

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who has laid down his life that we might find salvation. Jesus says *"I am the good shepherd. A GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS SHEEP"*. In this life, we probably don't want to be a lion, tiger or bear, but we do desire some of those qualities.

As sheep we are weak, often defenseless, and reliant on others. This would be incredibly bad news if we were being sent out into the world alone, or if we chose to try to do it all on our own. But we are never alone because Jesus is our Good Shepherd. As sheep we are weak, but Jesus our Shepherd is strong. As sheep we are defenseless, but Jesus our Shepherd is our protection. As sheep we cannot succeed on our own, but Jesus is with us as the Good Shepherd to give us the guidance and strength to succeed in this life and reach the pastures of eternal life.

It is vital for us to recognize that we cannot do this on our own – we need Jesus! In the first reading, Saint Peter tells us that *there is no salvation through anyone else* other than Jesus. We cannot save ourselves, we cannot find salvation somewhere else or through anyone else. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life freely, offering it up for you and me that we might have life and salvation in and through him.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. Jesus is the only one who can save us, and he chooses to lay down his life for us. We do not have to earn it or merit it, we simply have to choose to follow him. Even in my weakness and my helplessness, Jesus loves me, for he is my Good Shepherd. *Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony*



Jesús es el Buen Pastor quien ha dado su vida para que nosotros pudiéramos encontrar la salvación. Jesús dice *"Yo soy el buen pastor. UN BUEN PASTOR DA SU VIDA POR SUS OVEJAS"*. En esta vida, probablemente no queremos ser un león, un tigre o un oso, pero si deseamos algunas de sus cualidades.

Como ovejas somos débiles, a menudo indefensos, y confiados de otros. Esto serian increíblemente malas noticias, si nosotros hubiéramos sido enviados al mundo solos, o si nosotros hubiéramos elegido hacer todo por nuestra propia voluntad. Pero nunca estamos solos porque Jesús es nuestro Buen Pastor. Como ovejas somos débiles, pero nuestro Pastor es fuerte. Como ovejas somos indefensos, pero Jesús nuestro Pastor es nuestra protección. Como ovejas no podemos triunfar por nosotros mismos, pero Jesús está con nosotros como el Buen Pastor para darnos la guía y fuerza para tener éxito en esta vida y alcanzar los pastos de la vida eterna.

Es vital para nosotros reconocer que no podemos hacer esto nosotros solos – necesitamos a Jesús! En la primera lectura, San Pedro nos dice *que no hay salvación por medio de nadie a menos que sea Jesús*. Nosotros no podemos salvarnos a nosotros mismos, no podemos encontrar la salvación en otro lado o en alguien más. Jesús es el Buen Pastor, quien dio su vida libremente, ofreciéndola por ustedes y por mí, para que podamos tener vida y salvación por medio de él.

Es mejor tomar refugio en el Señor que confiar en el hombre. Es mejor confiar en el Señor que confiar en príncipes. Jesús es el único que puede salvarnos, y el eligió dar su vida por nosotros. No tenemos que ganarla o merecerla, simplemente tenemos que escoger seguir a Jesús. Incluso en mis debilidades y mis desesperanzas, Jesús me ama, pues él es mi Buen Pastor. *Padre Miguel Jeeva Antony*

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! The Church is listening! All Catholics, ages 21-39, are invited to share their thoughts, experiences, and needs, as Catholic young adults, on Thursday, **April 26th**, at **6:30pm**, at **St. Mary Church**. Questions? For info contact: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA).

PROTEST PLANNED PARENTHOOD’S GOVERNMENTAL SUBSIDY!

On **April 28th** (Saturday), 9-11:00am, at the Eugene Planned Parenthood facility (3579 Franklin Blvd), the national organization, “#ProtestPP”, will conduct the third annual nationwide protest at Planned Parenthood facilities from coast to coast. Please add your presence, and ‘voice’, to tell our community that we don’t need Planned Parenthood, and call upon our leaders in Congress to strip this corrupt organization of their half-billion dollar government funding. Questions? Contact Eric Walter: 541-554-2074 or dominuspictura@gmail.com

UPCOMING RETREATS:

HEALING FROM ABORTION — If you, or someone you know, has been impacted with the affects from an abortion, consider the healing and freedom that can be experienced from participation in a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, where mercy, compassion, and forgiveness bring Jesus’ healing. The next weekends are in **Medford, April 27-29 in English**, and **November 9-11 in Spanish**. For more info on Oregon retreats, call: 541-942-2861, or email: projectaurora@aol.com, or visit the national websites: www.project-aurora.org.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND — The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is **April 20-22 (2018)**, at Powell Butte Retreat Center (near Redmond, OR). Learn how to once again foster **COMPASSION AND FORGIVENESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE**. For more information call 503-853-2758, or at www.rediscoverthespark.org. Additional dates and locations are listed online.

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

WHAT’S UP WITH THE RAPTURE ISSUE?

When Jesus was placed on trial by the high priests and council, he quoted a stunning passage from Daniel’s prophecies, identifying himself with the “Son of Man ... coming on the clouds of heaven” in radiant glory one day to judge the world (Mt 26:63-64; Dn 7:13-14). All the biblical references to Christ’s Second Coming confirm that this event will be a magnificent public triumph, not invisible and secret, but universally visible and undeniable: “For just as lightning comes from the east and is seen as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Mt 24:27).

Scripture knows nothing, then, of an “extra” coming of Christ in secret before that time — the “rapture” as many Christians call it — to snatch away true believers from the world. This notion is actually rather novel in Christian history. For the first eighteen centuries after Christ, Christian teachers of every sort — Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant — had never even heard of the idea, nor found any indications of it in Scripture. Even today, the great majority of Christians worldwide, including Protestants, reject it.

To prove their notion, rapture teachers typically cite St. Paul’s words about Christians on earth being “caught up to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thes 4:17). Taken as a whole, however, the passage speaks of the Lord’s “word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God” (1 Thes 4:16) — hardly a picture of a secret, invisible coming. Instead, this text is a clear reference to Christ’s glorious Second Coming, with obvious parallels to other biblical texts about that event (1 Cor 15:51-52).

Also cited by rapture believers are our Lord’s words about how, at his coming, certain people will be “taken” while others will be “left”. But Christ also says this event will be “as it was in the days of Noah” when “the flood came and carried [the wicked] all away”. So those who are “taken” are the ones to be punished — not the righteous (Mt 24:37-41).

Finally, rapture teachers claim that Christians must be “snatched” from the world because God has promised them an escape from the “great tribulation” of the last days. But actually, just the opposite is true: Jesus promised that in that time of great trial, “the one who persevered to the end will be saved” (Mt 24:4-22).

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible
 Mk 13:3-27 · Lk 21:7-36 · 2 Tm 3:1-15 · 1 Pt 4:12-19 · Rev 2:2-3,10-11,13; 3:10; 7:9-17 ·
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