

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

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. Dr. Ray’s national television show, “Living Right With Dr. Ray,” is in its 6th season.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™ You are invited to join other Christians for **40 Days for Life** campaign of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, from February 14th through **March 25th** (Palm Sunday). There is also a peaceful prayer vigil during this 40-day campaign, in the public right-of-way in front of the Planned Parenthood facility (3579 Franklin Blvd). More volunteers are needed to stand and peacefully pray! Fr. Theodore Lange will be leading a mid-point rally on Saturday, **March 10th**, at 10am, at the Planned Parenthood facility. For more info, or to volunteer, contact Eileen at 541-543-7168 (or email to: etmoregon@yahoo.com); website is: 40DaysforLife.com/Eugene.

AREA NEWS

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. 

WEDNESDAY — MARCH 14 — “A LENT TO REMEMBER”

9:30AM AND 6:00PM ALL ARE INVITED!

IN THE RELIGIOUS ED BLDG.

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; 6:272-9 · 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