

**Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Saturday 4:00 PM	September 11 For all victims of 9/11
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00PM	September 12 Charlene Piccolo-Stipo John Curley - 1st Anniversary Paul Sullivan
Monday 12:10 PM	September 13 Parishioners
Tuesday 12:10 PM	September 14 Barbara Bagni
Wednesday 12:10 PM	September 15 David J. McKeen
Thursday 12:10 PM	September 16 In memory of the Marron Family
Friday 12:10 PM	September 17
Saturday 4:00 PM	September 18 Bramante Family
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00PM	September 19 West-Ender Mass Parishioners

Parish Support

September 5 Offertory **\$2,706**



Sanctuary Lamp **Week of September 12**
In memory of Don Gregory

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you to the members of the finance committee who met this past week. We appreciate the time and effort, the talent they are willing to share for all our sakes. Thanks!

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

This week's Second Collection supports The Catholic University of America (CUA) and its scholarship fund for the needy students. CUA, located in Washington, D.C. is the national university of the Catholic Church. Many priests and professional lay ministers throughout the US obtain their education from CUA. For more information, please visit www.cua.edu.



"I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." - Lk 15:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My raspberry patch is about three feet wide and twenty-five feet long. I planted it just a few years ago, putting in two different varieties, a more traditional summer bearing type and what is often described as ever-bearing, which is really a type that bears its first crop in the fall, but will bear again the next summer if you leave the canes standing. Raspberries don't demand a whole lot of work-just some manure in the spring, appropriate watering when the berries are forming, and pruning out the dead canes each year after the crop has been exhausted. Because of their fragility, fresh raspberries are hand-harvested, making them an expensive item in the produce department. It's always amazing to me to see a price of \$5.00 on a little six-ounce container when my own little patch produces over sixty pints in July, and still more in the fall up until frost. It is a prodigious abundance.

Prodigious is an apt description for God's actions in this week's Gospel story. The parables that Jesus presents-the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son-each have endings that seem incredible to any sober analysis of the situations. The value of ninety-nine sheep is huge. It is not worth it to abandon them in the desert-a place of great danger-to look for one. Gathering friends and neighbors for a celebration costs more than the value of a single coin. And throwing a banquet for someone who has used up half of all your assets just doesn't make sense.

But that is the prodigious nature of God. Just like my raspberry patch, which produces so much with so little effort, God's mercy is continuously poured out over and over again. Like raspberries in a store, that mercy came at a great price-through the death of his Son on the cross. But God's mercy bears fruit constantly leading us back when we stray.



