



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

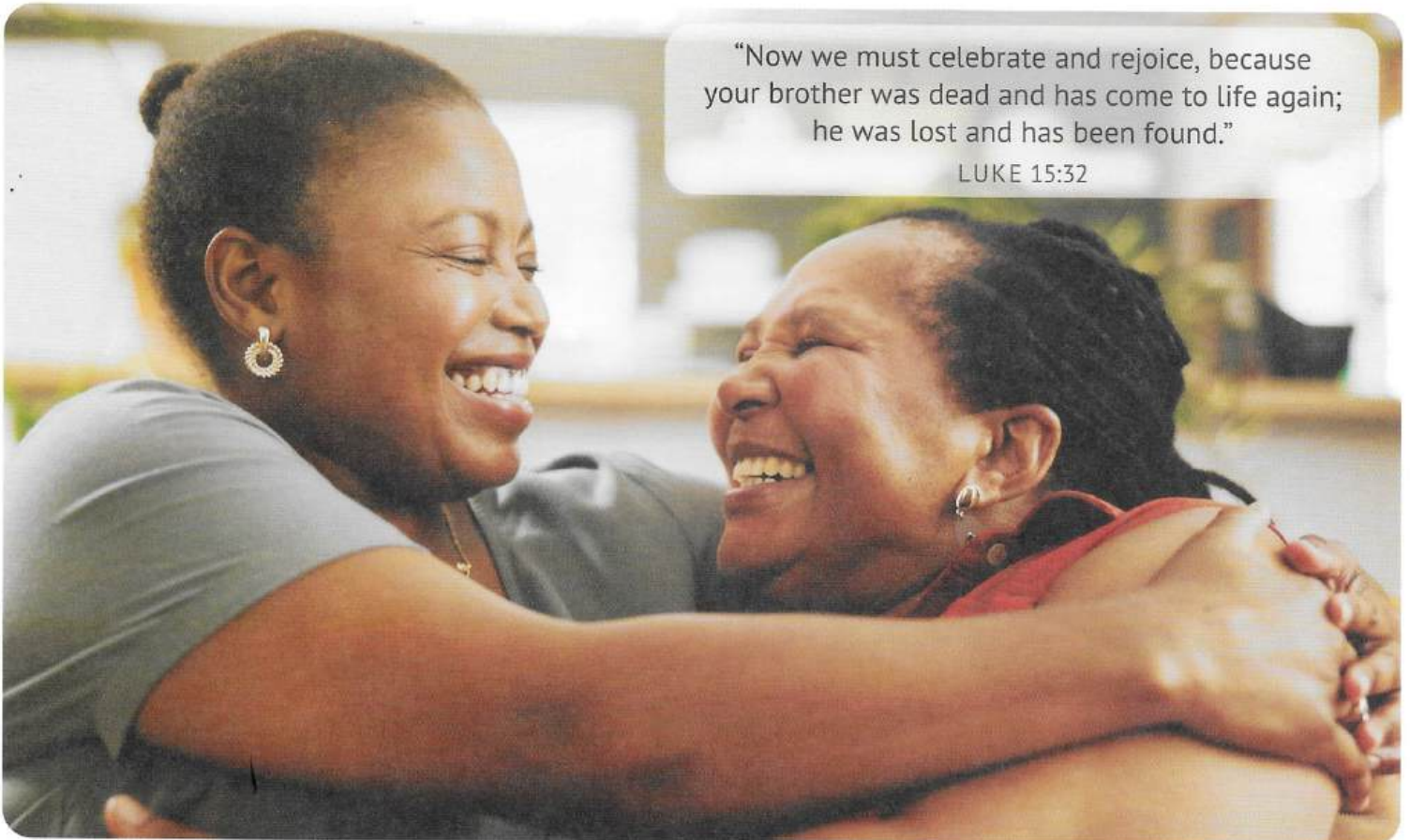
Does my life seem unfair? More fair or less fair compared with others?

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



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

MARCH 29 & 30, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 29 - 6:00 PM

✠ Fr. James Murphy by Fred Butler & Deborah Garton

Sunday, March 30- 9:00 AM

✠ Monty Ramella by Loretta Hammond

Tuesday, April 1 - 12 Noon

✠ Charles & Opal Garton by Fred Butler & Deborah Garton

Wednesday, April 2 – 6:00 PM Healing Mass

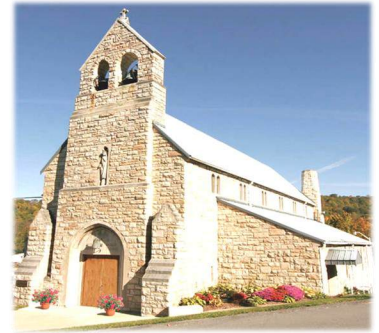
✠ Mary Ou by Family

Saturday, April 5 - 6:00 PM

✠ Mario Lijoi by Natalina & Mary Ann Lijoi

Sunday, April 6- 9:00 AM

✠ Alex Ercoline by Knights of Columbus



Office Hours: 304-327-5623

Monday- Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

Confession:

Before Weekend Masses

During Eucharistic Adoration

First Saturday's of Month

By Appointment

Food Pantry Hours:

Wednesday 10:00am -2:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 29-30: CSA Commitment Weekend

March 30: Fourth Sunday of Lent

April 2: Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick 6:00 pm

April 4: Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm

followed by First Friday Mass at 6:00 pm

April 5-6: St. Anne's Bake Sale

April 5-6: Knights Annual Spaghetti Dinner

April 6: Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 9: Communal Penance Service 6:00 pm

April 11: Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm

April 13: Palm Sunday

STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE

Every Friday during Lent. No Adoration during Lent.

April 4 at 5:30 pm ~ Sacred Heart Food Pantry

April 11 at 6:00 pm ~ Knights of Columbus

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, V.E.

sdevasya@dwc.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Julia Harrison, M.A.A.T.

304-396-5706

julia@sacredheartblfd.org

YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR: Wendi Aiello

w.aiello@yahoo.com

304-320-2150

PARISH SECRETARY: Lucy Brinegar

lbrinegar@sacredheartblfd.org

PARISH BOOKKEEPER: Kim Hickman

Khickman@sacredheartblfd.org

To our non-Catholic friends, we extend a warm invitation to for you to come forward and receive a Blessing when our Catholic brothers and sisters come forward to receive Holy Communion. Please come up to the Priest or Eucharistic Minister with your hands folded across your chest, so we will know that you wish to receive a Blessing. We are grateful for your presence.

4th Sunday of Lent

Dear loving brothers and sisters,

Greetings on this joyful and reflective 4th Sunday of Lent, also known as **Laetare Sunday**. As we gather to celebrate this Sunday, we are reminded of the richness of God's grace and the hope that He offers us on our journey through Lent. Laetare, which means "Rejoice" in Latin, invites us to experience a moment of joy in the midst of our Lenten penance. The Church's liturgical colors shift to rose today, symbolizing the joy of the Resurrection that is drawing near. It is a moment of encouragement to remind us that even in the midst of our sacrifices, God's light and love shine brightly in our lives.

This Sunday is also significant as we celebrate the **Second Scrutiny** for those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil. It is a time for self-examination and prayer, asking God to cleanse us from sin and strengthen our resolve to walk in His light.

In the **First Reading** from the Book of Joshua, we read of the Israelites finally entering the Promised Land, where they celebrate the Passover and the miraculous provision of God. This reading reminds us of the fulfillment of God's promises and how His presence sustains us through all trials.

The **Second Reading** from Paul's letter to the Corinthians speaks to the profound transformation that Christ has brought into our lives. Through Christ's sacrifice, we are reconciled to God, and our old selves are made new. Paul calls us to view others through the eyes of Christ, no longer judging by worldly standards but seeing them as Christ sees them—beloved and redeemed.

In the **Gospel** reading from John, we encounter the parable of the Prodigal Son. This powerful story reveals the unfathomable mercy and love of God the Father. The younger son, lost in sin and rebellion, is welcomed back with open arms, and the Father rejoices at his return. This story teaches us about God's boundless forgiveness, the importance of repentance, and the joy that comes from reconciliation with God.

This is also a perfect time for us to reflect on the **third pillar of Lent: charity**. Charity is the fruit of true reconciliation. As we experience God's mercy and love, we are called to share that love with others, particularly those in need. Charity is not just about giving material goods but also about showing kindness, forgiveness, and compassion to others.

Ways to Practice Charity:

1. **Almsgiving:** Continue supporting those in need through donations to food banks, shelters, or charitable organizations.
2. **Acts of Kindness:** Engage in small acts of kindness each day, whether it be helping a neighbor, listening to someone in need, or offering a kind word.
3. **Forgiveness:** Extend forgiveness to those who have wronged you, as God has forgiven us.
4. **Prayers for the Needy:** Lift up the poor, sick, and suffering in your prayers, asking God to provide for their needs.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Spiritual Questions on Charity:

1. How can I practice charity in my daily life, especially with those I find difficult to love?
2. In what ways can I be more generous with my time, talents, and treasure to serve others?

*Heavenly Father,
On this Laetare Sunday, we rejoice in Your love and mercy.
We thank You for Your forgiveness and for calling us to be reconciled to You.
As we continue our Lenten journey, help us to embrace the gift of charity,
offering our hearts and hands to those in need.
Teach us to love as You love, to forgive as You forgive,
and to give selflessly for the good of others.
May we always seek to reflect Your light in the world.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

May the joy of this Sunday fill your hearts as you continue to walk in the light of God's grace.

In Christ's love,

Father Sebastian Devasya



FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation 2025

Scripture: "Taste and see; taste and see the goodness of the Lord"

Psalm 34

The schedule through Spring 2025:

March 30: Regular Session

April 6, 13, 27: Regular Sessions

April 20: No Faith Formation ~ Easter Sunday

April 27: Except for the Confirmation Class/Last day of Faith Formation

First Holy Communion will be May 4 during the 9am Mass. Please pray for our First Communicants:

Kaiden Bryant

Adalynn Farmer

Alexander Rose

Confirmation Class Schedule

All of the classes listed above for Faith Formation and the following:

May 11, 18, and June 1

Class Retreat Date will be on May 17th

Confirmation Mass Rehearsal is June 7th at 10 am in the Church.

Confirmation Mass is June 8th at 4:30pm with Dinner to follow with Bishop Brennan

OCIA

Formerly Known As RCIA



If you are interested in the OCIA process please contact, Barbara Musolin at

304-922-1934 or Julia at the parish office.

Please attend Communal Reconciliation on

Wednesday April 9th at 6:00 pm in the church.

Please pray for our Elect ~ Jacob Lawless, Janet Belcher, and Cody Jewell

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Local VIRTUS Coordinator:

Kim Hickman, 304-920-2440
khickman@sacredheartbldf.org

if you SEE something SAY something

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Office of Safe Environment at 304 - 230 - 1504.



Knights of Columbus
Council 1404

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, April 5 - 5 pm to 8 pm

Dine in or take-outs

Sunday, April 6 - 10 am to 1 pm

****take out only on Sunday****

\$12 Spaghetti with meatballs dinner

\$14 Tour of Italy

Children under age 10 Free

Meatballs (Dozen) \$9
Sauce (Quart) \$6

To place an order for meatballs and sauce, call Ron Ciccolini at 304-320-0268

ENTRANCE DOOR: Please enter on the Monroe St. bottom door entrance, not the main doors on Wyoming St.

PARKING: Please use the lower lot on Monroe St.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Bluefield, West Virginia

Church address:
1003 Wyoming Street
Bluefield, WV 24701

April Birthdays

Joanne	Ercoline	1	Angie	Genovesi	17
Rochelle	Rene	2	Joshua	Brown	20
Walid	Azzo	5	Karen	Pendleton	20
Jon	Vescio	5	Michael	Rebuck	20
Ron	Ciccolini	6	Eli	Peretti	21
Ann	Robinson	7	Joan	Zingale	22
Linda	Mariotti	8	Pamela	Miller	23
William	Albert	9	Ryder	Black	24
Mary	Keenan	9	Greg	Rogers	24
Mary	Malamisura	10	Jackson	Wills	24
Gene	Abromitis	13	Deborah	Ramella	25
Theresia	Lowery	14	Mitzi	Romeo	25
Fr.	Sebastian	14	Cathy	Cook	29
Deborah	Garton	15	Lisa	Musolin	29
Rhys	Aiello	16	Kenneth	Bales	30
April	Christ	17			

Happy Anniversary

Apr 4 ~ Patty & Ted Marchal

Apr 11 ~ Roberta & John Coppola

Apr 19 ~ Nancy & Anthony Rasi

Apr 20 ~ Lisa & Donnie Neal

Apr 26 ~ Valerie & Tom Hager

Apr 26 ~ Laura & Greg Rogers



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. SEBASTIAN!

We Wish a very
Happy **Early** Birthday to
Fr. Sebastian
whose birthday is April 14th.
Please help us in wishing him a
happy birthday!

St. Anne's Altar Society Bake Sale



April 5 & 6



Where's The Dessert?

Word has it, that while the basket bunnies are busy fixing baskets full of goodies for the little ones, the baking bunnies have gone on strike! Which could mean no dessert for Easter dinner.

Have no fear -- St. Anne's is Here! **We will be having our Easter Bake Sale April 5 & 6 after each Mass.** Come and get that special treat for your special holy week dinner.

As always, all donations, either monetary or goodies are always truly appreciated.

Stations of the Cross Schedule

April 4 at 5:30pm

Led by Bob BUZZO

Hosted by Sacred Heart Food Pantry

April 11 at 6pm

Led by Tom Behrmann

Hosted by Knights of Columbus

Lenten Lunches

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

11:45-1:00 PM

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS: 304-327-9727
208 TAZEVELL AVE BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

SACRED HEART PRINCETON

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

12 NOON

AFTER STATIONS OF THE CROSS

HEALING MASS

WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK

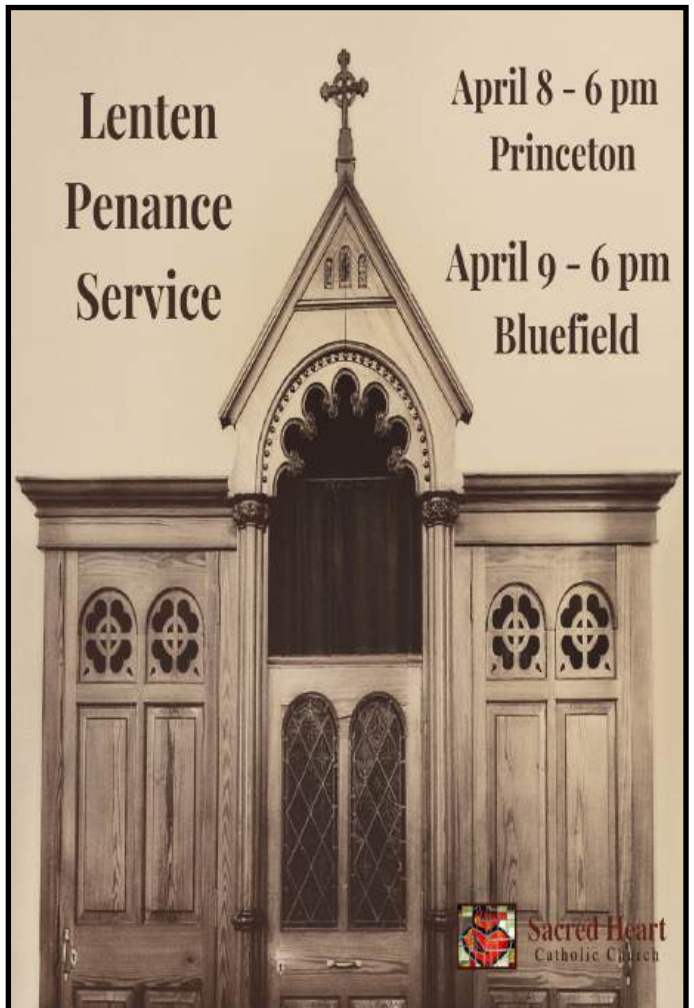
Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:00 pm

Join us for a Mass of Faith, Hope, and Healing on Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:00 pm for a special Healing Mass with Anointing of the sick.

Lenten
Penance
Service

April 8 - 6 pm
Princeton

April 9 - 6 pm
Bluefield



 Sacred Heart
Catholic Church

March Ministry Schedule							
Mass Date Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
3/29 Sat. 6 pm	P. Buenafe	V. Hager	Purita	Maria	1.L. Mariotti	The Pascasio's	Ron Tommie Jo
			Buenafe	Zalduondo	2.P. Peretti		
3/30 Sun. 9 am	The Winfree's	T. Lampert	R. West	B. Buzzo	1.S. Copolo	B. Buzzo	
			K. Oakes	R. Ciccolini	2.M. Romeo 3.TBA		

April 2025 Ministry Schedule							
Mass Date Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
4/2 WED 6 pm Healing Mass	Purita Buenafe	No Rosary	TBA	B. Buzzo	1.C. Havens	John Monaco	NO Collection
				V. Hager	2.D. Garton 3.T. Hager		
4/5 Sat. 6 pm	P. Peretti	TBA	Dave Kelley	Tom Behrmann	1.C. Saunders 2.P. Peretti 3.J. McCloud	J. Monaco	The Albert's
4/6 Sun 9 am	T. Lampert	L. Ajulo	C. Tran E. Husband	M. Rebuck A. Rebuck	1.K. Kidd 2.C. Havens 3.K. Kirk	R. Albert	
4/12 Sat. 6 pm	J. McCloud	F. Moran	A. Froy	Valerie	1.A. Peretti	The Pascasio's	D. Duritza
			E. Peretti	Hager	2.L. Mariotti 3.T. Hager		
4/13 Sun 9 am Palm Sunday	Winfree's	B. Musolin	T. Brown	C. Ott	1.M. Romeo	R. Malamisura	R. Malamisura
			A. Zinsmeister	T. Bales	2.S. Copolo 3.T. Lampert		
4/17 6 pm Holy Thursday	Patty Peretti	NO Rosary	P. Buenafe A. Peretti E. Peretti	V. Hager C. Saunders	1.T. Hager 2.P. Peretti 3.F. Moran		D. Shumate M. McCoy
			A. Froy	A. Rebuck	1.T. Behrmann		
4/18 6 pm Good Friday		NO Rosary	D. Kelley	M. Rebuck	2. 3.		
			P. Buenafe A. Peretti E. Peretti	R. Ciccolini B. Musolin	1. 2. 3.		
4/19 8 pm Easter Vigil	Purita Buenafe	NO Rosary	S. Copolo	B. Buzzo	1.K. Kirk		
			M. Copolo	C. Ott	2. 3.		
4/26 Sat. 6 pm	P. Buenafe	M. Zalduondo	Dave	Tom	1.A. Robinson	The Pascasio's	The Aiello's
			Kelley	Behrmann	2.D. Garton 3.TBA		
4/27 Sun 9 am	Winfree's	L. Ajulo	R. Aiello	R. Albert	1.W. Aiello	S. Copolo	
			A. Zinsmeister	B. Musolin	2.G. Aiello 3.C. Havens		

Sacred Heart Prayer List

Parishioners: George Bowling, Mary Bruch, John Burton, , Ron Ciccolini, Benny Disibbio, Carolina Ferrare, Angie Genovesi, Valerie Hager, Daniel Kirk, Claire & Terry Lampert, Tommie Jo Longworth, Mary Malamisura, Sabrina Mazol, Cindy McGraw, Feleesha Moran & Family, Claude Morgan, Sharon Rothausen

Homebound Parishioners: Linda Angelelli, Joanne Ercoline, Lou Ercoline, Mary Claire Keenan, Sue Mazol, Joan Monaco, Ernesto Pascasio, Barbara Pickett, Rosalie Rochetti, Mitzi Romeo, Miriam Salaita, Anna H. Switch, Joan Zingale

Friends & Family: Lorin Albin, , Mark Burnette, John Burton, Beatrice Dunn, Fr. Chapin Engler, Agela Buzzo Gess, Laura Haines and baby Carmelo, Skip Harless, Angelo Perri, Walt "Buddy" Pierce, Annette Pike, Dr. Amanda Hale Reese , Orpha Welch



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Weekly Donations	weekend Mar 22-23	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	3,751.00	45,437.00	44,400.00
Maintenance	10.00	1,609.00	1,050.00
Loose Offertory	382.17	4,944.43	5,600.00
Total Contributions	\$ 4,143.17	\$ 51,990.43	\$ 51,050.00
Food Pantry	410.00	10,432.20	0.00
Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund	1,768.00	2,354.00	1,500.00
Attendance:	6pm: 57	9am: 114	

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AND A PRIEST IS NEEDED, PLEASE CALL:

Parish Office (304) 327-5623

Princeton Office (304) 425-3664

In case of serious or life-threatening sickness or the actively dying: {Please consider, with Fr. Sebastian out of town, it will take longer to contact a priest. Please call the church office as soon as you can} The church should be contacted as soon as possible. People deserve the opportunity to confess their sins, profess their faith, be anointed, and receive Holy Communion – the foretaste and pledge of eternal life. PLEASE don't wait until after the person is unconscious or so sedated that he or she cannot communicate. It is imperative with current situations, that there be enough time for Fr. to go through the appropriate protocol to visit the actively dying.

In case of illness: Please call the parish office to let us know if you, a family member, or a parishioner is sick. We can place your name on the prayer list. If requested, Fr Sebastian will arrange for distributing Holy Communion in the home.

Nursing homes & Hospitals: are not permitted to contact the church. If someone you know is in the hospital, please call the church office.

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