

September 10, 2017



THOUGHTS FOR LIFE:

“In a striking way, we see today a heightening of the tension between our nation’s founding principles and political reality. We see this in diminishing respect for the inalienable right to life, and the elimination of legal protections for those who are most vulnerable. There can be no genuine justice in our society until the truths on which our nation was founded are more perfectly realized in our culture and law.”

US Bishops, *Living the Gospel of Life*, 1998, n. 14

SIGNATURE PETITIONS

BE SURE AND STOP BY THE TABLE IN THE ENTRYWAY, AND SIGN THE PETITION TO STOP TAXPAYER FUNDED ABORTIONS! IF ENOUGH SIGNATURES ARE COLLECTED, THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE ON THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT!



BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING SOON!

Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30am

(in the Religious Ed Bldg.)

BOOK OF JOSHUA

St. Peter Church . . .

Is hosting the Interfaith EMERGENCY SHELTER!

Our guests will be with us October 9<sup>th</sup> –16<sup>th</sup>!

**Sign-ups** will be the weekends of:

September 23/24  
September 30 /October 1  
October 7/8

THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO HELP!

Questions? Contact Gretchen & Fred Merten: 541-465-9867



**GREAT HOUR OF CARING BREAKFAST!** — Join Tom Mulhern and Archbishop Sample at this *Catholic Community Services* fundraiser at Valley River Inn on Tuesday, **September 26<sup>th</sup>, 8-9:00am**. St. Peter is hosting a table, so head on over and partake of a delicious breakfast — and donate as best you can to this main area fundraiser for CCS. Contact Jon Nuxoll (541-684-8883 ... [jonnuxoll@usa.net](mailto:jonnuxoll@usa.net)) or Julie McCauley (541-746-9061 ... [juliemccauley14@gmail.com](mailto:juliemccauley14@gmail.com)) for info or to reserve your spot.

**HOW DO I LIVE THE GOSPEL?** Join Eugene Catholic Young Adults (ages 21-39, married or single) on Thursdays, **6:45pm**, at St. Mary Church (in the St. Matthew classroom—Par. Ctr.), and discuss and discover how to put the gospel into action. For inquiries: [eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com) or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA).

## UPCOMING RETREATS:

**BEYOND BUSYNESS — AFTER BEING ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE, HOW DO I DISCOVER MYSELF?** — Women's weekend retreat at St. Benedict Lodge (56630 North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413), **September 15-17** ... Peggy Hayward & Fr. Kieran Healy are facilitators. Cost is \$100/person for single room, and \$90/person for double, with \$30 registration fee to be mailed in. For more info: 541-822-3572 or website @: [sblodge.opwest.org](http://sblodge.opwest.org).

**RETRouvaille — FIND HOPE IN A NEW BEGINNING FOR YOUR HURTING MARRIAGE** by attending a Retrouvaille retreat! For confidential information or to register for the **Sept. 29—Oct. 1** weekend, go to: [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or call 1-503-225-9191.

**FOSTERING COMPASSION AND FORGIVENESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE** — Attend a Marriage Encounter Weekend, and learn effective tools to increase compassion and forgiveness of one another ... upcoming weekends are October 20-22 at Powell Butte Retreat House, and November 10-12 at Mt. Angel Abbey. For info: 1-503-853-2758, [www.rediscoverthespark.org](http://www.rediscoverthespark.org).

## FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

### ON THE HOLY BIBLE

#### Q. Could you please explain the doctrine of predestination?

The doctrine of predestination is: **"God, by His eternal resolve of will, has predestined certain men to eternal blessedness."** This doctrine is based on **Romans 8:29-30**, **"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called, those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified."** This doesn't mean that those so favored cannot cast aside their salvation if they so will, and those not so favored cannot still be saved. God desires the salvation of all mankind. This is shown in the beginning of Genesis where the man and the woman are in the garden, able to speak to God face-to-face. This is the destiny which God wants for us all. Like our first parents, we also have a free will to choose to obey Him or not. God doesn't interfere with that choice. This is why St. Paul tells us in **Philippians 2:12**: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." God has given each of us a free will, and He will do nothing to interfere with it.

The Catholic teaching on predestination is in direct contrast to the teaching of Protestant reformer John Calvin, which is described in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536): **"God's eternal decree, by which he compacted with himself what he wills to become of each man. Eternal life is foreordained for some, eternal damnation for others. Therefore, as any man has been created to one or the other of these ends, we speak of him as predestined to life or to death."**

In a nutshell, the Catholic teaching is that we all have a free will and it is our use of this will that determines our salvation or damnation. Since God knows everything, he knows how we will turn out since He can read the last page in our book of life. God does not predestine certain individuals — rather, individuals, by their choices in life, make the determination.

**RECOMMENDED READING:** Meagher, Paul K. OP, O'Brien, Thomas C. & Aherne, Sister Consuelo M. SSJ, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Religion*, Corpus Publications, Washington, D.C., pages 2862-2865