

Connecting Music to Mass June 12, 2016

Part of our journey as Catholics is to actively seek out opportunities to learn about our faith. As we grow in understanding of our faith through study and prayer, we develop a relationship with the Holy Trinity. My hope is that this new bulletin column will be a source of inspiration and education for the people of St. Clare, drawing us all deeper into prayer as we celebrate the Sacred Mysteries at Mass. One of the beauties of our centuries-old liturgy is how the music can be tightly woven into the texture of the Mass, providing an essential component of prayer. In this column, I will primarily discuss our weekly music selections, how they tie into the readings and liturgical season, and how we can take that message into our daily living. Many of you spend time before Mass in quiet prayer, praying the rosary, or reading the scriptures for the weekend – I encourage you to read this before Mass as a part of that prayer time to prepare and open your heart to the Mass.

Just last Sunday we entered back into the season of Ordinary Time. The textbook definition of **ordinary** (uninteresting, commonplace, having no special features) doesn't quite describe the celebration of the Mass! Indeed, we take this common and uninteresting time of the liturgical calendar to focus on the ordinary aspects of Christian life, and we ask ourselves, "How are we doing in our lives of discipleship?" So, Ordinary Time might sound like a liturgical vacation, but it's a great time for renewal, pondering, and revitalizing our faith.

While other liturgical seasons have common themes, in Ordinary Time we often hear a totally different theme each week based on the teachings heard in the gospel reading. We hear in today's gospel about the sinful woman whose sins were forgiven "because she showed great love." Our opening hymn "**Forgive Our Sins**" is an unfamiliar but simple American folk melody. The text walks us through a journey. The first line of verse one quotes The Lord's Prayer, and the second line pleads for grace to live our words in our actions. We say these words at least once a week at Mass, but are we living our words in our actions? Verse two asks a question...more simply put, "Lord, how can someone who bears grudges and breeds anger understand forgiveness?" Fr. Jim gave us the answer to this last week – by opening our hearts to God's grace, God can create things anew in our lives. Skipping ahead, verse four is the prayer pleading for grace and mercy to live our lives as better disciples. For me, the magic is in verse three – "How small are others' debts to us, How great our debt to you." It puts our petty worldly problems in perspective, doesn't it? Just as the sinful woman in the gospel, try showing someone *great love* this week, and see the reward of your actions as their life is flooded with joy and peace.

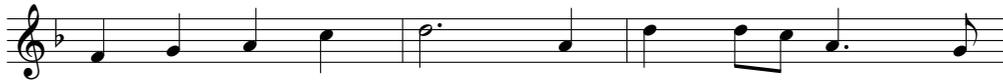
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[Click here - Sunday Readings for June 12, 2016](#)

Forgive Our Sins



1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," You
2. How can your par - don reach and bless The
3. In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The
4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray; But you a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
truth we dim - ly knew: How small are oth - ers'
bid re - sent - ment cease. Then, by your mer - cy



grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
debts to us, How great our debt to you!
rec - on - ciled, Our lives will spread your peace.

