

The liturgy last week REVEALED THE MYSTERY of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolized by the Magi, have been made "co-heirs" to the blessings promised Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance.

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus", opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today – 'You are my beloved Son'.

Jesus is the chosen servant, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. The word messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob". The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever.

In his Baptism, Jesus has sanctified the waters, made them a passageway to healing and freedom, a fountain of new birth and everlasting life for all who believe in God.

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony



OPEN HOUSES AT LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!

Faith-based education where students are known, challenged, and given tools to be successful!

O'Hara School: Open House on **January 27th** (Sunday) **11am—1:00pm** — register online at: www.oharaschool.org

St. Paul School: Open House on **January 27th** (Sunday) **11:30am—1:30pm**... for info call 541-344-1401, or saintpaul-school.org.

UPCOMING RETREATS:

RETRouvaille — FIND A NEW BEGINNING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE by attending a Retrouvaille retreat Rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship. Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering For confidential information or to register for the **January 18-20 (2019)** weekend, go to: www.helpourmarriage.org or call 1-503-225-9191.

HEALING AND WHOLENESS AFTER ABORTION — Winter holidays are traditionally a time of reflection, and those who have lost children to abortion are reminded of the loss, the regrets, the if-onlys. Decide now that it is time for hope and healing — why wait any longer to heal? Experience a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, **February 15-17 (2019) in Portland, or March 15-17 (2019) in Medford**. It's a SAFE, Confidential, and Compassionate environment! For more info call: 541-942-2861, or email: projectaurora@aol.com, or visit the national website: www.project-aurora.org.

AREA NEWS

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 the next meeting is at 10:00am, on **January 14th**. *Come join us, and learn how we help our Carmelites!*

1ST WAY PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER — Located at: 1162 “B” St , #213 (Springfield)..... 10:00am—4:00pm, Tuesdays-Thursdays, and Fridays 11am—2pm; Helping to save lives, and helping women with free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, and resource info with health care. Donations needed to help provide baby layettes—diapers & wipes—clothing from preemie size to 5T all are greatly appreciated. Interested in volunteering? Contact Denice at 541-687-8651.

HOSPICE OF SACRED HEART — Caring men and women needed to provide practical help and emotional assistance to patients and families dealing with terminal illness, as well as the Palliative Care Program for those living with chronic illness. Info session is on Thursday, **February 21, 1:00-3:00pm**, at 677 E. 12th Ave (Eugene). Training will be the last week of April and first 2 weeks of May (2019). To register for the info meeting—no obligation! - please call Victoria at 458-205-7443, or email to: vspeak@peacehealth.org.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS — will meet on Thursday, January 17th, with a 12:15 Prayer Service in the church, followed by lunch (bring your own ‘brown bag’ lunch) in the parish hall & business meeting at 1:30pm.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS SCHOLARSHIPS: .

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2019 **National Education Contest** is open to all students grades 4 -12. You may be enrolled in any school or home-schooled to enter. There are two themes (choose one): **“HERE I AM LORD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL”** (Ps. 40), or **“DOING MY BEST TO DO GOOD”**. For a list of official rules and an entry form ask your parish office or visit the National CDA website: catholicdaughters.org or contact Julia Kelso at cdacourtoregon118@gmail.com. Entries are judged at the local level with first place winners moving to state and then the national level. Entries are due by January 30, 2019.

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

DOES THE CHURCH TEACH THAT JESUS *REALLY IS* GOD?

Isaiah prophesied, “A child is born to us, a son is given us... They name him...God-Hero” (Is 9:5). Christians have long seen in these words a prophecy of Jesus’ birth, and an affirmation of his divine identity. Though it took several centuries for the Church to develop her understanding of the relation between Jesus’ human and divine natures, she has, nevertheless, declared from the beginning, as the apostle Thomas declared, “My Lord and my God!” (Jn 20:28).

The reality that God himself became a man for our salvation — what is called the Incarnation (literally, “becoming flesh”) — is at the heart of Christian faith. Denial of this truth has been the hallmark of many heretical sects.

Jesus himself declared, “The Father [that is, God] and I are one” (Jn 10:30). When he did, some of those who heard him picked up stones to kill him for blasphemy, because they understood (correctly) the implication of what he was saying: He was claiming to be God (Jn 10:30-33; Jn 5:17-18).

In fact, virtually every attribute of the Father in heaven — the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who revealed himself in the Old Testament — was claimed by Jesus for himself. He spoke authoritatively *as* God (rather than merely *for* God) ... He accepted worship ... He forgave sins ... He said he was equal to his Father ... And he claimed that he had existed eternally.

New Testament authors verified his claim: “For in him”, St. Paul wrote, “dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily” (Col 2:9); “In the beginning”, the gospel according to John announced, “was the Word,/ ... the Word was God. / ... All things came to be through him, / and without him nothing came to be. / ... And the Word became flesh (Jn 1:1,3,14).

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Mt 28:9,17-20 · Jn 1:1-5,14; 5:17-23; 8:58; 9:38; 10:17-18; 14:13-14; 16:23-26 · Acts 7:59 ·
Phil 2:5-6 · Col 1:15-19; 3:11 · 1 Tm 3:16 · Ti 2:13 · Heb 1:1-8 · 2 Pt 1:1 · 1 Jn 3:5 · Rv 19:16 ·
& Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 272 · 359 · 443 · 456-476 ·
479-483 · 606-607 · 645-655 · 661 · 677-682 · 724 · 1040 ·