

31st March 2019 - Fourth Sunday of Lent



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 30

9:00am † *Guido & Marie Guinasso & family*

4:30pm † *Eva Cader*

Sunday, March 31

7:30am † *Milagros Villena*

9:30am † *Charito Punla*

11:00am † *Sara Elsbernd*

12:30pm † *Mario Pineda*

Monday, April 1

9:00am † *Jean M. Kelly*

Tuesday, April 2

9:00am † *Diane Jean Shasky & Family*

Wednesday, April 3

9:00am *Priscilla Cortez (healing)*

Thursday, April 4

9:00am *Berta Zamora (bday)*

Friday, April 5

9:00am † *Crisanto O. de la Torre*

Saturday, April 6

9:00am *Petrona Binalinbing*
4:30pm † *Benito Gonzalez*



SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for **St. Vincent de Paul**. Thank you for your generous support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

March 19th - March 24th, 2019

Tuesday's Spec coll.	\$ 93.00
Tues. On-line giving	\$ 5.00
Friday/Lent FGH.....	\$ 142.00
Weekend Offering	\$ 2,893.00
Weekend On-line giving..	\$ 240.00

From the Desk of the Pastor

Today's Gospel story of the Prodigal son is one of the most famous of Jesus' parables. It is at times also called the parable of two brothers. Two brothers, just like you and me! St. Luke presents a portrait of God's gracious love and two negative responses to that love. Both sons, in their own ways, indicate the disposition of the soul in estrangement from God!

This tragic estrangement is a turning away from God. It is an obstinate refusal to appreciate God's providential care. It furthermore, drowns us in the pit of selfishness, egotism and pride.

- ◆ Have we smugly demanded what we think is ours and selfishly left others behind?
- ◆ Or are we, like the older brother, self-righteous?
- ◆ Do we stand outside the banquet because we do not like the rules?
- ◆ Are our attempts at righteousness misguided?

The father does not ask much for the riches he bestows upon his prodigal son. He gives and continues to give of himself freely, with joy. His repentant son, coming back to 'senses' is now willing to appreciate and gratefully acknowledge and accept the gifts that the father has offered all along, though now with a more correct sense of his relationship to the father. Best robe, signet ring, shoes: the youth is re-instated. He is 'son' as though he had never left, had never gone astray. Nor is this the end. This is a moment to be savored.

The older brother is left at the story's end, standing outside the banquet hall with a choice on his hands: Will he set his pride aside and enjoy the father's boundless love? Or will he continue, alone, to brood over his self-righteousness and to call the shots?

The story of the father and his two sons is an allegory; the characters are: God, the sinner and the self-righteous. Jesus' purpose was not only to highlight God's gracious forgiveness. It was also to hold the mirror up to the self-righteous opponents. It was to challenge them to see themselves in the older son. This Gospel challenges each of us to do the same.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This devotional prayerful exercise will be held in the church on Friday, April 5th. Everyone is encouraged to come and pray with us at 9:30am (after the 9:00am mass) in English.

2019 SCHEDULE OF LENTEN DEVOTIONS & CELEBRATIONS

April

- 5th First Friday, 4th Week of Lent: 9:30 am: after Mass, Stations of the Cross (English) with the
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction.
 - 6:30 pm Spanish - Via Crucis; 7:00 pm Reflexión (en Español)
- 12th Friday, 5th Week of Lent: 9:00 am mass in English;
- 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross in English and Spanish & "Soup Supper".
- 19th Good Friday: Program will be announced soon.

Complete Lenten Fasting and Abstinence Information for Lent 2019

- **Abstinence:** Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on **Ash Wednesday**, all the **Fridays** of Lent and **Good Friday**.
- **Fast:** Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- It is highly recommended that Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed penitential practices.

FORMED: Catholic Faith on Demand

It is an invitation to continue to grow in the knowledge of our Faith, so we can live it out and share it with others. It is simple to get into FORMED for free by going to our registration URL: saintjohnevangelist.formed.org. You can do this with any device connected to the internet: your computer, laptop, iPad, tablet, phone. We all need to continue to grow in the knowledge of our Faith and this is a good resource to explore.

The parable of the father and his sons is one of the most familiar of all of Jesus' stories. The father in the parable is lavish in forgiveness and revels in the return of his young son, who was lost and now is found. We are sometimes lost as well. We lose sight of the Lord and the Lords ways. God never loses sight of us. We get off track and for a while do not even realize we are lost. God waits, ready for us to come to our senses, ready to welcome us back with open arms.