

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

September 13, 2026

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IF MY BROTHER
sins against me.
MATTHEW 18:21



Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Robert A. Reiley*

Parish Council President *John Crane*
E-mail.....johncrane1@mac.com
Choir Director/Organist*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Tina Seiger*
Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
E-mail.....stjbparish@comcast.net
Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary..... (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center..... (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information..... (570) 622-5470

C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

Bulletin Deadline

Monday prior to publication

New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays..... 4:15 to 4:45 p.m..
 Sundays 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..
 or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
 Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.
 Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C., L.P.C. (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562 www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



Eucharistic Adoration

We offer opportunities to spend time in prayer with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament ...

- ◆ A holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This is a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

Communion for the Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion` on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

Pray

We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

For our Sick: *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Charles Reber, Carol Lasco.* **Deceased:** *Agnes Palko*

"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 12

5:00 p.m. Gail Garland Vesay
(Garland & Kurtek Family)

Sunday, September 13

8:15 a.m. Paul Filiac
(Mary Ann Filiac)

Sunday, September 13

10:30 a.m. Catholic Women's Union
100th Anniversary

Monday, September 14

6:30 p.m. Thomas & Eva Francis
(Francis Family)

Tuesday, September 15

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Wednesday, September 16

9:00 a.m. Porter & Becker Families

Thursday, September 17

9:00 a.m. Mary Connell

Friday, September 18

9:00 a.m. Michael Yordy
(Lucilla Kochol)

Saturday, September 19

5:00 p.m. Virginia & Barney Comfort
(Chris & Jared Black)

Sunday, September 20

8:15 a.m. Deceased of Lorenz
& Bartholomew Families
(Frances Lorenz)

Sunday, September 20

10:30 a.m. Deceased of
John & Gretchen
Lieberman Family
(Lieberman Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We are coming to the end of our look at the Sacrament of Confession. When we go to Confession and receive Absolution, the priest *might* say: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good," to which you respond: "His mercy endures forever." Many of us priests omit this verse because not everyone is familiar with it. The priest will generally then say: "The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace," or some similar words of dismissal.

We haven't mentioned anything yet about the seal of Confession. As everyone hopefully knows, there is absolute confidentiality in Confession. The priest may not, under any circumstances, repeat what he heard during the Sacrament of Confession. The seal of Confession is critical so that we can feel free to confess anything we need to. Occasionally, in different countries around the world or different states of the U.S., legislators try to pass laws that would force a priest to reveal something he heard in Confession, in a courtroom, for example. But this infringes on our religious freedom. The seal of Confession must never be violated.

Finally, we haven't directly answered the most frequently asked question about Confession: Why do I have to go to a priest? Why can't I confess my sins directly to God? Hopefully the answer is obvious from everything we've said. Jesus gave us the sacrament and He expects us to use it. In Confession we *are* going to God; the priest is the instrument. When the priest speaks the words of Absolution, we know for certain that God forgives us. And the priest is an objective third party who can help us see ourselves and our circumstances more clearly.

And, as we've said before, Confession isn't just about erasing our sins. It is a powerful means of growing into the people God calls us to be as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on September 17, 24, October 8, 15, 22, and 29. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org). Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Next Week's Readings

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(September 19/20)

Reading I: Isaiah 55:6-9

Reading II: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

Upcoming Events

September

13	10:00 a.m.	CCD Mass	St. Patrick's
13	10:30 a.m.	Catholic Woman's Union 100th Anniversary	
13		Coffee & Donuts after 10:30 a.m. Mass	L.H.
13	8-10 a.m.	Grilled Stickies Pick-up	L.H.
13	12-1 p.m.	Grilled Stickies Pickup	L.H.
15	6:30 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
16	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
17	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
20	10:00 a.m.	CCD Mass	St. Patrick's
24	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
26	after Mass	Wine & Cheese	L.H.
27	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
27	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory R.B. = Russell Building

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group..... F.R.

Wine & Cheese Social

Please join us after Mass in Longinus Hall on **Saturday, September 26th** for our Wine & Cheese Social which will take on an Oktoberfest theme ... Hot Dogs & Kraut, plus other snacks and beverages. Should you have a dirndl (dress) or lederhosen, please feel free to wear your German attire. Bitte tritt uns bei ! (Please join us!)

Catholic Women's Union— Meeting

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women's Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, September 16th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us!

OCIA ... Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

....is for anyone who desires to enter the Catholic Church or complete his or her initiation into the Church (i.e. people who are baptized Catholic but have not received Communion and/or Confirmation). If you or someone you know is interested, please call the rectory at 570-622-5470.

Attention — All Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers

Please let us know your plans for **October & November** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please email or call the rectory by **September 14th.** We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

I believe that God sent us Grandparents
As our legacy from above,
To share the moments of our life,
As extra measures of His love.

-Author Unknown

Weekly Collection

August 29/30\$4,085.20

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Please **do not** use **tape** or **staples** to seal your offertory envelopes

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Eleanor O'Brien
by Jack & Susan Minnichbach
2. IMO Ruth Minnichbach
by Jack & Susan Minnichbach

St. Joseph

1. IMO Raymond Frank
by Jack & Susan Minnichbach
2. IMO Howard Minnichbach
by Jack & Susan Minnichbach

Sanctuary

IMO Josephine Cavanaugh
by Hahner Family

Guardian Angels

1. For Donna Barnetsky
by Vincent & Darla Fabiani
2. Special Intention
by Stan & Heidi Gorski
- 3.&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy & Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 19— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Francis Mozloom

EM: Frank Murphy, Sharon Snyder

Server: Colin McGinley

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

September 20 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane

EM: Gerry Schwarz, Jeff Naffin

Servers: Finley McNamara

Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

September 20— 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

EM: Justine Majestic, Barb Munster

Servers: Cole & Cooper Felty

Cantor: Ed Brahler

Sacristan: RJ Post

Nativity BVM High School

Homecoming Football Game 50/50

Our annual Homecoming 50/50 Drawing is one of Nativity's biggest fundraisers of the year, and we are excited to continue this important tradition!

This year's Homecoming Football Game against Shenandoah Valley will be held at St. Clair on **Friday, October 16th at 7 p.m.**

We greatly appreciate your continued support of Nativity and our 50/50 Drawing. Your participation helps make this fundraiser a success and directly supports our school and students. Please call us at 622-8110 to get your tickets.

Sports passes are also available in our Main Office. The cost is \$75 and is good for all home (non playoff) games all year long.

Celebrating Nativity BVM High School's 70th Anniversary!

70 years of faith, academic excellence, service and leadership.

We invite our Nativity families, alumni, and friends to join us on **Saturday, October 10th from 7 to 10 p.m.** as we celebrate 70 years of faith, academic excellence, service, and leadership.

The celebration will be held here at Nativity High School and will feature tours of the building and memorabilia room, small plates, a dessert array, and an open bar.

Tickets are \$70 per person.

Come celebrate seven decades of Nativity tradition and the people who have made our school community so special!

For more information please contact Nativity at 570-622-8110.

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate Nativity BVM High School's 70th Anniversary!

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Is Hiring!

St. Joseph Center in Schuylkill Haven is seeking caring, dedicated individuals to join our mission of serving children and adults with diverse abilities in a faith-filled, supportive environment.

We are currently hiring for a **full-time Special Education Teacher, full-time Direct Service Worker** for our Adult Program, **part-time Administrative Assistant, part-time Behavioral Health Support**, and **part-time Teacher Aide** positions.

If you're looking for a rewarding career where you can make a meaningful difference every day, we'd love to hear from you. To learn more or apply, please visit our website or contact us at **(570) 622-4638**.

Missionhurst Thank You ...

On behalf of our missionaries and the people of God we serve around the world, Missionhurst, C.I.C.M., takes this opportunity to thank you for allowing and accepting our missionaries to share their missionary experience with the parishioners at St. John the Baptist Church in Pottsville, as we continue our effort to proclaim the Gospel of Christ with words and deeds.

We will be forever grateful for your amazing hospitality and the generosity of your parishioners. With heartfelt gratitude, Fr. Pascal Kumanda, CICM, Director of Development

Back to School Prayer

Almighty God We give you our school. We give you all the teachers and staff who work here, We give you all the children who study here. We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity. May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love, A place where every one is respected and all are deeply valued. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for our Troops Around the World

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior."

Catholic Charities

Sharing Compassion, Serving in Faith, Spreading Hope

Services We Offer:

Professional Counseling Services
Pregnancy & Parenting Support
Immigration Legal Services
Supportive Services for Veterans & Families
Basic Need Services
Rural Support Services
Food & Nutrition Hubs
Food Pantry
Community Café Food Truck

Schuylkill County Office
99 Valley St.

New Philadelphia
570-628-0466

www.catholiccharitiesad.org



Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
 IMO Harold Bartholomew
 IMO James J. Bartholomew
 IMO Robert Berger
 IMO Rita Bartholomew Foley
 John & Mildred Fredericks
 Fr. Don Henry
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry
 IMO Joanne Hepler
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser
 MO Charles Lorenz
 IMO Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
 IMO Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer
 IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
 IMO Theresa Bartholomew Sencak
 IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker
 IMO Margaret & Guy Zelinsky
 Living & Deceased of St. John's
 CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our
 bulletin this month!*

Families Matter

Grandparents Day. Please pray today and this week for the many grandparents in our parish and communities who are lovingly caring for their grandchildren. Pray that the Lord give them strength to cope with the energy, vitality and challenges of their grandchildren.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

Moving? Relocating?

Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, please contact the Rectory Office at 570-622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update our records!

Mustard Seedlings

..... *A Supportive Community for Moms from the newly pregnant to preschool parenting stage . Join us on, September 10 & 24, from 9:30-11:00AM in Longinus Hall, Kids age 0-5 welcome to come and enjoy provided toys! Home-schooled older siblings are welcome to attend as well. Moms will enjoy a hot tea and some guided discussion as we begin our autumn faith formation study about the philosophies of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Purchase of the study is not required to participate. Find the group on Facebook to stay updated!*



Diocesan News & Events

Bus to PA March for Life

A bus is scheduled for the Pennsylvania March for Life taking place at Harrisburg State Capitol Building on **Monday, September 21**. Before departure, there will be an optional Mass at 7:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church located 1817 1st Street, Bethlehem PA 18020. Bus Departure is at 8:00 a.m. from Sacred Heart Church. Please park 1814 Second Street in Bethlehem, PA across from church parking lot (in school chain linked fence).

Time permitting, we might enter the PA Capitol to visit politicians or grab a bite to eat at cafeteria. Bus will return around 4:00 p.m. to Sacred Heart Church; we will make a gas station stop to grab a bite to eat and use restrooms. You may also bag a lunch.

Email andrewazan3rd@gmail.com to reserve a seat. Include rider's names and mobile number. Payment is \$20.00 per rider. Pay in advance with checks made out to Sacred Heart. Mail checks to Andrew Azan: PO Box 3278, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Please bring \$5.00 for bus driver tip, which we will collect on the way home.

Neighboring Events ...

Basket Auction sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland will take place on September 20th beginning at 2 p.m. Grand Prizes include \$1,500 Cash, \$500 in Gift Cards, \$300 in Lottery Tickets + \$200 Cash, \$300 Walmart Gift Card. Kid prizes, Gift cards and so much more! Shop and Drop days and times are as follows:

Sept. 10th 12 to 6 p.m., Sept. 12th 2 to 6 p.m., Sept. 13th 9 a.m. to noon, Sept. 17th 12 to 6 p.m., Sept. 18th 3 to 7 p.m., Sept. 19th 2 to 6 p.m., Sept. 20th 10 to 2 p.m.

PASSES ... \$5.00

St. John's will be available at Bosco's on the following dates:

Presale

10 a.m.—1:30 p.m.—Sept. 17

10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Sept. 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30; Oct. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20.

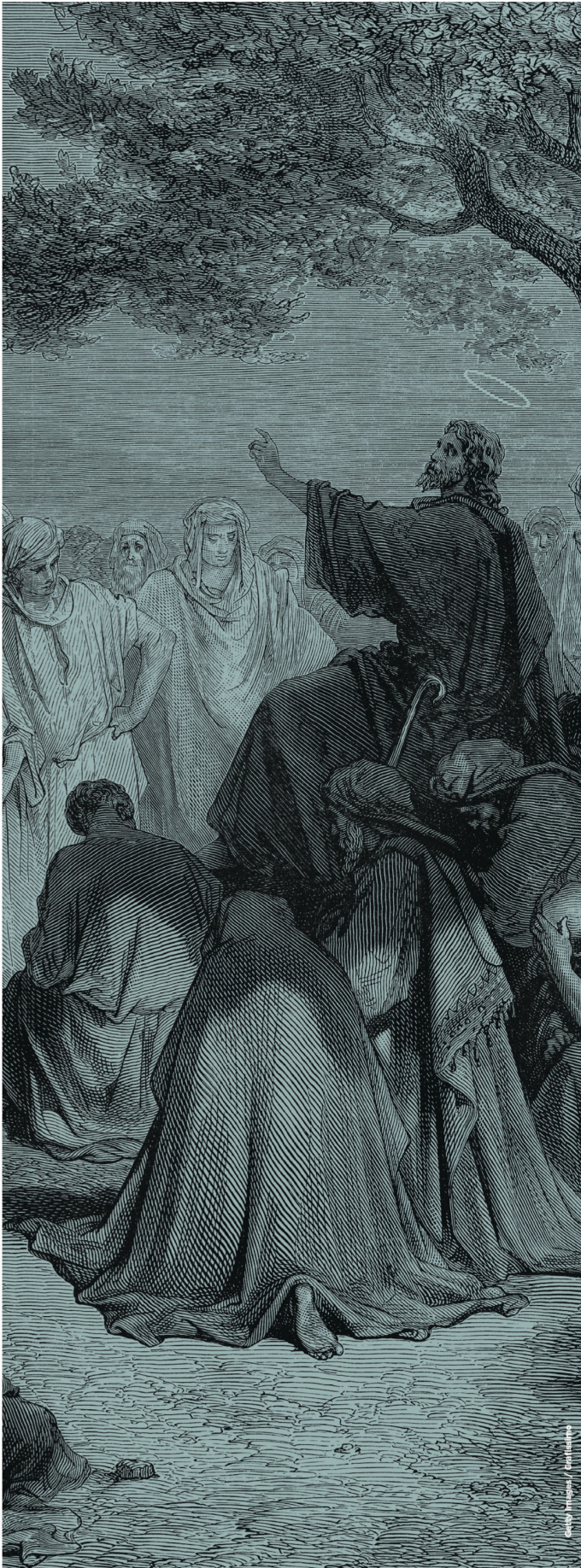
11 a.m.—2 p.m. — Oct. 17

12 noon to 3 p.m.

Sept. 13, 20, 27;
 Oct. 4, 11, 18.

October 21 — 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your support!



September 13, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sir 27:30—28:7 | Rom 14:7-9 | Mt 18:21-35

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It strikes me that the real issue in the Gospel is that the first man whose debt the king forgives fails to see that his fellow servant who owes him a smaller debt is just like himself. “Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins?” Sirach asks. I think we sometimes languish in unforgiveness because we think of others’ wrongful actions as being somehow worse than ours. As a result, we hold others to a higher standard, while expecting people to easily excuse our failings. Perhaps the first step toward the radical forgiveness that Jesus calls us to in today’s Gospel is to foster compassion for our fellow human beings. When we are wronged, it may be helpful to remind ourselves of the classic phrase, “There but for the grace of God, go I.” When we recognize that those who wrong us have the same struggles as our own, we are more likely to extend the same mercy we wish to be offered to us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

After the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II by Mehmet Ali Ağca in 1981, the future saint forgave his would-be assassin from his hospital bed, only four days after the shooting that nearly took his life. Later, the pope went to visit Ağca in prison, and the two spoke for more than 20 minutes. Since that time, John Paul’s example has stood as a witness to the power of God at work in us; the strength to forgive, it is clear, comes not from ourselves, but from the Lord. Our willingness to receive God’s grace and to extend forgiveness to others offers a powerful witness to the goodness of God, who is “kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.”

PRAY

Radical forgiveness is a challenging spiritual practice; it is not easy! To forgive as Christ calls us to requires that we cultivate an interior disposition of humility and compassion. This ancient prayer from St. Ephrem can help to open our hearts to overcome anger or judgment toward those who have wronged us: *Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins, and not judge my brothers and sisters for you are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.*