

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
September 11, 2022**

THE LOST

The parables of mercy that we hear this Sunday, while being the unequivocal declaration that God's merciful love for us is limitless, also allow us to "dive into the heart of God" and experience His profound joy in each one of us. Realizing our error, we turn to Him with a humble and contrite heart.

If, on the one hand, the parable of the lost sheep and the drachma show God's tireless search for us, without ever giving up on the definitive encounter with us, the parable of the prodigal son highlights the irreplaceable role that our freedom and desire to return to the intimacy of the Father play a vital role in this whole process.

The joy referred to in the three parables is precisely the fruit of the meeting of these two freedoms: that of God, who never ceases to seek us, and ours, of being found and rescued by Him.

Am I truly aware that God's merciful love for me is boundless?

What in my life have I not yet allowed to be "touched by this love"?

Do I truly rejoice in the fruits of conversion that I see in my brothers?

Remembering the innocent who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and the courageous in its the aftermath,

May they rest in God's eternal Peace,

Father John Carlos

常年期第二十四主日 (9/11/2022)

今日是常年期第二十四主日。今日的聖道禮中講出：天主期待所有人得救。舊約時代以色列子民得罪天主，新約時代保祿迫害教會，甚至我們每天也會有意無意地冒犯天主，但天主依然深愛我們，時刻等待我們回頭。

下面分享今日主日福音（出 32：7-11；弟前 1：12-17；路 15：1-10）的反省 摘自【我靈贊頌主 iBreviarium】

今天的三篇讀經都在闡釋天主慈悲為懷、樂於寬恕的特質。而福音中的三個比喻更進一步說明：天主絕不會因為一個人犯罪遠離了祂，就對其棄之不顧，相反，祂定會不惜一切代價地將其找回來，並為此而高興喜樂。然而，從人性的角度講，要完全理解和接受這樣的天主卻不太容易，因為我們習慣了把天主看作一為「賞善罰惡」的神明，祂怎麼可能無條件寬恕並接受那些罪人呢？為了糾正人的這一錯誤的神明觀，天主藉著耶穌基督的降生成人，希望把真實的自己啟示給人類，進而幫助改善我們同神、我們同自己、我們同他人的關係。