FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is one of the defining characteristics of Christianity, both that we can receive forgiveness and that we must offer it. Let’s dispel some misconceptions about forgiveness, to indicate why we need to offer forgiveness, and to indicate what we need to do to offer forgiveness.

First misconception. Forgiving someone doesn’t mean saying that what they did didn’t matter, it does mean saying it’s “al-right”, and it’s doesn’t mean making excuses for them. When the Lord Jesus hung on the Cross, as the Gospels record, He offered His forgiveness to His murderers. He didn’t ignore their crime: they were committing the greatest evil in human history: they were rejecting and killing God. Yet, He freely chose to forgive them.

Second misconception. Forgiveness is not a feeling, rather, it is a decision. I must choose, in my will, to forgive the person who has hurt me, long before my emotions have caught up with that. I may still feel anger, but forgiveness is a choice, not an emotion. I must CHOOSE to forgive.

Third misconception. Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation. Sometimes I must forgive my brother or sister even though there is no realistic chance of us coming to harmony and talking to each other happily. Yet, my decision towards him or her ought to be one of forgiveness.

Fourth misconception. Forgiveness is rarely over in an instant, rather, it is often a long process involving many stages. Of ten I must renew my decision to forgive daily. I must, repeatedly, look at the evil that has been done to me and at the person who has done it, and say, yet again, “I choose to forgive”. But why? If it’s so hard, WHY must I forgive? Well, most importantly, because Jesus commands it. He commands it so emphatically that He says we will not be forgiven unless we forgive others whom we have sinned against.

The Lord Jesus promised us that as we forgive, so will Our Father forgive us. Forgiven communicates God’s invitation to each one of us to come experience the depth and bounty of God’s love. By looking at God’s revelation of his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. 3 sessions.

- Fr. Paul Dobson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S LITURGY will Resume: Sunday October 1st for the 11 am & 12:30 pm Mass.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: Sept. 27th - Nov. 5th 7:00 am - 7:00 pm Please join with 589 cities worldwide for a peaceful prayer vigil for preborn children. 40 Days for Life Opening Mass will be held at St. Mary Star of the Sea on Sunday September 24th at 11:00 am. More information is at www.righttolifeen.com/40daysfulfill/. St. Joseph’s Scheduled Parish Vigil Days are: Fridays Sept 29, October 6 and October 13 at 1:30 pm.

RITE OF CATHOLIC INITIATION (RCIA) at St. Joseph

Will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm beginning Wednesday September 20th. If you or someone you know would like to become Catholic or be Confirmed Catholic, please email Ron at rcia@stjosephbstreetsville.com.

Information & Parent Registration Night

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFESION for children in Home school or Public or Private schools. Will be on Wednesday September 27th at 4:30 pm at St. Josephs parish.

REGISTRATION FOR: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFESION for children in Home school or Public or Private schools.

Join Us at: ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

OUR ANNUAL PICNIC IS BACK!

Thank you for your Parish Ministry for helping with the event. Bring the Whole Family!

SMILE FOR THE WEEK

What kind of a dog travels the world?

Answer: poodle
Let’s dispel some misconceptions about forgiveness, to indicate Most Reverand Francis Leo, Archbishop or Toronto Diocese, invite all the faithful to join our Archdiocese family from September 20th until Thursday September 28th. You can join us after daily Mass or say it any time convenient to you. Questions? CONTACT: 416-907-1042

Life Chain - Respect Life Sunday
On Sunday October 1, the annual national Life Chain will be across Canada to pray for our pre-born children, elderly and born children. For more info contact: Arcangelo (647)215-3978 alimanni@cfstoronto.com. Register: https://bd0923.eventbrite.ca

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
Jesus the Good Shepherd Covenant Community invites you to the Life in The Spirit Seminar on October 21st and 22nd. More information is at g131/josephparish/g131

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