



In the Gospel of St. Luke, Jesus calls Simon Peter, the fisherman, in the first place. Something similar happens in the first reading as God calls prophet Isaiah: Confronted with the holiness of the Lord, both Peter and Isaiah are overwhelmed by a sense of their own sinfulness and inadequacy. Yet each experiences the Lord’s forgiveness and is sent to preach the good news of His mercy to the world. Today’s scene from Isaiah is recalled in every Mass. Before reading the Gospel, the priest silently asks God to cleanse his lips that he might worthily proclaim His Word.

In the Old Testament, humanity was unfit for the divine presence and as such no man could stand in God’s presence and live. But in Jesus, we’re made able to speak with Him face-to-face, to taste His Word on our tongue. No one is “fit to be called an apostle,” St. Paul recognizes in today’s second reading and by “the grace of God,” the persecutor of the Church is lifted up for the Lord’s service.

God’s Word comes to us as it came to Peter, Paul, Isaiah, as a personal call to leave everything to follow Him, to surrender our weaknesses to him that we may be filled with His strength. Simon put out into deep waters even though, as a professional fisherman, he knew it would be foolhardy to expect to catch anything. In humbling himself before the Lord’s command, he was exalted, his nets filled to overflowing. Jesus has made us worthy to receive Him in the company of angels in God’s holy Temple. On our knees like St. Peter, with humility, let us thank Him with all our hearts and join in the unending hymn that Isaiah heard around God’s altar: “Holy, holy, holy.”

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony

LOOKING FOR A FRESH TAKE ON THE MASS READINGS? — Join Eugene Catholic Young Adults’ (ECYA) on Thursday evenings, **6:45pm**, in St. Mary Parish Center (1062 Charnelton St.). ECYA is for everyone, ages 21-39. For more info. and other events coming up, contact: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com (541-270-9329) & facebook.com/EugeneCYA.

..... ALSO — *Theology on Tap* every 2nd Thursday at the K of C Hall

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.

UPCOMING RETREATS:

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.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND — The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is **April 12-14 (2019)** at Powell Butte Retreat Ctr. (Powell Butte, OR—near Bend). Learn how to once again foster **COMMUNICATION AND RENEWAL IN YOUR MARRIAGE!** For more information call 503-853-2758 or apply on-line at www.rediscoverthepark.org.

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