

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Readings: 1) Sirach 27:30-28:7      2) Romans 14:7-9      3) Matthew 18:21-35

**Sunday Liturgy**

The focus for today’s Mass is that as God has forgiven our sins, so we must forgive others.

In the first reading, we are reminded that we will be forgiven as we have forgiven others. In the second reading, Saint Paul tells us that we belong to God in both life and death. In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable to illustrate that our generosity in forgiving those who have wronged us must be lavish if we are to hope for the same consideration from our heavenly Father.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**PRIEST:**

**Merciful Father,  
your love for us reaches even beyond death.**

**We place our prayers and petitions before you,  
trusting that you will hear and answer us.**

For the Church may she serve as a model of forgiveness,  
healing and mercy for our world,  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For nations locked in disagreement,  
may they break the ancient bond of hatred and seek healing,  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick in mind and body;  
Especially for:  
may Christ be their constant companion.  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For those who have died,  
Especially for:  
may they come to the fullness of life in God’s presence.  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For everyone in this faith community  
may we mirror God’s mercy, in the way we care for one another,  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions, ..... (long pause),  
We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**PRIEST:**

**Loving God,  
we are your children in both life and death.**

**Hear and answer the prayers we offer in humble hope.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**