

Seeking the Lost

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

(Note: When the Scrutinies are used at Mass, the reflection for Year A may be used in place of this one.)

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable. [Luke 15:1-3](#) This is good news! Our Lord "welcomes sinners and eats with them." For that reason, there is room at His table for you!

Sometimes it's hard to admit that we are sinners. Of course we know in our minds that we are. But our pride can easily lead us to justify our sin, downplay it and conclude that we are not that bad after all. If you find yourself thinking this way, be careful. Doing so will make you like the Pharisees and scribes in the passage above. Clearly they did not see themselves as sinners, which is why they condemned Jesus for welcoming sinners and eating with them.

The passage above comes from the beginning of Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel and serves as an introduction to three subsequent parables. First, our Lord tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep, then the Parable of the Lost Coin, and then the Parable found in the rest of today's Gospel passage, the Parable of the Lost Son. In the first parable, the shepherd who finds his lost sheep rejoices. In the second parable, the woman who finds her lost coin rejoices. And in the parable we read today, the father who finds his lost son rejoices and throws a party to celebrate.

Return, again, to the passage above that introduces these three parables: "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus." Once they drew near, Jesus spoke to them about the joy of finding that which was lost. Perhaps as Jesus initially spoke about the finding of the lost sheep and lost coin, this would have resonated with these tax collectors and sinners to a certain degree. But then our Lord tells them the long and detailed story about this boy who disrespects his father, takes his inheritance, squanders it on illicit living, and ends up with nothing. The story expresses the confusion of this boy, his desperation, his guilt and his shame. We learn of his interior thinking, reasoning, fears and anxiety.

As you ponder this parable, try to understand the effect that it would have had upon the tax collectors and sinners who all drew near to our Lord. They were spiritually hungry, just as the prodigal son was. They had a past full of regret, just as this boy. They were unsatisfied in life and were looking for a way out, just as this son of the loving father was. For these reasons, those tax collectors and sinners who drew near Jesus would have been mesmerized by all that Jesus taught them and filled with hope that they, too, could share in the joy that was so generously bestowed upon this wayward son.

Reflect, today, upon the touching image of these tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus. Though they may have had a certain fear and caution, they would have also had hope. Try to understand what they must have thought and felt as they heard this story of the father's abundant mercy. Think about how they would have related as they discovered that there was hope for them, too. If you struggle with being like the scribes and Pharisees, reject that temptation. Instead, see yourself as one of those sinners who drew near to our Lord and you will be the cause of joy in the Heart of the Father in Heaven.

Most loving and compassionate Lord, tax collectors and sinners were drawn to You. They found in You someone Who could free them from the burdens they carried within. Please help me to see myself as one of those humble souls in need of You and Your mercy. I reject my pride that leads me to self-justification and pray for humility so that I can come to You and gladden the Heart of the Father in Heaven. Jesus, I trust in You.

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent—Laetare Sunday



Parish Staff:

Parish Office: 509-723-1459

Parish email:

stannemedicallake@gmail.com

Parish website: www.westplainscatholicparishes.org

Father Michael Ishida, Pastor

Father Peter Miller

Evie Noder, Parish Bookkeeper

Michele Flynn, Office Admin

Sacramental Emergencies – 509-998-7093

Pastoral Council

Father Ishida, Pat Whipple, Janet Whipple,,

Mario Cruz, Danielle Treis, Father Miller

Finance Council

Father Ishida, Eric Hanson

Physical Address: 200 W. Alder, Sprague, WA 99032

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 125, Medical Lake, WA 99022

Holy Mass and Sacraments Schedule

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am

12:30 pm English Mass

Reconciliation: Sundays at 12:00 am

Baptism and Holy Matrimony:

The family should be registered and active members at Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish for a least three months prior to Baptism or Holy Matrimony. Couples are engaged to marry need to contact Fr. Ishida at least four months prior to the wedding date for marriage preparation.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please contact Father Ishida.

Parish Office:

Please email or leave voice message.

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Step 1. **Sign up as a Parishioner (it's FREE)** : search for **St. Anne Medical Lake**

Step 2. Then enter your name and create a password.

welcome

to our parish



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Directions on front of the bulletin
Catholic "net flicks".

"The priesthood is the love of
the heart of Jesus."

St. John Vianney



Daily Mass Time Changes

Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent

Sung Mass @ 10:15 AM

7:00 AM Mass—Cancelled on those days only.



Welcome to Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish To all visitors who are joining us for worship today. May your time with us be grace-filled and may the Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones today and every day.

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Sundays @ 10:30 am - confession @ 10:00 am
12:30 pm - English Mass



Schola & Sacred Music Opportunities Children's Stations of the Cross

Children's Station of the Cross will be on April 11 at 5:15 PM.

Children in grades K-8 are invited to sing in Choir for this special Station. They will sing "At the Cross Her Stations Keeping" and possibly another piece.

Rehearsals: Thursday April 3 & 10 from 5:30-6:30 PM in O'Conner Hall. No auditions is required. The group will be led by Victoria Solenberger.

The Catholic Institute of Sacred Music is offering sacred music courses this summer at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, CA. Free tuition and reasonable room and board.

<https://catholicinstituteofsacredmusic.org/summer-courses/>

Beeswax Candles for sale!

Interested in handmade beeswax candles?

Contact Savannah Roach at
RoachSavannah98@gmail.com
or call 509-671-5656

Facebook—under homemade goods.
<https://tinyurl.com/yafbutsz>

Parishioner of Mary, Queen of Heaven



Daily Mass -Time Changes

Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent

Sung Mass @ 10:15 AM

7:00 AM Mass—Cancelled on those days only.

Seven Sisters Apostolate

That our prayers
may find the heart
of every priest and
bishop.



A call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a "holy wasting" (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ.

Please contact Linda Pearson if you are interested in joining her at 509-879-0753 or email sookiesue@msn.com

Seven Sisters Apostolate meet after 9:00 am Mass at St. Anne Parish, Medical Lake. For all those interested—Please join us in the Church.

Please note: Mass Intensions take approximately 2 weeks to get processed and on the calendar. Please note this when giving your stipends for Intensions.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

23	Sunday	Pro Populo
24	Monday	Mike & Victoria Erwin
25	Tuesday	Albert Leake †
26	Wednesday	Patrick J Blakely †
27	Thursday	
28	Friday	Patrick J Blakely †
29	Saturday	William James McKenzie
30	Sunday	Pro Populo

Mary, Queen of Heaven ... Pray for us!
St. Anne ... Pray for us!

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lectionary #33C or 31A - Liturgical color: violet or rose

Laetare Sunday

1st Reading: Jos 5:9a, 10-12
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
2nd Reading: 2 Cor 5:17-21
Gospel: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
... or, for Year A, ...
1st Reading: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
2nd Reading: Eph 5:8-14
Gospel: Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

No Gloria
Second Scrutiny of the Elect

We love
having you as part of our flock

Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

Text the word **westplains**
to the number **84576**

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