

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the HIGH POINTS of salvation history. Therefore, for the last three Sundays, we reflected on God's covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today's 1st reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God's final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David. His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. There was sorrow and lamentation all around.

But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple. God is rich in mercy, He promised that David's kingdom would last forever, and that David's son would be His Son and rule all nations. It is in Jesus, God keeps that promise and the promise was fulfilled.

Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation. Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross to draw all people to himself. Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father's love condemn themselves, as did the Israelites in their infidelity.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God's handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth. Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One and rededicate ourselves to living the "good works" that God has prepared us for.

Fr. Michael



Las lecturas de los domingos en tiempo de Cuaresma, nos han mostrado LOS PUNTOS MÁS ALTOS de la salvación de la historia. Por consiguiente, por los últimos tres domingos, reflexionamos en la alianza de Dios con la creación en el tiempo de Noé; Sus promesas a Abraham; la ley que dio a Israel en el Sinaí.

En la 1era lectura de hoy, escuchamos acerca de, la destrucción del reino establecido por la alianza final de Dios en el Viejo Testamento – el pacto con David. Su pueblo escogido abandono la ley que, Él les dio. Por sus pecados, el templo fue destruido, y fueron exiliados en Babilonia. Hubo dolor y lamentación todo alrededor.

Pero también escuchamos como Dios, en su misericordia, los trae de regreso, incluso ungiendo un rey pagano para pastorearlos, y reconstruir el templo. Dios es rico en misericordia, El prometió que el reino de David duraría para siempre, y que el hijo de David seria su Hijo y gobernaría todas las naciones. Es en Jesús, que Dios mantiene esa promesa y la promesa se cumplió.

Moisés levanto la serpiente como signo de salvación. Ahora Jesús es levantado en la Cruz para atraer a todos los pueblos hacia Él. Aquellos que rehúsan creer en este signo del amor del Padre, se condenan ellos mismos, como lo hicieron los israelitas por su infidelidad.

Pero Dios no dejo a Israel en el exilio, y Él no quiere dejarnos a ninguno de nosotros muertos por nuestras trasgresiones. Nosotros somos el trabajo de Dios, salvados para vivir como su pueblo en la luz de su verdad. A la mitad de esta temporada de arrepentimiento, de nuevo, contemplemos al Perforado y re dediquémonos a vivir las "buenas obras" que Dios ha preparado para nosotros.

Padre Miguel

THE DOCTOR IS IN!! Dr. Ray is coming to Eugene! Join Mater Dei Radio for an exciting evening with EWTN's Dr. Ray Guarendi. Equip yourself for Lent, and don't miss Dr. Ray's "*Strengthen Your Family with Catholic Media*" at **7:00pm, March 13th**, at Marist High School. Tickets are free, but *very* limited. Get yours now, at: MaterDeiRadio.com. Dr. Ray Guarendi is a father of 10, clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and nationally syndicated radio and television host. His radio show— "The Doctor Is In" — can be heard weekdays.

CARMELITE AUXILIARY — The Auxiliary will meet on the 2nd Monday, **March 12th, 10:00am**, at the Carmel of Maria Regina (87609 Green Hill Rd. Eugene), in the library. Questions? Call Luellen at 541-915-5342.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS — Regular Court meeting at St. Mary on Thursday, **March 15** ... all are welcome to attend Mass at 12:15, and then a **brown bag lunch** and meeting at **1:00pm**, in the parish hall. THEN, there is an upcoming EVENING of Prayer + meeting on **April 19, 5:30-7:30pm**, also in the parish hall (lite snacks provided). For info: Julia Kelso at 541-344-6851, or www.cdacourtregion118.com.

UPCOMING RETREATS:

SERVING THE LORD IN PRAYER & WORK ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A MONK? Consider the Monastic Life at Mt. Angel Abbey — *Come and See* weekend **March 16-18**; open to men 18-45 years of age, free of charge. Please contact Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, at: odo.recker@mtangel.edu, or visit www.mountangelabbey.org/vocations, or call 503-845-3123.

HOLY WEEK RETREAT — At St. Benedict Lodge, **March 29th** (begins with dinner) — **April 1st at noon**. Cost is \$125/person for a private room or \$90/person with double occupancy — \$30/person deposit required with registration. For info: 541-822-3572 or website (www.sblodge.opwest.org). Address for St. Benedict Lodge: 56630 North Bank Rd, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413.

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

HMMM DOES THE CHURCH TEACH SALVATION BY WORKS?

"The Lord is just and loves just deeds", the psalmist says, and "the upright will see his face" (Ps 11:7). These words summarize the Catholic view of salvation: because God is just and loves justice, if we hope to "see his face" — that is, to live with him in friendship forever — then we ourselves must become "upright" as he is. The First Letter of Peter puts it this way: "Be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, 'Be holy because I [am] holy'" (Pt 1:15-16).

How do we become holy? Catholics agree with other Christians that we cannot save ourselves, and we cannot earn heaven on our own. Rather, we are saved by grace — God's merciful aid, give to enable us to become holy as he is holy. It's an absolutely unmerited, free gift of God, made possible through our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and his atoning death on the cross for us.

Certainly, our faith in Christ's power to transform us is essential to our salvation by God's grace. But a mere intellectual assent to the truths of the gospel is not enough. Scripture insists that faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead (Jas 2:14-26).

When we are justified, literally "made just", by God, he doesn't just declare us righteous as a kind of legal fiction so we can escape eternal punishment. Divine justification actually wipes out sin and provides a supernatural and renewing infusion of his power. By cooperating with grace, we become like God, fit to live with him forever.

In this way, good works and the transformation of character they bring to our being, are indeed necessary for salvation. God rewards the good works we do, works that he himself has made possible in us (Mt 16:27; 25:31-46). He promises, "I will let him whose way is steadfast look upon the salvation of God" (Ps 50:23).

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Mt 5:20; 7:16-27 · Lk 14:13-14 · Jn 3:36; 6:27-9 · Acts 3:19; 10:31,35 · Rom 2:5-13 · 1 Cor 3:8-9; 6:11; 15:10 · Eph 2:8-10 · Phil 2:12-13; 3:11-14 · Heb 5:9 · Jas 1:22; 2:14-26 · 1 Pt 1:17; 2:7 · 1 Jn 1:7-9 · Rv 22:12 ·
 & Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 26 · 142-147 · 150 · 155 · 161 ·
 176 · 180 · 222-227 · 654 · 824 · 846 · 1810 · 1987-1992 · 1999 · 2008-2011 · 2023-2024