



COR₁₁
HEART OF THE
FATHER



**Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque
Prayer to the Sacred Heart:**

Lord Jesus,

Let my heart never rest until it finds You,
who are its Center, its Love, and its Happiness.

By the wound in Your heart
pardon the sins that I have committed
whether out of malice or out of evil desires.

Place my weak heart in your own Divine Heart,
continually under Your protection and guidance,
so that I may persevere in doing good
and in fleeing evil until my last breath.

Amen.

Lectio Divina: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Brothers, we reflect on Jesus's parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32), a story of God's boundless love. Open your hearts to the Holy Spirit.

Meditation (Reading and Reflection):

Read Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 slowly. What words resonate? What challenges you? What is the Spirit saying?

Consider:

- Why were sinners drawn to Jesus? How does this challenge our welcome of others?
- What does the younger son's request reveal about his desires? Have you ever prioritized your own desires?
- Reflect on his hardships. What does this teach about straying from God? Can you identify with his emptiness?
- What motivated his return? How does his confession show his understanding? Do you regularly seek reconciliation?
- How does the father's reaction reveal God's mercy? Have you experienced such acceptance?
- What is the significance of the father's gifts? What do they symbolize?
- Consider the older son's reaction. What does his anger reveal? Have you felt resentful?
- Reflect on the father's words about joy in his son's return. How does this call us to unity and rejoicing?
- Where do you see yourself in this parable?



Contemplation:

Choose a word or phrase (e.g., "compassion," "finest robe," "lost and found," "brother").

In silence, hold this word in your heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to illuminate its meaning for you.

Imagine the scene: the father's love, the son's return, the brothers' reactions. How does this story affect you?

Call to Action (Prayer and Action):

Consider:

- Pray for deeper understanding of God's mercy and forgiveness. Confess any times you've strayed or felt resentment.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you extend mercy to others.
- Reflect on welcoming back those who feel lost.
- Consider how to better embody love and unity.
- Pray for a spirit of support within your community.
- Reflect on celebrating the reconciliation of others.

A Moment of Grace:

The Lost Son reveals God's extravagant love, always ready to welcome us home. May we embrace this love and extend it to others. Amen.

Our Shared Lectio Divina Journey

Three volunteers will lend their voices to the Sacred Text, inviting us into three profound encounters with the Word. After each reading, we will pause for a moment of sacred silence, allowing the words to penetrate our souls.

- Following the first reading, we will share a word or phrase that ignited our hearts. This simple act of sharing weaves a tapestry of spiritual perspectives, enriching our individual journeys.
- After the second reading, we will delve into the depths of meaning, reflecting on how the chosen word or phrase resonates with our personal experiences. This deeper contemplation allows us to connect the divine message to our lives in a tangible way.
- Finally, after the third reading, we will consider the divine invitation before us. This call to action might be a whisper of guidance, a nudge towards transformation, or a spark of divine inspiration. Let us share our insights with open hearts, fostering a sense of spiritual community and shared purpose.

✠ Lectio Divina ✠

The Prodigal Son

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 15,1-3.11-32.

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So to them he addressed this parable.

Then he said, "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 local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine.

And he longed to eat his fill of the pods 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."

As We Depart

Loving God, we thank you for your Word and the presence of your Spirit, which have shown us the depth of your mercy in the parable of the Lost Son. Open our hearts to your forgiveness and empower us to extend that same grace to others.

Grant us the wisdom to welcome all with open arms and the joy to celebrate reconciliation in our lives and communities. May the lessons of this parable guide our steps as we strive to reflect your love in the world.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.



Last Saturdays of the Month
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St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle against the devil's snares that tempt us to stray from our Father's love, just as the lost son journeyed to a distant land. May God rebuke the spirit of resentment that would keep us from the joy of welcoming back those who have been lost. O Prince of the heavenly host, by God's power, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits. Help us to always embrace the boundless mercy of our Father, that welcoming love which seeks us out, forgives our failings, and rejoices when we are found.

Amen.



Lord Jesus, in Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 you reveal the profound mercy and unconditional love of our Father through the parable of the Lost Son. We are moved by the father's eagerness to welcome back his wayward child and his joy at his return. Grant us the grace to embrace this same spirit of compassion, to extend forgiveness to those who have strayed, and to rejoice in the reconciliation of all who are lost and then found. May this powerful story deepen our understanding of your Father's heart and inspire us to mirror that love in our own lives, becoming instruments of welcome and reconciliation in the world.

Amen.



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