

**READINGS**

September 11, 2016

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-32

**STEWARDSHIP**

September 4th.....\$3,533

Our Lady of Wisdom relies on Bobcat Catholics like you for more than half the resources necessary to bring students of Texas State closer to their Catholic faith. Contact our Development Director, Daniel Glaze, to join this mission at 512-392-5925.

**9/11 Mass Homily** On this terrible anniversary it would do us well to consider what it means to forgive. We will not learn to forgive unless we have known the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. We will not be free to forgive others unless we have faith in the victory of Jesus Christ. After your world is shattered, what happens next? To know where to go next we need to understand some basic information about our humanity. Anger is not a sin in itself, but there is sinful anger. Anger is a natural passion who's purpose is to tell us when we've suffered injustice. 9/11 was more than a tragedy, it was an unjust action by unjust men. It is right to feel angry. Sin corrupts our natural passions: hunger, sleep, attraction, and anger. How does sin corrupt our anger? The book of Sirach tells us that "the sinner hugs anger tight." What is anger hugged tight but bitterness and grudges which poison us and bring no relief. How, then, do we forgive? We must first learn forgiveness by the forgiveness of Jesus

Christ. If you struggle to forgive those who have harmed you, are you going to confession yourself, learning forgiveness by hearing the priest absolve you from your sins and treating you with justice and mercy? Finally, it takes faith to forgive. Forgiveness on its own seems weak. Forgiveness apart from faith seems foolish. Sin speaks in our hearts: "If you forgive them this, then they will do more and worse things to you." Unless we are confident that Jesus Christ will bring victory and vindication, whether in this life or the next, the voice of sin will win out in our hearts. Violence never defeats violence. Sacrifice and love defeat violence. Jesus Christ has swallowed up sin, violence and death on the cross; we await his victory. While we wait, we forgive because we know love in Jesus Christ, because we love our enemies and want them to have the same chances we have had.

*from Fr. Andrew Dickinson*



**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

Today's parables sounded absurd to the listeners in Jesus' day. Each highlights the intense boundless love with which God searches for the lost, as well as the irrationally exuberant joy when the lost are found. The final parable paints a scene of a father who has nothing but total love for his children. One has completely rejected and insulted his family and his faith. The other is a self-righteous child who has never done wrong. How do we act in the role of the father toward others who meet these descriptions? Whom do we fail to love or forgive? What sin do we believe is too big for God's love, mercy and forgiveness? Does self-righteousness prevent us from being in loving relationships with others?

**PLEASE CONSIDER BISHOP VÁSQUEZ' PRAYER**

**INTENTION FOR TODAY:** For the People of God, that we would be examples of God's unconditional mercy to all people especially those in our families and those who feel lost ...

**FR. CHARLIE BANKS** is available for Spiritual Direction this Tues., Sept. 13th. Sign up in the Lobby for 30 min. appointments.

**9/11: The Catholic Church Remembers** every September 11<sup>th</sup> be observed as "Patriot Day." The USCCB website has links to resources for the observance of Patriot Day.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**ROSARY** every Sunday 9:30am in the Lounge

**ADORATION** of the Blessed Sacrament *Tuesdays* 5:45-9pm and *Mornings* Mon-Fri 8:30-9:30am in the Chapel

**NIGHT PRAYER** hosted by the men of Lambda Omega Alpha, 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings after Adoration.

**FREE LUNCH** every Tues., 11am-1pm in the Lobby

**BIBLE STUDIES** every day! [www.txstatecatholic.org](http://www.txstatecatholic.org)



**A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP VÁSQUEZ**

As we approach the upcoming presidential election, I strongly recommend that the faithful of the Diocese read-Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility. This document provides the necessary guidance for Catholics seeking to make informed decisions about voting. In addition, I invite you to visit our webpage on Faithful Citizenship that has many valuable resources for the individual and our parishes.

**CENTRAL TEXAS CIRCUIT SERVICE FAIR**

Come by the lobby this Tues., Sept. 13th from 10am – 2pm to see how you can serve with Catholic organizations around the country!

**HEALING MASS**

Come with expectant Faith as Nothing is impossible with God! Friday September 16th at Holy Cross Catholic Church 1610 E. 11th Street Austin, TX 78702. Service begins at 7pm with praise and worship. Contact Christina Turullois 512-563-7851 or [renewal@ccraustin.org](mailto:renewal@ccraustin.org)

**SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next Sunday, Sept. 18th**

At the request of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops all parishes in the Diocese of Austin are asked to take up a special collection to aid the victims of the 2016 Louisiana floods. The money collected will be used to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to the dioceses with flood damage.

**BOBCAT AWAKENING #48**

A 3DAY retreat hosted by college students for college students is now accepting retreat applications! Available at the reception counter or online. Go to [txstate-catholic.org/retreatant-app](http://txstate-catholic.org/retreatant-app). Retreat dates are Friday– Sunday Sept. 23rd– 25th.

**RIVERWALK FOR THE POOR:** Benefiting St. Vincent De Paul Society in San Marcos

Join the SVDP Society on Saturday October 1st for their annual fundraiser. Activities begin at 7:30am with a Rosary followed by Mass at 8am. At 9am registration for participants will begin. After the walk snacks and refreshments will be served. Participant packets can be found at [txstatecatholic.org](http://txstatecatholic.org).