

RESTORING
upstairs

CELEBRATING
downstairs

THE BASILICA
OF SAINT MARY



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2026



Fr. Ralph Talbot
Pastor and Rector

Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday

7:30am, 9:30* Noon & 5:30pm

*ASL Interpreted & Livestream

Weekdays 7:00am & Noon

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THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403

GOD'S CALL TO FORGIVENESS

Friday marked the 25th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11. I remember being in the seminary lounge that morning in 2001, watching in horror and disbelief as a plane flew into one of the twin towers, both towers crumbled, the Pentagon burned, and a fourth plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. On that day, 2,977 people died, thousands more were injured, and thousands more would suffer long term health consequences. Among the dead were police officers, fire fighters and other first responders who selflessly raced into the buildings to save lives and the passengers on United Flight 93 who sacrificed their own lives to prevent the plane from crashing into its intended target, possibly the Capitol or the White House.

People were justifiably angry that our nation had been attacked and that innocent life had been taken in such a calculated and wicked way. All cried for justice, many desired revenge. Few, if any, preached forgiveness. At least, not in those first days, weeks, and months.

How about now, 25 years later? What about those other moments in our life when people have hurt us or a loved one? What is our response?

The readings for the 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle A) force us to consider these questions. In our first reading from the Book of Sirach, we read:

*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?*

CONTINUED



Centennial Coloring Book

Celebrate The Basilica's 100th anniversary as America's first basilica with our new coloring book.

The spiral-bound book features 12 unique images of The Basilica to color.

Suggested donation: \$5 per book

Order online at

mary.org/coloringbook

Pick up your book September 12 or 13 at the table after Mass.



Centennial Coloring Contest

Pick up a coloring sheet September 12 or 13 at the table after Mass.

Contest deadline: September 30

Submit your completed coloring contest sheet to usher Roger Sinclair after any Mass the weekend of September 26-27 or bring to the Rectory office by September 30.

Prizes will be awarded in three age categories:

- Children: Ages 5-9
- Youth: Ages 10-15
- Adults: Ages 16+

In the Gospel, Jesus offers a parable to teach a lesson he repeats many times throughout his ministry: we must forgive the sins of each other if we expect God to forgive our sins.

We may say, "My sins are not like the sins committed on 9/11 or the sins committed by others against me." That may be true, but the Lord does not make exceptions to the command of forgiveness based on the seriousness of the sin.

Yes, we should be righteously angry when sin is committed. Yes, we should demand justice, that people be held accountable for their sins. And yes, we should do our best to forgive them for their sins – not forget, not excuse, not justify, not tolerate. But forgive, which frees us to move to the next level – love, which is to will their good, to will what God desires for them.

The act of forgiveness is not easy. For most of us, it does not happen quickly. It most certainly does not happen on our own. We need God's help, God's grace. And, to forgive others, we usually need to experience God's forgiveness along the way.

As we remember the events of 9/11, let us never forget those who were killed or injured on that day. And, let us not allow our justifiable anger to that great evil to possess us. Rather, we pray for the grace to forgive as God has forgiven us, to love as God has loved us, to seek healing and reconciliation wherever a wrong has occurred, and to complete our works of justice that lead to true and lasting peace.



Sr. Raffaella Petrini

Monday, September 21, 5:00pm

The Basilica is honored to welcome Sr. Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E., President of the Governorate of Vatican City State, to Minnesota as a featured participant in the Link Family Lecture Series.

Please register in advance for planning at

mary.org/event/sr-raffaella-petrini.

BASILICA



Quick Questions. Friendly Competition. Great Fun.

Friday | September 25

6:30-8:00pm

Basilica School | Great Hall

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