



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

Saint Benedict Catholic Church

336-272-0303

Website: stbenedictgreensboro.net

Email: Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm on Wednesday and Friday

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.

Rev. James Duong, Pastor

Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator

Weekend Mass

Sat. Miraculous Medal

Novena at 4:45pm

Mass at 5:00pm

Sun. Mass at 8am & 11am

Chaplet of Divine

Mercy after 11am

Mass

Confessions

Weekdays before 12:15

Mass

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

Weekday Mass

Rosary at 11:45am

Mass Monday - Friday

12:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

after Mass

NO MASS on Thursday

Bulletin requests must be in

the Parish Office by noon

Wednesday, ten (10) days in

advance of the weekend of

publication.

PARISH REGISTRATION: Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS: If you or any members of your family are sick or in the hospital or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to you/them, please call the parish office.

FAITH FORMATION: All classes from pre-K to high school are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

RCIA: Please call the parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 30, 2025**

For civic leaders:
That by their words and actions, they might work
to preserve respect for the life of every human being.

MASS SCHEDULE

INTENTIONS

3/29	Saturday	5:00pm		Kimberly Oliver – health
3/30	Sunday	8:00am	+	Hilda Clark
		11:00am		For the Parishioners
3/31	Monday	12:15pm	+	Charles Mumphrey family
				Shane Hawkins
4/1	Tuesday	12:15pm		Eric Hofer and Family
4/2	Wednesday	11:00pm		FUNERAL MASS
4/3	Thursday	NO MASS		
4/4	Friday	12:15pm		Room at the Inn
				For the McGrath/Woods Family
4/5	Saturday	5:00pm		For the Parishioners
4/6	Sunday	8:00am	+	Debbie Ognibene
		11:00am	+	Ausilia Muzic

+ denotes deceased

Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers

Khiem Villarin
Kharll Skycer Villarin
Sgt. W.R. Williams III
Maj. Russel Henderson
Sgt. Bryanna Spade
Sgt. Kyle Spade
April Ducote
Aaron Gaither
Phillip Kiniery
Christopher Simmons
Kris Guffey
Jennifer Kmiecinski

Sick and Shut-In

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers and at Mass: Lynn Clay, Richard Collings, Virgil Dotson, Lupina Doyle, Janice Drasler, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards, Bonnie McIntyre, Kimberly Oliver, Barbara Parsons, George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny & Laura Rodrigues, Kim Snyder, Vivian Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin Jr., Teresa Thu Tran, Roberta VanPelt, Frank Williams, Wilson, Brian Wilson, Jean Wilson

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory

\$3,139.00

Second collection for the Maintenance Fund will be next weekend, April 5 & 6.

THANK YOU!

MINISTER SCHEDULE: APRIL 5 AND 6

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	John Foley	Gloria Foley	Emily, Jelyssa	Christina Nutt
8 am	Linda McLendon	David Kolosieke	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	Bill McCutcheon	Laura Rosic	Ava	Choir

REFLECTION



The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Do you have life insurance you no longer need? Before you cancel it, consider naming St. Benedict's as primary or secondary beneficiary. You'll provide lasting financial support and possibly qualify for tax benefits. For more information contact Gina Rhodes, diocesan Director of Planned Giving, at 704-370-3364 or gmrhodes@rcdoc.org.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How can I be merciful like the father in this parable? What resentments do I need to overcome? Can I be truly forgiving to someone who has hurt me or those I love?



PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL** 2025

Reflecting God's Light

THE DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA) 2025 is underway. This year's theme is "Reflecting God's Light". We are all called to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters both here in our parish and in the diocese. **The target for St. Benedict's is \$31,234.** To date, 13 families have donated or pledged. Thank You!

REMEMBER YOUR SURVEY! Disciple Maker Index (DMI) surveys are available on-line at <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/x43ya6> or in a printed version in the church. Both versions are confidential and should be completed prior to April 8. It is important that St. Benedict's receives input from every parish family. Until now we have had about 35 families do online and 10 in printed papers. Thank you to those who have already responded.

JOB OPPORTUNITY St. Benedict's is looking for a parttime organist/pianist, mainly for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. If interested, or know of someone who might qualify, please contact Father Duc at 336-272-0303 or Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org.

PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet Monday, March 31 at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. All parishioners are welcome.

FAITH FORMATION



During Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross in the parish hall at the end of classes. All are welcome.

Father Duc will hear the children's confessions during Faith Formation today.

This week we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Leonardo (Leo) Garcia-Delgado (3/29), Christine Gnaster (3/29),
Nicholas Torres (3/30), William Schwartz (3/30), Margie Walston (3/30),
Veronica Higinson (3/30), Emma Smith (3/30), William Estes (3/31), Michael Higinson (4/1),
Lynne McGrath (4/1), Zachary Busch (4/3), Colleen Lepore (4/3), Roman Simpson (4/4)





LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Weekdays of Lent:

There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent)

All who have reached the age of 14 are bound to totally abstain from meat.

LENTEN SCHEDULE AT ST. BENEDICT

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday of Lent at 6 p.m.

Every Sunday in the parish hall following Faith Formation classes

Penance Service:

St. Benedict's TBA

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:



Telling the story of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus was an important part of the early Christian's experience. In the late fourth century, people began making pilgrimages to the Holy Land, where they would follow the path that Jesus took to Calvary. During the Middle Ages, when outbreaks of war made it impossible for people to travel to the Holy Land, people created a Via Dolorosa, or "Sorrowful Way," in their towns and villages. They erected paintings or sculptures depicting the Passion of Christ along a processional route or inside a church. By the mid-18th century, the number of stations was fixed at 14 and the devotion known as the Stations of the Cross, also called the Way of the Cross, became widespread.



March 30, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jos 5:9a, 10-12 | 2 Cor 5:17-21 | Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

We await with anticipation holidays and holiday parties – but do we look forward to the day after? To the cleanup, the back-to-the-grind, the business-as-usual? Jesus' parable in today's Gospel recounts the lavish celebration of the father who rejoices at the homecoming of his wayward son. We rightly recognize in the father's mercy the abundant forgiveness of our heavenly Father. But have we ever considered what happened the next day? The son, accustomed to his independence and dissolute life, is once again in his father's house. He must live according to his father's rules and demonstrate the sincerity of his repentance by faithfully carrying out his duties. There is work to be done – crops to be harvested, perhaps. As the weeks and months pass without another fatted calf for feasting, the son might ask if his father's love has waned. And although we may sympathize with his unease, the certainty of his father's goodness must be, for the prodigal son and for us, the guarantee of his steadfast love.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In our relationship with God, we will likely experience moments when our Father's love is keenly felt. Perhaps we will be overwhelmed with peace when we return to him in the sacrament of confession. Perhaps we will be struck by a verse of Scripture during a moment of prayer. But most of our days will look more like the prodigal son's "day after" than the festivities which marked his return. We know, however, that if the weeks that followed were comparatively boring, his father's love had lost none of its warmth or vitality. Similarly, in the days when God seems quiet, when our prayers seem to drift into space or our hearts are distracted with the concerns of everyday life, we must not despair of the Father's love. Nor can we suppose that our happiness can be found outside of his fold. We abide under the care of our Father who lovingly calls us to himself with every circumstance he places before us. To believe this, even when the festivities are over, is to live by faith.

PRAY

With so many opportunities for gratification at our fingertips, it is easy to become restless and to seek happiness in distractions. This week, find an image of Jesus or a Scripture verse about God's love and keep it with you as you work, study, or carry out monotonous tasks. When you're tempted to leave your duties aside out of boredom, take a moment instead to praise and thank God for his love.

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
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Is 65:17–21 Jn 4:43–54	Ez 47:1–9, 12 Jn 5:1–16	Is 49:8–15 Jn 5:17–30	Ex 32:7–14 Jn 5:31–47	Wis 2:1a, 12–22 Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30	Jer 11:18–20 Jn 7:40–53	Is 43:16–21 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