

The Easter Cycle

Poon Paregentan (Gen. 2:1-9, 15-17, 21-23). A happy celebration of how God intended life to be when he created Adam and Eve and gave them Paradise.

The Sunday of Expulsion (Gen. 3:1-24). A sad remembrance of the sin of Adam and Eve: disobeying God. People have lost Paradise and realize the consequences of sin, separation from God.

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Lk. 15:11-32). This is the first step in our process of regaining the lost Paradise. The story of this Sunday is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. He asks his father for his share of his inheritance and sets off for worldly adventures. When everything is gone, he comes home to ask his father if he can be a servant in his father's house. His father sees him as he is coming home and knows this son wants to be back with his family again. The father runs out to greet the son and accept him back, not as a servant, but as his son again. The older son complains, but the father reassures him that there will always be a place for the older son in his home. He wants the older son to know how happy he is that the younger son is home. The lesson this story teaches us is that we have to turn away from sin and back to God. We have to ask God for forgiveness. God is happy when we return to him.

The Sunday of the Steward (Luke 16:1-13). The parable tells us of a man who is in charge of his boss' bills. The

boss finds out the steward has not been doing his job well. He asks the steward to show him all the bills before he will be fired. The steward thinks of a way to make sure he will have a new job when he loses this one. He calls each of the people who owe his boss and tells them they can pay back less than they owe. Each person is happy to pay less and the steward thinks one of them will give him a job. The lesson is that we have lost our original paradise so we must use all our intelligence to gain the new Kingdom that Jesus has promised us.

The Sunday of the Judge (Luke 18:1-8). This story is about a woman who has a case in court that the judge has not settled yet. She keeps after him every day to settle it. The judge doesn't care about the woman, but he wants to be rid of her so he settles her case. Jesus tells us that the judge settled the woman's case even though he didn't care about her because she kept after him to do so. Jesus then tells us that God, who loves us very much, will do for us what we ask him to do if we continually pray for it. (God gives us what is good for us). What we should always ask God for is to be accepted into the Kingdom.

The Sunday of Advent (Mark 13). On this Sunday we are told about what will happen when Jesus comes again. This world as we now know it will end. Christ will come and resurrect the dead. The living and the dead will be judged. Those who have lived their