

Pope Leo, Angelus 13 September 2026

Today's Gospel speaks to us of forgiveness, which is a fundamental feature of the Christian life. Jesus taught and exemplified forgiveness even on the cross, where he prayed to the Father for his persecutors with the familiar words: "Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk 23:34).

In today's passage, Peter asks the Master precisely about this question: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" (Mt 18:21). His words reveal a generous heart, for the number seven symbolizes fullness in the Bible, and "forgiving seven times" means forgiving abundantly. Jesus' response, however, goes even further: "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven" (v. 22); in other words, beyond all limits, without measure.

To clarify his point further, the Savior tells the parable of a servant who owed his master a large debt that was practically impossible to pay. Although his own debt was forgiven out of pure mercy, he did not extend the same mercy toward one of his fellow servants, and for this he was rebuked and severely punished (vv. 23-30). With these words, Jesus reminds us that gift and forgiveness are the foundation of our existence. All things are given to us by God out of pure love, and none of us can claim to be perfect in responding to such goodness. For this reason, gratuitousness — which is the source of our existence — is also the best rule for our life together. We experience this every day. Forgiveness is indispensable, and without it, we cannot live in peace. Sooner or later conflicts, accusations, grudges and acts of vengeance emerge in our hearts and among people, and these acts destroy relationships, divide families and unleash wars.

Only forgiveness sets us free and restores the light, even where human material and moral poverty has darkened the horizon and made the path uncertain. Forgiveness, like a gentle breeze, sweeps away even the thickest clouds until the sun shines once more. Saint Peter himself experienced this many times in his life; in particular, when — after denying and abandoning Jesus during the Passion — he encountered the risen Lord on the shore of the lake and heard him ask just one question: "Simon ... do you love me?" (Jn 21:15). This was accompanied by an invitation, "follow me!" (v. 19), which was the same invitation given on the occasion of their first encounter. It was as if nothing had happened. This love, which forgives and heals, would mark for the first of the Apostles, the confirmation of his mission.

Let us therefore ask the Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, to help us forgive — always, even when it is difficult to take the first step — and to spread, with courage and perseverance, the serene and healing light of love that overcomes hatred and disarms all resentment

WORLD YOUTH DAY

The Next World youth day will be in South Korea in 2027. The youth of the parish are already starting to prepare for it. Any help you can give will be rewarded by the Lord a hundred fold, not only spiritually but also materially.

ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION



Our Lady of Divine Providence

· ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ·

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

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TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.

**Sunday: 09:00 am English, Church.
10:30 am Creole, Church.
12:30 pm Spanish, Church.**

**Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, Upper
Room, St. Maria Goretti.**

**Thursdays: 04:00 pm Adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament
and Rosary.**

NEW LOCATION

Next Mass 7 November 2026

**Saturdays: 04:00 pm English (Nov.to May)
St. Joseph's Church**

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in
person.**

**1st Confessions: May 20th, 2027
1st Communions: May 30th, 2027**

Confirmations: October 11 at 9:00 am

**Marriage: Call the parish office for
preparation before setting a
fixed date.**

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

**Confessions: Everyday before Mass or
by appointment.**

In the Gospel of this Sunday Jesus says that there is always hope for the sinner. This can at times appear unjust, especially to those who have led good lives from early days until today. Yet, a person who has led a very sinful life and at the very end is converted receives the same reward as the first person who has always done the right thing. Life is a strange thing and so are the ways of God. God is God and you really can't argue with Him. Even if you do, you will not win the argument!

The basis of the reading is that the Lord is merciful. The Lord loves the sinner as He knows what a sinner's life is like. Sin makes you sad. Sin makes you unable to love. Sin causes all kinds of divisions everywhere. It is not that the life of a sinful person is all fun. It is anything but joyful.

There are plenty of worldly people who seem to have comfortable lives but deep down what is the purpose of their life? Many throw themselves into their career or family but there is still a yearning for something more profound unless that has been killed by their worldliness.

In all of this Our Lord is very patient even with wicked people and waits for the time for their repentance and acceptance of His immense love, which is what this Gospel shows us. There is always the chance to turn back to the Lord even if we have strayed from Him for a long time. There is always hope even up to the last minute. This can give us all courage but also consolation as regards those that we love who have strayed far from the Lord. All my immediate family had "Death Bed conversions", for which I am eternally grateful to the Lord. Fr. Paul

The Masses at St. Joseph – Long Bay are from November to May. next Mass **WILL BE SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2026 at 4:00 PM.**

CCD Classes
COMMENCING Saturday 19 September, 10 am –Noon at the Church.
Registrations are at the entrance of the church (green form)

On October 11th we will be giving the Sacrament of Confirmations

REQUIREMENTS

- Regular attendance to Sunday Mass
- Baptism and birth certificate.
- Complete community service
- Complete retreat.

godparents need:

- Minimum 16 years old.
- To have the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Letter from their pastor confirming practicing the Catholic faith.

Parish Events 20-27 Sept

Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30 am Creole, 12:30 pm Spanish

04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00 pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00 pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30 pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
06:00 pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday St. Matthew, Apostle

09:00 am –12 Creole Charismatic group
5:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

Tuesday

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
7:00pm First English, Bl. Sac. Chapel
Second English, SMG
Sixth, Blue Chapel
Spanish, St. Joseph, Room

Wednesday St. Padre Pio of Petrelcina

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm 3rd and 4th English, Upper room
5th English, Blue Chapel
Creole, St. Joseph, Red Room

Thursday

04:00pm Adoration SMG upstairs
05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG Upper Room

Friday

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs

Saturday St.s Cosmas and Damian

05:30 pm Mass in Church
07:00 pm Eucharist NCW



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
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Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

September 17, 2026

Next week, on September 25, Holy Family Academy will be closed for the holiday, National Youth Day.

Classes will resume on Monday, September 28th.



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"
Phillippians 4:13

www.hfa.catholic.tc

SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit, bank transfer or check.

You can also help us with the donation of picnic tables, or sponsoring a portion of the funds.

These tables will expand our outdoor learning and lunch spaces, giving students a safe, well-ventilated area to study, socialize, and connect outside the classroom.



Scan QR code to see the tables.

Amount needed: 10
Size: 8 ft.
Color: Assorted.