

Living the
Gospel

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Approaching the Mercy of God

This Sunday we are invited to reflect on the beautiful parable of the prodigal son. This parable offers us an insight into the unfathomable depths of God's mercy. We are also given an example of the prodigal son to imitate. He teaches us that whenever we fall, we too need to recognize our sin, get up and approach our merciful and loving Father.

However, we may at times find it difficult to accept just how generously God bestows His mercy on those who seek Him. We may have the notion that God



is out to punish those who commit sin. However, there is one particularly beautiful line in the parable this Sunday that can help us ease those fears. It says that, "while [the son] was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him."

The beauty in this passage is that the father saw the son "while he was still far off." This means that he must've spent time each day looking out at the horizon, eagerly and lovingly waiting for his son to return. Not only does he see him, he then runs and embraces his son even though he was dirty and smelled like pigs. As stewards, we shouldn't fear approaching God for His mercy and forgiveness for He longs to grant it to us. Across the Archdiocese, every parish will host a Lenten Day of Reconciliation in which many priests will be available for the sacrament of Confession. Let us take advantage of this beautiful opportunity for healing and prepare ourselves for the Risen Lord at Easter.

Summary

This Sunday we are invited to reflect on the beautiful parable of the prodigal son which offers us an insight into the unfathomable depths of God's mercy. We are shown that whenever we fall, we too need to recognize our sin, get up and approach our merciful and loving Father. God longs to forgive us, so let us strive to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent to prepare ourselves for the Risen Lord at Easter.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 31st

12:05 pm

Tuesday, April 1st

12:05 pm † Teresa Buettner
requested by Fatima Cabral

Wednesday, April 2nd

12:05 pm † John Philip Louis
requested by Dr. Lenus Louis

Thursday, April 3rd

9:45 am School Mass

12:05 pm

Friday, April 4th

12:05 pm In thanksgiving & intentions of Agnes Timmins on her 93rd birthday
requested by Anthony Mapp

6:30 pm

[Note: Stations of the Cross after all Masses]

Saturday, April 5th

9:00 am In thanksgiving for favours granted
Requested by Dominic Cardoz

5:00 pm † Deceased members of the Catholic Women's League of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Sunday, April 6th – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am † Frank Gallant
requested by Alice & Brian Warford

11:00 am For the People of the Parish

2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

If you have not yet picked up your 2025 offertory envelopes, kindly ask one of the volunteers to assist you or contact the parish office. Please discard all OLD envelopes.



Note: Please ensure that your name and address on the ENVELOPE BOX is correct.

Q & A – STATIONS OF THE CROSS



What is the Stations of the Cross and why is it important to Christians?

During Lent, Catholics often undertake the Stations of the Cross. It is a walk that allows for reflection and re-enactment of Jesus' final journey, when he carried his cross to Golgotha, the place of his crucifixion.

What are the benefits of the Stations of the Cross?

The reason for praying the Stations of the Cross is to enter into the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself for us – to experience his means of transforming suffering through love. We do this “through, with, and in him,” step by step, learning how this plan of love can be carried out by us today.

What can you learn from the Stations of the Cross?

Meditating on the Stations of the Cross exposes Christ's suffering heart — “sorrowful even to death” (Mk 14:34). In his condemnation to death, Christ teaches that we have the freedom to accept life's sorrows. He does not let condemnation be levied upon him, but rather he chooses it out of love.

Every Friday throughout Lent, there will be the Stations of the Cross after the 12:05 pm and 6:30 pm Masses.



The Catholic Women's League is excited to invite all children to our Easter Egg Hunt, taking place on Sunday, April 20th after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses. It's a wonderful opportunity for children to enjoy egg hunting, colouring and fellowship.



There is no cost to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church from April 5th to 12th.

Don't miss out on this joyful event as we celebrate Easter together. We look forward to seeing you there!

A MESSAGE FROM CHALICE



chalice.ca

Chalice would like to thank your parish for supporting our mission by hosting a Sponsorship Weekend!



SVPD LENTEN FOOD DRIVE



Help feed our neighbours in need this Lenten season. The Society of St. Vincent De Paul is collecting non-perishable food items to support the Good Shepherd Ministries food bank.

"A small donation can go a long way for a family or neighbour in need." Donation bins will be available in the church foyer for the duration of the drive. Most needed items are: tuna & canned meat, soup & stews, canned tomatoes & vegetables, mayonnaise & ketchup, pancake mix, tea bags & coffee beans, chickpeas, tomato sauce, jams, mustard, granola bars and bagged rice. Collection dates for the weekends of **March 29th & 30th, April 5th & 6th, April 12th & 13th.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

SHARELIFE

4th Sunday of Lent March 30, 2025



This weekend is ShareLife Sunday

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign. But ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need. From children to seniors, and everyone in between, more than 40 ShareLife agencies are there each step of the way.

As a family of faith, we lift each other up from our lowest moments. Nick's life had an easy start – he came from a good home, where he was raised with a strong work ethic, and he welcomed a son. But living with a mental illness, he struggled more than some. Deep inside, he felt like something was missing, and he devastatingly fell into addiction. With your helping hand, he rose up through the DARE Program at Good Shepherd.

"By the grace of God, I am still alive," he proclaims. "I'd love to be able to give back what was so freely given to me. I am taking roles of service, giving back as much as I can. I was afraid I'd never be able to feel the way I feel. I am very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to be sober." Thanks to your support, he is no longer just surviving—he is thriving, with a heart full of hope and a future filled with promise.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at <https://sharelife.org/donate/>.



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