

**Luke 15:11–32, cont'd**

I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

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### **Highlights from Last Week's Annual Meeting**

- Father reported that SMOC continues to grow with new catechumens, for which we are thankful!
- The 2026 Budget was approved. The ministry budget will see a 25% increase in 2026. The Church is in good financial shape.
- Our work in the local community is making a real impact. Thank you to all that support our efforts with the St. John meals!
- We want to increase the Fall Festival income to help support our ministry operation. In 2026, the Fall Festival will be spearheaded by the Ministry team. See Melissa Allen if you can help out at this year's event!
- Danny Panella was elected as the new parish Treasurer. A big thank you to Tom Julian for his service to SMOC!
- The remodeling of the Kitchen was approved, at a cost to not exceed \$32,000. Half of this cost has been raised, and we are accepting donations for the remaining balance of this project.
- The Church picnic is scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at Green Isle Park.
- A Time and Talents survey was handed out. Please return them to the candle stand. If you still need one, see Paul Novak!
- The north side of the church needs to be painted this year. See Matt Tomac if you can help with this project!
- Parish Council will discuss moving its monthly meetings back to in-person on Sunday afternoons, following church services.

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