

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

A man, taking his son, Johnny, to school, in a hurry, made a turn at a red light where it was prohibited. “Uh-oh, I think I just made an illegal turn!” the man said. “It’s okay, Dad,” the boy said, “The police car, right behind us, did the same thing.”

Today’s parable of the prodigal son is so famous and so rich that we may not notice that it is incomplete. It ends too soon. It ends with the father pleading with the older son to come in to the celebration which he has arranged for the prodigal son. But we are never told how the elder son responds to his father’s pleading. His father says, “*We must celebrate and rejoice.*” Yet, the parable ends before we find out whether the older son in fact does celebrate and rejoice.



So, the incompleteness of this parable draws attention to the decision which the older son must face. That choice, whether to celebrate or not celebrate with his brother, becomes a key to unlocking the meaning of the parable. The decision of the elder son which is left hanging in the air, suggests that this parable is not so much about sinning, repenting, and forgiving, as it is about jealousy. It is not so much about forgiving the son who came home but the willingness to accept the brother who has come home. It asks us: Are we willing to rejoice in the good fortune of others?

Today’s parable is a parable in which the elder son is jealous of the love that the father gives to his brother. Clearly, the parable is inviting us to avoid such jealousy in our own lives. But if we are going to do that, we have to understand what causes jealousy so that we can avoid it.

The parable gives us the answer. The older son is unable to accept the love that his father has for him. The father certainly loves the elder son. He says this clearly. He says, “*My son, you are here with me always and all I have is yours.*” And yet, for some reason, this elder son will not believe in the father’s love. Because he will not accept the gifts that flow from that love, he ends up being jealous of his brother.

The surest way to avoid jealousy, in our own lives, is to accept the love that God has for us and the gifts that God has given us. Even though our gifts might seem less than the gifts of others, we need to believe that the gifts that we have been given are valuable and important. The parable assures us that with our God there will always be enough love for all of the children.

This story invites us to claim the love that God has for us and the gifts that God has given us. It invites us to be thankful for our gifts and to believe, whatever those gifts are, they are a sure sign of God’s unfailing love for us. If we can be thankful for the gifts we have received, we can avoid jealousy in our lives. With our God, there is always enough love to go around.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Apr. 1st** - Is. 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
- Tue. Apr. 2nd** - Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
- Wed. Apr. 3rd** - Is. 49:8-15; John 5:16-30
- Thurs. Apr. 4th** - Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:18, 31-47
- Fri. Mar. 5th** - Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Sat. Mar. 6th** - Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
- Sun. Mar. 7th** - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Is. 43:16-21; Phillip. 3:8-14; John 8:1-11



TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for your church contributions as well as your Project Advance contributions have been mailed. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

EXTRA LENTEN SERVICES

During Lent, we have Stations of the Cross, on Fridays at 7 pm, followed by Mass. All are invited to attend.



ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Apr. 3rd - 7:30 PM** - Volunteers
- Fri. Apr. 5th - 7:30 PM** - Volunteers
- Sat. Apr. 6th - 5:00 PM** - C & C Akol, M.Cabuhayan, J.Lanuza, J.Nguyen.
- Sun. Apr. 7th - 9:00 AM** - N.Chao, J & N Yuen, C.Vu, T.Johnson. **11:00 AM** - R.Bottin, S.Cho, W.Pham, J.Roque. **5:00 PM** - J.Plata, K.Alonzo, A.Babas, P.Casanova, F & T Le, E.Nguyen.



During Lent, as part of your prayer life, why not check out **FORMED**, a virtual library with video and ebooks for adults and children. You will find lots of good content for Lent. Sign-up for FREE! Visit formed.org and enter our parish access code: **RMNYFF** and create your personal account.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Mar. 30 th	5 pm Mass for Fernando A. Garcia, R.I.P.
Sun. Mar. 31 st	9 am Mass for Lawrence pimentel, R.I.P. 11 am Mass for Bruno Mannella, R.I.P. 5 pm Mass for parishioners
Mon. Apr. 1 st	8 am Mass for the int. of the Viduya & Raval fmly
Tue. Apr. 2 nd	8 am Mass for Deogracias Diana, R.I.P.
Wed. Apr. 3 rd	9 am Mass for the int. of Mary Ditas Mananquil 7:30 pm Novena Mass
Thur. Apr. 4 th	8:00 am Mass for F. Lucido & T.Tam, R.I.P.
Fri. Apr. 5 th	8:00 am Mass for Rosaria Pulice, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Mass for F & R Timbal, R.I.P.
Sat. Apr. 6 th	9:00 am Mass for R.Fostanes & A.Bacatan, R.I.P.

A 2nd COLLECTION FOR SHARE LENT will be held next weekend at all the Masses.

This Lenten season, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada invites you to share the journey with people forced to seek refuge, and to reach out and encounter them. Together, let's walk on the path of solidarity. The annual Solidarity Sunday collection for Development and Peace will be next Sunday, April 7, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generous solidarity is vital to the mission of Development and Peace and its ability to help, respect, and promote the poor.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

- **Friendship Day:** Join us next Sunday, April 7th after the 9 & 11 am Masses in the vestibule.

SQUIRETTES NEWS

- Bake Sale: Our Squirettes will be holding a "Bake Sale" next Sunday, April 7th, after the 9 and 11 am Masses in the vestibule.
- Membership Drive: will be held on Apr. 28th.



SCHOOL NEWS

- Our school will re-open this Monday, April 1st. We look forward to seeing our staff, students and parents. We hope you had all had an enjoyable Spring Break.

ST. JUDE'S MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

All married couples are invited to our Marriage Enrichment Retreat, sponsored by Couples for Christ, which will be held next Saturday, Apr. 6th from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm in the school meeting room, followed by Mass at 5 pm and renewal of vows. The retreat is FREE. Lunch and snacks will be served. We will be handing out registration forms or they will be at the entrance of the church. For more info or to register please call JR and Jovie Dinong at 604-379-7741 or Senen/Virginia Basbas at 604-512-8295.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." (Joshua 5:12)

Over the 40 years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

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Permanent Diaconate Information Sessions

Do you feel called to be a Permanent Deacon? Men between the ages of 35 and 60 interested in ordained ministry, along with their spouses, can learn more about the permanent diaconate this spring. For info or to register, visit: <http://stmarkscollege.ca/news-events/events/permanent-diaconate-information-sessions/> or email deacons@rcav.org

Notre Dame Alumni Trivia Night

Join us for Fun, food, and prizes at the Notre Dame Alumni Trivia Night on Friday, April 5, at 6 p.m. Pasta dinner starting 6:15 p.m. and games at 7 p.m. Cost \$25. For info call Diane at 604-291-7969

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

"I stretch out my hands toward you, my soul to you like a parched land." – Psalm 143:6

Has your soul felt dry and without life since your abortion experience? Your Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat team has been there and wants nothing more than to walk with you as you stretch out your hands to God for His mercy. You are not alone. Join us on our next Retreat in May 2019. For confidential info and to register contact 604-525-0999.

MONTHLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - INTENSIVE

PRAYER The Matthew 7:7 Prayer Brigade, a prayer warriors group of the Office of the Filipino Ministry (<http://rcav.org/Filipino-Ministry>) that gathers month-to-month in different parishes for Intensive Prayer with Scriptural Rosaries during a 3-hour Eucharistic Adoration, invites you to join them on Saturday, April 6, from 1:00-4:00 pm, in Corpus Christi Parish, 6350 Nanaimo St., Vancouver.

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

The Season of Lent is the most appropriate time of the year to reflect and discern our need of forgiveness. *Please check the bulletin board at the entrance of the church for Lenten Penitential Services being held in our area with the Sacrament of Confession.*



