

**March 30-31, 2019**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday (Rejoice)**  
**Joshua 5:9-12                      Second Corinthians 5:17-21                      Luke 15:1-32**

A story right out of our Yorba Linda/Orange County suburbs...a story tinged with **ARROGANCE** (Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me....), **SHORTSIGHTEDNESS** (when he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country and he found himself in dire need...), **CONNIVING** ((I shall get up and go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I sinned have against heaven and against you...)) **PATERNAL LOVE** (while he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion...) **CELEBRATION** ( Put a ring on his finger, bring out the finest robe, slaughter the fattened calf, then let us celebrate because this son of mine was dead and has come to life again, he was lost and he has been found...), **JEALOUSY** (The older son became angry and refused to enter the house...) As we cross the midway point of Lent and begin to speed toward Easter, this weekend offers us a glimpse of a world...of a God, **BEYOND** vindictiveness, revenge and cruelty. A God who longs for us to be fully reunited with him, a God who waits and watches for our hearts to open to him, a God who longs to celebrate our return to sanity. In a culture that clings to possessions and defines human value by achievement and prestigious accomplishment (shades of the university scandals), this **LAETARE** weekend points us toward the empty tomb of Easter as the balm for all that befuddles, threatens and wounds us. In a world that can only offer the emptiness of human possessions that age, rot, are stolen or lost....a relationship with Jesus extends to us incomprehensible wholeness and unlimited life...as well as a Cross by which entry is unlocked.

Thank you for sharing this Laetare-Lenten weekend with our Santa Clara community. This coming Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, is the occasion of our Knight of Columbus Dinner followed by our **ALL MINISTRY**-Stations of the Cross. Please see the advertisement in our Bulletin. Last call for anyone who has not yet made your Good Friday Prayer Breakfast reservations... the opportunity to participate will be closing this coming weekend....so please do not delay any longer. You are **INVITED** to help transform our Church/Hall into a suitable Fresh and Colorful Garden by which to celebrate the Easter Season....our Art & Environment team will do all the work...all you have to do is avail of the Easter Flower Envelopes available at the entrances/exits...thanks for your generosity. Monday is **APRIL FOOLS DAY**....so make it a good one...and please remember, no fooling...you are loved. **FKB**