


The Prodigal Son (excerpt from Jimmy Akin Article)

The word "prodigal" is mysterious to us. Almost the only time we ever hear it is in the title of this parable. It's basic meaning is "wasteful"--particularly with regard to money. It comes from Latin roots that mean "forth" (pro-) and "to drive" (agere). It indicates the quality of a person who drives forth his money--who wastes it by spending with reckless abandon. That's what the prodigal son does in this story.

What are the spiritual lessons for us?

From this parable we can draw a number of spiritual lessons:

- We can be a genuine son of the Father--who is spiritually "alive"--and be "lost" through sin. We can turn our backs on our heavenly Father and leave him of our own free will. Mortal sin is a real possibility.
- Mortal sin inevitably lands us in a far worse state than we were in originally.
- We can, however, return to the Father and be accepted by him with great joy. In fact, he is ready and eager to accept us back and forgive us, no matter what we've done.
- Christians who have never fallen should not resent those who come back. They should share in their Father's joy.
- Their own place is secure and their heavenly reward is not threatened. God loves them just as much as he loves those who come back through a dramatic conversion.

Our Lady of Grace Communal Penance Service:

Join us for our Communal Penance Service Wednesday **April 10th at 7:00pm**

Confession is also offered on Thursdays at 7 PM during Adoration & on Saturdays at 8:45 AM & 3:30 PM.

The Cost of Sin

St. Paul writes: The wages of sin is death. We have all been horrified by the sin of sexual immorality in the clergy and Prelates of the Church that has led to a deterioration of the faith and even death. In our nation we just spent 2 years searching out a lie which has led many to distrust of our government institutions and the media and some people's reputation and finances have been destroyed. God gave us the commandments to help us. The violations of the 6th and 8th Commandments has led to such destruction. We as human beings are prone to sin (effects of original sin) and we need to ask God for help. May we reflect on our lives and the commandments and ask God for forgiveness for our sins and ask for His Grace to follow the commandments that bring us life. Jesus we reach out to you as our Savior!

Forgiven

Join Fr. Tom to learn more about Confession on Wednesday at 7:15Pm in Stack Center as he concludes the Forgiven Series on Formed.

Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (April 7th)
John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

“FORGIVEN” VIDEO SERIES WITH FR. TOM

Join Fr. Tom each Wednesday evening as we prepare for Easter by watching a video series called “Forgiven”. Fr. Tom will lead a discussion after each video presentation. Join us for Mass in the Church at 6:00pm, followed by a *Lenten Soup & Bread Meal* at 6:30pm. The video presentations begin at 7:15pm. Childcare is available with a reservation. Please call the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.

April 3rd: Answering Questions About Confession
April 10th: Communal Penance at 7:15pm in Church

LENTEEN SCRIPTURE STUDIES WITH FR. FRANCISCO

Join Fr. Francisco as we explore *The Gospel of John* together and discover new meaning for us this Lenten Season. We meet on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Stack Center.

April 2nd: Bread of Life
April 9th: Hour of Glory
April 16th: Passion and Resurrection

FORMED 40 DAYS OF LENT WITH FORMED.ORG

Pray the Stations of the Cross

This beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross from St. Alphonsus Liguori is accompanied by the chanting of *Shabat Mater*, a traditional Catholic hymn.

If you don’t have an account yet, just follow the instructions below for free access to FORMED!

On your computer, tablet or Smartphone go to our site www.olgcv.formed.org You should see the “register now” box. Set up a username- whatever username you’ll remember - and a password and you are all set. To get the Formed app for your phone or tablet, visit app.formed.org. Use access code: M2RBF



1ST FRIDAY & 1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Come join us **1st Friday, April 5th**, for Mass at 8:15am with the recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart. On **1st Saturday, April 6th** join us for Mass, Adoration, Rosary & Benediction at 8:15am.



1ST FRIDAY-TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

There will be a Traditional Latin Mass on **April 5th** at 7:00pm, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the Friary Chapel in the CASA at 19950 Anita Ave.



THE 2019 BISHOP’S APPEAL

The 2019 Bishop’s Appeal has begun and will continue throughout March and April. Bishop Barber has chosen

Rebuild My Church as this year’s theme. In the coming weeks, you will hear more of the Appeal at Mass and through materials sent to you in the mail. Bishop Barber asks all parishioners to pray for the success of this year’s Appeal. You can find more information on the Appeal by visiting www.oakdiocese.org/giving. You can also call the Office of Mission Advancement at 510-267-8358

To successfully achieve both our parish goal & the overall diocesan goal of \$3 million, we need your help! A pledge to Appeal will help us reach out to thousands in the East Bay through diocesan ministries, programs & services.



LENTEEN SOUP & BREAD MEAL

Please plan on joining us for a simple meal of soup and bread on Wednesdays during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup & Bread Meal follows the 6:00pm

Mass. Thank you to our Girl Scout Troop for sponsoring this week’s meal. Financial donations at the Soup Meal will be accepted for Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS English & Spanish

Stations of the Cross in English, led by our school students are offered at Our Lady of Grace, Fridays at 2:30pm during Lent in the Church. Stations of the Cross in Spanish are offered at 7:00pm. On Good Friday, they will be offered at Noon in English, and 6:00pm in Spanish.



EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS OUR LADY OF GRACE TRADITION

Once again, this year we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase the plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special Easter Flower Offering envelopes available in the pews. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Easter.



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIALS

We are looking to have 6 monthly sponsors for our Altar Candles. We ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of the candles for the month. Our donors for the month will be recognized in the first bulletin of the month and there will be a monthly Mass offered for the intention of our Candle Memorial. Many blessed thanks for those who have donated. For more information, please call the Parish Office.



**OLG SPRING AUCTION
SAVE THE DATE--MAY 18TH!**

Aloha! Our Lady of Grace's Spring Auction is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18th, 5:30-10:30pm**. This year's theme is *Tiki Tiki Luau*. We look forward to seeing you there!

Donations: We need donations. Do you have a nice bottle of wine? Extra tickets to a Sporting Event? Play? Musical? Symphony? Is there a favorite kids' class/camp, fitness club/class, restaurant, spa, hair salon that you might solicit a gift certificate or gift basket from? Do you have a cabin or vacation home?

Make Something: Do you like to bake or cook? Offer to make dinners, jams, desserts or soups. Are you crafty? Create jewelry, knitwear, blankets or quilts. *Homemade is priceless!*

Desserts: If you like to bake, we'd love a donation of cake, cupcakes, etc. for the Dessert Dash!

Advertise: If you own a business or provide a service, place an AD in our program.

Donations accepted through April 15th.

Have questions? Feel free to ask! Please send questions to: our.lady.of.grace.auction@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for ticket & website information!

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CONFESSION

During the Lenten season, Confession will be available every Thursday at 7:00pm during Adoration & on Saturdays at 8:45am & 3:30pm. Our Communal Penance service is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 10th** at 7:15pm

THE ALTAR SOCIETY CAN USE YOUR HELP!

We are in need of 1 or 2 women to take turns doing the Holy Laundry. Rotation is about once every 5 or 6 weeks. If you can help in this ministry, please contact Luz Estella or leave a message at the Parish Office at 537-0806. Thank you!

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give 10% of your income to the Church and charity, for example, God will help you live on the rest.

Offerings of March 24th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 9,389.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 9,038.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 351.00
Year-to-date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [4,280.00]

May God bless your continuing generosity.



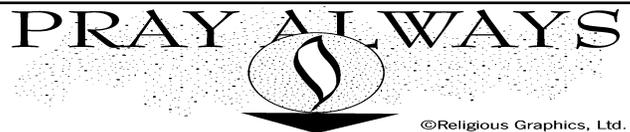
Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Glen Alcorn | Laura Martell |
| Maureen Boeh | Rose Montalban |
| Peggy Burton | Mona Mulvaney |
| Ana Cochran | Angela Schaaphok |
| Angel Cuevas | Florence Sharp |
| Claudia Dobbs | Rosemary Slater |
| Fred Dorado | Howard Songey |
| Lynn Franks | Lurdes Sousa |
| Anna Friedeberg | Mercedes Tellez |
| Byron Griffith | Baby Jackson Tyler Bishop |
| Linda Guzman | Denyse Verhaegen |
| Cher Jones | Marylou Vincent |
| Maxine Kruzel | Arthur Williams |

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

**ANTHONY ALFISI
JOHN KURILICH**



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ICF PASTA DINNER

The ICF will host a Pasta Dinner on **April 11th**. According to Chef Mike, the menu will include: farfalle pasta with tomato basil cream sauce, mixed greens with vinaigrette, antipasti platter and garlic bread and dessert is included. Doors will open at 6:00 pm and dinner is at 6:30pm. Our meeting will follow. For reservations please call Juanita at 510-582-7242, deadline is **April 7th**. Mangia! Mangia!

THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU

Fact #3 The tradition of the Passion Play started in 1634 when the village made a solemn vow: If God spared them from the dreaded Black Plague that was sweeping across Europe...they would present a play once every 10 years depicting the last week in the life of Christ! **Half a million people will see this play in the summer of 2020. Space is always on a 1st come basis and every ticket will be sold! Don't miss this chance to experience the Passion Play of Oberammergau.** For more information on our August 11-21, 2020 Pilgrimage to Poland, Prague and Germany with Fr. Tom Czeck, please contact Heidi Denzler-Halsey at 510-881-7850 or heidimdh106@gmail.com

**REGISTER FOR FESCO'S
22nd ANNUAL SHUFFLE WALKATHON**

Support FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition) in its efforts to end family homelessness in Alameda County by joining us at our 22nd Annual FESCO Shuffle Walkathon on **Saturday, May 4th**. Walk as a team or as an individual in this family-friendly, dog-friendly event along the beautiful path at the San Leandro Marina. Check-in starts at 8:30am at the Seagull Picnic Site and the walk begins at 10:00am. You can walk from one to three miles, or even be a benchwarmer! If you are attending, sponsor yourself or get friends and families to sponsor you. If you are unable to attend, please consider sponsoring a walker or making a direct financial contribution and make it possible for FESCO to help homeless families gain stability and find permanent housing!

Chris Ippolito and Colleen Lindberg will be outside Mass on Saturday & Sunday, **April 6th & 7th**, if you would like to stop by and offer your support for team OLG! Sign up to walk or to donate at www.FESCOShuffle.org. For more information or a pledge sheet, go to www.fescofamilyshelter.org or call Stephanie Miller at the FESCO office at 510-886-5473, ext. 101.

**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS
FOR PARENTS & GODPARENTS**

If you are wishing to have your child, ages infant to six years baptized, parents and godparents need to attend a Pre-Baptism Class. You also need to be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Call Jay at 510-537-0806 for more information. The next Pre-Baptism Class will be held on **April 3rd** at 7:00pm in the OLG Room in Stack Center.

THIS WEEK**Sunday, March 31st:****The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:30am--Augustine Center
Whole Family & Middle School Catechesis
10:50am--Stack Center
Youth Ministry/Confirmation
6:00pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, April 2nd:

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
9:30am--Parish Office, McGarvey Room
Scripture Studies with Fr. Francisco
7:00pm--Stack Center
Men's Faith Share
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, April 3rd:

Lenten Soup Meal
Following the 6:00pm Mass--Stack Center
Pre-Baptism Class
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room
Ichthus
7:00pm--Stack Center, Resource Room
Forgiven Video Series with Fr. Tom
7:15pm--Stack Center

Thursday, April 4th:

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
7:00pm--Parish Office, Upper Room
Adoration
7:00pm--Church
RCIA
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room
AA Serenity Group
7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

Friday, April 5th:

First Friday Devotion
8:15am--Church
Stations of the Cross - English
2:30pm--Church
Stations of the Cross - Spanish
7:00pm--Church
First Friday Traditional Latin Mass
7:00pm--CASA, Friary Chapel



Mass Intentions for the Week



All Masses are celebrated in the Church

SUNDAY, March 31st

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9:30am Heidi Halsey--L

11:30am William Ervin Kottinger--D

MONDAY, April 1st

8:15am Dorothy & Manuel Callier--D

TUESDAY, April 2nd

St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

8:15am Debi Telles--D

WEDNESDAY, April 3rd

8:15am Mary Borges--D

6:00pm Gloria Castillo Arias--D

THURSDAY, April 4th

St. Isidore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:15am Maria Linh Nguyen--L

FRIDAY, April 5th

St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest

8:15am Larry La Brie--D

SATURDAY, April 6th

8:15am Marcelino Perdido--D

5:00pm Norma Wardle--D

SUNDAY, April 7th

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

7:30am Anty Zaldivar--D

9:30am Rudy & Augie Enriquez--D

11:30am Tom Gilotti--D

THIS WEEK--Continued

Saturday, April 6th:

First Saturday Mass & Adoration

8:15am--Church

Sunday, April 7th:

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:30am--Augustine Center

Coffee & Donuts

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

1st Holy Communion Class

10:50am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry/Confirmation

6:00pm--Stack Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

April 1st through April 7th

Monday: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; 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, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53

Sunday: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14;
John 8:1-11

AN INVITATION TO CURSILLO

CURSILLOS: What is an Oakland Cursillo Weekend? There are as many answers as there are people. For some it is a dynamic new expression of the Holy Spirit. For others, it's a chance to examine their faith and learn different perspectives from other Christians. Cursillo is an ongoing Diocese program held at Holy Redeemer Center in Oakland usually in May and October. "An Oakland Cursillo weekend is three days long, but its impact can last a lifetime" Are you interested in having a better relationship with Jesus? Do you want to know more about our Catholic Faith? Do you want to meet more Catholic people who will be important friends in your life? **The next Men's Weekend is May 2nd-5th and Women's Weekend is May 16th-19th.** Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

WINGS - WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT

We invite all women to join us for WINGS (Women in God's Spirit).

WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, Catechesis, life sharing and community.

We meet at Transfiguration Church

Marian Room (Hall)

Next Meeting: **April 4th**

9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Sr. Marilyn Lacey

Topic: "Faith As A Catapult, Not Cocoon"

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

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