

CLOSING PRAYER:

~ A Prayer during the 4th Week in Lent ~

O Jesus,
Light of the world,
why were you born,
and why did you die
in such obscurity?

Bethlehem was hardly a shining place —
the stable hardly a burning stand
for light to come into the world.

Was not Calvary too
an ending place
for life and light?
And would not a cross
in the afternoon sky,
turn all eyes away?

Blind man,
did your eyes turn away too?
Or were you
so accustomed to the dark
as to see what others could not see?

For once —
it was not long ago —
Someone seeing you all in darkness
touched your eyes
and told you to wash
until you saw God's glory
shining through your beggar's clothes.

And you believed.
No one could stop you,
or explain it all away.
You believed.

And so do I.
Amen.

Our Lady Chapel



Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.

TETÉLESTAI — NEXT WEEKEND:

On **Friday, March 11th at 8:00 PM, Saturday, March 12th at 8:00 PM** and on **Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 PM**, the Cleveland Performing Arts Ministries will present **Tetélestai** here in Our Lady Chapel. Depicting the final week of Jesus' life, **Tetélestai** brings us right into the events surrounding the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a marvelous spiritual opportunity for you and your family. The children will love the story telling of Jesus, the scene of the prophets, Jesus with his apostles and the holy women, the upper room, and of course, the resurrection. During the presentation, the cast moves throughout the audience, bringing them into the scenes. I really want to encourage you and your family to take advantage of this spiritual offering. There is no charge for admission. A free-will offering is taken as you exit if you would like to contribute. Each presentation will be followed by an informal reception in the Commons when you will be able to mingle with the cast.

**COMMUNITY MEAL AND TETELESTAI:**

On **Saturday, March 12th following the 5 PM Mass**, we are planning to have a community dinner for members of Our Lady Chapel and Gilmour families and their invited friends. **Cost of the dinner will be \$15 for adults and older children.** Children under 8 are free. **Reservations only please.** No walk-ins because of food preparation. **Sign up on the sheet on the easel or call Patty in the chapel office 440-473-3560.**

**PENANCE SERVICE:**

Our community celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held this **Monday, March 21st at 7:00 PM.** Our service is centered around reflections by the various characters involved in the passion and death of Jesus. There will also be songs and hymns, and a time to bring ourselves from our sinful ways back to the Lord. As we confront our own sinfulness, we realize that we, too, have a part to play in the death of Jesus. The service will last about 45 minutes. There will be a time for individual confessions following the service, for those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. Please join us.

**PROVIDE A RIDE:**

Volunteers needed to provide rides “to and from” Mass for members of Our Lady Chapel — both Saturday Evening Mass at 5 PM and Sunday Mass at 10 AM. **This ministry will involve only providing rides to the Chapel for Mass.** Volunteers must be 21 or older. Please provide your name and phone number so that we can form a call list. We have a growing need in the chapel and would like to provide this service to our members. **Contact Tina Newton at 440-991-6670**

**BRINGING UP THE OFFERTORY GIFTS:**

Would you and your family or group like to bring up the gifts at the offertory at Mass? In the past, our Council people have invited people to bring up the gifts, and we have found that many — if not most — of you like to be asked. But in using this method, we may be leaving people out, especially if it is done as a “last minute item”. So, we are posting a sign-up sheet on the Easel in the narthex of the chapel.

If you or your family or group would like to bring up the gifts on a certain Saturday or Sunday — or if you are open to doing this at any time — please call the chapel office [440-473-3560]. We look forward to opening this beautiful experience to all in our community.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Tony Stricker who is undergoing treatment for a brain condition.
- For Paula Minello, mother of Annalise ['16] and Sophia ['19] who is recovering from surgery.
- For Ramon Ortega, who is critically ill following heart surgery.
- For Karen Bernardo who is recovering from serious heart surgery.
- For Bonnie O'Leary, Middle School Teacher, who is undergoing rehab following surgery.
- For Eva Shea, aunt of lower school teacher, Theresa Stark, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer
- For Kathy Hronek who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- For Joseph Frantz ['75], brother of Mark ['65], David ['66], Roger ['69], and Peter ['78] Frantz, who is seriously ill.
- For Ann Ally, mother of former Gilmour teacher Deshia Joseph, who is under the care of hospice.
- For Richard Kopittke, friend of Judy Morgan, who is healing from injuries sustained in a fall and from surgery.
- For Ed Carrigan, uncle of LS teacher, Theresa Stark, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Kate Wilson, Niece of Brother Ken Kane, C.S.C., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Justin Tarr who is critically ill with brain cancer.
- For Bun Riley, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Jim Spicer who is undergoing treatment for brain and lung cancer.
- For John O'Brian who has been diagnosed with a serious form of cancer.
- For Bill Slattery ['77] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For John Burkey, uncle of religion instructor, Rachel Burkey, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Annie Trivassos who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Nicholas Zanella, who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Jan Botek, wife of Fred, mother of Fred ['85], grandmother of Matthew ['14], Jonathan ['17] and Daniel ['21] Botek, who is undergoing treatment for dementia.
- For Teddy Prusock, nephew of Lower School associate, Nina Prusock, who is undergoing neurological testing.

CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS AND SERVE OTHERS:

Winter is here— and Spring is coming. Another time to once again clean out the closets. Clothing that no longer fits, or has been replaced by new items, can become great items for others. Always remember the words of Jesus: “The poor you shall always have with you” [Matthew 26:11]. Please continue to bring your *gently used* men's, women's and children's clothing to the Lennon Board Room, or place it in the cedar chest which is located in the Chapel narthex [just press the key button to open the chest]. We partner with Fatima Center to help provide clothing for general use. Also, **business work clothing for this season is especially needed. The Fatima Center helps men and women prepare for job interviews.** If you have some of these items, this would be a good time to send them along. Clothing for all seasons is accepted, but please try to keep in mind that storage facilities are limited at Fatima — so it would help if you could focus on winter and spring items at this time. You may pick up a tax form when you drop off the clothing here at Our Lady Chapel — there are forms in the cedar chest. Clothing may be brought on the weekend, or during the week. Thank you. **If you have any questions, please contact Patty in the chapel office [440-473-3560].**

**A PROVERB:**

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Debbie Torrijas, sister of Brother Christopher Torrijas, C.S.C., who is seriously ill.
- For Brother Robert Kelly, C.S.C., who is recovering from injuries sustained in a fall.
- For David Frazier who is seriously ill with a heart condition.
- For Donna Polack, wife of Bill, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- For John Heidrich who is critically ill following multiple heart attacks.
- For Elaine Willey, sister of Father John, who are undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Stephen Ungrady, father of Emily [*19], who is recovering from a stroke
- For Christina Parrilla, sister of Brother Carlos Parrilla, C.S.C., who is recovering from kidney transplant surgery
- For Jim Virant, grandfather of Noah Virant [*20], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Todd King [*87], brother of Christie [*91] King, who is undergoing treatment for mirocondra
- For John DiCillo, husband of long-time Gilmour teacher, Bonnie, father of John [*83], David [*84], Dawn [*86] and Daniel [*88] DiCillo, who is seriously ill with lymphoma.
- For Jenny Blender, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Dorothy Kazel, mother of Daniel [*86] and Gilmour counselor, Jamie, who is undergoing treatment for cancer..
- For James Kazel, father of Daniel [*86] and Gilmour counselor, Jamie, who is undergoing treatment for a heart condition
- For Mark LaCasse, brother of Upper School Associate, Linda Wheeler, uncle of Molly [*06] Wheeler, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Sue Nyberg, godmother of Katie Leavitt, who is seriously ill with cancer.
- For Drew Franco, son of Brian [*90], nephew of Jeff [*88] and Kristin [*94] Kirkpatrick, who is struggling with a seizure disorder.
- For Michael Palumbo, father of Michael [*14], Marisa [*15], and former Gilmour student, Christian, who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Colleen Lowman, grandmother of Religion instructor, Rachel Burkey, who is seriously ill.
- For Dennis Kavran, father of Dennis [*86] and Jennifer [*95], grandfather of Adam [*14] and Madeleine [*16] Miller, who is undergoing further treatment for cancer.
- For Donna Farkas who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Lexi Pappadakes, who is undergoing treatment for complications from surgery..
- For Rosemarie Lemieux who is ill.
- For Matt Barry [*13], brother of Tim [*12], who continues treatment for cancer.
- For Maria Ricci, friend of Linda McGraw, who is ill.
- For Jeff Warner, brother of Denise Calabrese, who is undergoing treatment resulting from a stroke and seizure.
- For Janice Feenstra, sister of Lisa Habe, aunt of Jack [*19] and Will [*20] Habe who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Phylis McGinley, grandmother of Middle school Head of School, Elizabeth Edmondson, great-grandmother of Mollie [*21] and Abigail [*23] Edmondson, who is seriously ill.
- For Karen Wanders, mother of upper school Head of School, Jonathan Wanders, who continues in treatment and rehabilitation
- For Betty Herten, aunt of Hope [*13] and James [*15] Herten, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.



FAITH EDUCATION — MARCH 6:

Faith Education for this year continues. Our Sessions go from **8:45—9:45 AM**, with the hope that our children would then **participate in our 10:00 AM Family Mass. Register your family for classes by contacting Patty in the Chapel Office [[440-473-3560].** If you have any questions, please call Patty in the chapel office. Thank you for taking care of this important responsibility. **Dates for March and April: March 6-13 and April 10-17-24.**



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, March 6: 4 th Week in Lent	10:00 AM
Monday, March 7:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Tuesday, March 8:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Wednesday, March 9:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Thursday, March 10:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Friday, March 11:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Saturday, March 12: 5 th Week in Lent	5:00 PM
Sunday, March 13: 5 th Week in Lent	10:00 AM

UPCOMING CHAPEL ACTIVITIES:

March 6 -----	Faith Education Session #19 EDGE trip to Regina Health Center Brothers' Gathering and Dinner	8:45 AM—9:45 AM 11:30 AM—3:45 PM 3:00 PM
March 9 -----	Junior Religion Class Mass Junior Religion Class Mass Junior Religion Class Mass	8:30 AM 11:45 AM 2:00 PM
March 10 -----	Student Lenten Penance Service	1:15 PM
March 11 -----	Tetelestai	8:00 PM
March 12 -----	Chapel Community Dinner Tetelestai	6:30 PM 8:00 PM
March 13 -----	Faith Education Session #20 Tetelestai	8:45 AM—9:45 AM 2:00 PM
March 15 -----	Junior Vocation Panel OLC Council Meeting	1:00 PM 6:15 PM

REFLECTION ON THE THEME FOR THE WEEK:

We are always trying to position ourselves to be seen in a positive light. We are, by nature, human-doers, and we do follow Adam and Eve by earning our bread by the sweat of our brows. During these days of Lent, we are called to return to the Source of life and accept the truth that we are, in fact, more of a “receiver” than we are a “doer” — we have all received the very life that we have.

Deep down, we all desire to return to the ground or land or home from which we have wandered. The Eucharist is that Home, that resting place, where we are welcomed again — prodigal though we may have been. We renew the divine embrace and we pledge once more to live more generously the embrace we receive.

Joshua has taken over the leadership of the people of Israel and has led them for all these years of their wandering in the desert. They arrive in their new land, flowing with abundance. Because of their forty-year pilgrimage, those men who were born during these years have not been circumcised. Circumcision was the physical sign of agreement or acceptance of the covenant made between God and Abraham years before. This not being circumcised was the “reproach of Egypt” because the men of Egypt were not circumcised. Upon their entering the new and holy land, it was important that they, as a nation, pause and have the men more fully enter the Jewish traditions and practices [Joshua 5:9-12].

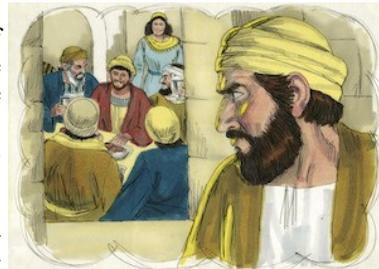
They celebrated the great Passover that year as full members of the Jewish people — their freedom from slavery now being complete. The raining down of manna ceases, and the beginning of the eating from the produce from their new abundant land begins. God had been faithful to the covenant over these many years by freeing them, and feeding them; now they were to earn their bread from the sweat of their brows and the fertility of the land.

Luke’s Gospel is a wonderful parable open to all kinds of questions, answers, and self-reflections [Luke 15:1-3, 11-32]. The theme of losing and finding is central to Luke’s entire Gospel. “The Pharisees and scribes began to complain: ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’” So it is to them that Jesus tells this story about two sons.

The younger son is a selfish, greedy, and rebellious young man. The elder son is secure in the fact that he has done all things well — “Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders”. The Pharisees certainly knew with whom Jesus was comparing them. As the father in the parable welcomes back the disobedient son, so all “sinners” are welcomed back by God. Jesus eats with them — as does the father and his household eat with the welcomed-back son.

The elder son does not want to have anything to do with the household, the younger son, nor the celebration. The Pharisees stand at a distance and judge the entire gathering of Jesus and His embrace of sinners. The father reminds his elder son that they have always been together and in love have shared in everything — “You were never lost,” the father tells him, “but your brother, was dead and gone, but now he has returned.” There is always the welcome back of God. Jesus is expressing that God never separates from even the worst sinner. The father had gone out each day to see if the younger son had come to his senses, and the son had done just that. Sitting with the pigs and their messiness, the son looks around, smells around and wakes up. Remember, pigs, to the Jewish religious sensitivities were the worst things with which to associate. The young son would love to talk himself back into his truest identity — that he is a son of a loving father. But he thinks he has lost that, so he is prepared to ask that he be treated as one who will work for his bread by the sweat of his brow.

The rest of the story is Jesus-wise predictable. The message here is clear — Jesus is the Redeemer; he does not exclude. The Pharisees are the disapprovers and excluders. Jesus is putting Himself in direct opposition to them and their ways.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

FOR THE DECEASED:

- For Julius Rasoletti, husband of Norma [anniversary].
- For Mario Frate.
- For Father Steve Kaminski, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene [Willowick]
- For Nadya Zitek, sister of former Gilmour associate, Natalie Zitek.
- For Jean Helfrich, mother of Gilmour Trustee, Thomas, grandmother of Sarah [*02] Helfrich Strong.
- For Marie Owen, founding head of Glen Oak School.
- For Sister Patricia Burke, C.S.J., sister of Brother Gilbert Burke, C.S.C.
- For Shirley Keys, mother-in-law of Maintenance Director, Dan Kohn.
- For Charles Dougherty, brother of Brother Fulgence Dougherty, C.S.C.
- For Gary Wilson, father of Ryan [*01] and Sean [*03] Wilson.
- For Kay Yunker, aunt of Mary Schmidt, great-aunt of Maggie Schmidt [*12].
- For William Ritt
- For Marian Zagorc, sister of Father Frank Zagorc, C.S.C.
- For Jay Gerbec.
- For Frances Cazin
- For Roger Magyar.
- For Muriel Poore, sister of Brother Donald Allen, C.S.C.
- For Jo Ann Bialobrzkeski, sister of Brother Thomas Henning, C.S.C.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For an end to violence in our society.
- For the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- For an end to human trafficking.
- For the unemployed.
- For those who struggle with family relationships.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For a special intention.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.

AMAZON.COM:

Please remember that when you want to buy something from Amazon.com, you need to first go to www.ourladychapel.org and click on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the home page! Because of this simple step — and at no cost to the purchaser — Our Lady Chapel receives a percentage of all purchases that are made from Amazon.com. Ever since we have begun this program, we have consistently been receiving significant checks from Amazon that are being credited to help pay for chapel expenses. This affinity program remains in effect throughout the year, so we ask everyone to continue to remember to start your purchases at Amazon on the Our Lady Chapel home page! Thank you.



LIFE TEEN:

Our next Life Teen gathering will be on **Sunday/Saturday evening, March 12th** when we will have dinner and attend the Passion Play “Tetelestai”. We will gather for dinner following the Saturday evening Mass, and then together attend the performance of “Tetelestai”. Bring your friends. Come and try us out. Life Teen generally meets right after Sunday Mass — from **11:30 AM—1:00 PM** in the **Lennon Board Room**. Life Teen is open to all **high school aged young people**. **Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming.** We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. We have a great deal of fun together and we grow in our faith at the same time. **Respond to your texts and/or emails, or call the chapel office [440-473-3560] to be notified. If you can’t join us on March 12th, our next meeting will be after Spring Break on Sunday, April 3rd.** Please join us for a wonderful experience. Please continue to remember all our teens and young people in your prayers.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP — THE EDGE:**

Our next EDGE gathering will be on **Sunday, March 6th** when we will be going to **Regina Health Center to minister to the patients — many of whom are priests and religious.** Bring your friends. Come and try us out. Come and find out what **the EDGE** is all about. If you have not joined us before, that’s OK. **Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming.** We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. Our EDGE Youth Group has a Faith-Service-Social component, and we look forward to your participation. All are welcome. **If you can’t join us on March 6th, our next meeting will not take place until after Easter — April 10th — because of the many schools taking Spring Break before Easter.** Please join us for a wonderful experience. **We want to congratulate all the members of our EDGE group who were confirmed this past Friday at Divine Word. We continue to pray for you each day.**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

Monday:	Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ezekiel 47:1-9, John 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30
Thursday:	Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47
Friday:	Wisdom 2:1-22, John 7:1-30
Saturday:	Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 8:1-11
4th Week in Lent:	Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11

DRESSES FOR HONDURAS:

One of the nurses in our Gilmour Clinic is involved in a **dressmaking project** for the children of Honduras. They have devised a method of making sundresses out of common pillowcases, and then adorning them with other items for decoration. And that is where you come in. **If you have any old buttons, ribbon, ric-rac, lace or other sewing trim,** please bring them in. The group would like to collect these items to help decorate the dresses they are working on. This is an on-going project; the dresses will be sent to Honduras every time there is a mission trip. The next trip is scheduled for March of 2016. There is a **basket in the narthex of the Chapel** to collect any donations you may have. Thank you for your help!



Some Scripture scholars believe that each of us are both sons — the elder part of us is ordered, strict, obedient, logical, exact, dutiful, and pleased with our own good works; the younger part of us is inconsistent, envious, wanderous, self-satisfying, independent, and stubborn. Quite a “complex” and quite a war within. The elder part would like to tie down tightly the younger-side. We don’t want our looser side to be seen by anybody. We want to appear better than we know that we are. The elder-side judges everything we do or think; it is very unhappy with the internal tensions.

The younger-side does eventually come to its senses. The emptiness of trying to build ourselves, achieve ourselves, and indulge ourselves renders us senseless about our true self. The emptiness of whatever pignen the younger son ends up in, moves him up and out and back to his true home. We live in that tension then between the self-righteous and the self-redeemed-by-Christ. Those who live severely judging others are victimized by their own self-centered severity. Those who are forgiven tend to be forgiving of others.

So are we in or out? We are welcomed, invited, embraced, but both sons had to respond freely. It is not easy to be welcomed in when we are a bit outside ourselves. It is truly humbling to want to be perfect and yet in order to be admitted into the welcome-home banquet, we have to admit ourselves back into our true, fragmented selves. Imagine how the tax collectors and other sinners heard this parable. When they realized what God was doing for them, they probably called out to the Pharisees to get real and “Come and have something good to eat — and if you have to, go ahead and wash your hands.”

—edited from the writings of Father Larry Gillick, S.J., which appear on the internet

LENTEN NOTES:

During this sacred time, each of us is called to spiritual growth — particularly through a turning away from sin. Lent is a time for “new beginnings” — a time to grow in our relationship with God and each other. There are 3 major spiritual practices during Lent to which Scripture calls us: **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.**

**—LENTEN REGULATIONS:**

Good Friday is a day of **fast** for all between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine. Fasting means that one full meal for the day is allowed, along with two light meals [snacks]. No eating between meals. Those not included in these “ages” are encouraged to take upon themselves some aspects of the fast, whenever possible.

All Fridays during Lent are days of **abstinence** from meat, for those who are fourteen and older. Again, those not included in these “ages” are encouraged to participate whenever possible.

—SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL LENTEN EVENTS & SERVICES:

- **Telestai** presentation in Chapel on **Friday, Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12-13.**
- **Lenten Communal Penance Service** will be on **Monday, March 21st** at 7:00 PM
- **Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, March 24th** at 7:00 PM.
- **Simple Lunch** on **Good Friday, March 25th** at 12:30 PM.
- **Stations of the Cross** on **Good Friday, March 25th** at 1:30 PM.
- **Proclamation of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service** on **Good Friday, March 25th** at 3:00 PM.
- **Blessing of Easter Foods** will be at **12:00 noon** on **Saturday, March 26th.**
- **Easter Vigil Service** will be at **9:15 PM** on **Saturday, March 26th.**
- **Easter Sunday Mass** will be at **10:00 AM** on **Sunday, March 27th.**

KNOW THIS:

Disciple is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.

—Jim Rohn

TOTAL RESTORATION:

The story is told about a soldier during combat. He was drinking heavily and was a constant menace to his comrades. His commanding officer had had him on the carpet several times. But on this occasion he was ready to throw the book at him. Said the colonel to his lieutenant: "I have given him every break." The officer responded: "Sir, you have punished him and it hasn't worked. Why not forgive him?" The colonel accepted the advice. To the soldier he said: "I have punished you many times. Punishment has not worked. This time I am going to forgive you. Your many offences will be removed from your personnel folder." The soldier, who had expected a court martial, broke down and wept. More to the point, he never drank again.



This was probably the first and perhaps last time the commander acted in this merciful and indulgent fashion. However, such a procedure — luckily for us — is standard operation procedure on the part of God. Luke's Gospel [15:1-3, 11-32] clearly underlines this point.

In literature, this story is called the parable of the Prodigal Son. Prodigal the son was with his inheritance from his father, but so have been countless other sons. But what does not happen often is that this son was totally forgiven by his father. And there was much more than forgiveness — he was restored to full honors in the family hierarchy. Despite the son's expectations, the father spoke not one word of reproach against his younger child. It was Andrew Greeley I believe who said that the parable might be better called the Parable of the Crazy Father. But no matter what the story is called, there is no doubt that the very core of Jesus' wonderful message is contained within it.

In the parable, the father is clearly a type for God Himself. What is emphasized in the parable is the father's awesome love for his son — even though the son really deserves nothing more than hot tongue and cold shoulder. The father knows well the know-it-all boy is primarily coming home because he is hungry and needs a place to live. That he has wasted his money is of no importance to the father.

What Jesus is telling us is that God will forgive even the worst sinner among us unconditionally. All we have to do is start walking back to God. Like the prodigal son, our motives may not be the purest, nor do we have to even finish the journey. God is quite willing to meet us before our trip is finished. God will bring us to honors which we humanly speaking do not deserve. No wonder that God is called: "the tremendous lover." As William Bausch puts it, God is among the very few who stoops to conquer.

Abraham Lincoln was once asked by a journalist how he would react to the rebels after hostilities ceased. Immediately the President answered: "I will treat them as though they had never been away." President Lincoln must have reflected on this parable often.

The elder brother knew that his father's heart was breaking over his missing son. How else could anyone explain the fact that the father goes out looking for his lost son except to say that the father was looking for the joy of finding him.

The elder brother is, of course, a type for ourselves. He had absolutely no sympathy for his brother. Had he had the opportunity, he would have tarred and feathered his younger brother. He would then have run him off the property on a rail. But his sibling's misadventures cost him nothing. As the elder brother, two thirds of his father's estate was legally his — his money was safe and protected. His brother had wasted the third of the estate that was rightfully his own by law. But the elder son had an ugly mindset — it was he who suggested that his brother had spent his inheritance on fast women and slow horses.

Lent is fast becoming history. Why not resolve to behave toward sinners as Lincoln did and not as the elder son? Can we be less patient with others than God is with us? The choice is ours. Recall the wise man who told us forgiveness and reconciliation are the oxygen of Christianity.

—taken from the writings of Father James Gilhooly, which appear on the internet.

THE STORY OF THE PRODIGAL SON DEMANDS MORE OF US:

The gospel story for this 4th Week in Lent is one of the most famous and familiar passages in the Bible — the story of the Prodigal Son [Luke 15:1-3, 11-32]. In response to the Pharisees and scribes who accuse Jesus of eating with sinners, Jesus tells the story of a son who defies convention by taking his share of his inheritance, going off to a distant country, and squandering his money. He finds himself working for a Gentile tending swine — which was forbidden by Jewish law. He decides to return home to work for his father as a hired hand. The father sees him coming, runs out to embrace him, and orders a sumptuous feast because "this son of mine was dead, and he's come to life again; he was lost, and has been found."

But there is more to the story. The elder son, who has always been faithful to his father, resents his father's celebration of his wayward son's return and refuses to attend the party. After telling his older son: "everything I have is yours," the father tries to reestablish a brotherly relationship — "We must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

This classic story has a marvelous capacity to touch the hearts of those who reflect on it with an open mind and heart. A mother decides that she must be less judgmental and more forgiving in relating to her four children, each with their own distinct personality. A retired accountant who has always thought of God as a divine bookkeeper feels a sense of liberation when she thinks of God as even more forgiving than the father in the parable who does not demand an apology or an explanation but simply throws a party. A religious education director loves the analysis he read of the father's embrace: opening his arms to welcome his son; holding him close as a sign of loving forgiveness; and then opening his arms inviting his son to find his own way to live out their restored relationship. A younger brother who has always been envious of his older brother recognizes that he has to be more tolerant and accepting of his sibling. A grandmother who has struggled to keep her family together finds herself hoping the older son goes to the party because this would avoid a permanent rupture and make reconciliation possible.

What aspect of the Prodigal Son parable strikes you? How could it impact your life?

—taken from the writings of Father Jim Bacik which appear on the internet

**ATTENDANCE:**

If you attend Mass regularly here at Our Lady Chapel, it would be helpful if you filled out a form [name, address, phone number, children, etc.] indicating this fact, if you have not already done so. Such information not only helps us to know who is attending Our Lady Chapel; it also is of great assistance to us in record keeping [for our friend, the IRS] of any contributions which you may make.

ENVELOPES:

- When you need a **new supply** of envelopes, please feel free to take a supply of them from the table in the vestibule, or call Father John at the Campus Ministry Office [473-3560].
- When you **use** your envelope, please make sure that **your number** is on it. If you need to know your number, please call the Campus Ministry Office. Thanks.

WEEKLY OFFERING:

Baskets will be passed during the "Preparation Rite" and will be brought to the altar as part of the Offerings to help offset chapel daily operating expenses. When you choose to use the envelopes, your donations to Our Lady Chapel will be acknowledged so that you have a record for the IRS.

Total Offerings: Saturday [2/27/16] ----- \$ 341.00
Total Offerings: Sunday [2/26/16] ----- \$ 951.00