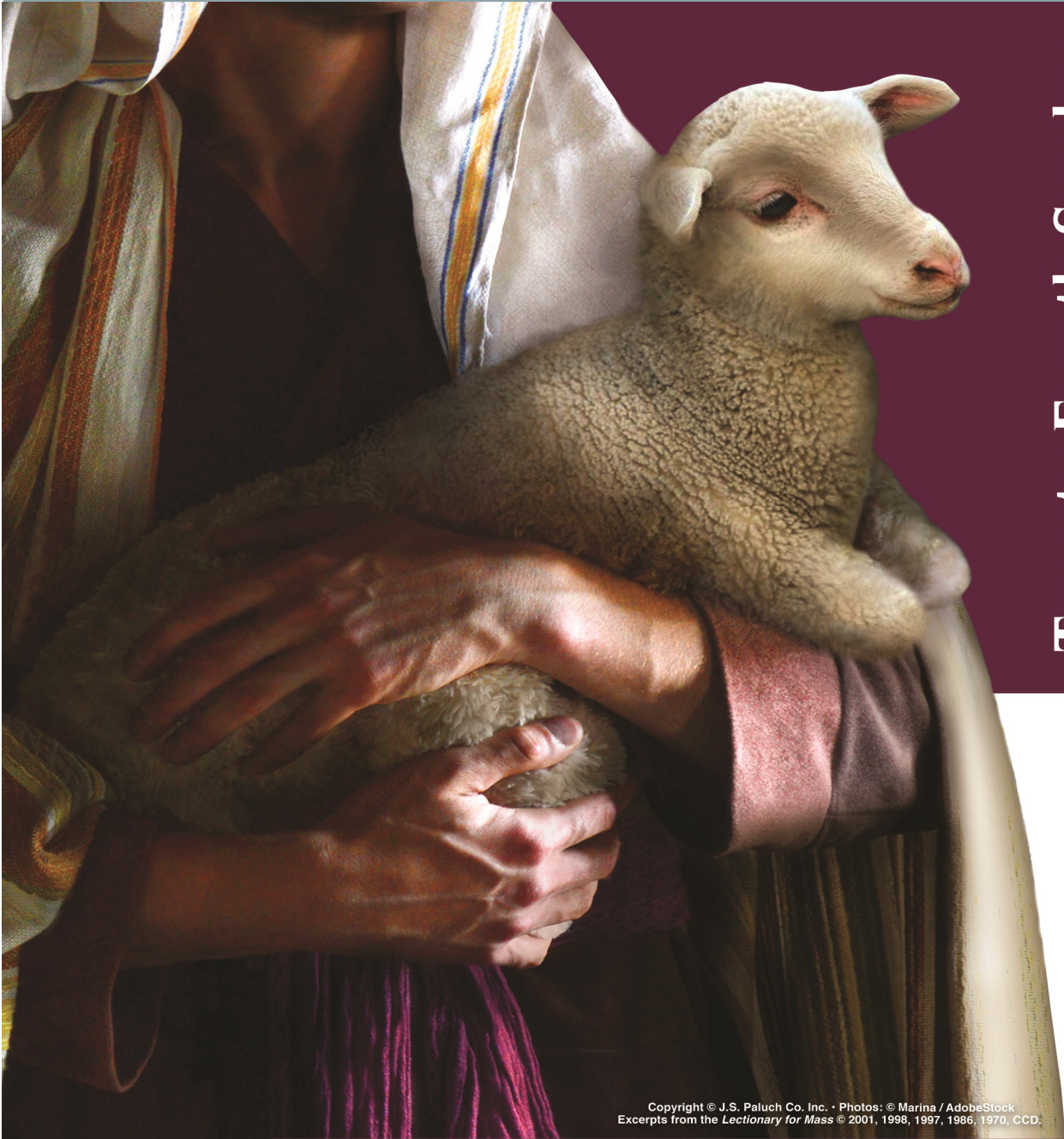




SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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September
11
2022

“REJOICE WITH ME
BECAUSE I HAVE FOUND
MY LOST SHEEP.”

LUKE 15:6

Your Brother was Dead and has Come to Life Again

The Gospel for today contains three parables of Jesus, all with the theme of seeking that which was lost. The culmination of this series of stories is the third one, the parable of the lost son. This amazing parable gives us deep insight into two concepts: the true nature of sin and God's awesome love and his search for what was lost. Love searches the beloved. To understand the meaning of this story, it helps to understand a bit of Jewish culture of the time. The people who heard Jesus that day immediately grasped his message.

What does the son do at the beginning? Or perhaps a more appropriate question is "what is his sin?" It is twofold. In asking for his inheritance before the death of his father, the son rejects kinship, denies he is a son, and literally tells his father, "I wish you were dead". The second sin he commits is the sin of pride. He tells his father "I don't need you. I can take the money and do this on my own". It is the same sin of Adam and Eve who desired to be other gods, relying solely on themselves. Look carefully at the scripture. Notice the strong, harsh terms that Jesus uses to describe the consequence of sin through the words of the father, "My son was dead".

Does the father try to prevent the son from claiming his inheritance prematurely and squandering it? No! One of the great gifts that God bestows on us at birth is the gift of free will. We are free to accept His gifts of love and life, or not. But notice what the father in the parable does, he is constantly looking in the distance for the return of his son. Constantly! He continues to love and longs for his beloved son. Never, ever believe that God will cease to love you, even within your darkest sin.

Sin always has consequences. It may seem glamorous at first, but it always leads to despair, desolation, and death. The son loses everything and longs for home. Does he repent of his sin? Yes, in a way but not completely. He is hungry. Jesus is telling us that God accepts imperfect repentance but transforms it into something deeper. Note, that once the son has decided to return to his home, he composes a two-part speech: "I have sinned" and "Make me your slave".

Now comes the part where knowing the culture is useful. Elderly Jewish men, never, ever run, it is considered disgraceful and undignified. As the son is approaching his native village, he is about to be mocked for having squandered his inheritance. Instead, the villagers will ignore him and laugh at the foolish, old man running. The father receives the mockery (punishment) meant for the son. Jesus pre-figures his own act of love on the cross.

Note what the father does. He gives the son a robe and ring. These are signs of authority and dignity. In the Old Testament, Pharaoh gives Joseph a robe and ring and makes him second in command in the kingdom.

The next thing the father does is extremely significant. He gives the son shoes. In the culture of the time, slaves went about barefoot, only free men wore shoes. Note that as the son tries to give his two-part speech the father interrupts and does not allow him to say, "make me your slave". He is a son not a slave.

And finally, there is the meal. In traditional Jewish culture, offering someone a meal is reserved only of the most intimate of friends and for family. The father is restoring the son his full rights as a son.

Consider this viewpoint. Sin is not just about breaking some rule that has been imposed upon us. It is about rejecting relationship, about rejecting kinship, about rejecting love. And yes, it is a death because we were created to live in a relationship with our Creator, to be sons and daughters, to be above all loved. We are denying our very purpose for existing.

How does God react to our rejection? He waits and longs for our repentance. The minute we make the first move toward reconciliation, even if imperfect, He responds. He foolishly runs toward us. He says, "Know that you have always been my son/daughter and always will be. You who were dead are now alive."

Much to ponder. With the guidance of our Blessed Mother, who kept these things in her heart, may we reflect on the message of this parable and perceive how it can impact our lives. Are we willing to accept that much love.

~ Rico Chapa

Arizona Rosary Celebration

Holy Hour & Dinner the night before the celebration on

Friday, October 14, 2022 at
Our Mother of Sorrows Church,
(1800 S Kolb Road)

6:00 p.m. Holy Hour with Prayer,
Scripture, Guest Speaker
Fr. James Phalan, Rosary inside
the Church

7:15 p.m. Dinner in the Social
Hall, \$15 per person, *ticket required*

**Arizona Rosary Celebration on
Saturday, October 15, 2022**

At St. Augustine Cathedral
(192 S. Stone Avenue)
10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: Blessing
Procession, Music, Guest
Speaker, Rosary

**Rachel's Vineyard (Tucson Area) - If
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class times will be given to you
when you call. Classes will **begin
Saturday, September 24th**.
The R.E. office is open Tuesday
to Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm.

ADULTS needing to receive
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Religious Education office for
registration information.



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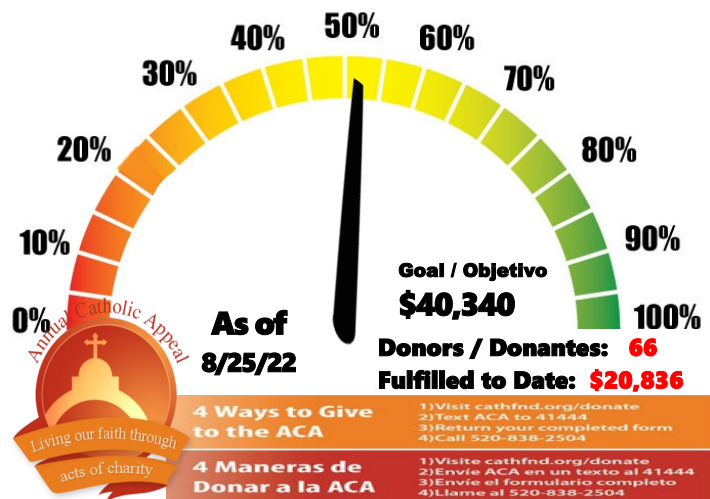
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- Closest to the Pin for Ladies and Men
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PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
THE SANTA CRUZ PARISH/
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OUTREACH PROGRAM



Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 10th

- 8:00am Special Int./Fr. David Costello, O.C.D.
5:30pm In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Int. Carlos & Lily Contreras/R.I.P.

Sunday, September 11th

- 6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners
8:00am In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
10:00am Oscar & Frank Leon/R.I.P.
12:00pm Eva Cota/R.I.P.
6:00pm Walter Arvizu/R.I.P.

Monday, September 12th

- Nichelle Verdugo/Happy Birthday
8:00am Bud & Rose Rucker/
35th Wedding Anniversary

Tuesday, September 13th

- Special Int./Denise Martinez & Family
8:00am In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima/
Int. Souls of infants, victims of abortion/R.I.P.

Wednesday, September 14th

- In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus/
Int. Nieves Ortiz & Family
8:00am Mary Coleman/Happy Birthday

Thursday, September 15th

- J.C. Andersen/R.I.P.
8:00am Charles Kelly/R.I.P.

Friday, September 16th

- Evangelina Lowe/R.I.P.
8:00am Dennis Wheatley/Happy Birthday

Thanking You for Your
Service to Our Parish

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish
1220 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email santacruzparish@hotmail.com ~

Sign up for Flock Notes text santacruzaz to 84576
Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.
In Residence: Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

*Please note that the 12 noon Mass is following full COVID protocols:
social distancing, masks required and distancing in pews

Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, *12 noon & 6 pm

8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: Call the parish office for more information / Llame a la oficina parroquial

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

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Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093

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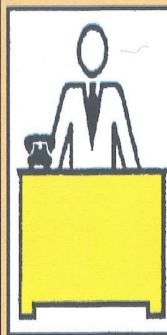
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