



On Ash Wednesday we began our new Lenten Lecture Series, Family of God as Covenant. It is encouraging to see such a great turnout of parishioners and others from the Diocese of Oakland who want to deepen their understanding of God love contained in the history of salvation. More importantly, it fosters a deeper love and relationship with God. I've decided to provide a brief synopsis of the first two covenants, Adamic and Noahic. Please realize that what's provided below is only a cursory understanding of the importance of God's unconditional love for all people.

#### Understanding Covenant

Covenant. The liturgies of ancient Israel, like the liturgies of the Catholic Church, are "signs of the covenant." For there is no idea more important to Scripture – and not idea more important to your life – than the idea of covenant. And the covenant cannot be understood apart from its divinely appointed signs – the liturgies of Israel and Jesus' Pasch (the Mass). A covenant is not a contract but contains some elements of contract. Contracts usually exchange property, goods, and services. But covenants exchange persons. Contracts set the terms for a business transaction. But covenants create a family bond. Covenants constitute families. God made His covenants in order to establish or renew a family bond with human beings, whom He has created in His own image.

The Adamic Covenant – God and Adam are involved in this covenant in which Adam represented the whole human race. Thus the judgment on Adam is the judgment on all humanity. The details of this covenant are found in Genesis 3:16-19. As the result of Adam's sin, the following curses were pronounced:

#### **The Woman: Genesis 3:16**

Eve and all women were made subject to three provisions.

- First: there would be multiplication of menstrual pain and conception. Apparently, the nature of conception before the Fall was quite different than what it was after the Fall. Since the Fall, a woman generally is able to conceive at least once a month. Furthermore, a woman's menstrual periods are often accompanied with discomfort and pain.
- Second: the woman was to give birth in pain. Before the Fall, she would have been able to conceive and give birth without pain, but this was no longer true. However, once birth takes place, there is joy (Jn. 16:21). In this way, the woman is saved (1 Timothy 2:15). She is not spiritually saved through childbirth, but she is saved from being in a demeaning position through her ability to produce children, for in this way she guarantees the continuity of the human race not subject to physical death.
- Third: the wife was to be in subjection to the husband. This was already true before the Fall, but the new element was that she would now have the desire to rebel against that subjection and choose to try to rule him.

#### **The Man: Genesis 3:17-19**

Adam and all men and the entire human race were subject to five provisions in Genesis 3:17-19.

- First: since Adam stands as the representative head of the human race, the judgment on Adam is the judgment on the whole human race. It is Adam, not Eve, who is held responsible for the human condition.
- Second: the earth was cursed. Working was not something new with the Adamic Covenant. The difference was in the earth's response. Under the Edenic Covenant, the earth was to respond readily to man's working and tilling. But now the earth would not respond so easily; there would be thorns, thistles, and weeds.
- Third: human diet continues to be vegetarian as it was under the Edenic Covenant; it is not clear if the same was true for the animal kingdom. Animals were used for dairy products, wool for clothing, and sacrifices, but not for eating.
- Fourth: man's work was to be characterized by hard labor. Working conditions under the Edenic Covenant were easy, simple, and enjoyable. Now, sweat was to characterize the work of man and labor was to be hard and toilsome.
- Fifth: physical death was introduced. Whereas under the Edenic Covenant man died spiritually, under the Adamic Covenant man would ultimately die physically (Rom. 5:12-21). Thus far there have only been two exceptions to this rule: Enoch and Elijah.

#### **Provisions of the Noahic Covenant (Genesis 9:8-17)**

Now we move into the second covenant God established with Noah known as The Noahic Covenant. The first provision actually belongs to The Adamic Covenant but needs to be restated because the covenant God made with Adam is still in effect.

- First: confirms the Covenant with Noah – The covenant God made with Noah includes his sons, their descendants, all the animals on the ark and their descendants (Genesis 9:8-10).
- Second: man is promised by God the Sign of the Covenant – God promises the He will never again destroy all life on earth with a flood (Genesis 9:11).
- Third: man is promised by God that the Rainbow will be the sign of the Covenant for all ages to come (Genesis 9:12-17). The rainbow was the designated sign by God that the Noahic Covenant is still in effect. We believers have no fear that the earth will be prematurely destroyed.

In Christ Jesus and St. Augustine,  
Fr. Gregory Heidenblut, O.S.A.

**ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

There will be two masses on Tuesday, **March 25th** in celebration of the Annunciation of the Lord. The 7:00am Mass will be in the Chapel an additional School Liturgy will be at 8:30am in the Church all are welcome.

**LENTEN WEEKDAY EVENING MASS**

*There will be one evening weekday mass during Lent on Wednesday's at 5:30pm in the Church.*



**LENTEN WEDNESDAY SOUP MEAL**

Please plan on joining us for a simple meal of soup and bread each Wednesday during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the 5:30pm Mass. This Wednesday, **March 26th** Soup Meal is sponsored by the Italian Catholic Federation. We thank them for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Donations will be accepted to benefit Operation Rice Bowl.

**LENTEN LECTURE SERIES**

All are invited to Fr. Greg's Lenten lecture series, *The Family of God as Covenant*. The series covers the six covenants God made with his people as found in Sacred Scripture. Join Fr. Greg as he shares scriptural insights as well as Catholic tradition in opening the history of salvation: God's plan of salvation for his people.

The goal of this lecture series is to have a better understanding of God's love letter found in Sacred Scripture, and our Catholic faith. We Catholics can then enter more fully into liturgical worship, discipline of the family of God, and the mind of the Church. Weekly schedule:

- **Thursday, March 27th** – Abrahamic Covenant
- **Wednesday, April 2nd**– Mosaic (Sinaitic) Covenant
- **Wednesday, April 9th** – Davidic Covenant
- **Wednesday, April 16th** – Eternal Covenant of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior

All lectures will be in Stack Center at 6:30pm with the Wednesday Lenten Soup Meal.

**COMMUNAL LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE DEANERY SCHEDULE**

Following is the schedule for Communal Lenten Penance services for all churches in our Deanery.

- Church of the Assumption: Saturdays in Lent at 3:30pm
- Church of the Transfiguration: Thursday, **April 3rd** at 7:30pm
- Our Lady of Good Counsel: Friday, **April 11th** at 7:00pm
- Our Lady of Grace: Tuesday, **April 8th** at 7:00pm
- St. Leander: Saturday, **April 12th** at 2:00pm
- St. Felicitas: Tuesday, **April 8th** at 7:30pm

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL COLLECTION**

Through your alms giving you are giving signs of grace to others; far greater than you think. Know that your donation is multiplies by the donations place by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Box. The last Sunday of every month our St. Vincent de Paul Society members are outside to receive your financial donations. Your generosity enables this ministry to help the less fortunate in our parish community. With your support our community families will be more able to handle the economic challenges that are impacting their lives. Thank you for your past support and current generosity.

**FAITHFUL STEWARDS BISHOP'S APPEAL 2014**

Following is the status of our Annual Bishops Appeal through **March 12th**:

\$ 9,265.00 – Actual Donations Received

<b>Our Goal for 2014:</b>	<b>\$25,139.00</b>
# of Registered Families	1,555
# of Acknowledged Donors to date:	74
Funds Raised (includes pledges)	\$12,687.00

We are currently at 50% of our goal for this years Bishop's Appeal. We are most grateful to all those who have contributed and look forward to completing this appeal. If you have not yet made your contribution consider doing so today.

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN**

Patricia Hierro continues a Bible Study on the Acts of the Apostles meeting every other Monday, at 7:00pm in the Parish Office. The next meeting date is Monday, **March 24th**. It is not too late to join this group you can join at anytime. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.

**OLG MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Men's Bible Study facilitated by Fr. Greg continues, **March 25th** at 7:00pm now meeting in the Parish Office. The Study will continue every other Tuesday for an hour at each session and is open to all men of the parish 18 years and older. You may join in the study at anytime.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD  
SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

LOTW for Palm Sunday! We will hold a special Liturgy of the Word for children on Palm Sunday. All children are invited. Our teens will dramatize the readings of the day. If you would like to help, please contact the Faith Formation Center as soon as possible (510-582-9266; ffc@olgcv.org). Rehearsal will be **March 23rd & April 6th** from 11:30 - 12 noon in room 10 of Stack Center.

**OUR LADY OF GRACE VBS 2014**

Hero Headquarters: VBS 2014 will be **July 28th - August 1st, 2014** We need you! Help us to plan now for a fabulous summer! Planning meeting to be held on: Sunday, **March 30th** at 12:00, Stack Center

Registration begins mid-May. Special sign-up Sundays planned. Be part of the team! Want to help? Join us at one of the meetings above or contact the Faith Formation Center at 510-582-9266 ffc@olgcv.org Together, we can do it!



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross are offered at Our Lady of Grace, Fridays at 2:30pm and Transfiguration Church, Fridays at 7:30pm during Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be offered in Spanish on Friday's during Lent at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Grace.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity for example, God will help you live on the rest.

In gratitude for God's gifts of "Treasure" to us, we gratefully returned to God's church in the,

**Offerings of March 16th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 7,463.00
Last Year this week	\$ 7,774.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 86,932.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 79,405.00

*May God bless your continuing generosity.*

**Your Prayers Are Requested**



Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Connie Deitrick  | Vernon Rodrigues |
| Kathleen Denning | Joan Scarlett    |
| Estela Enriquez  | Florence Sharp   |
| Jane Flannigan   | Pat Silva        |
| Mary Franks      | Carolynne Steen  |
| Byron Griffith   | Nancy Swinyer    |
| Grace Letteer    | James Van Wert   |
| Raymond Lowe     | Emilio Vazquez   |

*As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:*

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| KEVIN DIAS      | DAVID SANCHEZ |
| MICHAEL SANCHEZ |               |

*Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

**All victims of violence**

**BABY BOTTLE DRIVE  
MARCH 29th-30th**

The volunteers of Birthright of San Lorenzo will be giving out baby bottles to fill with a donation after all Masses on the weekend of **March 29th-30th**. We hope you will fill the bottle with change and return it to the Parish Office or the San Lorenzo Birthright Office in the near future. Your donations will help Birthright continue its work with mothers and babies. For more information contact, Theresa Fuller at 582-6358 or Birthright at 481-9677,

**FESCO'S ANNUAL SHELTER SHUFFLE  
IS COMING SOON!**

FESCO is asking you to join us in striding toward home at our Annual Shelter Shuffle on May 3rd. FESCO continues to provide homeless families with shelter, nutritious meals and a hand up in becoming self sufficient. With your help and support, FESCO can continue to help homeless families. Colleen Lindberg and Chris Ippolito are asking you to join with them to support FESCO. We will have an informational table after masses on **April 6th and April 27th** please help us help our neighbors in need.



**SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 17th, 2013  
Live & Silent Auction  
Dinner & Dancing**

Our Lady of Grace Spring Auction is coming soon. Help raise funds for our parish and school – and enjoy an adults only sophisticated evening of sumptuous food, and entertaining music. Share the excitement and fun of a fast paced auction with friends and family.

To inquire about making an auction donation or to volunteer for one of the committees please contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish Office.

**IMMACULATE HEART RADIO**

Dedicated to sharing the heart of the Catholic Faith and changing lives, Immaculate Heart Radio brings you the best in Catholic Radio 24/7! Now playing 1260AM.

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, March 23rd:**  
**Coffee & Donuts After All Masses**

- Children's Liturgy  
9:00am--Mass
- Religious Education Classes  
10:30am--Stack Center
- Youth Ministry  
After 9:00am Mass in the Gym

**Monday, March 24th:**  
Women's Bible Study  
7:00pm--Stack Center

- Tuesday, March 25th:**
- Bible Scripture Study  
9:30am--Parish Office
  - Religious Education Classes  
3:45pm--Stack Center
  - Men's Bible Study  
7:00pm--Parish Office

**Wednesday, March 26th:**  
Lenten Soup Meal  
Following 5:30pm Mass

- Thursday, March 27th:**
- Lenten Lecture Series  
6:30pm--Stack Center
  - Serenity Group  
8:15pm— Stack Center

- Friday, March 28th:**
- Our Ladies Guild Luncheon  
11:30am--Stack Center
  - Stations of the Cross  
2:30pm--Church
  - Spanish Stations of the Cross  
7:00pm--Church

**Sunday, March 30th:**  
**Coffee & Donuts After All Masses**

- Children's Liturgy  
9:00am--Mass
- Religious Education Classes  
10:30am--Stack Center
- Youth Ministry  
After 9:00am Mass in the Gym

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

Please note: During the school year, our 8:30am Monday mass will be celebrated in the church. Unless otherwise noted all other weekday masses will be held in the Chapel.

**MONDAY, MARCH 24th Church)**

8:30am Marie Lyen (D)  
Elisa Gonsalves (D)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25th**

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

7:00am Greg Wurtz (D)  
8:30am Bret & Heather Wetherbee (L)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26th**

7:00am Deceased Members & Benefactors  
of the Augustinian Order  
5:30pm Mateo & Magdalena Grajeda (D)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27th**

7:00am Don Cavestri (D)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 28th**

7:00am Don Cavestri (D)  
2:30pm Stations of the Cross  
7:00pm Spanish Stations of the Cross

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29th**

8:30am Vivian Haddow (D)



**EXECUTION ALERTS**

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **March**:

March 26th	Jeffrey Ferguson	MO
March 27th	Anthony Doyle	TX
March 27th	Charles Warner	OK

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**March 24th through March 30th**

Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15; Luke 4:24-30  
 Tuesday: Isaiah 7:10-14;8-10; Luke1:26-38  
 Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9; Matthew 5:17-19  
 Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23  
 Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34  
 Saturday: Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14  
 Sunday: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13;  
 Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 30th)  
 John 4:5--15, 19b--26, 39a, 40--42**

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

**TRISH A. PALMERI, D.D.S  
 PARISHIONER**