

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Father Bill Fisher, Pastor

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sept. 13, 2020

## Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Day - Sept. 15

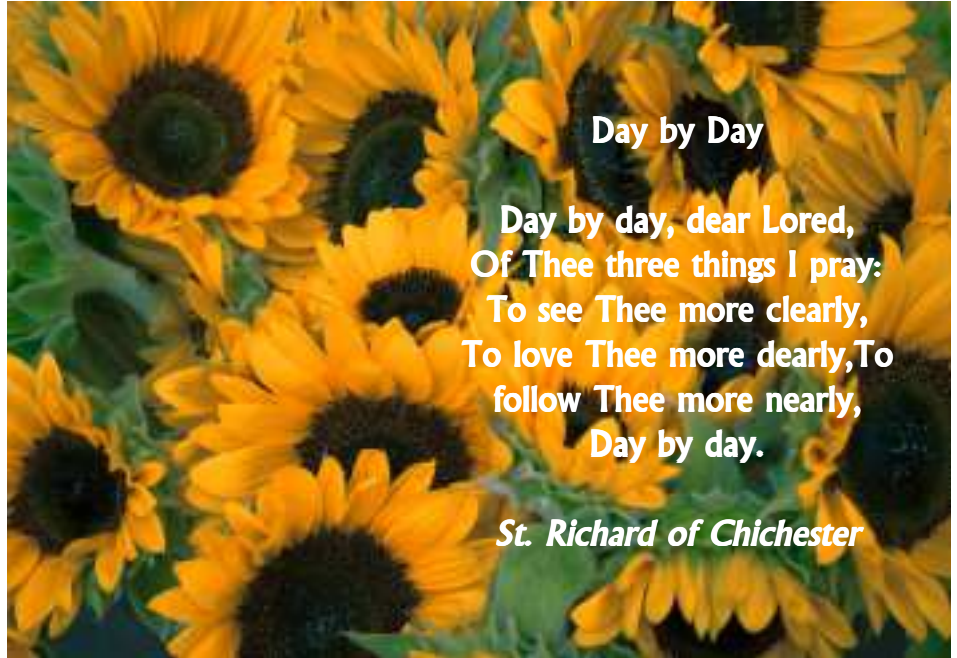
For a while there were two feasts in honor of the Sorrowful Mother: one going back to the 15th century, the other to the 17th century. For a while both were celebrated by the universal Church: one on the Friday before Palm Sunday, the other in September.

The principal biblical references to Mary's sorrows are in Luke 2:35 and John 19:26-27. The Lucan passage is Simeon's prediction about a sword piercing Mary's soul; the Johannine passage relates Jesus' words from the cross to Mary and to the beloved disciple.

Many early Church writers interpret the sword as Mary's sorrows, especially as she saw Jesus die on the cross. Thus, the two passages are brought together as prediction and fulfillment.



Saint Ambrose, in particular, sees Mary as a sorrowful yet powerful figure at the cross. Mary stood fearlessly at the cross while others fled. Mary looked on her Son's wounds with pity, but saw in them the salvation of the world. As Jesus hung on the cross, Mary did not fear to be killed, but offered herself to her persecutors.



### Day by Day

Day by day, dear Lored,  
Of Thee three things I pray:  
To see Thee more clearly,  
To love Thee more dearly, To  
follow Thee more nearly,  
Day by day.

*St. Richard of Chichester*

### Reflection

John's account of Jesus' death is highly symbolic. When Jesus gives the beloved disciple to Mary, we are invited to appreciate Mary's role in the Church: She symbolizes the Church; the beloved disciple represents all believers. As Mary mothered Jesus, she is now mother to all his followers.

Furthermore, as Jesus died, he handed over his Spirit. Mary and the Spirit cooperate in begetting new children of God—almost an echo of Luke's account of Jesus' conception.

Christians can trust that they will continue to experience the caring presence of Mary and Jesus' Spirit throughout their lives and throughout history.

Read more on the Seven Sorrows of Mary at [franciscanmedia.org](http://franciscanmedia.org); click on "Saint of the Day."

*Credit for story and photo: franciscanmedia.org.*

*Do the right thing,  
even when no one  
is watching.*

### Weekly Collection Sept. 6, 2020

Due to vacation, this  
bulletin was printed early.  
The collection amount  
will be shared next week.

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Gospel (MT 18:21-35)

**First Reading (SIR 27:30—28:7)**

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail.

Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.

Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD?

Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins?

If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?

Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin!

Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12**

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

**Second Reading (ROM 14:7-9)**

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

**Alleluia (JN 13:34)**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.'

Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.'

Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?'

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.

So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."