



God of Justice, God of Mercy

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Life is not fair. Even though we know this, we expect God to be fair, which may be what irks so many about the Parable of the Lost Son. There is a part of our skewed human nature that agrees with the older son in the story. It certainly seems that the younger son was able to have his cake and eat it too, while the older son could only sit by and watch, missing out on the devil-may-care part of life. It didn't seem fair, and the older son said so.

The point of the story does seem to be that God is both just and merciful, but if ever one of those virtues seems to give way to the other, then, from God's perspective, divine mercy always trumps worldly justice. We,

however, think that's not fair. We grow suspect of deathbed conversions, worried that the person is trying to have life both ways. But do we give thought to the suffering such a life without God might entail? The humiliation and near starvation of the younger son as he lived his self-indulgent life?

We think we want God to be fair, but do we really?

Reflect

Does my life seem unfair? More fair or less fair compared with others?

In C.S. Lewis' novel, *Till We Have Faces*, one character asks another if the gods are just, to which is replied, "Oh, child, pray that they are not!" Do we really want to be treated with justice, getting exactly what we deserve and no more?

Or do we want to let God be God and be treated with mercy? ●

"Now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

LUKE 15:32





St. Thomas More

302 Chestnut Street

Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-663-6201

Email: thomasmore32@gmail.com

Adoration Room at STM

Open Daily from 9 am - 6 pm

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

212 S Main Street

PO Box 159

Cherry IL 61317

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com



Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Confession Info

Confessions: Saturday morning, alternating between STM & HT 10:30 am-11:15

Upcoming/Ongoing Church Events

Fundraiser: STM Rav/Tort | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone number/order) | \$9.00/bag

CCD Classes

Sunday, March 30th—6th & 7th Grade

Sunday, April 6th—K-5th Grade

Mock Confessions for 1st Communion Kids



Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of March 31, 2025

Monday	3/31			+ No Mass
Tuesday	4/1	9:00 am	STM	+ Robert Mariani
Wednesday	4/2	5:30 pm	HT	+ Michael Campbell
Thursday	4/3	9:00 am	HT	+ Wes & Rita Hoscheid
Friday	4/4	9:00 am	STM	+ Derek Baird
		6:00 pm	STM	Stations of the Cross

Mass Intentions for the weekend of April 5-6, 2025

Saturday	4/5	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ For the Parishioners
Sunday	4/6	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Charlie & Hazel Keutzer

The Lost Son Who Returned

Luke 15 has been called by Biblical scholars "The chapter of lost things". In it we find a lost sheep, a lost coin and, most famously, a lost son – the Prodigal Son. This story is arguably the most famous and, likely, the most beloved parable told by Jesus. All of these lost things are found in the end. Thus, they are parables of hope – hope for the sinner and all those who feel lost and forsaken. This will be the first part in a series of reflections on this great parable – said by Charles Dickens to be "The finest short story ever written".



Saint Augustine wrote: "There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future." The Prodigal Son story is a story about the lost who was found and the dead man who came to life again.

The story of the prodigal son, indeed the story of every human being, is that due to Original Sin we sometimes see our Father in Heaven as an impediment at best, and an enemy at worst, to our human and spiritual growth. Due to sin, we see God as an obstacle, rather than a ladder; due to the scourge of sin we see God as a policeman rather than the loving, nurturing Father that He is; and due to sin we, too, flee with the prodigal son to "distant lands" looking for other ways, avenues and solutions to our human needs and desires. Our sinful nature points us to "mediocrity" and not "the highest goals", but instead to the base things of this world. God instead has a high plan – indeed, the highest plan for our lives.

We pray that these reflections redound to God's glory and draw all of us to a greater love of not just our Father in Heaven, but the vocation to which He calls each of us by name. (Excerpted from "vermontcatholic.org")

Church Announcements

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Holy week & Easter schedules are in the back of each church. Please don't forget to pick up a copy for yourself.

Easter Flowers

Easter Flower envelopes are now available at the back of each church. Please donate \$25 for each of the deceased family members that you would like to donate in remembrance of. Names will be listed in the bulletin. If you would like to donate to the Easter flower fund, any amount will be greatly appreciated.



St. Rose Society Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Palm Sunday- April 13, 2025

7 am to 12:30 pm

St. Joseph Church Hall, 1925 Fifth St. Peru, IL

Adults \$10.00

Children Ages 6 to 12 \$6.00 / Children 5 and under eat free

Latest Offering's March 23rd Weekend

HT - \$980
STM - \$763
SP- \$240

Stations of the cross Friday, April 4th 6pm at STM



Confessions

Sat. April 5th
10:30 am-11:15 am
Holy Trinity
in the confessional

Dear Padre,

***Is it OK if I receive holy Communion more than once a day?
Part of my routine is to go to early morning Mass in my parish,
even on days I know I'm going to another Mass, like a wedding
or funeral, or sometimes another Mass for that day.***

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that by the very nature of what the Eucharist intends and celebrates, those who participate in the great mystery of our faith should "receive the Lord's Body" (1388). In other words, reception of holy Communion is strongly recommended and is understood as the ordinary practice for all who participate in the Mass. Proper preparation and disposition are presumed as both necessary and important.

In response to a specific "dubium" or question about this practice and expectation, in 1984 the Pontifical Commission on the Code of Canon Law issued an authentic interpretation of the Church's understanding of this practice. It mandated that "the faithful may receive the Holy Eucharist only a second time on the same day" (CCC, 1388, footnote 222). This directive is intended to establish the general norm and practice for the reception of holy Communion. Your practice, as a result of this norm, is directly representative of the understanding of the Church. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 31	April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>
Is 65:17-21	Ez 47:1-9, 12	Is 49:8-15	Ex 32:7-14	Wis 2:1a, 12-22	Jer 11:18-20	Is 43:16-21
Jn 4:43-54	Jn 5:1-16	Jn 5:17-30	Jn 5:31-47	Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	Jn 7:40-53	Phil 3:8-14
						Jn 8:1-11



THE PRODIGAL SON, PETER PAUL RUBENS / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

There was a pop theatre production...about the prodigal son.... [The son writes a letter]: "Father, I have repented, I want to come back home.... If you want to welcome me, please put a white handkerchief in the window." And when he was near home...what did he see? Not one handkerchief: it was full of white handkerchiefs, the windows, everywhere!

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 27, 2022