



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration
6:00 pm Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



PARISH STAFF

PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

archseattle.org/lent

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (MARCH 19-20)

Donation	\$3,548.91
Donation Online	\$1,515.00
Maintenance Fund	\$25.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$5,088.91

MARCH 26-27, 2022

This weekend we are taking up the **Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC)** to **help Jesus in disguise.**

Through this collection, six Catholic agencies are able to provide services for immigrants, humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters, refuge for the displaced, and advocacy for peace and justice around the world. Your contributions make a difference, so please be generous.



<https://archseattle.org/give-serve/collection-to-aid-the-church-in-central-and-eastern-europe/>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS!
TOTAL \$9,574.00**



Just a reminder that parishes, your pastor(al leader), parish staff/volunteers, will NEVER ask you to give them a donation directly. The parish will only be collecting funds for: •annual parish stewardship •the Annual Catholic Appeal •special collections that are publicized at Mass and in the bulletin. If you receive a request for a gift that appears to come from the parish, your pastor(al leader), or parish staff/volunteers that isn't for one of the above, you should ignore this request.

God's Main Characteristic Is Mercy

Homily by Father Joseph Vu

This parable is one of the best known stories in all of human literature. But what does it really mean?

- We call it the parable of the prodigal son, but should we?
- Is it primarily about that younger son, who abandons his father and squanders his life in extreme self-indulgence and sensuality?
- Jesus told the parable to tax collectors and sinners, but also to Pharisees and Scribes.
- In fact, he told it in response to some of their questions.
- Now the Pharisees and Scribes were considered the experts in religion; the ones who avoided sin and followed the law perfectly.
- They were like the other brother in the parable, the older brother.
- So maybe we should call this the parable of the arrogant son instead of the parable of the prodigal son.
- The older brother was arrogant: his heart was like a rock, judging everyone and considering himself superior to everyone, just like the Pharisees.

So who is Jesus really speaking to, the prodigal sons, or the arrogant sons?

- Those of us who have a superiority complex and are harsh judges of our neighbors, or those of us who can't control our instincts and urges?
- There is a third option – after all, the real hero of the parable is not one of the sons, but the father.
- He is the one who rushed out to welcome the prodigal son, unconditionally.
- He is the one who humbled himself, coming out to reason gently with the angry older son.
- This parable is about the father.
- In this parable Jesus is giving us a portrait of God, who always takes the first step to bring us back into his friendship, no matter how far we may have strayed.

This is the parable of the merciful father, because in a fallen world, mercy is God's main characteristic.

Today God is inviting each one of us to renew this experience of the Father's mercy. Most of us, if we're honest, have to admit that often life's troubles seem to make us doubt God's mercy.

- We look at ourselves, all our failures and weaknesses, and we think that we can't ever become saints.
- We give up on striving to follow Christ more closely, because it seems out of our reach.
- And by ourselves, it is out of our reach.

But we are not by ourselves; we are not meant to live out our Christian lives depending on our own efforts alone

- Remember, the merciful father went out to meet the prodigal son.
- And he went out to meet the arrogant son.
- The merciful father is always coming out to meet us, to strengthen us, to renew our souls.
- He never gets tired of taking the first step, no matter how little we may deserve it.

This is the whole reason behind Jesus' incarnation.

And this is also the reason behind the sacrament of confession, God's infinite reservoir of mercy.

- Because we live in a fallen world, we tend to see confession in a kind of negative light.
- We see it as a mini-torture, something the Church invented to keep us in line.
- That's not it at all.
- Jesus has given us this sacrament so that we can experience the Father's mercy all the time, whenever we need it.
- This sacrament is God's hand reaching out to us, not to punish and destroy us, but to embrace, strengthen, and heal us, to invite us back in to the celebration, to put a ring on our finger and dress us in the beautiful robe of grace.

Jesus told this parable because he wanted to communicate the infinite goodness and mercy of the Father.

In today's Mass, let's thank him for it, and let's promise that we will give him a chance to let that mercy touch our souls, by coming to him in confession.



PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

In today's Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we learn about the incredible, patient love of our Father and the joy of forgiveness. Go to archseattle.org/lent to read Archbishop Etienne's reflection and also find Lenten inspiration, encouragement and more.

Lent: A time of renewal

Learn more at archseattle.org/lent

He Was Tempted, Mike Moyers/Ascension Press