

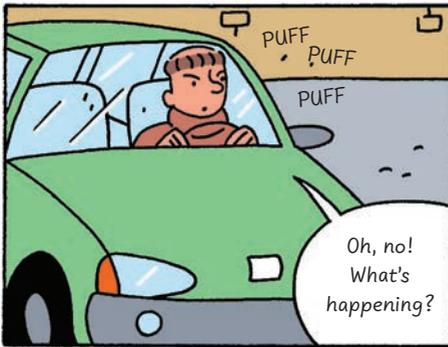
March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent

# MagnifiKid!



“ My son was lost and  
has been found ”



THIS WEEK...

► **Welcoming God's forgiveness**

Even if you have never received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you can still talk to a Priest or religion teacher about it. If you have already started receiving it, you can go see a Priest to ask for God's forgiveness. To get ready, look at pages 4 to 5 of your Ash Wednesday **MagnifiKid!** Don't be afraid to tell God about the bad things you have done—you will receive his love more than ever.

# Boundless love

Read the parable in this week's Gospel. The son who left with his father's money finds out for himself that he would be better off with his father. Look how surprising the father's reaction is when his son comes home. Instead of punishing him, he welcomes the young man with open arms. Then the older brother gets upset. While he was faithful to his father, his younger brother wasted his father's money. Not only that, they throw a party for him! It's not fair! No, it's not fair, but the father's love is not just a matter of what's fair. His son is back, and that is cause for celebration! Like the younger brother in this story, we should never be afraid to ask God for forgiveness, because he will always welcome us back with open arms. At the same time, we should never be angry or jealous when other people receive forgiveness for the bad things they did. This parable teaches us that God is a Father who loves all his children and wants to treat each of us with boundless love and mercy.

*Lisa Reno*



## ► Becoming reconciled

In the evening, when you pray, try to remember what happened during the day—the things you did or the things you said that were not loving. If you think that you have hurt someone's feelings, ask God to forgive you and to give you the strength and courage to make up with that person.

# Sunday, March 30th

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

At Masses where the Scrutinies are celebrated for those to be admitted to the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil, the readings from Year A are always used. The readings and prayers provided here are for the current Sunday (Year C).

→ When the Entrance Chant is concluded, the Priest says:

🗨️ **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

→ The people reply:

🗨️ **Amen.**

### Greeting

🗨️ **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,/ and the love of God,/ and the communion of the Holy Spirit/ be with you all.**

🗨️ **And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

🗨️ **Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,/ and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.**

🗨️ **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned,**

**in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done**

**and in what I have failed to do,**

→ *And, striking their breast, they say:*

**through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;**

→ *Then they continue:*

**therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,**

**all the Angels and Saints,**

**and you, my brothers and sisters,**

**to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

🗨️ **May almighty God have mercy on us,/ forgive us our sins,/ and bring us to everlasting life.**

🗨️ **Amen.**

### Kyrie, eleison

🗨️ **Lord, have mercy.**

🗨️ **Lord, have mercy.**

🗨️ **Christ, have mercy.**

🗨️ **Christ, have mercy.**

🗨️ **Lord, have mercy.**

🗨️ **Lord, have mercy.**

→ *The Gloria is omitted during Lent.*

## “I confess to almighty God”

These are the first words of a prayer which we say at the beginning of Mass to prepare us to hear the Word of God and to receive the Body of Christ. By saying this prayer, we admit to God and one another that we are sinners—meaning that we have turned

- away from God by doing something bad.
- We ask Mary, the angels, all the saints, and all our brothers and sisters to pray to God for us. The Priest concludes with words of absolution (words of forgiveness) which purify us from our less serious sins.

## Collect

🗨️ **O God, who through your Word/  
reconcile the human race to yourself  
in a wonderful way,/ grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager  
faith/ the Christian people may hasten/  
toward the solemn celebrations to  
come./ Through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son,/ who lives and reigns with  
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/  
God, for ever and ever.**

🗨️ **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### A reading from the Book of Joshua

*The people of God entered the promised land  
and there kept the Passover.*

**T**he LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have removed the **reproach of Egypt (1)** from you.”

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. On the day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day after the Passover, on

which they ate of the produce of the land, the **manna (2)** ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

*(Joshua 5:9a, 10-12)*

🗨️ **The word of the Lord.**

🗨️ **Thanks be to God.**



### Psalm 34



**R/ Taste and see the goodness  
of the Lord.**

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the LORD;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad. **R/**

**Glorify (3)** the LORD with me,  
let us together **extol (3)** his name.  
I sought the LORD, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears. **R/**

Look to him that you may be radiant  
with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with  
shame.  
When the poor one called out, the  
LORD heard,  
and from all his distress he saved him. **R/**

## THE DIFFICULT WORDS

**(1)** In this reading, the **reproach of Egypt** means the dishonor and shame that the Israelites felt in Egypt while being held as slaves.

**(2)** **Manna** is the food that God provided each day when his people were in the desert.

**(3)** **Glorify** and **extol** mean the same thing: to celebrate, praise, exalt, to say good things about someone with enthusiasm.



**A reading from  
the second Letter of Saint  
Paul to the Corinthians**

*God reconciled us to himself through Christ.*

**B**rothers and sisters: Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the **ministry (4)** of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin **who did not know sin (5)**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

*(2 Corinthians 5:17-21)*

🗨️ **The word of the Lord.**

🗨️ **Thanks be to God.**

**Verse before the Gospel**

🗨️ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory!**

🗨️ **I will get up and go to my Father  
and shall say to him:/ Father, I have  
sinned against heaven and against you.**

🗨️ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory!**

**Gospel**

🗨️ **The Lord be with you.**

🗨️ **And with your spirit.**

🗨️ **A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Luke.**

🗨️ **Glory to you, O Lord.**



**A reading from the holy  
Gospel according to Luke**

*Your brother was dead and has come to life again.*

**T**ax collectors (6) and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the **Pharisees (7)** and **scribes (8)** began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of

**THE DIFFICULT WORDS**

(4) In this text, the word **ministry** means both mission and responsibility.

(5) He **who did not know sin** is Jesus.

(6) **Tax collectors** in Roman times were not always honest. Often they would steal

from the people by keeping the money they collected for themselves. Since they worked for the Romans, they were hated and scorned.

(7) The **Pharisees** are Jews who try to

the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the **pods (9)** on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger: I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. 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, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.

The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

(Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

🗨️ **The Gospel of the Lord.**  
🗨️ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

### Profession of Faith

**I believe in one God,**

**the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the Only Begotten Son of God,**

## THE DIFFICULT WORDS

remain faithful to Moses' law, even in the smallest acts of daily life. Jesus criticizes them for too severely judging those who don't live like they do.

**(8)** The **scribes** are Jewish religious

● scholars. They know the Scriptures well and  
● are often at the Pharisees' sides.

● **(9)** A **pod** is a long, split covering that some  
● vegetables grow in, like peas and green

● beans.

born of the Father before all ages.  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made, consubstantial  
 with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.  
 For us men and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,

→ *All bow until the words: "and became man."*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
 of the Virgin Mary,  
 and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
 Pontius Pilate,  
 he suffered death and was buried,  
 and rose again on the third day  
 in accordance with the Scriptures.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand  
 of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
 to judge the living and the dead  
 and his kingdom will have no end.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
 the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father  
 and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is  
 adored and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.  
 I believe in one, holy, catholic

and apostolic Church.  
 I confess one Baptism  
 for the forgiveness of sins  
 and I look forward to  
 the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life of the world to come.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Faithful

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

#### Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

→ *If the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud:*

🗣 **Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,/ for through your goodness we have received/ the bread we offer you:/ fruit of the earth and work of human hands,/ it will become for us the bread of life.**

🗣 **Blessed be God for ever.**

🗣 **Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,/ for through your goodness we have received/ the wine we offer you:/ fruit of the vine and work of human hands,/ it will become our spiritual drink.**

🗣 **Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Kingdom of God

In this Sunday's Gospel, the parable ends with a celebration, a great feast. When we celebrate, we often share delicious food with pleasant and happy people. When Jesus speaks about the Kingdom of God, he often compares it to a feast or banquet. Eternal life in the Kingdom will be like sharing a wonderful meal with the people we love. The meal we have with Jesus and with one another in the Eucharist is a special

## Invitation to Prayer

🗨️ **Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),/ that my sacrifice and yours/ may be acceptable to God,/ the almighty Father.**

🗨️ **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands**

**for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

## Prayer over the Offerings

🗨️ **We place before you with joy these offerings,/ which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,/ praying that we may both faithfully revere them/ and present them to you, as is fitting,/ for the salvation of all the world./ Through Christ our Lord.**

🗨️ **Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

🗨️ **The Lord be with you.**

🗨️ **And with your spirit.**

🗨️ **Lift up your hearts.**

🗨️ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

🗨️ **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

🗨️ **It is right and just.**



## Preface I of Lent: The spiritual meaning of Lent

→ *The Priest may choose a different Preface.*

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,/ always and everywhere to give you thanks,/ Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,/ through Christ our Lord./ For by your gracious gift each year/ your faithful await the sacred paschal feasts/ with the joy of minds made pure,/ so that, more eagerly intent on prayer/ and on the works of charity,/ and participating in the mysteries/ by which they have been reborn,/ they may be led to the fullness of grace/ that you bestow on your sons and daughters./ And so, with Angels and Archangels,/ with Thrones and Dominions,/ and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,/ we sing the hymn of your glory,/ as without end we acclaim:

🗨️ **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord  
God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full  
of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

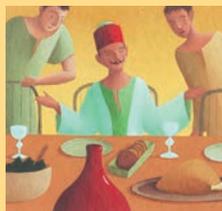
**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

→ *The Priest has over ten different texts to choose from. During this prayer, he asks the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine so that they become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The Priest then says the words of Jesus:*

## THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHT

sign of the Kingdom. Just as we are joined together by Holy Communion at Mass, all of God's people will be joined together with Jesus for ever in heaven.



“TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,/ FOR THIS IS MY BODY,/ WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.”

“TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,/ FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,/ THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,/ WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY/ FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS./ DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.”

→ After the Body and Blood of Christ are raised, we say or sing an acclamation. This is the most common one:

Q The mystery of faith.

Q We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

→ During the rest of the Eucharistic Prayer, we pray for the whole Church. At the end, the Priest says:

Q Through him, and with him, and in him,/ O God, almighty Father,/ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ all glory and honor is yours,/ for ever and ever.

Q Amen.

## Communion Rite

Q At the Savior’s command/ and formed by divine teaching,/ we dare to say:

Q Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Q Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,/ graciously grant peace in our days,/ that, by the help of your mercy,/ we may be always free from sin/ and safe from all distress,/ as we await the blessed hope/ and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Q For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Q Lord Jesus Christ,/ who said to your Apostles:/ Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,/ look not on our sins,/ but on the faith of your Church,/ and graciously grant her peace and unity/ in accordance with your will./ Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Q Amen.

Q The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Q And with your spirit.

Q Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

→ Then the Priest takes the host, breaks it over

## Your prayer after Communion

After receiving Holy Communion, you can say this prayer silently to yourself. If you have not yet received your First Communion, you can still say this prayer because of your desire to receive Jesus.

● Father, through Jesus, in union with the whole Church, I thank you for coming into my heart. I turn to you today and thank you for all the times you have forgiven my sins. I believe that you are full of love and mercy.

the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice.  
Meanwhile, the following is sung or said:

**Lamb of God**, you take away the sins  
of the world,  
have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God**, you take away the sins  
of the world,  
have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God**, you take away the sins  
of the world,  
grant us peace.

## Invitation to Communion

→ While holding up the consecrated host, the Priest says:

🗨️ **Behold the Lamb of God, / behold him who takes away the sins of the world. / Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

🗨️ **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## Prayer after Communion

🗨️ **O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, / illuminate our hearts, we pray, / with the splendor of your grace, / that we may always ponder / what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty / and love you in all sincerity. / Through**

**Christ our Lord.**

🗨️ **Amen.**

## CONCLUDING RITES

### Brief announcements

### Prayer over the People and Final Blessing

🗨️ **The Lord be with you.**

🗨️ **And with your spirit.**

🗨️ **Look upon those who call to you,**

**O Lord, / and sustain the weak; / give life by your unfailing light / to those who walk in the shadow of death, / and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil / to reach the highest good. / Through Christ our Lord.**

🗨️ **Amen.**

🗨️ **And may the blessing of almighty God, / the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, / come down on you and remain with you for ever.**

🗨️ **Amen.**

### Dismissal

→ In these or similar words the Priest or Deacon dismisses the people:

🗨️ **Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.**

🗨️ **Thanks be to God.**



I pray that this Communion will prepare me for life in your Kingdom, where I hope to be united with you and with all your people for all eternity.

Now, listen attentively to the prayer that the Priest is going to say in the name of the entire congregation. It is your prayer, too. You can follow along in *MagnifiKid!* It is the Prayer after Communion.



*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Open the doors of our hearts so that we might hear the Word of the Lord!*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

*Lord, help me today not to stray from you. Let me see in each person one of your beloved brothers or sisters.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

# Pray

Morning  
Evening

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Let us be converted so that we believe in the Good News!*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

*Lord, please forgive me for everything that has caused me to stray from your love. I want to come back to you with all my heart.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



*If you want to, before falling asleep, you can also say the Hail Mary.*

# Bringing It All Together

The Gospel this week teaches us that we can receive forgiveness at any time. Open your Lenten booklet to page 5 and look at the four drawings which illustrate the parable of the prodigal son.

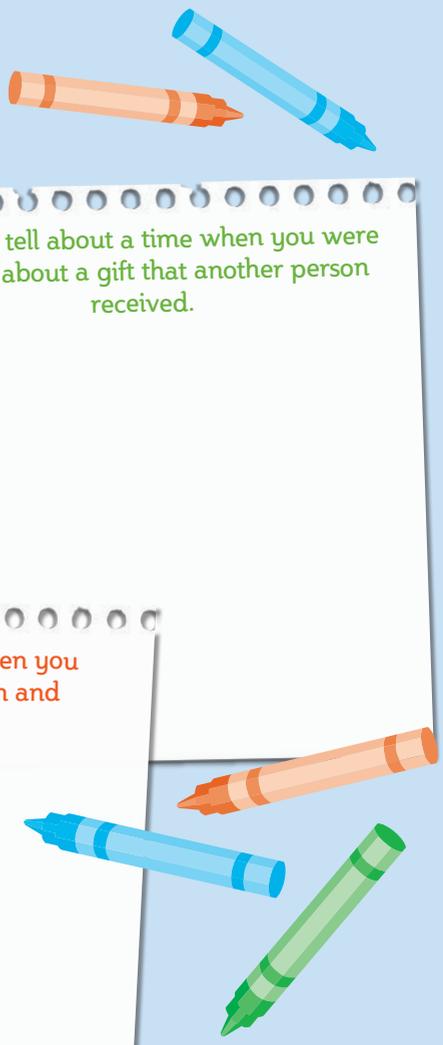
Tell about a time when you, too, were sorry for something you did, or express it in a drawing.

Draw or tell about a time when you were jealous about a gift that another person received.

Now, draw a picture or tell about a time when you were forgiven, as the father forgave his son and welcomed him back with open arms.

Write a prayer thanking the Lord for his patience and for welcoming us back to him.

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## Do-it-yourself CORNER

# The stained- glass window of reconciliation

To remind you of the father's boundless love in the parable of the prodigal\* son, MagnifiKid! suggests that you make a stained-glass window. The inspiration for this picture was taken from a painting by Rembrandt, a great Dutch painter from the 17th century.

**1.** Cut the transparent sheet to the same size as the model and attach it with a bit of adhesive tape. If you would like to create your own model, draw your version of the reconciliation between the father and the prodigal son on a sheet of paper and attach the plastic sheet onto it.

**2.** Trace the outline of the drawing with Puffy Paint or with a felt pen and let dry for at least an hour.

Color the background and the three people however you want, but be careful to give the kneeling son a poor appearance and the father and brother a richer one.

**3.** You can write the name of the parable ("The Prodigal Son") on your work, then sign and date it.

**4.** Now all you have to do is attach your stained-glass window to your bedroom window. Depending on the time of the day and the color of the sky, the colors in your painting will be more or less bright, just like a stained-glass window in a church.

\* A person who spends too much.





### Material:

- a sheet of video projector plastic
- paint for glass
- a medium sized paintbrush
- a tube of Puffy Paint™ or a black felt pen for video projector use
- invisible adhesive tape

This project should be carried out under the supervision of an adult.



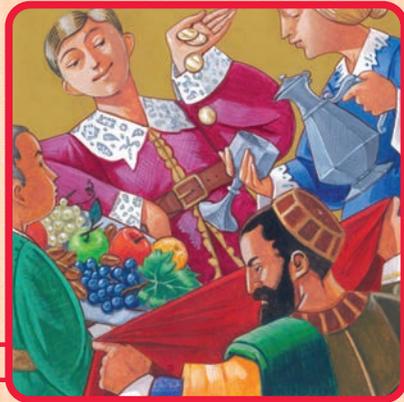
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2



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4



5



6

Reread the Gospel that was read at Mass and put the 6 pictures in the right order.

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