



The Prodigal Son and the Forgiving Father

We have all heard today's Gospel story of the Prodigal Son many times before. Sometimes we can become so familiar with a passage from the Scriptures that we find it no longer is meaningful to us. Being that it is the Word of God, there is always meaning to be found, yet our human nature sometimes causes us to hear God's Word as we might hear other things in life. It may enter one ear and go out the other. This might be a good time for us to once again consider what this wonderful parable can teach us.

It reminds us that no matter how far away we have traveled from God, He is always there waiting for us with open arms. He rejoices to have us come home to Him. That part of the parable is rather easy for us to understand. Hopefully, as we go through life we experience our Lord's love for us in many wonderful ways. There is one element of the parable, however, that is somewhat disturbing: the behavior of the elder son. Why is he so upset? Is he jealous? Does he feel hurt that his obedience and loyalty to his father seem to go unnoticed? The father does reassure him that he is truly loved and his faithfulness will certainly be rewarded. The father does emphasize, though, that having the wayward son home is a top priority. Love and forgiveness take top priority for the moment. There will be plenty of opportunity for the elder son to be rewarded. Let us thank our Lord for receiving us when we return to Him. If we feel we have strayed, let us return to Him asking for His forgiveness. It will be extended and we can then rejoice knowing our Father in heaven is truly a Father!

Father David

Capital Campaign Update

As of September 3, we have collected \$165,641 for our Capital Campaign. Our goal is \$250,000. I thank all those who have supported the campaign thus far and ask those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to this important campaign to ensure that our buildings are beautiful and worthy of the many things we do in the parish complex. Thank you!

Father David

Thank You!

A sincere "Thank you" goes out to Mrs. Barbara Blair, parishioner of St. James the Apostle, for her generous gift that made our shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary possible. The gift was given in memory of her husband, John R. Blair.

Father David