



Established
July 5, 1840

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / **Confessions:** Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church

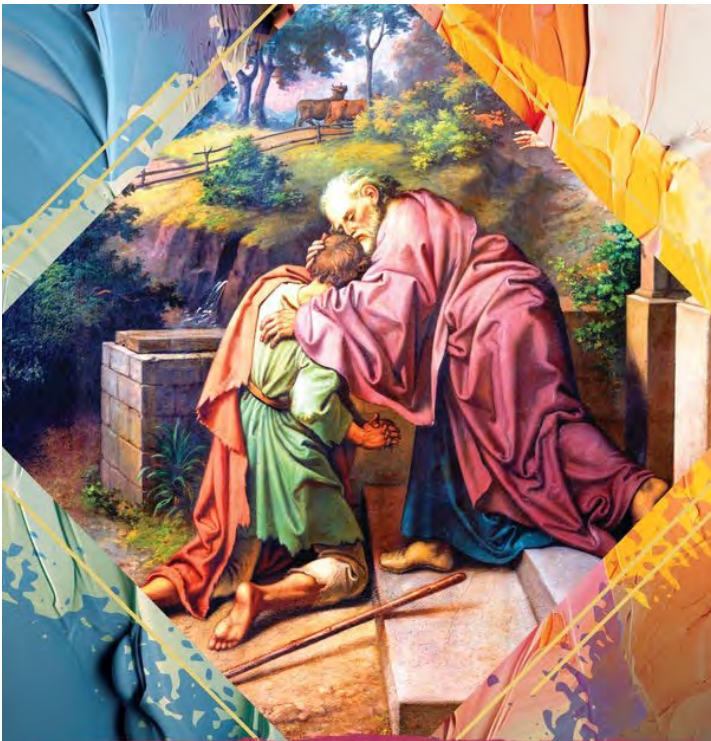
WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 12 noon

Gift Shop Hours: Sun 7:30am - 11:00am

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **March 30, 2025 | 30 de marzo de 2025**

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Reading I - **Exodus 17:3-7** | Psalm - **103:1-2,3-4,6-7,8,11** | Reading II - **1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12** | Gospel - **Luke 13:1-9**
Primera Lectura - **Éxodo 17:3-7** | Salmo - **102:1-2,3-4,6-7,8,11** | Segunda Lectura - **1 Corintios 10:1-6,10-12** | Evangelio - **Lucas 13:1-9**



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

"This son of mine was dead, and has come to life again." - Lk 15:24a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Isaiah (Isaía) 43:16-21**

Psalm/Salmo: **126(125):1-2ab,2cd,3,4-5,6**

2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **Philippians (Filipenses) 3:8-14**

Gospel/Evangelio: **John (Juan) 8:1-11**

GOD FORGIVES

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." After forty years of wandering in the desert, this hard-headed people have finally reached the Promise Land. No more do they eat the manna in the desert, but they partake of the fruits of their new homeland. God has kept the promise to their parents in Egypt. Even though they were a sinful people, many times questioning God and even worshiping false gods, God has forgiven them and fulfilled the promise. The "take-away" for us is that there is no sin that is unforgiveable. We may have offended our neighbors, given a bad example to someone, even worshiped the false gods of money and power. But God is a merciful God, true to the words spoken to us. God forgives all and calls us back to love. - Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him,

we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell

Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Reconciliation Service - Tuesday, April 1, 2025 @ 6:00pm

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at saintmichaelparishkona.org. To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.



March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Jos 5:9a, 10-12 | 2 Cor 5:17-21 | Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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

We await with anticipation holidays and holiday parties – but do we look forward to the day after? To the cleanup, the back-to-the-grind, the business-as-usual? Jesus’ parable in today’s Gospel recounts the lavish celebration of the father who rejoices at the homecoming of his wayward son. We rightly recognize in the father’s mercy the abundant forgiveness of our heavenly Father. But have we ever considered what happened the next day? The son, accustomed to his independence and dissolute life, is once again in his father’s house. He must live according to his father’s rules and demonstrate the sincerity of his repentance by faithfully carrying out his duties. There is work to be done – crops to be harvested, perhaps. As the weeks and months pass without another fatted calf for feasting, the son might ask if his father’s love has waned. And although we may sympathize with his unease, the certainty of his father’s goodness must be, for the prodigal son and for us, the guarantee of his steadfast love.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In our relationship with God, we will likely experience moments when our Father’s love is keenly felt. Perhaps we will be overwhelmed with peace when we return to him in the sacrament of confession. Perhaps we will be struck by a verse of Scripture during a moment of prayer. But most of our days will look more like the prodigal son’s “day after” than the festivities which marked his return. We know, however, that if the weeks that followed were comparatively boring, his father’s love had lost none of its warmth or vitality. Similarly, in the days when God seems quiet, when our prayers seem to drift into space or our hearts are distracted with the concerns of everyday life, we must not despair of the Father’s love. Nor can we suppose that our happiness can be found outside of his fold. We abide under the care of our Father who lovingly calls us to himself with every circumstance he places before us. To believe this, even when the festivities are over, is to live by faith.

PRAY

With so many opportunities for gratification at our fingertips, it is easy to become restless and to seek happiness in distractions. This week, find an image of Jesus or a Scripture verse about God’s love and keep it with you as you work, study, or carry out monotonous tasks. When you’re tempted to leave your duties aside out of boredom, take a moment instead to praise and thank God for his love.

Life of Stewardship

For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not “measuring up” in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and rebirth. The Gospel Reading, the parable of the Prodigal Son, is filled with this theme of awakening and the extravagant, life-changing love that the Father has for each one of us.

We are all familiar with this amazing story - the bratty younger son who has the audacity to ask his dad for his inheritance early, only to squander it sinfully away. It makes us bristle instinctively at his nerve when we read it. But isn't that exactly what we do when we selfishly turn away from God (in big or small ways) in our own lives? We squander away the inheritance of grace He has given us.

In desperation from the mess he had made of his life, the son finally “comes to his senses” - awakening to the truth that he is a beloved son of a loving and merciful father - and decides to return home. His contrition is faltering and imperfect and seems motivated in large part by his growling stomach. But it is enough for the loving father.

In fact, as soon as the father catches sight of his son he is “filled with compassion for him” and immediately sets about preparing a feast and fine clothes for this son. What an extravagance of love! What a beautiful picture Jesus gives us of our Father's love and mercy. Oh, how this should fill us with gratitude for such a Father!

And how it should inspire us - with just the tiniest bit of spiritual “spring cleaning” we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father's loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence. That is what lent is all about.

- *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News

Children's Rosary Club

Our Children's Rosary Club, "forever friends of Jesus and Mary" will meet at the Grotto after our 9am Mass on Sunday, March 30.

Immigration Ministry Seminar

Come to the Grace Parish Center on Sunday, March 30 at 1:00pm for an informational one-hour seminar on immigration by attorney Evita, who will discuss federal immigration laws. If you, or someone you know from any country in the world, are here in the USA without legal status and are not sure where to begin the process to become legal, this is a must attend. All immigration questions will be answered.

Monthly Food Pantry & Diaper Ministry Drive

The monthly parish food & diaper drive will be held on **Monday, March 31 from 9-10am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot**. Thank you for your continued support of this much needed ministry. We depend on your contributions and are grateful for any donations you may have. Items most needed are Tuna, Soup, and Canned Vegetables. Know that you are helping to feed over 1000 people every month.

Diaper sizes needed are size 6 and Pull-Ups 4T-5T Boys and Girls. You are also welcome to leave food & diaper donations in the baskets at the Church entrance when you come to Mass.

Five Steps for a Good Confession

1. Examine your conscience.
2. Be sincerely sorry for your sins.
3. Confess your sins to a Priest.
4. Resolve to amend your life.
5. After your confession, do the penance the Priest assigns.

Procedure in the Confessional

You say: **“Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been—(State the length of time) - since my last confession. These are my sins.**

Then tell your sins and the number of times committed. When you have finished telling your sins, you should say: **“For these and all the sins of my past, I am truly sorry.”**

The Priest now gives the necessary advise, assigns your penance and asks you to say the Act of Contrition. Then wait and listen as the Priest give the absolution. Say **“Thank you, Father”**, then leave the confessional and perform the penance assigned by the Priest.

Act of Contrition

“O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

We will have our Lenten Reconciliation Service on **Tuesday, April 1st at 6:00pm at St. Michael's**.

Lenten Soup Supper

Join Us for a Simple Lenten Meal. Come enhance your Lenten experience by gathering in the Grace Parish Center for a humble meal of soup and bread, lovingly prepared by our fellow parishioners. We look forward to seeing you. Benediction begins at 5pm followed by supper. All are welcome to share in this time of reflection and fellowship.

Women of Faith Ministry

Women of St Michael's --- You are invited to the second "brainstorm" meeting to discuss our plan to develop a fellowship and faith group for women. Please join us in the Grace Parish Center at 5pm on Thursday, April 3.

Lenten Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent, the **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed **at 5pm at St. Michael's in English** and at **6pm at Immaculate Conception in Spanish**.

Lenten Fish Fry Friday - April 4

After attending the Stations of the Cross, meet fellow parishioners on Friday, April 4 for Lenten Fish Fry Fridays from 5:45pm to 7:15pm, for just \$10 per person, in the Grace Parish Center, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, **Sunday, April 6 at 3pm**. We will pray Consecration Prayers to God Our Father and Divine Mercy. The Consecration prayer helps us to acknowledge God as our Eternal Father,

Stewardship of Treasure

March 17th - 23rd, 2025

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 1,905.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 12,004.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 11,957.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,781,142.99** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments.

Mahalo for your continued generosity.

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH MARCH 2025

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: **\$11,525.00**

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: **\$2,446.33**

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in 'Ohana in Christ to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit saintmichaelparishkona.org and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

to honor Him, and to give Him our commitment to follow His commandments.

Hawaii Island Chrism Mass

Bishop Larry Silva will preside at our Hawaii Island Chrism Mass on Thursday, April 10 at 6pm. All Parishes on our island will come to receive their Chrism Oils. Please join us. A light supper will be served after Mass in the Grace Parish Center.

40 Days for Life

The Respect Life Committee continues their 40daysFor Life prayer vigil and sign waving until Sunday, April 13 in front of St. Michael's Church. 40daysFor Life is a peaceful prayer vigil to end abortion nationwide and internationally.

Jubilee Days of Study - Open to All Ages

The Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis is scheduling Days of Study throughout the year to help people learn more about the Jubilee Year, the history of the church and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The next day of study scheduled on our Island is on Saturday, April 12 from 9am to 3pm at the Annunciation Church in Waimea. The general outline of a Day of Study will include prayer, a keynote talk, thematic workshops, group discussions and refreshments.



Grief Recovery Method Program

The Grief Recovery Method program provides a safe environment for you to look at your old beliefs about coping with loss, which losses continue to affect your life, and take effect-

ive actions that will lead you to complete unresolved emotions that may still be causing you pain. There is **no cost** for this program, but it does require a firm commitment and attendance at all sessions, for success in learning to recover from unresolved grief. The program will be held **Wednesdays, April 2 - May 21, 2025**, from **10am-12 noon**, at St. Michael the Archangel Parish Center. Registration before April 2 is required. Contact **Suzanne Zaw, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist**, at (808)339-7980.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Classes are from 10:15 - 11:50am on March 30, April 6, 13 & 27. First Confession on Saturday, April 5 at 9am. Meeting at 8:30. Please be on time. - *Margaret Essex, Catechist*

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

We will meet on March 30th from 5:15 to 7:15pm. First Confession on Saturday, April 5. Meet at 8:30 am for instruction on the plaza. April Youth Ministry classes on April 6, 13, & 27. Parents meeting on April 6 for Sacraments. - *Edwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister*

Fourth Sunday of Lent

"Laetare" is Latin for "rejoice," the traditional designation for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. We rejoice because of God's abundant mercy. The temptation to sin can be overwhelming and impossible as it nudges us away from God. But once we "come to our senses" and seek forgiveness, the Lord is ready to embrace us and welcome us home. God calls us to reconciliation. Let us rejoice, indeed!

Easter is coming! With childlike joy the Church begins to count the days. Just as on the third Sunday of Advent we felt the thrill and happiness of Christmas, so now we anticipate the joy of Easter. Herein lies the whole significance of Laetare Sunday. It brings to the catechumens a foretaste of the good things they will receive at Easter: e.g., the grace of divine worship, a new spiritual mother in holy Church, the Eucharist as the true manna. And we, the faithful, awaken in our breasts a new consciousness of these tremendous blessings.

- <https://associationofcatholicpriests.ie>

Everyday Stewardship-The Face on God's Brochure

When a church is raising funds for a new building or a diocese is launching a stewardship appeal, there is usually someone - or several someone's - who serves as the face of the campaign. Maybe it's a married couple, or a family, or a group of folks who have been particularly active in the community and can speak to the worthiness of whatever endeavor is being undertaken.

Often times, for better or worse, we fill that role for God. We are the face on the front of His promotional brochure. If we call ourselves Christians, that means that people will meet Christ through us. That's what being an Everyday Steward is - a steward, everyday; someone who conducts his Master's business when the Master is not seen.

It can be intimidating because we have so much baggage and no capabilities of our own. But then we remem-

YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Soup Supper (after Benediction) 5:30pm
- Hula Ministry Practice 5:30-6:30pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm
(3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm

FRIDAY

- Stations of the Cross - English 5:00pm
(St. Michael the Archangel)
- Stations of the Cross - Spanish 6:00pm
(Immaculate Conception)
- Lenten Fish Fry 5:45-7:15pm

SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

SUNDAY

- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:50am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm
(Please refer to the Faith Formation section for class dates)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

Baptism

The next baptism class will be at 9am on Saturday, April 12 in the Office Conference room. Parents and Godparents must attend class.

To register, please email baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation

ber that we are offered reconciliation through Christ . . . that "the old things have passed away, (and) new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We remember that we are the prodigal sons, and the fattened calf has been slaughtered on our behalf.

But it's a role that requires commitment. The story of the prodigal son is only compelling and only means something because the son, presumably, embraced his reconciliation to his father. He didn't go on to abandon him again. So let us think to ourselves each day, "Whoever I encounter will meet Christ's ambassador. I was dead and have come to life again. How can I speak to the worthiness of that reconciliation? How can I make others desire it?" -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - The Apology

I like to imagine the Prodigal Son practicing his apology in the mirror.

He wouldn't have, of course. Mirrors weren't exactly a dime a dozen back then. But I imagine him anyway, rehearsing the words as he contemplates his own gaunt reflection: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers." In other words, I have done wrong. I deserve nothing from you. But please, don't let me starve. Save me.

The apology wasn't necessary to move the heart of the father. We know that because before they meet, before anything is said, the father is overcome with compassion - not because he got his satisfaction, that long-awaited "I'm sorry, I was wrong." No, he's simply overjoyed to see his son alive. Even without apology, we know the father will beg his son to stay. So why does the son apologize?

The father doesn't need the "I'm sorry." He isn't starving and lost. He knew all along it was a bad idea. He doesn't need to learn any lessons. But what a tragedy it would have been, if the son had never said he was sorry. Undoubtedly, his father would have let him stay as a hired worker, and he would have had food to eat. He would have survived. But he would not have been what he was born to be.

I often think of the son's apology as I am kneeling in the confessional, awkwardly reciting sins God already knows and is eager to forgive. Why are you doing this?, some people would ask. God doesn't need this.

It's the apology, you see. The apology means everything. The Prodigal Son was dead. The apology brought him back to life.

God doesn't need our repentance. We need our repentance. - Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI



SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH

4pm - Jerry Schultz, Rest in Peace and Steve & Merry Lopez, Blessed 16th Anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7am - Joe & Henrietta Kanuha, May they rest in Peace
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Jack Derzay, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

MONDAY, MARCH 31ST

- 7am - Christopher Pesta, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Kittidet Suntharo, For Healing

TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST

- 7am - Puninaniokalani Smith, deceased, Birthday Remembrance & Kara Ursua, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Puninaniokalani Akemi Hanato-Smith, deceased, Birthday Remembrance & Kara Onipualauala Ursua, Birthday Blessings

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND

- 7am - Dr. Seungtai Peter Kim, Rest in Peace

THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD

- 7am - Elissa Palencia, Anniversary of Death & Birthday Remembrance
- 5pm - John O. Torres, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH

- 7am - Gloria Lynne Fabel, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Veronica Gallo, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

- 7am - Napoleon Diokno, Rest in Peace

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."

—Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.**

Join the Party

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 - Rites at Gilgal
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 - A new creation
- ▶ Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 - The prodigal son

Upon hearing the famous story of the Prodigal Son, we may instantly feel a connection with one son or the other. Maybe we have strayed in our lives—or even intentionally walked away from friends, family, and home—and have been welcomed back despite feeling we didn't deserve to be. Or perhaps we feel like the older son who has been working his tail off to do what he thinks is expected of him and then feels resentful when his wayward brother gets welcomed home. What if instead of focusing on one or the other sons, we focus on the father's response to both of them in the parable?

The father has generosity and joy enough for both sons. He wants *both* at the party—not just the sinner or the do-gooder. He throws the party so the younger son knows he is welcomed home wholeheartedly, *and* he tells the older son “everything I have is yours.” In that society, what the father possessed did not belong to the sons until he died; they had no claim on it until after his death. So it is highly unusual for the father to give the younger son his part of the inheritance prematurely, and *just* as unusual for the father to tell the older son “It's already yours.” The father wants to share all he has and celebrate his relationship with both sons equally. It's not about favorites; it's an invitation for everyone to join the party. Tax collectors and sinners were

OF COURSE I FORGIVE YOU, AND I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME TO YOUR SENSES...

BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE A FRIDAY IN LENT TO RETURN HOME?? ... OH WELL, NO MATTER—

KILL THE FATTED TUNAFISH!...

© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

“Let us celebrate...he was lost, and has been found.”

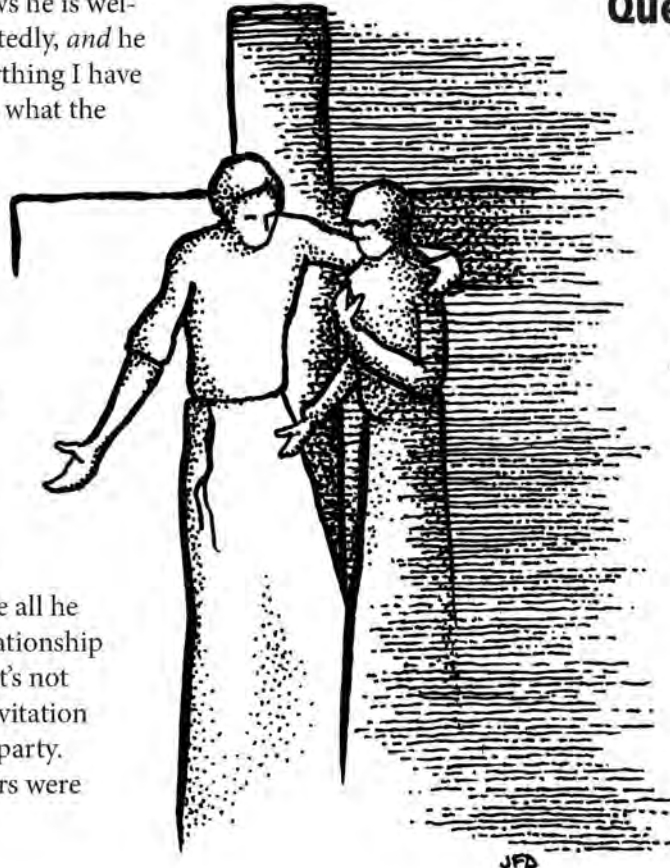
Sheepish Question:
This Lent how will I truly celebrate God's mercy?

joining Jesus “at the party.” Will the Pharisees and scribes too?

Questions of the Week

- 1 Who do you usually relate to in the parable of the Prodigal Son? Why?
- 2 Have you ever had an experience of being in the father's position, either welcoming home a “sinner” or trying to convince a “righteous son” of your love for him too?

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



We Return

God our Father,
your compassion knows no bounds.
You hear us cry out to you
and you save us from distress.
We have sinned against you
and no longer deserve your mercy;
we find ourselves lost,
yet we return to you.
Grant us strength to repent, to return
to you,
and to share with others the
everlasting joy
of your mercy and forgiveness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 30, 2025

The Lord Hears



Today's readings: Joshua 5:9a, 10–12; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32 (33). When reflecting on today's Gospel, we are often encouraged to consider the loving father's unconditional love for both of his sons. The younger son asks his father for his inheritance and foolishly wastes it, inevitably finding himself in dire need. He decides to return home and apologize to his father, expecting to be treated like one of his father's hired workers. Despite the younger son's selfish recklessness, his father is "filled with compassion" upon his return. His father rejoices, dresses him in fine clothes, and prepares a feast. Certainly, Jesus is encouraging us to return to God, who has unending love and mercy for us despite our sinfulness.

Having experienced God's goodness and boundless mercy, we rejoice. Joining the psalmist, we sing: "When the poor one called out, the Lord heard, / and from all his distress he saved him." It is important, though, to reflect on both the times we find ourselves living as the younger son and the older son. When have you found yourself acting selfishly, unsettled in worldly desires and neglecting those in your community? When have you found yourself acting out of jealousy, comparing your blessings and actions to another's? Spend time praying with today's parable, trying to approach it free of judgment. What can you do when you find yourself acting like either of the sons? How can you call out to the Lord and return to God? How can you resolve to do better?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 31 Believe

God responds to our petitions, though sometimes in ways and at times we do not expect. Today, we hear about the royal official asking Jesus to heal his ill son. Jesus tells him that his son will live and, though the official believes, it is not until later that he realizes that Jesus' word healed his son. Patient listening and a dedication to prayer are necessary to be attuned to God's movement in our lives. Reflect on how God has responded to your prayers. *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; John 4:43-54.*

Tuesday, April 1 Notice

Today we repeat with the psalmist: "The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob." God is with us just as Jesus is with the sick man in Jerusalem. This evening, reflect on God's presence in your day. Take care to notice the moments, big and small, in which God was with you. Say a prayer in gratitude, and ask for the strength to behold the deeds of the Lord tomorrow. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16.*

Wednesday, April 2 Lifted Up

In today's reading from the Book of Isaiah, we are reminded that "the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted." We echo this with the psalmist, singing of God's grace and mercy. We are lifted up amid our struggles and strife. In your prayer today, write about something that weighs you down. Offer it up to God, knowing he "lifts up all who are falling / and raises up all who are bowed down." Make it a practice to humbly turn to God when you are feeling weighed down. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145: 8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30.*

Thursday, April 3 Accept Jesus

Jesus rebukes the Jews in today's Gospel, saying, "I came in the name of my Father, but you do not accept me." Jesus says they "accept praise from one another" instead of seeking the praise that comes from God. How can you accept Jesus more fully? Consider how you have prioritized the praise or earthly desires of those around you. How can you shift your priorities and seek God in your day-to-day? Challenge yourself to commit to a tangible action that will lead to accepting Jesus. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47.*

Friday, April 4 Blinded by Wickedness

The reading from the Book of Wisdom states that the thoughts of the wicked erred, "their wickedness blinded them, and they knew not the hidden counsels of God." Our sinfulness makes it hard to see God and to be guided in holiness. If able this weekend, schedule a time to go to confession. Can you participate in the sacrament of reconciliation more regularly? *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.*

Saturday, April 5 St. Vincent Ferrer

St. Vincent Ferrer, a Spanish Dominican, is the patron saint of builders; he is known for strengthening and building up the Church through his preaching and ministry. In today's Gospel, we hear of the division that emerged as people debated who Jesus was. This division continues today. To celebrate St. Vincent's memorial, pray for unity in the Church. How can you help unite your faith community? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53.*

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