Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 14, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When parents love their children, they are willing to do anything for them. It seems to happen, however, that children seldom realize how deep their parents' love is for them. Both sons in Jesus' parable today failed to understand their father's love. Neither comprehended that his devotion to them precisely as his sons could never change, no matter what. The father could not even imagine altering his relationship with his sons.

We usually think first of the younger son, the one who is known as the prodigal son, the son who wasted his inheritance. When he realized his folly, he prepared a little speech to give to his father. In it he would recognize that he was no longer worthy to be called a son, that he would become a hired hand. When he arrives back home and attempted to give his speech, the father would have none of it. He threw his arms around the young man, kissed him, and called for a celebration. He insisted that his son be given shoes to wear, a sign that he was back as part of the family and not a servant since only family members wore shoes in the house.

The older son we somewhat sympathize with. After all, he had not left home but had continued to work dutifully for his father. He refused to join the party for his younger brother, and the reason he gave for his refusal revealed that he too had failed to understand his relationship with his father. He protested, "For years now I have slaved for you, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends." His father was flabbergasted because his son thought of himself as "slaving" for him with an expectation of a reward. He was not serving his father out of love. The father responded, "You are with me always and everything I have is yours." What really reveals the father's feelings is the fact that he addressed the angry son tenderly. He did not admonish him. He looked at him and said two words, "My son."

The father in the parable was a remarkable man. Even more remarkable is God our Father. To begin to understand and appreciate our God, we must remember who we are. We are children of God, his beloved sons and daughters. God will never change his loving relationship with us, even if we abandon him. No matter how foolish we may be in life, no matter how far we may wander from God, our Father reaches out to us by his grace. Every Sunday God welcomes us to his house, the church. Since God is our Father, his house is our family home. Here he invites us to the family celebration, the sacred meal at which his divine Son speaks to us in the words of the Scripture and nourishes us in the Eucharist. We call this sacred meal a celebration, a joyful and happy event because we acknowledge that we were once dead in sin but that Jesus by dying has restored us to life.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 16**	**11:00AM**
Ray & Machiko (Thanksgiving)		Alma & Jong
Wed.	**September 17**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**September 18**	**11:00AM**
Rochelle Reyes		Mom & Dad
Fri.	**September 19**	**11:00AM**
Lena McCrossen †		Gina
Sat.	**September 20**	**4:30PM**
John Sr, John III † & Ken Heuser		Trudi
Sun.	**September 21**	**9:00AM**
Ellen Roth †		Buenaflor -Roth Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Justin Reyes †		Family

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