

March 30, 2025: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Background on the Gospel Reading

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.

[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

Reflection II Loved in our Sins

The prodigal son came home empty-handed.  
He had no trophies to show his father, no achievements with which to earn his praise, his welcome, and his love.  
He was a failure. Worse – he was a sinner. He deserved to be punished – and he knew it. Yet punishment was the last thing he needed.  
To punish him would be like pouring water on a dying fire.  
What happened? When the father saw his lost son coming towards him, his heart went out to him, and next minute they were in each other's arms.  
It is an extraordinary experience to be loved in one's sinfulness.  
Such love is like a breeze to a dying fire, or rain falling on parched ground.  
Those who have experienced this kind of love, know something about the heart of God.

(Anon.) *Flor McCarthy, New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies – Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p.92/93*

SSVP – POOR BOX COLLECTION:

The next collection will take place during the weekend masses of March 29-30. SSVP members and friends will at the entrances to accept donations. Thank you for your continued support.

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Sacred Heart Parish  
A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Fr. Lee Lainey

Office Administrator: Roseann Janes

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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Password "Church"  
Note: include your envelope #

Diocesan website: [rcchurch.com](http://rcchurch.com)

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday to Friday 10a.m.  
**Daily mass is cancelled & Office Closed any day schools are closed due to bad weather.**

Lohnes Complex\* First Friday of each month - 2 pm  
**\*Note:** No mass at the church on this day.  
To be determined at a later date.  
Postponed until further notice.  
By request.  
Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.  
Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.  
At [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com) you will find a link to family connections.  
To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

Bible Study:  
Holy Hour of Adoration:  
Reconciliation:  
Marriages:  
Baptisms:  
Family Connections:  
St. Vincent de Paul:

Regular Sunday	1430.00
Loose Offering	56.00
Building Fund	530.00
Lenten Folders	220.00
Mass Stipends	180.00
Votive Candles	177.80
Catholic Missions in Canada	25.00
St. Vincent de Paul	20.00

Apr. 1	The Late Ada Myles
Apr. 2	The Late Annie Griffin
Apr. 3	Special Intentions: Joseph Power
Apr. 4	<b>Lohnes Complex Mass – 2pm only</b>
Apr. 5	The Late Annie Gillis The Late Basil Donahue
Apr. 6	Special Intentions: Joseph Power

<b>April 5</b>	
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>
John Carroll	Joan Penney
<b>April 6</b>	
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>
Dan Park	Eileen Moore
<b>Communion to the Sick – Joan Penney</b>	

From **April 22<sup>nd</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup>**, there will be no mass during this time as Father Lainey will be away at a seminar. Mass will resume April 26<sup>th</sup> at the regular time.

**Every Friday** after morning mass we will be having The Stations of the Cross. This will continue up to and including Good Friday.

The mass is on **April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** at Holy Redeemer Cathedral. Make the Chrism Mass a part of our Parish's Jubilee pilgrimage plans.

The Sacred Heart Ladies Group will be holding the next bingo on Sunday, **March 30, 2025**, at Sacred Heart Elementary School cafeteria. Doors open at 1:00pm. Bingo will start at 2:00pm. See you there!

The 2ND Grand in the Hand draw is underway. 200 tickets have been printed and the cost per ticket is \$10. The draw date is **May 6, 2025**. To purchase tickets, call Dave @709-640-2819, Garry @709-660-6316 or Brian @ 709-630-0611.

As you know we are still collecting **gift cards/certificates or cash donations** towards the Gift Card Tree. The funds raised will go towards the cost of our new oil tank system which will cost the parish about \$8000. Any amount you can donate is greatly appreciated, we are trying to reach \$2000 in cards/donations and currently have about \$1,500 collected. We will be collecting up to the middle of April. The draw date is Father's Day June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Call the office if you would like to volunteer to sell tickets at the stores. Thank you.

**Turn Debt into Hope:** sign the petition!  
Please sign the petition in church or online at  
[devp.org/debt](http://devp.org/debt)

Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m.

*(Anon.)*

*Flor McCarthy, New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies – Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p.92/93*