

Just a Minute
can bring us closer to Jesus

God's Abundant Mercy

It often happens that an innocent, well-meaning gesture, conversation or action spirals into distraction, temptation, even addiction... It is a part of our humanness, the flaw of original sin, and it happens to all of us.

Sin chips away at our relationship with God, our truest source of joy. At first, the sin *seems* gratifying, even beautiful. We justify why "it's no big deal." Inevitably, the burden of separation from God makes us miserable; we become a slave to sin. We become so twisted up in it's shackles, we're afraid to let them go. The last time I experienced this kind of sin, my prayers for help changed. Instead of just, "Jesus, please help me let go of this," I added, "and please help me not to be afraid of letting go."

Envision Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son: For years a father watches the distant road waiting for his lost son who has gone off and squandered his inheritance. At last, he sees him and runs to him. His son humbly falls before him, "Father I have sinned and no longer deserve to be yours." The father throws a celebration fit for a king. His son, who was literally starving, ate of the fatted calf. He was nourished, and the burden of death was lifted from his shoulders.

The last Sunday of each month we are offered the miracle of God's abundant mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus' death on the cross was God, who is love, turning toward sin and *becoming* mercy for our sake. God longs for us to come into his loving arms, to accept his invitation.

Contemplate the banner on the confessional door. After Mass today, the cross just to the upper right of the door will be illuminated. Jesus longs for us at that door, and God throws one humdinger of a party!

*Blessings,
Laura Gyawali,
PSR Principal*