

PREPARING FOR THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Peter's question — "*How often must I forgive?*" — opens one of the most challenging teachings in the Gospel. Jesus answers not with a number, but with a story that reveals the heart of God: mercy without measure. The servant who was forgiven much but refused to forgive little reminds us that the Cross is the measure of mercy — not our emotions, not our limits.

As Holy Cross Parish gathers for the vigil of its feast, this Gospel becomes our preparation. The Cross we celebrate tomorrow is not only a sign of Christ's suffering; it is the living proof of His endless forgiveness. Every time we forgive, we lift the Cross high. Every time we let go of resentment, we proclaim its power. Our parish's name calls us to live this mystery daily. The Cross above our church is not decoration — it is invitation. It asks us to be a people who forgive as we have been forgiven, who reconcile as we have been reconciled, and who love as we have been loved. May this feast renew our hearts and our parish life, so that mercy becomes our shared language and the Cross our common strength.

Fr. Efren