

AUGUST 24, 2025

MYOCN PEW PALS



11th Sunday of Matthew

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable to teach us about forgiveness. A king wanted to collect the money people owed him. One servant owed the king a HUGE amount – so much money that he could never pay it back! The servant begged, "Please be patient with me!" The king felt sorry for him and completely forgave the debt. But then, that same servant found another man who owed him just a little bit of money – just a few coins. Instead of forgiving him, the servant got angry and threw him in jail! When the king heard about this, he was upset. The king had shown mercy and kindness, but the servant didn't treat others the same way. Jesus ended the story by saying: **"Forgive your brother from your heart."** – **Matthew 18:35**

Imagine you accidentally broke your friend's favorite toy. You said you were sorry, and your friend forgave you. Later that day, your friend accidentally stepped on your drawing and crumpled it. Instead of forgiving them like they forgave you, you yelled at them and wouldn't play with them. That wouldn't be fair, right? **Jesus wants us to remember that if someone forgives us, we should forgive others too – and mean it in our hearts.**

Family Homework

Bake a Fanouropita: Use a family recipe or one in a cookbook. Bring it to church for a blessing and to share.

Forgiveness Card: Write or draw a card for someone you love, especially if you had a disagreement. Say something kind or apologetic.

Memory Verse



**"Forgive your
brother from
your heart."
– Matthew
18:35**

CRAFT – Forgiveness Craft Wipe Away

Supplies

- White cardstock or heavy paper
- Red paper (or have kids color a red heart)
- Washable markers
- Zip-top sandwich bag (clear)
- Tape
- Baby wipes or damp paper towels



Instructions

1. **Make the Heart** – Cut out a big heart from red paper (or have the kids color one red on cardstock). Write “Forgive from your heart – Matthew 18:35” at the top of the heart.
2. **Cover with Plastic** – Slide the heart inside a clear zip-top bag and tape the bag to a piece of cardstock so it stays flat.
3. **Write Mistakes** – On the outside of the bag (over the heart), kids use washable markers to draw or write things people might do wrong or things you need to forgive.
4. **Wipe It Away** – Use a baby wipe or damp paper towel to wipe the marks away – the heart looks brand new!

**Just like God forgives us completely,
we can forgive others and let go of the wrongs
they’ve done.**

DISCUSSION PROMPT

Why is it sometimes hard to forgive? How does it feel when someone forgives you?

SAINT STORIES

SAINT PHANOURIOS

Saint Phanourios was a brave Christian who lived a long time ago. We don’t know much about his life, but we do know that he loved Jesus and would not give up his faith, even when it was dangerous.

Many years after he died, people found an old icon of Saint Phanourios in the ruins of a church on the island of Rhodes. The icon showed him wearing armor and holding a cross, standing strong for Christ. Around the edges of the icon were small pictures showing how he had suffered for his faith.

Because his name sounds like the Greek word φανερώω (phaneroō) (which means “to reveal” or “to bring to light”), people began asking St. Phanourios to help them find lost things—not only lost objects, but also lost hope or lost faith. God has worked many miracles through his prayers.

Commemorated August 27

