

# Dear Padre,

*My ex broke up with me. I find myself hoping he gets subjected to the same emotional pain as I have. I hate feeling this way, so how do I ask God to take away this pain and help me forgive my ex?*

What you are sharing is your hurt and confusion. Although your boyfriend was ready to end the relationship, you were not. It seems you are still not ready to move on. That is OK. Everyone has his or her own manner of dealing with disappointment, and there is no perfect timeframe.

More than your boyfriend's suffering, you desire freedom for yourself and a return to a healthy sense of your own personhood. You perceive him as happy and perhaps wonder how that's possible while you are still struggling. This is all very normal, and it's part of the process we all experience when an important relationship changes.



You will work through this. You will love again. You will no longer be triggered by strong feelings when you encounter him in the future. But you are going to have to do the hard work of growing, maturing, and learning to let go. Begin by praying for his well-being. And if you can't do that, ask God for the grace to want to pray for his well-being. Certainly, the Lord will help you, but he won't magically take away your pain. There are no shortcuts. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1	March 2
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 1:1–10	Sir 2:1–11	Sir 4:11–19	Sir 5:1–8	Sir 6:5–17	Sir 17:1–15	Sir 27:4–7
Mk 9:14–29	Mk 9:30–37	Mk 9:38–40	Mk 9:41–50	Mk 10:1–12	Mk 10:13–16	1 Cor 15:54–58
						Lk 6:39–45



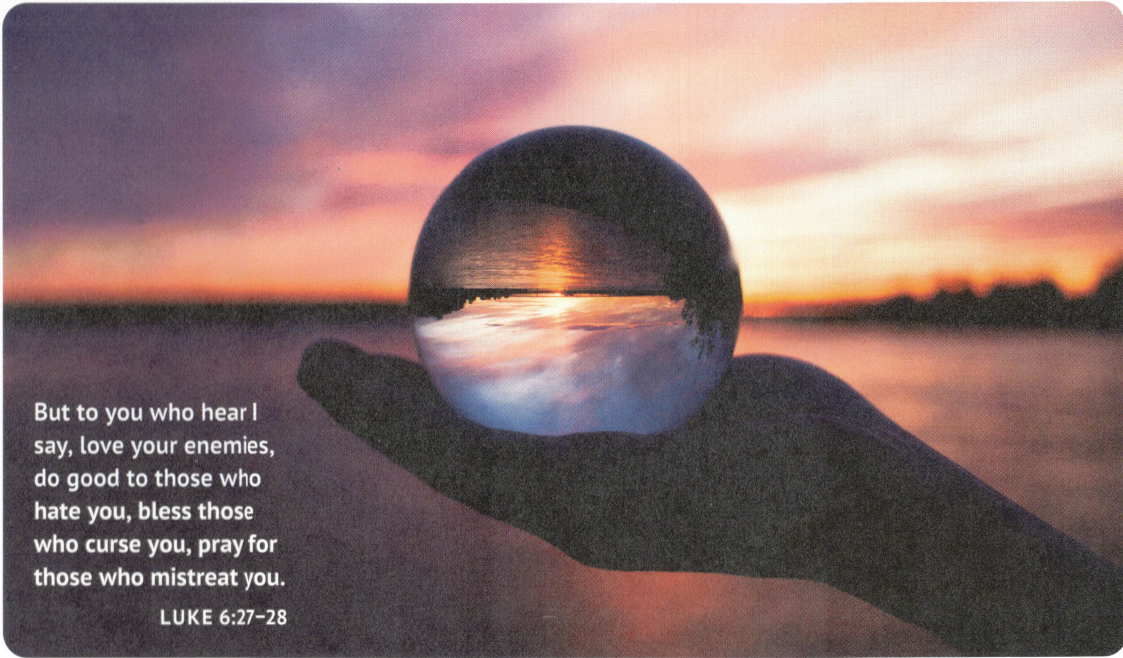
## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Turning the other cheek is not the withdrawal of the loser, but the action of one who has a greater inner strength. [It] means defeating evil with goodness, which opens up a breach in the heart of the enemy, unmasking the absurdity of his hatred. And this attitude...is dictated not by calculation or by hatred, but by love.*

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 20, 2022

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 23, 2025  
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23 / 1 Corinthians 15:45–49 / Luke 6:27–38



But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

LUKE 6:27–28

# A New World Order

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The American experiment of 1776 ushered in the dawn of a new world order, one that would redefine how nations functioned and interacted. The computer age brought about an upheaval in how we interact with one another personally—a new world order in human communication. Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians about how Adam was the first being who ushered in human life, and how Jesus was the new Adam, who ushered in a new life-giving spirit. Jesus initiated a new world order, one that redefined what it meant to be human and contained a new spiritual dimension. “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...give to everyone who asks of you...do to others as you would have them do to you.... Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:27–36).

The fact that there are many who think this is not a practical or useful way to live—to say nothing of whether it is desirable or even possible—does not negate its power to transform human relationships as well as our very own spirits. None of us do it as well as we might hope, which only attests to the fact that we live with a foot in each of two worlds—the earthly one and the heavenly one. Empowered by God's Spirit, we are still growing into the people God created us to be. ●

## Reflect

Is there someone you are struggling to forgive? What is stopping you?

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The  
**Catholic Church**  
in Pocahontas County  
West Virginia

*OUR MISSION*

If anyone  
wishes to be first,  
he shall be  
the last of all  
and the servant of all.  
(Mark 9:35, nab-re)

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH & CHURCH OFFICE, 714 Tenth Avenue, Marlinton WV 24954  
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST MISSION, 92 Catholic Church Road, Rts 250 & 92, Bartow WV 24920  
ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX CHAPEL, 6332 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe WV 26209  
Telephone: St. John Neumann 304-799-6778, St. Bernard of Clairvaux 304-572-0847  
Website: [PocahontasCatholic.org](http://PocahontasCatholic.org)  
E-mail: [Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org](mailto:Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org)



Charlie & Patty Bryant  
Margaret Bryant  
Ann Burke  
Phillip Cobb  
Sally Logan  
Drema Moore  
Cynthia Olson  
Quinn Riffle

**EUCCHARIST THIS WEEK**

Friday 8:00 a.m. St. John  
Saturday 5:30 p.m. St. Bernard  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. St. John  
11:30 a.m. St. Mark



*St. John Neumann Church is open for private prayer  
every day during daylight.*

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered  
before each Eucharist or by appointment,  
and at St. Bernard on Saturdays 4:30-5:00 p.m.*

*The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick  
is available any time upon request.*



Please call the Church office (304-799-6778) if you know of a parishioner who is sick, in the hospital or nursing home, homebound, deployed, or in prison.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513.  
To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880.  
To report suspected cases of sexual misconduct or sexual abuse by a bishop or eparch, please contact [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 800-276-1562.

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.  
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.  
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.  
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.  
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.  
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.  
It was never between you and them anyway.  
(St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE**

*"Do to others as you would have them do to you.  
For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?."*  
(Luke 6:31-32, NAB-RE)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTES**

- **Welcome to Fr. Jim Conyers**, who will be the celebrant for all Masses again this weekend. Fr. Arthur will reintroduce himself next weekend.
- The second session of reflections on the *Appalachian Pastoral Letters*

will be presented this Monday (February 24) via Zoom at 7 p.m. Tom Breiding will present part one of "This Land Is Home To Me," the 1975 pastoral. To register for the series, e-mail Anna Marie Troiani ([ATroiani@CSJoseph.org](mailto:ATroiani@CSJoseph.org)). The



	LAST WEEKEND	
	<u>attendance</u>	<u>collection</u>
St. John Neumann	27	\$545.00
Fund for the Poor		\$10.00
St. Mark the Evangelist	8	\$125.00
St. Bernard of Clairvaux	103	\$625.00
total	138	\$1,305.00

pastoral letters can be found at [www.CCAppal.org/pastoral-letters](http://www.CCAppal.org/pastoral-letters)

- **Community Dinner** is this Thursday (February 27) at Marlinton Presbyterian Church 5:00-6:30 p.m. It's free and open to the public, so why don't you plan to attend and bring your family and friends with you?



**Fund for the Poor**  
**\$116.59 given in January**  
**in direct aid for those in need.**



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

First Reading (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23)

In those days, Saul went down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David in the desert of Ziph. So David and Abishai went among Saul's soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him.

Abishai whispered to David:  
"God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!"  
But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD's anointed and remain unpunished?"  
So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul's head, and they got away without anyone's seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the LORD had put them into a deep slumber.

Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops.  
He said: "Here is the king's spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. The LORD will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD's anointed."

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13,  
*Grail translation, 1963*)

*Response:* The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

Brothers and sisters:  
It is written,  
The first man, Adam, became a living being,  
the last Adam a life-giving spirit.  
But the spiritual was not first;  
rather the natural and then the spiritual.  
The first man was from the earth, earthly;  
the second man, from heaven.  
As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly,  
and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly.  
Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one,  
we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

Gospel Acclamation (John 13:34)

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:  
love one another as I have loved you.

## Gospel (Luke 6:27-38)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“To you who hear I say,  
love your enemies,  
do good to those who hate you,  
bless those who curse you,  
pray for those who mistreat you.  
To the person who strikes you on one cheek,  
offer the other one as well,  
and from the person who takes your cloak,  
do not withhold even your tunic.  
Give to everyone who asks of you,  
and from the one who takes what is yours  
do not demand it back.  
Do to others as you would have them do to you.  
For if you love those who love you,  
what credit is that to you?  
Even sinners love those who love them.  
And if you do good to those who do good to you,  
what credit is that to you?  
Even sinners do the same.  
If you lend money  
to those from whom you expect repayment,  
what credit is that to you?  
Even sinners lend to sinners,  
and get back the same amount.

But rather, love your enemies and do good to them,  
and lend expecting nothing back;  
then your reward will be great  
and you will be children of the Most High,  
for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.  
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Stop judging and you will not be judged.  
Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.  
Forgive and you will be forgiven.  
Give, and gifts will be given to you;  
a good measure, packed together,  
shaken down, and overflowing,  
will be poured into your lap.  
For the measure with which you measure  
will in return be measured out to you.”

## Reflection (2022)

Today’s Gospel passage, along with Matthew 25, are probably the most demanding teachings of Jesus, and probably also why they are the least followed by the followers of Christ. Imagine what he tells us to do: “love your enemies,” “give to everyone who asks,” “stop judging.” Why should we love our enemies when they hate us and intend to harm us? Why should we give to everyone who asks when some, if not many, are not deserving and often we say they should “get a job?” Why should we stop judging, when their actions are obvious and often we think we know their motives as well?

The Lord’s reasons are simple and two fold.

First he says “do to others as you would have them do to you.” If we and everyone else wait for someone else to do good first, no one will do any good. As a follower of Christ, it is for us to do good first, and be the example for others to follow.

Second he says “the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” He leaves it to us to decide how we want to be treated by God. Who doesn’t want to be treated well by God?

## Reflection (2025)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta had a beautiful take on today’s Gospel. She said:

People are often unreasonable and self-centered.  
Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.  
If you are honest, people may cheat you.  
Be honest anyway.  
If you find happiness, people may be jealous.  
Be happy anyway.  
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.  
Do good anyway.  
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.  
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.  
It was never between you and them anyway.

The Gospel demands many difficult things from us, and sometimes our excuse for not following is the actions of others. Remember, “in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

**23 February 2025**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C**

*Penitential Rite*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom, Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness, Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people, Lord, have mercy.  
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

*Prayer of the Faithful*

Merciful Father, you are generous with your love and abundant with your grace, and so we can lift up our needs to you in prayer:

- for Pope Francis, that he will continue to bring the Church closer to following the Gospel, we pray
- for elected officials, that they will uphold the law faithfully and govern wisely, we pray
- for the conversion of terrorists and all those who practice violence, we pray
- for peace in Ukraine, for peace in Sudan, for peace in the Holy Land, and for peace throughout the world, we pray
- for all of us gathered for Eucharist, that our faith will guide our actions, we pray
- for those who have died, that they will be saved, we pray
- and for your other intentions

*(pause)*

for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, we pray

Almighty Father, you call us to love one another, and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Give us your grace, that we might always follow your ways. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.