



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?

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? ●

Reflect

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



"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 JOSEPH
AKRON, CO
phone: 970-345-6996**

Pastor: Rev. Herman Nsubuga
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Maurice Okeke
Deacon: Joe Benjamin ph: 970-554-1154

Masses: Sat. - 7:00 PM Sun - 8:00 AM
Tues. - 5:30 PM Wed. - 7:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
1/2 h before daily Masses or by appointment
Sat. 1/2 h before 7:00 PM Mass and after
Sun. - 7:00 AM

Anointing of the Sick - call the Office

Office: open Tuesday and Wednesday.
(970) 345-6996 leave message
Visit our Website www.stmarybrush.org

Sign up at Flocknote.com/stjosephakron
Or from your cell phone text: akron to 84576
We are on Facebook:
Saint Joseph Catholic Church - Akron.
St. Mary's: www.facebook.com/STMBrush

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Enter your e-mail - and you are in!

If you are interested in being a cantor or
providing music for the Mass, please contact
Marcia Pieper (970)554-1535
or **Julie Green** (970)554-0740

Bulletin: Kathy McFadden 970-301-2306
or kathryndianehall@gmail.com

Mass Intentions

Sat. Mar. 29 Vigil
7:00 p.m. †Leota Hickert - RH
Sun Mar. 30 Mass/4th Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday
8:00 a.m. †Robert & †Mary Diamond
- GDM
Tues April 1 Mass
5:30 p.m. Graces/Jack Willeke - JW
Wed April 2 Mass
6:00 p.m. Graces/Jerry Spiker - MK
Sat. April 5 Vigil
7:00 p.m. Graces/Tom & Jessica - MK
Sun April 6 Mass/5th Sunday of Lent
8:00 a.m. †Patrick Aaron O'Neil - RTH

In need of prayer support, call

Linda Littleton: 970-630-3267
Kim Krause: 970-554-1459
Peggy Dreher: 970-554-0546

Please Pray For Our Sick:

Kane Schrock, Mary Ann Kreutzer, Barbara
Wolf, Bobby Dreher, Terry Hart, Pauline
Frenzl, Dan Killip, Ray Hottinger, Deacon
Taylor Elder, Bridget Glosson, Ken Kuntz,
Randy Kraich, Carol Benjamin, Maria Foy,
Don Mollendor, Beverly Gebauer, Tricia
Dreher, Bibiana Camacho, John Stair,
Robert McMillion, MaryAnne Middlebrook,
Ken Richards

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph
Tuesdays / 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Spend time with our Lord...

Catholic Adult Enrichment Classes
Thursdays at 7:00 pm in Coyne Hall

Stations of the Cross Retreat—San Luis
To life-sized stations on March 30th. See more on the bulletin board or contact Linda Littleton or Rita Hart.



Anointing of the Sick
March 29/30 after each Mass

St. Rupert—Salt of the Earth

Rupert accepted Duke Theodo of Bavaria's invitation to bring the Gospel to regions where people were more open to it.

Rupert traveled to the ruins of the old Roman town of Juvavum, where he saw an opportunity to build both the Church and a community. He renamed the city Salzburg—literally “Salt Castle”—because of the nearby salt mines. Recognizing the economic value of salt, Rupert helped organize its production and trade. The income supported the monasteries and churches he founded, including the famous Abbey of St. Peter and Nonnberg Abbey, one of the oldest convents in the world.

That's why Rupert is often depicted with a salt barrel or salt shaker. It's not just symbolic—salt was part of his practical mission. Through it, he helped build a strong foundation for Christian life in the region. Rupert died around 718 AD, likely on Easter Sunday. He is remembered not only as a bishop and teacher, but as a builder who used the resources at hand—spiritual and material—to spread the faith.

St. Rupert used local salt to build a Christian community; you can use your kitchen to build a Catholic home.

Lay Minister Schedule

April 6, 2025

Natalie Gross 620-952-9208

Greeters/Gifts: Shea & Sierra Mireles
Pianist: Marcia Pieper
Cantor: Joan Pieper
Lector: Matthew Pieper
Altar Servers: D Etl, M Hart, H Etl
Head Usher: Chad Gross
Euch Ministers: Frank & Esther Weis

April 6, 2025 Breakfast

Jordan & Jennifer Willeke, Leland Willeke

St. Joseph's corner:

“Saint Joseph, please help us remember that God has a purpose for our lives and that He is there to help us fulfill it. Amen”

LENT 2025 - Wednesdays

5:00 p.m. - Confessions
5:30 p.m. - STATIONS OF THE CROSS
6:00 p.m. - Mass
6:30 p.m. - Lenten Soup Supper
Dates: April 2, 9, 16

Lenten Penance Services at 6:00 p.m.

April 3 / Thursday / St. Anthony, Sterling
April 8 / Tuesday / St. Joseph, Akron
April 10 / Thursday / St. Mary, Brush

Saturday, April 5 / Lenten Retreat

8:15 am - 5:00 pm / Jessica Navin

“There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love.”

St. Helena's Catholic Church, Ft. Morgan, CO

\$20 per person

For more: Jeanett Baker at 303-902-9994 or
Bridget Link at nocoretreat@gmail.com

Email: office@stjosephsakron.org

* Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM (Tuesday, Wednesday)

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



SHUTTERSTOCK

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
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>
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

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