

St. Boniface

Catholic Church

stboniface.net

230 1st St. NW - Lidgerwood, ND 58053

Also Serving St. Martin of Tours, Geneseo and Sts. Peter & Paul, Cayuga

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saint Boniface
Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

Saint Martin of Tours - Geneseo
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

Saints Peter & Paul - Cayuga
Sunday - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

March 30, 2025 - 4th Sunday of Lent

The Apology

I like to imagine the Prodigal Son practicing his apology in the mirror.

He wouldn't have, of course. Mirrors weren't exactly a dime a dozen back then. But I imagine him anyway, rehearsing the words as he contemplates his own gaunt reflection: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."

In other words, I have done wrong. I deserve nothing from you. But please, don't let me starve. Save me. The apology wasn't necessary to move the heart of the father. We know that because before they meet, before anything is said, the father is overcome with compassion — not because he got his satisfaction, that long-awaited "I'm sorry, I was wrong." No, he's simply overjoyed to see his son alive. Even without apology, we know the father will beg his son to stay.

So why does the son apologize?

The father doesn't need the "I'm sorry." He isn't starving and lost. He knew all along it was a bad idea. He doesn't need to learn any lessons.

But what a tragedy it would have been, if the son had never said he was sorry. Undoubtedly, his father would have let him stay as a hired worker, and he would have had food to eat. He would have survived. But he wouldn't have been what he was born to be.

I often think of the son's apology as I am kneeling in the confessional, awkwardly reciting sins God already knows and is eager to forgive. *Why are you doing this?* some people would ask. *God doesn't need this.*

It's the apology, you see. The apology means everything. The Prodigal Son was dead. The apology brought him back to life.



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'"
- Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC.

CLP

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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freely chose poverty for our salvation: “Though He was rich, yet for our sake He became poor that by His poverty we might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9); He calls us to bear hunger now because He chose to be hungry in the desert for our sake: “He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and after that He was hungry” (Mt. 4:2); He calls us to weep now for our sins and those who remain obstinate in their sins because He wept for us in His journey to Jerusalem: “He wept over the city, saying, ‘Would that even today you knew the things that would make for peace’” (Lk. 19:42); Jesus calls us to embrace our own insults and rejection because He is the Holy One who was “reckoned with the transgressors” (Lk. 22:36).

As Jesus’ disciples today, we also must cultivate the attitudes of Jesus if we are going to share in His happiness. His attitudes are the only ones that are divinely guaranteed to bring us true happiness in this life and in the next. The more that we share in these Christ-like attitudes and cultivate them, the more that we can maintain our happiness in all conditions and experiences of life.

There are three ways that we can begin to possess and grow in these beatitudes of Jesus.

First, we must have a trusting and constant friendship with Jesus Christ.

My late dad often told me, “Show me your friend, and I will tell you the type of person that you are.” He was trying to teach me that I would inevitably imbibe the attitudes of the persons whom I considered my closest friends. Nothing communicates attitude like friendships. Jesus declared us His friends because He communicates to us all that He has from His Father: “I have called you friends because I have revealed to you all that I have heard from my Father” (Jn. 15:15). Our friendship with Him will impact our attitudes in this life.

How trusting are we in our friendship with Christ? Do we trust Him enough to be with us in all circumstances and conditions of our lives? Do we trust Him to constantly train us in His attitude, mold us into His own likeness, and forgive us when we fail? Do we trust in the power of His grace to bring us to act like Him? Do we trust Him enough to reward us for the slightest good attitude that we cultivate out of love for Him?

How constant is our friendship with Christ? Are we friends with Him in the favorable and unfavorable events and experiences of our lives? Are we holding onto His friendship when all seems lost and useless? Are we still friends with Him when we fall short of His standard of behavior and attitude?

The Lord cannot communicate and train us in His attitudes unless we are constant and trusting in His loving friendship.

Secondly, we must renounce and reject our bad attitudes.

If our friendship with Jesus is authentic, it should also bring us to face our attitudes that are contrary to His own attitudes. Authentic friendships serve to make the friends similar. We will either abandon our friendship with Jesus or labor to imbibe His attitude. We will not find peace in our friendship with Him while holding onto attitudes that do not align with His own.

We can face our bad attitudes in life and bring them to Him in confident prayer. We must not pretend that our bad attitudes are no big deal. It is foolish for us to justify our bad attitudes by saying, “I was born like this,” or “This is how I was raised.” Jesus will slowly communicate His attitudes to us if we humbly offer our bad attitudes to Him and beg Him to infuse and train us in His.

Thirdly, we must think about eternity in all our choices and attitudes.

The beatitudes are dispositions of the present moment that seek a future, hoped-for result. Jesus possessed these beatitudes because He did not live for the present moment alone—“For the sake of the joy that was set before Him He endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). Blessed attitudes are possible when we are focused on eternity while engaged in the present moment.

We too must not live for the present moment alone, seeking only to resolve present problems or gain temporal gains without thinking about eternity. This is why St. Paul warned us, “If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all” (1 Cor. 15:19). This means that we have no hope of sharing in Christ’s happiness if we are only focused on the gains of the present moment.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our God is a communion of perfect happiness who longs to communicate this happiness to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. God desires our happiness more than we do. This is why He made us and redeemed us by the blood of His Son. We are not just meant to share in the life of Jesus Christ and His saving mission. We are also to share in His own happiness, His own blessed attitudes now, and in His perfect happiness in heaven.

No matter what our attitudes in the past have been, this is a good time to start begging for, receiving, and cultivating the supernatural blessed attitudes—the attitudes of Jesus—so that we can be truly happy in this life and in the life to come.

Glory to Jesus!!! Honor to Mary!!!