



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Committed to living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition, we are blessed to have as our patron saint someone who continues to call us to reach out to others in charity and compassion.

Church of

St Francis of Assisi

1114 Third Street SE

Rochester, MN 55904

507.288.7313

<http://stfrancis-church.org>

Parish Center Hours

Mon-Fri: 8AM - 4PM

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday - Friday 7AM

School Mass:

Tuesday 9:30AM

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 4:30PM

Sunday 8AM, 10AM

In Spanish:

Thursday 7PM

Sunday 12PM

Misa En Español:

Jueves 7PM

Domingo 12PM

Pastor

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Luis Vargas



"He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But 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 15:31-32

A MESSAGE FROM FR JIM BERNING



LAETARE SUNDAY. This 4th Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday. Laetare is the 1st word - meaning "rejoice" - in the Latin text and is the 1st word of Holy Mass this weekend in the Entrance Antiphon (just as it is for Gaudete Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent). We wear the rose vestment on these 2 Sundays of the year. This 4th Sunday of Lent, we rejoice that the coming of the light of Christ' Resurrection is very near us now.

PRODIGAL SON. Every three years in the Liturgy, and every year with our 1st Reconciliation children, we return to this beautiful story of the Prodigal Son from the Divine Mercy parables from the 15th chapter of Luke. Let us hear it again anew as we return to it. We all need to finish the story of the Prodigal Son and Father. Does the 2nd son come into the banquet feast of forgiveness and love being celebrated? Are we willing to come in, share it with others, and rejoice that all are found through the grace of God? Perhaps this Lent, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and fasting, each of can let go of the times we resented being taken for granted. Grace heals the wounds of sin and the Father welcomes us home as adopted sons and daughters!

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL 2022. We are off to an **AMAZING** start! We are so grateful to the 58 parishioners that have already contributed **\$23,815** towards our 2022 goal of \$49,661. Participation is the key to reaching our goal. If you have yet to make a contribution, please prayerfully consider doing so. As always, 100% of the monies reached over our goal will be returned to the parish for our designated building project: refinishing the pews. Let us reach our goal quickly - and exceed it - to help fund our own project!

INVITATION TO SERVE. On Sunday, **April 3** at 4PM, we will have an Altar Server Training/Refresher for students 3rd Grade or older. The training will be followed by a Pizza Party in the St Clare Room. Altar serving is a great way for our youth to be involved in the Mass! Please RSVP to the Parish Center at 288-7313 for the Altar Server Training/Refresher so we order enough pizza!

RECONCILIATION. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on Saturdays in the Cry Room from 3:30-4:15PM. A Communal Lenten Reconciliation will be held at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on April 10 at 3:30pm. Fr. Luis and myself are also available by appointment.

HOMEBOUND VISITS WITH HOLY COMMUNION. We take Holy Communion to our Homebound on the First Friday of the month. If you or someone you know is need of Holy Communion, please call the parish office to be put on the schedule. We are grateful for those who organize and volunteer to take Holy Communion to our parishioners at home or in care centers.

CHRISM MASS. The Chrism Mass, the blessing of the oils by the bishop, will take place on Monday, April 11 at Pax Christi Church here in Rochester. All are invited to attend this Mass at 4PM.

Prince of Peace, pray for us!

Fr. Jim C. Berning

WELCOME

Welcome to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Our church has helped to bring Jesus Christ to the city of Rochester since 1937. We seek to foster the spiritual growth of our parishioners through the celebration of the Sacraments, catechesis, community life, and personal prayer. Like our patron saint, we strive to rebuild the Church and to console the heart of Jesus by serving our neighbors in need.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Center Office

(507) 288-7313

Pastor (x 202)

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar (x 203)

Rev. Luis Vargas

Parish Administrator (x 204)

Sarah Kinsman

Office Manager (x 201)

Michelle Ibarra

Financial Secretary (x 205)

Paula Oates

Director of Music/Liturgy (x 301)

Hope Giesen

Faith Formation (x 207)

Mark Nuehring

St. Francis of Assisi School

(507) 288-4816

Principal

Andrew Poterucha

Trustees

Bruce Anderson

Rosemary Bengal

Knights of Columbus

Bruce Anderson

Calvary Cemetery

Steve Flynn, Director

(507) 273-0140

Catholic Charities

(507) 287-2047



CAMINANDO HACIA LA PASCUA.

Seguimos caminando durante este tiempo de cuaresma, seguimos avanzando por el desierto de la purificación y retorno a la casa del Padre, este tiempo es realmente valioso por todas las gracias y bendiciones que el Señor nos otorga a través de los muchos signos de salvación que se nos dan con frecuencia en este tiempo especial de Cuaresma, abramos nuestro corazón al Señor para que sigamos avanzando caminando de la mano de nuestro Salvador.

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DOMINGO DE REGOCIJO. Tradicionalmente, el Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma se llama Domingo Laetare (Domingo de Regocijo). Anticipando la alegría pascual, las lecturas de hoy nos invitan a regocijarnos reconciliándonos con Dios a través del arrepentimiento y la confesión de nuestros pecados y celebrando nuestro regreso a casa para estar con nuestro Dios amoroso y perdonador. Usualmente el color de los ornamentos en el Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma es el rosado, aunque es opcional, en la mayoría de las parroquias se usa el color rosado.

EL VIACRUCIS. Cada viernes de cuaresma tenemos el rezo del Santo Viacrucis en nuestra Iglesia a las 6 de la tarde, es un momento de encuentro comunitario, es bilingüe, tenemos folletos del viacrucis en los dos idiomas, no olvide tomar un folleto al entrar a la Iglesia para que todos podamos orar juntos.

CONFESIONES. Recuerden que el padre Luis estará atendiendo el sacramento de la Confesión todos los jueves después de la misa de 7:00 pm.

RETIRO PARA PAREJAS (PREMATRIMONIAL) El próximo sábado 2 de Abril, tendremos el Retiro para parejas que se están preparando para el matrimonio, desde las 9 de la mañana hasta las 5:00 pm, las parejas interesadas hablar directamente con el padre Luis, para que se puedan registrar.

MONAGUILLOS. Seguimos invitando a los niños y jóvenes que quieran hacer parte de este importante servicio de ayudar al sacerdote en el altar en el momento de la misa. Quienes estén interesados podrán asistir al entrenamiento el Domingo 3 de Abril a las 4 de la tarde. Muchas gracias por su disponibilidad.

MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of March 28, 2022

MON Mar 28		NO MASS
TUES Mar 29	7:00 AM	Randall Hubka
	* 9:30 AM	Mary Clark †
WED Mar 30	7:00 AM	Helen & Louie Sell †
THU Mar 31	7:00 AM	Kenneth Phelps †
	** 7:00 PM	
FRI Apr 1	7:00 AM	Lori Klein †
SAT Apr 2	4:30 PM	Living & Deceased Members of the Blaul Family †
SUN Apr 3	8:00 AM	Steve & Clara Woodward †
	10:00 AM	For the Parish
	** 12:00 PM	

* School Mass ** Spanish Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

If you have a desire to remember someone who has passed away or simply in need of some extra prayers, Mass Intentions are available every day for our weekday Masses and on the weekends. You are welcome to stop by the Parish Office and schedule a Mass intention during normal office hours.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 27, 2022

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
 Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
 Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
 Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 27 DE MARZO DE 2022

Domingo: Jos 5, 9, 10-12/Sal 33, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9]/2 Co 5, 17-21/Lc 15, 1-3, 11-32
 Lunes: Is 65, 17-21/Sal 29, 2 y 4, 5-6, 11-12 y 13/Jn 4, 43-54
 Martes: Ez 47, 1-9, 12/Sal 45, 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5, 1-3, 5-16
 Miércoles: Is 49, 8-15/Sal 144, 8-9, 13-14, 17-18/Jn 5, 17-30
 Jueves: Ex 32, 7-14/Sal 105, 19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5, 31-47
 Viernes: Sab 2, 1, 12-22/Sal 33, 17-18, 19-20, 21 y 23/Jn 7, 1-2, 10, 25-30
 Sábado: Jr 11, 18-20/Sal 7, 2-3, 9-10, 11-12/Jn 7, 40-53
 Domingo siguiente: Is 43, 16-21/Sal 125, 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Flp 3, 8-14/Jn 8, 1-11



RCS SUMMER CARE PROGRAM.

Available Registration for our Summer Care program for ages 3-12 is open! The registration link can be found on the RCS website and in the weekly broadcasts. Summer Care will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic School. For families interested in Summer tutoring and Summer Academy, registration will open at a later date.

THE NEST PRESCHOOL AT RCS IS EXPANDING IN 2022-

2023! The Nest preschool at Rochester Catholic Schools is growing and will feature expanded offerings including programs at all five of our convenient RCS locations for the fall of 2022. New offerings include an all-day Pre-Kindergarten (Age 4) program at our St. Francis of Assisi and Lourdes High School campuses. In addition, we have added a Preschool (Age 3) classroom at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Middle School, and opened an Early Preschool (Age 2) program at Holy Spirit Catholic School! Our classrooms are filling - learn more and register today by visiting rcsmn.org/thenest

ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY: THE VALUE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

Catholic education solidifies a student's character and ethical framework for life as well as their personal relationship with and love for Christ. At St. Mary's University of Minnesota, the state's Lasallian Catholic university, each student receives an education that nourishes their intellect, body, and spirit and offers an incomparable community with committed faculty who seek to have each student thrive. Saint Mary's is recognized as a 2021-22 Catholic College of Distinction. It was also ranked as Minnesota's 'Best Value' by U.S. News & World Report, 2022. For parents and students planning their college search, consider visiting St Mary's University in our diocese. Learn more about St Mary's at: smunmn.edu/admission/undergraduate



MASS OF ANOINTING FOR THE ELDERLY AND SICK.

There will be a Mass of Anointing for the Elderly and Sick on Wednesday, March 30 at 10:30AM at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Mass will be followed by Fellowship and Treats.



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL.

As Catholics, we are blessed to be strengthened and united by Christ in the Eucharist and sent forth to bring the peace and joy of our Triune God to all those we encounter. As individual members of the Body of Christ, we all possess different gifts and talents for furthering the ministry of Christ and His Church.

During this year, may we all strive to be Disciples of Christ, Stewards

of His Gifts throughout the Catholic community, using our personal gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

2022 CMA APPEAL PRAYER. *"Heavenly Father, may we become Your disciples through our support of the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings of our lives. We cherish the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that each member of our universal Church family makes to build up Christ's Church in love. We ask you, Lord, to send us forth in this spirit of love to serve our communities and our world with open hearts. Amen."*

Please support the 2022 CMA so that we may be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts. Every gift makes a difference! To give: www.catholicismn.org

INVOCATION OF PEACE. God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. . . Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that. . . our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



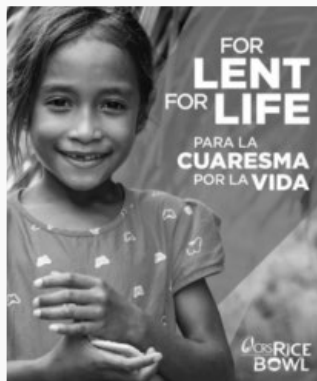
JEREMIAH PROJECT UPDATE. The Jeremiah House has 30 apartments for single mothers assisting them to break the cycle of poverty. When a new family moves in, they try to give them a "Welcome Basket" of new items to help make their new apartment feel like home. I dropped off our first 5 "Welcome Baskets." They were very grateful and said they would be used quickly as they have a number of new families moving in, and all of their apartments will be full by April. The staff encouraged us to focus the rest of Lent on just a few items that they really need... pot/pan sets, drying racks for dishes, 16 gallon garbage cans and 16 gallon garbage bags.

SPRING BREAK. Due to Spring Break, we will not have Faith Formation next Wednesday, March 30. Our next class will meet on Wednesday, April 6 for 3 more weeks to finish the year. We will also take a break from Confirmation Class until Sunday, April 10.

TOTUS TUUS: JULY 10-15. Totus Tuus is a week-long summer VBS-type program, but with more content. Our week to host just moved to July 10-15 due to a scheduling conflict at the diocese. The day program is for elementary students, and the night program is for middle school and high school students. You can register on our website under the YOUTH tab. Cost is \$20 per student.

MISSION TRIP. A quick update - we have 20 students signed up for our high school Mission Trip in late June. We still have a little room, if you know someone who would still like to attend.

- Mark (youthminister@stfrancis-church.org)



BECOME CLOSER TO GOD THIS LENTEN SEASON USING CRS RICE BOWL. Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 100 different countries each year.

Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. For more information, please visit: www.csricebowl.org. **Please be generous!**

CANTORS AND CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED! St. Augustine said that when we sing, we pray twice. If you are a singer and are interested in sharing your gift by singing in the choir at St. Francis, please join us as we start up our choir for Palm Sunday and Holy Week liturgies.

"The Church needs musicians. How many sacred works have been composed through the centuries by people deeply imbued with the sense of the mystery! The faith of countless believers has been nourished by melodies flowing from the hearts of other believers, either introduced into the liturgy or used as an aid to dignified worship. In song, faith is experienced as vibrant joy, love, and confident expectation of the saving intervention of God." - Pope Saint John Paul II

May all our voices join together to proclaim the goodness of the Lord!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2/3:

	Reader	Hospitality Minister	Minister of Holy Communion
Saturday, 4:30 PM	Maryanne Doyle	John Sibley David Klinkhammer	Judy Syring
Sunday, 8:00 AM	Paula Wick	Alan Heimer Jean Heimer	Joe Wick
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Mary Sagstetter	Lori Paukert Mark Paukert	Dave Oeth

- Hope (liffranc@stfrancis-church.org)



Due to attrition and especially COVID, we are presently in very great need of additional Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality Ministers and Readers.

If you can share your time with the parish community, please contact the Parish Center Office at 288-7313. Everyone Confirmation age and older is asked to prayerfully consider this request. Training provided. We try to schedule per your request and no more than twice a month. Thank you!



PARISH LENTEN OPPORTUNITY.

During Lent the Church invites us to participate in three traditional practices – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Resource ROOM is dedicated to providing love, hope and a new beginning for persons in need. We invite you to give to our neighbors in one of two ways. Either purchase an

item from the list below for the Resource Room or make out a check to Neighbors in Need and place it in the collection basket. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Silverware | Frying Pans | Crockpots |
| Toasters | Paper Towels | Dish Soap |
| Laundry Soap | Toilet Paper | Hand/bar Soap |
| Toothbrushes | Toothpaste* | Shampoo* |
| Conditioner* | Deodorant* | Cleaning Supplies |
| Sheets (Queen) | Blankets (Queen) | |

* Full-Size

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate Easter flowers or decorations for our church, either as a gift or in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form with your donation either in the collection or to the Parish Center. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

In Honor of/Memory of: _____



#MERCYINMOTION CAMPAIGN.

Inspired by this "little way," Catholic Charities is inviting you to join us in our 2nd Annual #MercyInMotion Campaign. To learn more, visit www.ccsomn.org/mercyinmotion

VISIT THE SICK: "There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. . . She said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.' Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction" (Mk. 5:25, 28-29). This week, answer Christ's call to Visit the Sick by 1) Meditating on the story of the Woman with a Hemorrhage; 2) Fasting from sweets, desserts, and/or junk food; 3) Calling or sending a card to someone in a nursing home.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIAPER DRIVE: MARCH 1-31, 2022.

We are in need of Diapers (Sz 1-6), Wipes, Baby Lotion and Shampoo. Collection Sites are Pax Christi and Catholic Charities 903 Center St W, Ste 220; Rochester. Thank you for your generous support!

ART OF INVITATION WEBINAR: MARCH 29.

Susan Windley-Daoust, Director of Missionary Discipleship, will host the webinar The Art of Invitation: Inviting Others to Consider Christ, on March 29 with both 12PM and 7PM options. If you are looking for a way to invite people back to Mass at Easter, this is for you. The presentation is a "brass tacks" talk on how we invite people to Mass, back to Mass, to the Bible study, the fish fry, etc. We'll get into practicals in this short 30-minute webinar. Register with Emily Smithley at esmithley@dowr.org and specify 12PM or 7PM.

COR JESU: APRIL 1.

The Cathedral invites you to Cor Jesu on Friday, April 1 from 7PM-8:30PM. Cor Jesu is an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions and music in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For more details, go to cascwinona.org/prayer-opportunities and click on "Cor Jesu" in the drop-down list, or call Olivia Gadiant at (507) 951-7063.

RCS VANSELOW FISH FRY: APRIL 8.

We are excited to host the RCS Vanselow Fish Fry on Friday, April 8, 4:30 - 7:30PM at Lourdes High School (food served until 6:30 PM). This family-friendly community event carries on the legacy of Gary Vanselow and the 15-year fish fry tradition with a few changes this year, including a new name, outdoor venue, and drive-thru meal pick-up! Join us this Lenten season, and enjoy great food, fellowship, and fun! Heated tents for optional outdoor dining. Bouncy houses for kids (weather permitting)! Three great meal options! Meals must be ordered in advance. Pre-order at rcsmn.org/fishfry by March 23.



FAMILY CONNECTION.

"Hey, that's not fair!" How many times have we heard this spoken in our family? Family members challenge one another's generosity, operating from the perspective of limited resources. If we have given to one, perhaps there won't be enough for the other.

Jesus wants us to understand that

this is not how it is with God's mercy and forgiveness. God offers his love to all of us in abundance. The forgiveness of the father in the parable is an image of God's love for us, generous beyond measure in his love for both of his sons. Can we truly believe that God acts this way towards us and accept his mercy without jealousy, knowing that God's love for another does not diminish his love for us?

As you gather as a family, talk about the words and phrases you speak to one another when angry. Identify words or phrases that reflect jealousy towards one another. Talk about why we sometimes feel jealousy towards one another. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 15:1-3,11-32. Talk about why the older brother is jealous of the younger brother. Identify words that the family members in the parable might say to one another to begin to heal their broken relationships. Make a family commitment to say these types of words and phrases to one another with greater frequency. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

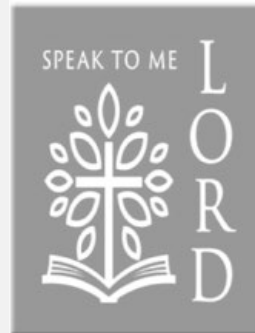
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

cont., from right)

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>



The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three

familiar parables - the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son - invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean - observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law - before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father. First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

◀ (cont., at left)

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