

GOD IS LOVE, and He has revealed that love in sending His only Son to be a sacrificial offering for our sins. The story of Abraham offering his son Isaac, is an act of obedience to God's will. And therefore, God promised Abraham the children of Israel, a source of blessing for all nations.

This promise to Abraham finds its fulfilment when God pours out His Spirit upon the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, as they listen to the word of Peter's preaching in today's first reading. God blessed them with the same Spirit he poured on the devout Jews. In His love, God reveals that His salvation embraces the house of Israel and peoples of all nations. Not by circumcision or blood relation to Abraham, but by faith in the Word of Christ, sealed in the Sacrament of Baptism, people are to be made children of Abraham, heirs to God's covenants of promise.

As Peter raises up Cornelius and his family to God, the Church continues to lift all people to Christ, the only one, whose name leads to salvation. In the Church, each of us has been begotten by the love of God. But the Scriptures today reveal that this divine gift brings with it a command and a sacred obligation. We are to love one another as we have been loved by God. Are we then, ready to lay down our lives in giving ourselves to others—that they too might find friendship with Christ, and new life through Him?

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony

Mother's Day Dinner

MAY 12TH (SATURDAY)

2:00—6:00PM

AT ST. MARK CHURCH

~ TICKETS ON SALE AFTER WEEKEND MASSES ~



It's coming ...

2018 St. Peter Church

**YARD
SALE**

AUG 2-4

Regular Donations (June & July):

Mon. - Fri. Mornings

Before and After Weekend Masses

Early Donations (April & May):

Call for appointment: Parish Office (541) 688-1051,

Kathleen (541) 461-0485 or Betty (541) 688-5079

THEOLOGY ON TAP THIS WEEK! All Catholics, ages 21-39, are invited this Thursday, **May 10th**, to the “2nd Thursday Theology on Tap”, at the K of C Hall (1144 Charnelton St) Tom Mulhern from Catholic Community Services of Lane County is our guest speaker. For info contact: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA).



Flowers for *Mother's Day Weekend*

MAY CROWNING

Parishioners are asked to bring flowers for the May crowning of our Blessed Mother at both Masses next weekend!



ST. PETER & ST. MARK CHURCHES ARE:

Seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant for their SPARK Ministries Program. This program is a combined Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Program for both parishes. For details, go to: saintmarkeugene.org/employment.



FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

DO CATHOLICS PREACH THE GOSPEL?

St. Mark begins his account of our Lord's life: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ" (Mk 1:1). "Gospel" literally means "good news". The first four books of the New Testament are called gospels because they announce the "good news of great joy" (Lk 2:10) — the coming of a Savior, God himself in the flesh.

Some Christians claim that the Catholic Church doesn't really "preach the gospel", because they believe that salvation by "faith alone" is the substance of the gospel. But what exactly is the substance of this "good news" that must be preached?

St. Peter's first sermon, which is preached on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:22-40), summarizes Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. Then he instructs his listeners to: "Repent, and be baptized ... for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38).

In this address, the notion of salvation by "faith alone" does not appear at all. Instead, the gospel preached is the proclamation of who Jesus is and what he has done. Salvation (including God's forgiveness of sins) comes to the hearers through their response of repentance, baptism, and a subsequent life of obedience to God. When St. Paul preaches the gospel, he makes the same kind of proclamation, and calls for the same kind of response (Acts 13:16-41; 1 Cor 15:1-11).

According to Scripture, then, the gospel is what the Catholic Church has always preached, i.e. a proclamation of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, and subsequently our response of repentance, baptism, and a life of obedience to God.

In fact, every Mass is an instance of preaching the gospel. A passage from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, is always read publicly at every Mass, so that we can hear and respond to God's good news. In addition, at every Mass, the fruits of Christ's work are re-presented to us in the Eucharist, to help us live lives pleasing to God.

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Mt 9:35 · Mk 14:9; 16:15 · Lk 9:6 · Acts 2:42-47; 8:25; 14:7,21; 15:7; 16:10; 20:7,24 · Rom 15:16,19,20,29 · 1 Cor 9:11-18; 10:16-17 · Gal 1:6-11 · 1 Thes 2:2-9 · 1 Pt 4:6,17 ·

& Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 2 · 35 · 122-127 · 153-155 · 169 · 179 · 224 · 514-515 · 534 · 571-573 · 678 · 1846 · 1963 · 2000-2005 · 2010 · 2022-2027 ·