

### 12 things you need to know about the Prodigal Son Part 1

#### 1. What does "prodigal" mean?

The word "prodigal" is mysterious to us. Almost the only time we ever hear it is in the title of this parable. Its 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.

#### 2. Why does Jesus tell this parable?

This question is answered at the beginning of Luke 15, where we read: "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable"

Actually, Jesus tells *three* parables:

- The parable of the lost sheep
- The parable of the lost coin
- The parable of the lost son (or, as we know it, the parable of the prodigal son)

All three parables are on the subject of recovering the lost, which is the implicit explanation of why Jesus receives sinners and eats with them: They are lost, and he wants to recover them. Interestingly, the parable of the prodigal son (and the parable of the lost coin) occur only in Luke.

#### 3. What's happening in the parable?

Jesus' parables are based on real-life situations, though they often veer off from the expected course of events in surprising ways. Those surprises teach us lessons. Here, Jesus relates the situation of a father who has two sons, one of whom can't wait for his inheritance. In Jewish society, there were laws regarding how inheritances were typically divided. The oldest brother got a double share (cf. Deut. 21:17), while the other brothers got a single share. When there were two brothers (as here), the older brother would get 2/3rds of the estate, and the younger brother would get 1/3rd.

#### 4. What is the prodigal son asking for?

In this parable, the younger son demands "the share of property that falls to me" (v. 12).

That means he is asking for the 1/3rd of the father's possessions that he would ordinarily get when the father dies. Think about that. He's asking his father to give him 1/3rd of everything that he owns *right now*, before the father is dead, when his father would still have use for these possessions. How many fathers would receive that suggestion well today? How many would comply with it if one of their children asked it? Not many! This is a truly astonishing request, and it would have been even more astonishing in the ancient world. In a society that highly revered parents, it would have been equivalent to saying: "Father, I can't even wait for you to die. Give me 1/3rd of everything you have *right now*."

#### 5. What does the father's reaction teach us?

Despite the breathtaking--and *insulting*--audacity of the younger son's request, *the father grants it!*

Amazing! This reflects the amazing indulgence that God shows toward us. Even when we are acting as selfishly as the prodigal son, God indulges us. He yields what is his and allows us to misuse it out of respect for the freedom that he has given us. But he knows that the misuse of *our* freedom will have no better results than it did with the prodigal son's misuse of *his* freedom, and God trusts that we will learn our lesson and come back to him.

#### 6. What does the prodigal son do next?

After he gets 1/3rd of his father's estate, he takes everything he has and goes "into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living" (v. 13). In context, this means that he abandoned the Holy Land to go, voluntarily, into exile into a gentile, pagan country where he could live loosely without being censured by fellow Jews living all around him. He wanted to get out of God's land so that he could live in sin and fund his sinful lifestyle by what he took from his father. But eventually the resources he had were exhausted and a hard time came. If he had not spent what he had on loose living (as we will later learn, on prostitutes), he would have had the money he needed to weather the hard time, but he didn't. Thus he was reduced to a state of hunger and had to subject himself to a pagan (humiliation #1) and to feed the pagan's pigs (humiliation #2). He would have been happy just to eat as well as the pigs (humiliation #3), but nobody gave him anything to eat, not even from the pigs' slop (humiliation #4). Having been brought to such a low state, he recalled how his righteous father treated even his hired servants better: "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger!" (v. 17). He thus plans to return to his father and say three things: (a) "Father, I

have sinned against heaven and before you" (v. 18), (b) "I am no longer worthy to be called your son" (v. 19a), (c) "treat me as one of your hired servants" (v. 19b). Even being treated as one of his father's hired servants would be better than the treatment he is receiving in the gentile world.

Jimmy Akin, *National Catholic Register*

**Schedule of Events:**

**Monday April 1**

5:30 Confessions

6:00 p.m. Mass

**Tuesday, April 2**

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8:00 a.m. Mass

6:45 p.m. Liturgy Planning Meeting

**Wednesday, April 3**

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8:00 a.m. Mass

7pm K.C. Meeting

**Thursday, April 4**

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8:00 a.m. Mass

8:30 a.m. Bible study (parish center)

6:00 p.m. Lenten Mission night #3

**Friday, April 5**

5:00p.m. Children's Way of the Cross

6:00 p.m. Mass/Way of the Cross

**Saturday, April 6**

8:00 a.m. "Ladies Morning"/Mass

10<sup>th</sup> grade retreat

3:30 Confessions

4:00 p.m. mass

(KC's selling tickets for chicken dinner)

**Sunday, April 7**

(KC's selling tickets for chicken dinner)

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8:00 a.m. Mass

9:30 Confessions

10:00 a.m. Mass



**MASS INTENTIONS**



**For the Week of April 2, 2019 –April 7, 2019**

**8:00 A.M. – Tuesday April 2**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin,*

**8:00 A.M. – Wednesday April 3**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Leward Boquet*

**8:00 A.M. – Thursday April 4**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Holy Souls in Purgatory,*

**8:00 A.M. - Friday, April 5**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Living & Deceased members of the Lady Altar Society,  
Rev. Vincente DeLa Cruz, Rose Authement, Emsy, Beldon Foret & Sons,*

**4:00P.M. - Saturday, April 6**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Loyd Savin, Allen, Clarice & John Bascle, Peter & Darsey Babin & family,  
Gordon & Merlin Seuzeneau, Lester & Alicia Babin & family, Hebert & Marian Porche & family, Steve Porche,  
Lawlis & Clara Barrios, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, Abbey Foret, Wilbert & Elise Hebert, Linda Ann Hebert,  
Salome H. Matherne, Matthew S. Matherne, Peter W. Hebert, Samuel Dominic Hebert, Michael Lee McGee, Wayne G.  
Cancienne, Wilbert Dupre Sr., Walter & Anna Belle Duplantis, Herman & Ellen Walker, Leslie & Carley Walker,  
Herman Walker Jr., Lawrence Dugas, Wallace & Dolly Callahan, Jerry & Matthew Arceneaux,  
Renee Ward, Keri Lynn Niette, Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Gina Babin Pellegrin, Julie Braud, Pearl Ferry,  
Nora Matherne, Cory Matherne, Ruth Hebert, Melvin Hebert, Dolores Viteaux*

**8:00A.M. - Sunday, April 7**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Lawrence & Eula Mazerac, Sue Bueche, Mary Eve & Vayne Bascle,  
Lionel Bascle family, Arthe' Breaux family, Arthur Lee Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fabre,  
Mr. & Mrs. Irby Petit, Aubrey Lee Boquet, Cindy R. Broussard, Clinton & Wilma Picou,  
Erous & Eric Eschete, Jim & Connie Doll, Vin & Joyce LeBlanc family,  
Gilbert & Rita Bergeron family, Tammy Johnson (B), Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery,  
Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr., Ann Hebert, Veronica Trahan, Terry Lirette, Amelie Thibodeaux,  
Cecile Fabre, Clyde Pitre, Clyde, Elizabeth & Curtis Lirette, Matthew & David Naquin Sr,  
Andrew Sr., Edna, Elie, Morris, Bruce Pitre, Special intention, Marie Gaston, Ernestine Pitre, Linda Whipple Schouest*

**10:00A.M. - Sunday, April 7**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Geraldine Dupre, Hazel Lee, Albert Pinell Sr., Druby Pinell,  
Mr. & Mrs., Edward Touns Sr., Lloyd & Iona Boquet, Mr. & Mrs. Nelo Hebert Sr., Ruth Pinell  
Herbert, Celina, Joyce, Deborah & Ronald Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont,  
Melvin Hebert, Cecile Fabre, Jenny H. Picou,*

*Living & Deceased Members of the Naquin, LaJaunie, LeBoeuf & Lapeyrouse Families*

**MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2019**

The Sanctuary light burns this week in memory of **Mrs. Cecile Fabre** requested by Kirby & Murial Fabre.

The Altar Bread this week is in memory of **Fabre, Fanguy & Robichaux families**  
requested by Steve & Suzanne.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**March 23 & 24 2019:** Envelopes: \$3705.00 +Loose: \$739.00 + \$ 820.99 (Online)

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**YOUTH FORMATION NIGHTS:**

**Monday 7-8:15p.m. (6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>)**

April 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday 6-7:00 p.m. (K-5)**

April 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

If you have any questions please Call Lisa L. @ 985-852-2007

**The Chrism Mass:**

The Chrism Mass is one of the most beautiful liturgies which the faithful may experience in the liturgical year. At the Chrism Mass, in addition to priests reaffirming their ordination promises, the Bishop will bless the oils to be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the year. All the faithful of our Diocese are encouraged to participate in this very inspiring liturgy on Thursday April 18, 2019 at 10:30 AM.  
-Rev. Glen LeCompte

**A GATHERING FOR LADIES**

Ladies, do you crave some time to get away from the daily grind? Some time to be with other women and share stories? Some time to be alone and pray? All Ladies 18+ are invited to join us for “Our Ladies’ Morning”, our new ladies group! We will meet together on **First Saturdays at 8am** mass to pray for our families, our intentions, and for vocations. Afterwards, we will share a **potluck breakfast** - you can drop off items in the center before mass. After breakfast around 9am, we will have a short talk, then have some time for ourselves- maybe you would like to continue talking, maybe you want to say a rosary, maybe you want to go sit in church or pray in the adoration chapel, maybe you might want to watch some faith videos together or do a book or bible study! The choice is yours! Around 11:30, we will gather again in the center, say a closing prayer together, and head back home. So spread the word to family and friends, and we hope to see all the ladies on **Saturday, April 6th! Babysitting will be provided!** Please contact Lisa Lapeyrouse for more information 985-852-2007

**St. Ann Calendar:** If you would like to subscribe to the St. Ann google calendar please call the church office.

**CHURCH CLEANING: Week of April 7–** Leslie B., Tim & Mona M., Darlene L., Kellie B.

MASSES	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	COMMENTATOR/ LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
<u>April 6 &amp; 7</u> SATURDAY 4:00P.M.	Debra L., Marianne Alton, Adrian	Connie, Cheryl	Tyler, Donte'	Steve H., Jan
SUNDAY 8:00A.M.	Bert, Cecil, Irma, Jesse	Doug, Christine	Lee, volunteer	Jesse, Paula, Peggy
10:00A.M.	David, Melissa, Gerald, Melody	Anna, Cindy	Henry, Brianna, Gavin, Cole	Kenneth, Joseph

