

# The Debt We Owe: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn  
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First Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7 | Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12  
Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9 | Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35



Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life.

Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, refuse mercy to those who have done us

wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel, with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant – who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their Master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, "seven" is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a seven-fold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time.

We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us?

Because, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, we are the Lord's. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, He doesn't deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us.

This is why we should remember our last days, set our enmities aside, and stop judging others. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10,12).

So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**September 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Sept. 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Joao J. De Ponte and Virgilio Pereira – RIP – by Maria
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Maria Aninha Pereira – RIP – by Victor, Valda and family  Thanksgiving by the Crodua family
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Sept. 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Sept. 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint Januarius</b> Regina Racine – RIP – by the family
<b>Wednesday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saints Andrew KimTae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang &amp; Companions</b> Louis Ottoni – RIP – by the family
<b>Thursday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>SAINT MATTHEW</b> Horatio Quant – RIP – by Ron and Carolyn
<b>Friday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Weekday</b> Dante and Kathleen – Blessings – by Leah
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Desiderio Manzo Manzanal Sr. – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Sept. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Bruna Alesi – RIP – by the family  Adrian de Souza – RIP – by the family

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*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed  
through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

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**Collection:**  
September 10, 2017 - **\$3,221.85**  
September 9, 2017 – CFC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass - **\$440.00**  
**Thank you for your generosity.**

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## BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS



**Be My Disciples started last Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>!** We have 138 children in the program from Pre K to Junior High Levels.

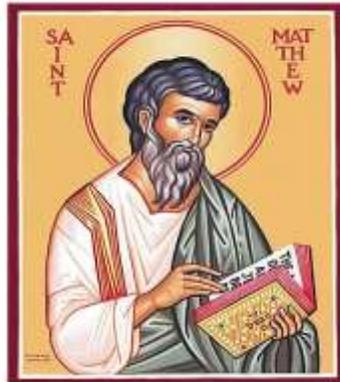
We are very happy to welcome everyone and we look forward to a happy and fruitful catechetical year.

### **SAINT ANDREW KIM TAE-GON, SAINT PAUL CHONG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS: September 20**



In the early 1600s, Christian communities began to flourish in Korea under the leadership of lay people. In 1836, missionaries from France, members of the Paris Foreign Mission Society, secretly entered the country. The Christian communities began to encounter hostility and, during the persecutions of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, over 10,000 Christians were killed. Andrew Kim, the first Korean priest, was one of these. Paul Chong, a seminarian and catechist, was one of the many lay people who suffered. These and 101 other Korean martyrs, clergy and lay, young and old, were canonized in 1984. (*Living with Christ, September 2017*)

### **SAINT MATTHEW: September 21**



The apostle Matthew has two names in the Gospels: Matthew and Levi. Since only the name Matthew is entered in any scriptural mention of the 12 apostles, it is commonly held that his name was Levi until Jesus called him to be a disciple, then he was called Matthew which means 'gift of God' in Aramaic.

Mark and Luke record that Levi, the son of Alphaeus, was sitting in the tax office when the Lord called him. A Jewish tax collector for the Romans, Matthew would have been considered impure and socially unacceptable by the Jewish community. After Pentecost, Matthew worked in a church made up mostly of Jews who believed that Jesus was the Saviour. The Gospel bearing his name was composed around AD 85 and was written for Jewish-Christians. In it, Jesus is shown as the fulfillment of God's Old Testament promises of a Messiah. Notice how often Matthew says, "As it is written," or "This is the one of whom the prophet spoke," or "All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet."

Tradition holds that after the Resurrection, Matthew preached in Ethiopia, where he was martyred. He is a patron saint of customs officers and accountants. (*Living with Christ, September 2017*)