

In commissioning the Apostles in today's Gospel, Jesus gives them, and us, A PREVIEW OF HIS CHURCH'S MISSION after the Resurrection. His instructions to the Twelve echo those of God to the Twelve Tribes of Israel on the eve of their exodus from Egypt. The Israelites were sent out with no bread and only one set of clothes, wearing sandals and carrying a staff. Like the Israelites, the Apostles and we the Christians are to rely solely on the providence of God and His grace.

Like Prophet Amos in today's 1st reading, the Apostles are not "professionals," who earn their bread by prophesying. Like Amos, they are simply men summoned from their ordinary jobs and sent by God to be shepherds of their brothers and sisters. Amos experiences rejection, and Jesus warns the Apostles of rejection as well. The Church is called not necessarily to be successful, but only to be faithful to God's command.

With authority and power given by Jesus, the Church proclaims God's peace and salvation to those who believe in Him. The word of truth, the Gospel of salvation, is addressed to each of us, personally, as St. Paul proclaims. In the mystery of God's will, we have been chosen from before the foundation of the world to be His sons and daughters, to live for the praise of His glory.

Let us, then, give thanks for the Church today, and for the spiritual blessings He has bestowed upon us. Let us resolve to further the Church's mission—to help others hear the call to repentance and welcome Christ into their lives.

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony

2018 St. Peter Church

**YARD
SALE**

AUG 2-4

Donation Drop-offs for July

Tue. - Fri. 9:30am - Noon

Before and After Weekend Masses

Furniture Pick-up:

Call for appointment: Parish Office (541) 688-1051,
Kathleen (541) 461-0485 or Betty (541) 688-5079

Helpers Needed in July

◆ Room Setup, Sorting and Pricing ◆

Tuesdays and Thursdays June
9:30am - Noon

Come any or all days. Come for all or part of the time. We're in the religious ed building. See you there!

DONATIONS

~ ALL KINDS ~
NEEDED!!

ACCEPTING DONATIONS

THROUGH

JULY 27TH — FRIDAY

(PLEASE: NO
TVS OR
CAR SEATS)

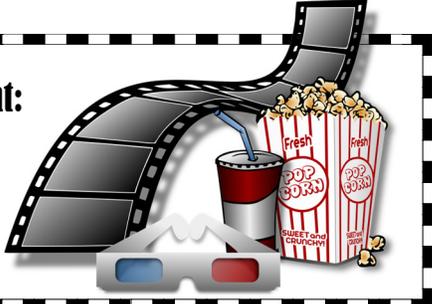
AREA NEWS

ECYA CAMPING TRIP! Young adults (ages 21-39) are invited to join a weekend of outdoor fun, **July 28-29**. For details, contact: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA) ALSO — *Theology on Tap* every 2nd Thursday at the K of C Hall

WHERE'S THE BEEF ?? — At St. Catherine in Veneta!! Annual Fern Ridge BBQ, on Sunday, **July 29**, noon—5pm. Their Sunday Masses will be one hour earlier than usual! Good family fun in a beautiful setting, with music (Coupe deVille), raffles, auction, bingo, and Show Cars. \$15/adult, \$13/senior (62yo and older), \$7/12yo and under. St. Catherine of Siena is at: 25181 E. Broadway, Veneta. More info at: fernridgebeefpitbbq.com, or 541-935-3933.

NEXT Summer Faith & Film Night:

July 29 @ 5:30pm
St. Mark Youth Room
(in Parish Center)



UPCOMING RETREATS:

JOURNEY TOGETHER IN HOPE — Join for a weekend of fellowship, prayer and fun for people who have disabilities and their families, at Aldergate Camp (Turner, OR), **August 24-26**. To learn more, contact Kelsey Rea: krea@archdpx.org, or specialneeds.archdpx.org, or 503-233-8399..

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

WAS MARY TRULY WITHOUT SIN?

The Gospel according to Luke refers to Mary with the Greek word “kecharitomene”, meaning “highly graced” or “full of grace” (Lk 1:28). In this deferential term of address used by the angel Gabriel — and not used in scripture for any other human being — we find one indication of an unparalleled grace given by God to our Lady: she was conceived without the defect of original sin (Catholics call this reality the “Immaculate Conception”). Throughout her life, as well, God preserved her from committing any actual sin.

Why would God have granted Mary such a gift? When the eternal Word took on flesh (Jn 1:14), he took his flesh from her. God wanted his sinless Son, Jesus, to receive his human nature from a sinless mother. And it was most fitting for Jesus to be reared by a woman without sin.

Some Christians have argued that Mary’s sinlessness is impossible because St. Paul writes that “all have sinned” (Rom 3:23). But in scripture the word ‘all’ (*pas* in Greek) doesn’t always mean literally “every single one without exception”. For example, in the same letter, St. Paul writes that “all Israel will be saved” (Rom 11:26), yet we suspect that at least some Jewish people will not be saved.

This is also a matter of common Hebrew idiom. In Rom 3:10-12, St. Paul quotes Psalm 14:3, which reads “All have gone astray; all alike are perverse. Not one does what is right, not even one” (also Ps 53:2-4). Yet, the very next psalm refers to those who walk “without blame” (Ps 15:2). Obviously, then, the lament in Psalm 14 is emotional and exaggerated language, not intended as a literal utterance. Since St. Paul is referring back to these sort of passages, the interpretation of his words should take them into account, too.

We should also note that Jesus, who shared our human nature, was without sin (Heb 4:14-15). This fact alone demonstrates that St. Paul cannot mean that “every single human being has sinned”.

Some Christians object that if Mary was sinless, she didn’t need Christ as her Savior. But the Church teaches, as does scripture, that she did indeed need a divine Savior (Lk 1:47). She wasn’t saved *out of* sin, but rather saved *from* sin. The rest of us have been *delivered out of* original and actual sin, while she was *preserved from* it. Either way, her salvation was God’s gracious gift through the merits of her Son.

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible
Gn 3:15 · Jer 1:5 · Lk 1:15 ·

& Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 273 · 411 · 485-495 · 508-509 · 721-723 · 829 · 963-972 · 2030 ·