

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's 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 covenants for those who do not attend our adult catechesis lectures. A critique of the first two covenants, Adamic and Noahic, were provided last week in my Pastor's Notes. This past week we discussed the Abrahamic Covent. 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 no 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 created in His own image.

The Abrahamic Covenant

Last week we spoke about the Abrahamic Covenant. God promised Abraham the Promised Land where his natural descendants might be blessed as a nation, and then a kingdom, until eventually all the families of the earth would be blessed through him and his seed (see Gn 12:1-3; 22:16-18). The concept of the Promised Land was intended by God to be a prototype or model depicting the true Promised Land; the Kingdom of Heaven. At the time of God's call, even prior to Abram's obedience, the Father gave him three unconditional promises:



First, to make of him a great nation;

Second, to make his "name" great;

Third, to bless "all the families of the earth" through him (Gn 12:1-2).

God planted and then tended these three promises of blessing throughout Abram's life by raising each of the promises to a much higher level, as covenants, which the Father made on three distinct occasions (see Gn 15, 17, 22; Heb 6:13-19).

First, Divine Assurance (Promise) – concerned land and nationhood. Any people who didn't own land could never be a nation, great or otherwise. Without land people would continue to hold the status of immigrants. God promised to make Abram's descendants the national occupants of a vast amount of land where they would live and serve the one true God.

Second, Divine Assurance (Promise) – concerned Abram's name. The Hebrew word for name also refers to a dynasty or kingdom, which carries the notion of political power. God was saying, "After deposing the tyrants who have usurped the Promised Land, I will give my humble and faithful servant Abram a lasting legacy by raising the nation of his descendants to royal power. I will make them a kingdom that rules other nations."

Third, Divine Assurance (Promise) – concerned God's fatherly blessing of all the nations issuing from the seed of Abram. God didn't explain exactly what form this blessing would take, but we'll see how it represents the climax of God's family plan and purpose for calling Abram.

Furthermore, careful reading of the rest of Sacred Scripture in the light of these three covenants will reveal how all three Abrahamic covenants were gradually fulfilled in the next three major periods of salvation history:

First, Abram's seed received its national land and boundaries after the Exodus, through the Mosaic Covenant.

Second, Abraham's seed became a kingdom after the conquest of the Promised Land, through the Davidic Covenant.

Third, The seed of Abraham became the source of blessing for the entire world with the Incarnation of Christ, through the New and Eternal Covenant of Jesus Christ. The first verse of the New Testament reads: "The book of the genealogy of Jesus, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Mt 1:1, see Gal 3:6-19).

May our loving Lord continue to blessing during this most holy season of Lent.

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

Liturgical Schedule :

Holy Week and Easter 2014

**Mass Schedule:
Holy Week**

Mon., April 14th 8:30 am (Church)
 Tues., April 15th 7:00 am
 Wed., April 16th 7:00 am, 5:30 pm
 (soup meal follows evening mass)

Note: No morning mass on Thursday, Friday, Saturday

The Sacred Triduum

The Sacred Triduum, spanning three days, is **one commemoration** celebrating the great event of the glorious triumph of Jesus over sin and death. We invite you to share in all the liturgies as we ascend to the joy of Easter resurrection and new life won for us.

Schedule for the Sacred Triduum:

**Holy Thursday, April 17th , 7:30pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Transfer of the Eucharist to the repository in Stack Center follows the liturgy.

Good Friday, April 18th

Stations of the Cross: **12:00 noon**

Celebration of the Lord's Passion
with veneration of the cross, communion
at 1:30pm and 7:30 pm

**Holy Saturday, April 19th, 8:00 pm
The Great Easter Vigil**

Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Rites of Initiation for the Elect, Liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Sunday Masses: April 20th,
7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am



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, **April 9th** Soup Meal is sponsored by our one of our Small Christian Communities. We thank them for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Donations will be accepted to benefit Operation Rice Bowl.

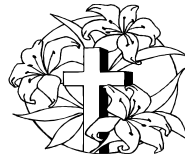
LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

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.

Weekly schedule of remaining lectures:

- **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.



EASTER MEMORIALS

Again this year we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase the plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special Easter Flower Offering envelopes – or submitting the names to the parish office. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Easter. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.

**COMMUNAL LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
DEANERY SCHEDULE**

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

- 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



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.



**SAVE THE DATE
MAY 17th, 2014
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. Ticket reservations can be made by contacting the Parish Office, 537-0806.

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

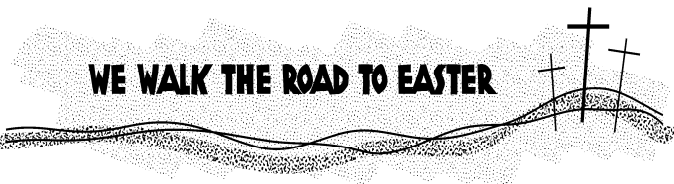
**FAITHFUL STEWARDS
BISHOP'S APPEAL 2014**

Following is the status of our Annual Bishops Appeal through **March 26th**:

\$ 12,479.00 – Actual Donations Received

Our Goal for 2014: \$25,139.00
 # of Registered Families 1,555
 # of Acknowledged Donors to date: 95
 Funds Raised (includes pledges) \$16,371.00

We are currently at 65% 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.



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 30th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 7,386.00
Last Year this week	\$ 4,345.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$101,959.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 92,761.00

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 | |

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.

**Fr. Pedro Ottonello, OAD
(Discalced Augustinian Order)**

WINGS

We invite all women to join us for—
WINGS (Women in God’s Spirit)
WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages Spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, catechesis, life sharing and community.

We meet at Transfiguration Church
 Marion Room

Next Meeting: Thursday, **April 10th**,
 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Speaker: - Fr. Tony Herrera
 Topic: We Walk by Faith

ICF HAPPENINGS IN APRIL...

Come join ICF for our Chicken Marsala dinner on **April 10th** in Stack Center. Doors open at 6:00pm dinner is at 6:30pm, for reservations, which are necessary, please call Stella Taddei at 510-581-5863 or Juanita Madrid at 510-582-7242. Deadline is Monday, **April 7th**.

And, time to get out your dancing shoes, the ICF will celebrate their 35th anniversary with a dinner dance and auction on Saturday **April 26th**, in Stack Center. The fun begins with cocktails at 6:00pm, followed by dinner at 7:00pm with dancing beginning at 8:00pm and the auction. Tickets are \$35.00 each, for reservations please mail checks payable to ICF Br. #343, to Rosalind Crudo, 5228 Tyler Ct., Castro Valley, CA 94546. Deadline for reservations is Sunday April 20th. Hope to see lots of you there!

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 6th

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

Tuesday, April 8th:

Bible Scripture Study
 9:30am--Parish Office

Religious Education Classes
 3:45pm--Stack Center

Communal Penance Service
 7:00pm--Church

Wednesday, April 9th:

Lenten Soup Meal
 Following 5:30pm Mass

Lenten Lecture Series
 6:30pm--Stack Center

Thursday, April 10th:

ICF Dinner Meeting
 6:00pm--Stack Center

Serenity Group
 8:15pm— Stack Center

Friday, April 11th:

Stations of the Cross
 2:30pm--Church

Spanish Stations of the Cross
 7:00pm--Church

Sunday, April 13th:

PALM SUNDAY

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, APRIL 8th Church)

8:30am Lilia Sousa (D)
Anty Zaldivar (D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 1st

7:00am Deceased Members & Benefactors of the Augustinian Order
7:00pm Communal Penance Service

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9th

7:00am Elva M. Gabriel (D)
5:30pm Dorothy & Manuel Callier (D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10th

7:00am Eve & Fred Brito (D)

FRIDAY, APRIL 11th

St. Stanislaus, bishop
7:00am Tony & Trinidad Silva (D)
2:30pm Stations of the Cross
7:00pm Spanish Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, APRIL 12th

8:30am Louis Rodrigues (D)



EXECUTION ALERTS

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

April 3rd	Tommy Lynn Sells	TX
April 9th	Ramiro Hernandez	TX
April 16th	Jose Villegas	TX
April 22nd	Nikolus Johnson	TN
April 22nd	Clayton Lockett	OK

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

April 7th through April 13th

Monday: Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62;
John 8:1-11
Tuesday: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30
Wednesday: Daniel 3:14-20,91-92,95; John 8:31-42
Thursday: Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59
Friday: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42
Saturday: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56
Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11;
Matthew 26:14—27:66

Gospel for the processional on Palm Sunday of the Lords's Passion (April 13th) Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once." This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: Say to daughter Zion, "Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

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