



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

## THIS SUNDAY September 11 & BEYOND



Because God has made us in his own image, the characteristics and dynamics of human life often provide a vocabulary for helping us learn something about God. However, we also have to be careful not to work backwards and assign God the same imperfections we have as fallen creatures, as we see the Pharisees and scribes doing in today's gospel lesson. They have no trouble whatsoever writing off the tax collectors and sinners, but in his parables Jesus shows us what God really thinks of these "lost causes."

God has created each of us to receive his love and reveal it to the world in a particular way through our own unique gifts and experiences. This is God's deepest desire for us, and so Jesus shows us in his parables that when our sin gets in the way, God doesn't abandon us in anger, but chases after us. When we're lost, there is nothing God won't go through, there is no place he won't search to find us, even if it seems ridiculous. No one in their right mind would go off looking for one sheep and leave the other ninety-nine at risk or turn the house upside down looking for a single coin. And if that's not enough of a waste of time and energy, then there's the invitation to rejoice and celebrate! A big part of what makes these parables beautiful is how far beyond practical they are, and the parable of the prodigal son which follows right after is borderline outrageous!

It's in this impractical and outrageous love of God that we find some consolation, knowing that we can never be too far gone. Then, after we've been found and restored to his love, God rejoices, but he's not satisfied. Jesus tells us that even the hairs on our heads are numbered to remind us that nothing about our lives is small or insignificant. God wants our lives to be full, so he's not satisfied with leaving any corner of them untouched. So don't be too quick to write off some part of your life, something you think can never change. Nothing about you is a lost cause and nothing in your life is too small for God to make it something great.

Father McQueen

## Readings for this Sunday

Exodus 32:1, 7-14 Psalm 51:1-11 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

## Calendar

SUNDAY:            8:00a Low Mass (Church)  
                         9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)  
                         10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)  
                         —*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue*—

*Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

MONDAY            7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY:        Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY:           9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)  
                         9:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)  
AA Meetings 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)  
                         8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)  
                         8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)