

November 26, 2017



FROM THE
PASTOR

CHRIST'S WORDS in the Gospel for Christ the King celebration, and His promise to be present in the Eucharist, have connection. For instance, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say of her work with the destitute: "In Holy Communion we have Christ under the appearance of bread. In our work we find Him under the appearance of flesh and blood. It is the same Christ. 'I was hungry, I was naked, I was sick, I was homeless.'"

The Son of Man is enthroned over all nations and peoples of every language. The nations have been gathered to see His glory and receive His judgment. The King, as the divine shepherd is judging as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. Each of us will be judged upon our performance of the simple works of mercy we hear in the Gospel today. Our faith is dead, lifeless, unless it be expressed in works of love. And we cannot say we truly love God, whom we cannot see, if we don't love our neighbor, whom we can.

He healed our sickness, freed us from the prison of sin and death, welcomed us who were once strangers to His covenant. He clothed us in baptism, and feeds us with the food and drink of His own body and blood. Let us strive to be following Him in right paths, that this kingdom might be our inheritance, that we might enter into the eternal rest promised for the people of God.

Fr. Michael

UPCOMING RETREATS:

REVIVED WOMEN'S CONFERENCE — "*She is clothed with dignity and strength....*" (Prov 31:25) St. Michael the Archangel Parish (424 SW Mill St, Portland, OR 97201) is hosting this "Revived" Advent retreat on Saturday, **December 2, 9:30am—3:30pm**. Online registration is \$20, or \$25 'at the door' — light breakfast, snacks, and a lunch are provided. More info at: www.revivedwomensconference.com.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Did you know that couples who attend a Worldwide Marriage encounter (WWME) Weekend:

- Experience only a 2% divorce rate
- Live the true meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage
- Become more involved in their church
- Renew the Church through discipleship with other couples

The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is **February 23-25 (2018)**, at Mt. Angel Abbey. For more information call 503-853-2758, or at www.rediscoverthepark.org. Additional dates and locations are listed on-line.

HELP FOSTER A CULTURE OF LIFE AT 1ST WAY!



1st Way is in need of volunteers to help at their crisis pregnancy center. Just a few hours/week can help save lives! Give a call to the 1st Way office (in Springfield 541-687-8651), and see what's needed for volunteering.



Wednesday **BIBLE STUDY** is at **9:30am**,
in the Religious Ed Bldg....
~ Now studying St. Paul's Letter to the Romans ~

PREPARE FOR ADVENT! — We're making an Advent Nativity Scene calendar (materials provided) at the next **Eugene Catholic Young Adults** (ages 21-39, married or single); join us this Thursday, **Nov. 30th, 6:45pm**, at St. Mary Church (in the St. Matthew classroom—Par. Ctr.). **Bring a dish to share!** For inquiries: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA).

Did you know? — The **CARMELITE AUXILIARY** exists to help our cloistered Carmelite sisters, at the Carmel of Maria Regina on Greenhill Road?? It is open to all women of the parish, and hold their meetings at **10:00am**, on the **2nd Monday** in the months of January, February, March, April, May, September, October, & November. *Come join us, and learn how we help our Carmelites!*

SVDP TURKEY DRIVE IN MOTION! Please consider a donation of a turkey (or chicken or ham or game hens, etc.) for the Christmas Food Boxes, that will be distributed at St. Peter on Dec. 16th. The freezer awaits your 'generosity' in the Religious Ed Building's hallway, so items can be brought to Mass, or to the office on Wednesdays & Fridays during office hours.



FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

WHY WON'T THE CHURCH ORDAIN WOMEN?

The story of Deborah, recounted in the Book of Judges, portrays a woman of remarkable wisdom and courage (4:1—5:31). As a "mother in Israel" (5:7), a prophetess speaking for God, and a judge governing the people, she attracted to her leadership many who trusted her judgement and were inspired by her example.

Scripture offers other women, as well, who serve us as models of faith and holiness — first among them, Jesus' own mother. Since biblical times, the Church has been blessed in every generation with gifted women who have witnessed to their Lord in extraordinary ways, including four women who have been declared Doctors of the Church: Saint Catherine of Siena, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and St. Hildegard of Bingen.

Certainly, then, the Church affirms that women can be spiritual leaders and teachers, and assume countless positions of leadership and teaching in the Church today — and we all benefit from their gifts. Nevertheless, the ordination of women as clergy is an altogether different matter; it depends not on gifts, but on the type of calling.

Our Lord Jesus had many holy women among his disciples, including his own mother (Lk 8:1-3; Acts 1:14); but, he chose men to be his twelve apostles, and the apostles did the same when they chose the coworkers who would become their successors, and assistants, in the ordained ministry (Mt 10:1-4; Acts 1:15-26; 6:1-6). "The Church recognizes herself", the *Catechism* (CCC) states, "to be bound by this choice made by the Lord himself. For this reason, the ordination of women is not possible (cf. John Paul II, MD 26-27; CDF, declaration, *Inter insigniores*: AAS 69 [1977] 98-116" (1577).

Since ordination is a divine calling, no one has a *right* to it. The choice belongs to God, and it must be received from him as an unmerited gift. But the Church has the authority and responsibility to discern that calling along with the person called, and then to confirm it, through the bishops, by conferring the sacrament of Holy Orders.

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

2 Kgs 22:14-20 · 2 Chr 34:19-28 · Mt 1:18-25; 11:1; 19:28; 27:55-56; 28:1-10 · Mk 3:14-19; 15:40-41; 16:1-11 · Lk 6:13-16;
23:27,49,55-56; 24:1-12,22-24 · Acts 5:14; 13:1-3; 16:14-15; 18:1-2,26 ·
Rom 16:1-15 · 1 Cor 16:19 · Phil 4:2-3 · Col 4:15 · 1 Tm 3:2-13
& Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 1577-1580