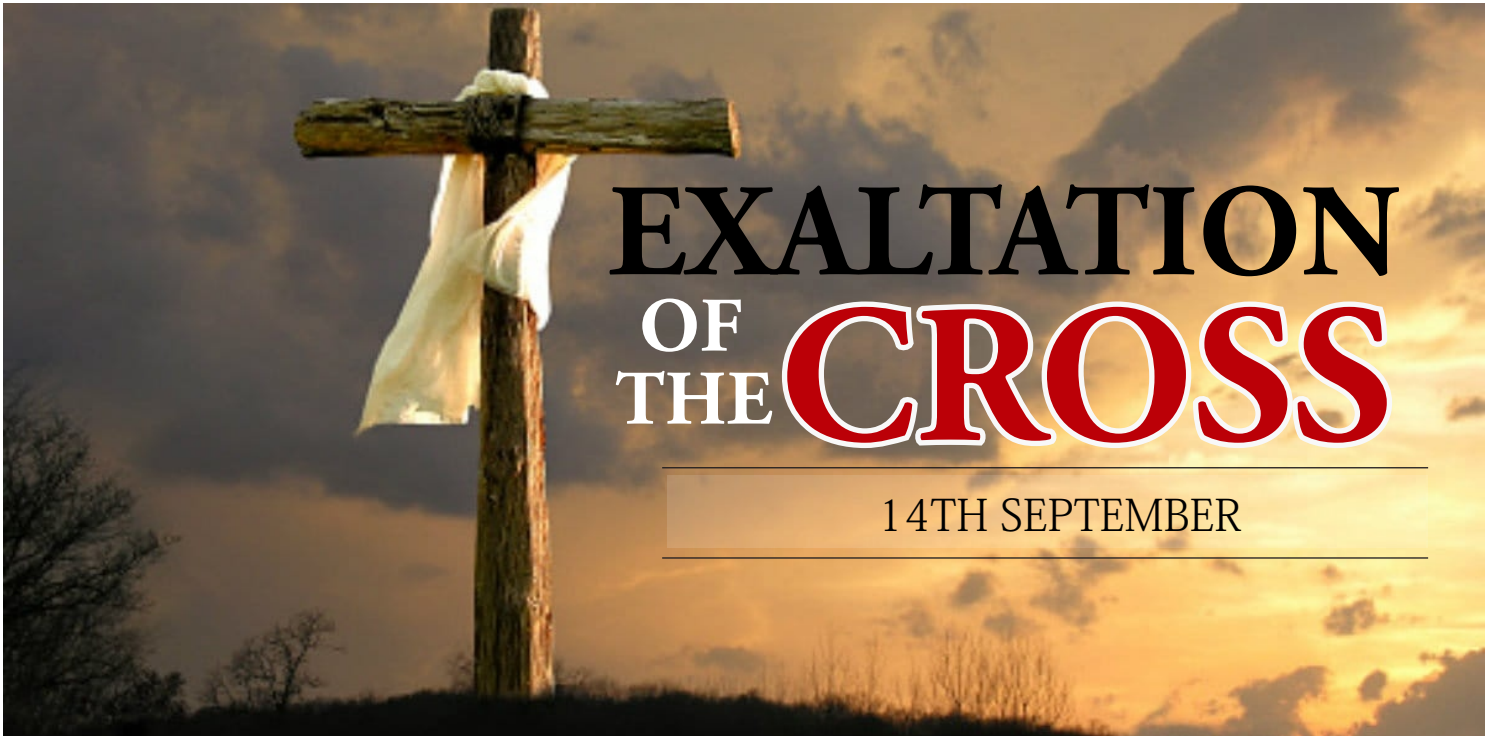
Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.

Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

FEAST OF THE WEEK



EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

14TH SEPTEMBER

THE STORY OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the

basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

REFLECTION

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

PUBLICATION OF MARRIAGE BANN

1. Sydney Scott Sam & Nana Aba Wilson (3)
2. Kwame Owusu-Ansah & Marilyn A. Edem Amenuvor (3)
3. Benjamin Kwesi Ephson & Marie - Louise Aikins (3)
4. Franklin Oboe Akwaah & Beatrice Fosuah Adomako (2)
5. Emmanuel Osei & Cynthia Doreen Awusi-Nti (2)

FORGIVENESS

It is not uncommon for Christians to have questions about forgiveness. Forgiveness does not come easy for most of us. Our natural instinct is to recoil in self-protection when we have been injured. We do not naturally overflow with mercy, grace and forgiveness when we have been wronged. Is forgiveness a conscious choice, a physical act involving the will, or is it a feeling, an emotional state of being? The Bible offers insight and answers to these and many more questions about forgiveness.

Let us take a look at out what Sacred Scripture says about forgiveness.

Forgiveness is a choice we make through a decision of our will, motivated by obedience to God and his command to forgive. The Good Book instructs us to forgive as the Lord forgave us:

Colossians 3:13 – Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you

We forgive by faith, out of obedience. Since forgiveness goes against our nature, we must forgive by faith, whether we feel like it or not. We must trust God to do the work in us that needs to be done so that the forgiveness will be complete. God honours our commitment to obey Him and our desire to please him when we choose to forgive. He completes the work in his time. We must continue to forgive (our job), by faith, until the work of forgiveness (the Lord's job), is done in our hearts.

Philippians 1:6 – And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Lewis B. Smedes wrote in his book, *Forgive and Forget*, "When you release the wrongdoer from the wrong, you cut a malignant tumor out of your inner life. You set a prisoner free, but you discover that the real prisoner was yourself." We will know the work of forgiveness is complete when we experience the freedom that comes as a result. We are the ones who suffer most when we choose not to forgive. When we do forgive, the Lord sets our hearts free from the anger, bitterness, resentment,

and hurt that previously imprisoned us. Most times, however, forgiveness is a slow process.

Matthew 18:21-22 – Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

This answer by Jesus makes it clear that forgiveness is not easy for us. It's not a one-time choice and then we automatically live in a state of forgiveness. Forgiveness may require a lifetime of forgiving, but it is important to the Lord. We must continue forgiving until the matter is settled in our heart.

Prayer is one of the best ways to break down the wall of unforgiveness in any heart. When we begin to pray for the person who has wronged us, God gives us new eyes to see and a new heart to care for that person. As we pray, we start to see that person as God sees them, and we realize that he or she is precious to the Lord. We also see ourselves in a new light; just as guilty of sin and failure as the other person. We too are in need of forgiveness. If God did not withhold his forgiveness from us, why should we withhold our forgiveness from others? Also, we can pray for God to deal with the injustices, for God to judge the person's life, and then we can leave that prayer at the altar. We no longer have to carry the anger. Although it is normal for us to feel anger toward sin and injustice, it is not our job to judge the other person in their sin.

Luke 6:37 – Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

The best reason to forgive is because Jesus commanded us to forgive. We learn from Scripture, if we don't forgive, neither will we be forgiven:

Matthew 6:14-16 – For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

We also forgive so that our prayers will not be hindered:

Mark 11:25 – And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

TO BE CONTINUED.....



Every
blood donor is a
Lifesaver

BLOOD DONATION 2020

As you are all aware, CTK has been helping and saving lives of countless people through our annual Blood Donation. Some of these recipients are amongst us, in our homes and workplaces.

This year due to limitations on large gatherings, the blood banks are in dire need

SUPPORT TO PARISHIONERS - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY -

Dear Parishioners,

"The generous person will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed".

Prov. 11:25.

Many have been refreshed over the years through your generous contributions to the Christ the King Parish and we pray you will be refreshed yourselves according to the Word of God.

We understand the difficulties many are facing due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and as we did during the lockdown, the Parish continues to help as best as she can.

We have some food items to be distributed to persons who are currently in need and we hope by being each other's keeper, we will come out of this more united knowing our Heavenly Father will work all things together for our good.

Kindly contact the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on 0594815591 and you will be given the necessary assistance. "You have given privately, come and receive privately". Matt 6:3
God bless you.

of supplies. Let's join the National Catholic Blood Donation Campaign to help save lives near and far.

The exercise comes off on 24th and 31st of October respectively, on the CTK Compound.

DONATE BLOOD AND SAVE A LIFE!

2020 THANKSGIVING DAY

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His Love endures forever. (Psalm 136:1).

My brothers and sisters in Christ, Peace be with you! This year's Annual Harvest will not be organised as done previously due to Covid-19 and its impact on our daily lives. That notwithstanding, we can all testify that the Lord indeed has been gracious unto us and protected each one of us. We still have a reason to be thankful to Him. In view of this, Sunday **8th November, 2020** has been set out as a **"Thanksgiving Day"** for us to show our appreciation to God.

There will be **"Kofi and Ama"** on that day at all Masses to crown it all. Individuals and groups are encouraged to send their contributions either to the parish office or through the parish mobile money numbers (MTN-0245276017, VODAFONE – 0207566410) and bank account (Standard Chartered A/N- 0100113350000 Branch: Liberia Road).

There will also be MEN/VRS WOMEN/second collection to support the "Thanksgiving Day" starting from **Sunday 9th August, 2020 to Sunday 31st December, 2020**. All contributions received will be receipted and this will go towards the upkeep and running of the Parish.

We know times are hard but those who put their trust in the Lord will never be disappointed. May Christ the King, who reigns forever bless, protect and keep us always. Amen.