Of course I know it’s bad, but I’m not sure if I feel like it’s that bad. Maybe I’m a little bitter that I haven’t been and probably won’t be the prodigal party animal. And to top it all off, when it all goes legitimately bad for the bad boy, he comes home all repentant and daddy just gives him a big hug, forgives him for everything, and throws him another party. So if that’s what I can expect from God after I sin, why not live it up a little and then say sorry when I’ve had enough?

Clearly I’m not getting it. And I guess that’s why I relate to the older brother. I also guess this is why I find parables so annoying, and Jesus so scary (even when he’s all lovey-dovey). There’s nothing comfortable about this story for me. Robert Farrar Capon says “parable after parable is deliberately designed to offend even the most elementary moral sense.” Mission accomplished! If Jesus was telling this parable to criticize the Pharisees, then – whoops – I intuitively side with the Pharisees. That’s embarrassing. So maybe this parable isn’t about moral behaviour at all? I’m going to assume that Jesus isn’t saying that licentiousness is good for us, but rather that he’s got a different point entirely: the point is being with the Father, plain and simple. “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.” That’s what ultimately matters. So maybe I need to get off my moral high horse (which turns out to be a convenient place from which to both judge others and beat myself up) and just let God be with anybody who comes home to him. And that, I think, is probably a lesson I need to hear, over and over and over again.

Book Club

Time / Date: Tuesday March 15 at 7 pm
Location: Classroom 1-03

The selection for March is Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home”. There are convenient links to html and pdf versions at https://laudatosi.com/. Kindle and paperback versions are available from amazon at http://www.amazon.ca/Laudato-Si-Care-Common-Home/dp/1612783864 . The Edmonton Public Library also has a few copies.

The Edmonton Archdiocese has a webpage (http://caedm.ca/laudato.aspx) with links to several resources, including a series of reflections on the various chapters (scroll down to bottom of page).

New 100 Voices Pre-Kindergarten Programming

Edmonton Catholic Schools’ 100 Voices offers pre-kindergarten programming for 3 and 4 year olds in unique City of Edmonton Recreation Centres and Attraction sites throughout the city. Genesis School Sites include the Valley Zoo, John Janzen Nature Centre, Mutart Conservatory, Kinsmen Sports Centre and many more! For a complete list of location information and how to register for these exciting programs please go to www.genesis.edsd.net or call 780-638-1884. An Open House will be held on April 26th, 2016 at Genesis Early Learning 10537-44 St at 7PM.

Would you like envelopes? Detach the following form and put it in the collection basket, give it to Fr. Glenn, or email the information to glenn.mcdonald@ualberta.ca. The envelopes will be mailed to you.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Postal Code: ______________________
Ph# ____________________________

Penitential Service: March 7th at 7 pm
Holy Thursday: March 24th at 7 pm
Good Friday: March 25th at 2 pm & 4 pm
Easter Vigil: March 26th at 9 pm
Easter Sunday: March 27th at 9:30 am and 11 am

Solidarity Way of the Cross: Friday March 18th after the noon mass using the theme “Create of Climate of Change”. All are welcome.


It’s not like we haven’t heard the story of the prodigal son a million times already. But the odd thing for me is that, even though it’s all too familiar – and so I’m supposed to know what the lesson is – I still find myself sympathizing with the other son, the one who wasn’t prodigal. That guy is pretty choked at his father, who embraces the prodigal son without a thought to the evil he’s done – so the other son, the ‘good’ one, ends up feeling like chopped liver. I mean, wouldn’t you rather be the prodigal son? I think I’m a bit jealous of him. He gets his inheritance paid out early and then spends it all on hookers and booze. Aside from running out of money and eating pig feed, that doesn’t sound all that bad (especially if you could manage to avoid running out of cash).

Continues on page 4…
Hi, My name is….  

Hi, My name is.....  

Fr Terry Kersch  
President  

Brian Maraj  
Dean  

Theresa Robinson  
Campus Minister  

Music Ministry  
Can you sing or play an instrument?  
Music ministry is always looking for new recruits.  
9:30 and 11 am Masses  
Tegan Hryciw  
StJoesc.music@gmail.com  
7 pm Mass  
Theresa Robinson  
Theresa.Robinson@ualberta.ca  
4:30 pm (Sat.) Mass  
Cerina Lee  
jlee7@ualberta.ca  

Sunday Coffee or Brunch  
There is often free coffee in the cafeteria follow the 11 am mass. Brunch is served in the cafeteria follow the 11 am mass for a cost of $9 person. Why not join us?  

Public Lecture: A Many Mottled Beast: Religion, Media, and the Public Square by Dr. Michael Higgins  
Time: 4:00pm  
Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2016  
Location: Boardroom, St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta  

An exploration of the complex, often contradictory, muddled and contorted media perspective(s) on the role of religion in the public arena. Drawing on some meaningful and credible correctives around the misperception of faith by reporters, commentators and analysts this presentation will highlight some of the extraordinary work done by investigative journalists and why, in the end, their work has been a boon for religion.  

Please RSVP for this presentation to: sara.mckeon@ualberta.ca  

Every Life Matters  

In the midst of the political debate around assisted suicide and euthanasia, we must never forget the beauty of the Christian view of life and death. Every Life Matters (ELM) is a campaign sponsored by the Archdiocese of Edmonton to promote the true dignity of life and death. It focuses particularly on prevention of any form of suicide. It offers a positive alternative to the pro-suicide messages we hear through the media and even from our highest court.

Every Life Matters was launched by Archbishop Richard Smith in support of the Canadian Bishops’ Life-Giving Love national campaign for palliative and home care and against euthanasia and assisted suicide. It follows a series of listening sessions in 2015, where the Archbishop heard questions and concerns on these issues from hundreds of people. For more information on Every Life Matters, and to see some of these questions and answers, visit our Every Life Matters webpage http://caedm.ca/ELM.