

Reflection for Today

Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son is one of the most beautiful and meaningful parables in all the gospels. It touches us deeply because it addresses forgiveness, both divine and human. It is a revelation of God’s manner of forgiving our offenses: complete and absolute. For anyone burdened with problems of remorse and guilt, this should be music to their ears. The parable is also an example of the wisdom of self-forgiveness. The prodigal son “came to his senses,” repented, and returned home. What this urges us to do is take full responsibility for our decisions and actions, and come to terms with their consequences. Last, this parable stands out as an indictment of lack of forgiveness, as demonstrated in the brother who did not share his father’s compassion for the wayward brother. We are duly warned that not forgiving others comes with its own particular penalties.

Accepting that God forgives us absolutely can do wonders to raise the level of our peace of mind. It is also rebukes, the occasional arrogance that may arise that “God could never forgive me for that.” What would ever make us think God could not forgive us? Furthermore, if God is so forgiving, why would we ever dream of withholding forgiveness from ourselves? We have no need to drag along the baggage of guilt that is potentially so devastating to happy and productive living.

By the same token, of course, we are encouraged to be just as forgiving of others. But this kind of forgiving is often the most difficult to do. Like the unforgiving brother in today’s parable we harbor our resentments and hold on to our grievances and never seem to realize that we are hurting no one but ourselves. Think of the relationships that are shattered, families that are broken up, and whole societies that are ravaged by wars of vengeance, all because grudges are maintained and nurtured. The foolishness that parades around as “teaching them a lesson” staggers the imagination. No one suffers more from a grudge than the one who bears it.

Schedule of Masses

Monday, April 1–St. Hugh

10:00 am (Polish)

+Margaret Glofcheskie (Theresa Shulist)

Tuesday, April 2—No Mass–St. Francis of Paola

Wednesday, April 3–St. Richard

9:30 am Stations of the Cross (Polish)

10:00 am (Polish/English)

+Mary Borutski (Frank & Diane Kutchkoskie)

+Gertrude Pecarski

(Vernon & Rosanne Piecarski)

+Bennie Stamplecoskie

(Andrew & Marlene Shulist)

Thursday, April 4–St. Isidore

9:00 am +Aloysius, August, Agnes & Anthony

Smaglinski, Elizabeth Wilson, Michael &

Julia Prince (Sylvester & Susan Prince)

Friday, April 5–St. Vincent Ferrer

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 3:00 pm

6:30 pm Stations of the Cross (English)

7:00 pm +Agnes Laturski (Laturski Family)

+Alfie Stamplecoskie

(Clemence & Rose Stamplecoskie)

+Silas Piecarskie (Pat & Joyce Cybulskie)

Saturday, April 6–St. Marcellinus

5:00 pm +Delmar Sernoskie (Anniv)

(RoseRita Sernoskie)

Sunday, April 7—5th Sunday of Lent-

St. John Baptist de la Salle

11:00 am (Polish/English)

For all of our parishioners

Ministry Assignments next Sundays

	Sat, Apr 6- 5:00 pm	Sun, Apr 7-11:00 am
Rosary	Susan Prince	Anna Burdzinski Emilia Sadecki Janisa Visutskie
Altar Servers	Delmar Recoskie	Aaran Visutskie Tobias Sullivan Benjamin Sullivan
Lector	Christine Recoskie	Len Gignac / Zbigniew Mroz
Eucharistic Minister	Delmar Recoskie	Steve Platt
	Jerome Kuiack	Barbara Blank
Ushers	Ray Kutchkoskie	Henryk Bartul
	Patrick Kutchkoskie	Joanna Ropego
	Stanley Golka	Stanley Dombroskie
Altar Guild	Sat, Apr 6th to Fri, Apr 12th—Bernice Bleskie & Virginia Platt	



Announcements

Please attend our Lenten Season devotions: Stations of the Cross (Polish) on Wed at 9:30 am followed by Mass (Polish/English), and Stations of the Cross on Fri (English) at 6:30 pm followed by Mass (English). We will also sing the Lamentations following Sunday Mass at 11 am. **Adoration on Fridays** beginning at **3:00 pm**.

Visitation of the sick will be on **Fri, Apr 5th**. If you wish to be added on the list, contact the office.

Reminder that there is a **Lenten & Mission special collection** next weekend. Please support.

SHARE YOUR BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY.

We will collect **non-perishable food** items in the Lenten Season to help provide people in need, as our almsgiving. **Please check expiry dates**. Please leave your items in the box provided at the front of the church. Items will be delivered to Madawaska Valley Food Bank on **Wed, Apr 17th**.

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a bus to go to the March For Life, **Ottawa, on Thurs, May 9th**, with pick-ups in Barry's Bay, Wilno, and Killaloe. The trip is **FREE**. **Schedule and details on bulletin board**. There is a **sign up** sheet at the back of the church this weekend and **Apr 6th and Apr 14th weekends**; or you can call Paul by Apr 15th, to sign up 613-639-2431.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Groups of 2 ladies/men to join the **altar guild**. One hour/week at your convenience. Involves shaking of ferns, vacuum sanctuary carpets, dust railings; does not include flower arranging. Call Lorraine at 613-756-1571.

Pamphlets **available** at the back of the church on **Cremation and Funeral Litugies**.

The members of the **Knights of Columbus** who signed up for the **Diocesan meeting** on **Tues, Apr 2nd**, please be in the hall by **5:45 pm** for the dinner. There will be no regular meeting in April.

All are invited to participate in the celebration of the **Christm Mass** presided by Bishop Mulhall at St. Columbkille Cathedral, **Pembroke, on Tues, Apr 16th** at 10:30 am. During the ceremony, the Bishop will bless the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and he will consecrate the Holy Chrism.

All you can eat **Pancake Breakfast** at the **Barry's Bay Legion** on **Sun, Sun, Apr 14th**. Adults \$10, children \$6 and children under 6, Free.

In your prayers remember:



- * Our sick and hospitalized
- * Our elderly parishioners.
- * All those at the manor, lodge and homebound.
- * Our deceased family & friends.