


 I continue this week with a synopsis of last week's lecture on the Mosaic Covenant found in the 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. Again, please realize that what's provided below is only a cursory understanding of the Mosaic Covenant and the importance of God's unconditional love for all people.

The Mosaic Covenant – Lecture #5 April 2, 2014

Last week we spoke about the Mosaic Covenant. The Covenant at Mount Sinai is the most detailed one in the entire Bible. The Scriptures on it run from Exodus 20:1 to 31:18. The remaining Scripture **speaks** of other events of the Israelites and Moses, up to Moses' death **and** runs from Exodus 32 Deuteronomy 34:12. It's important to remember that the Mosaic Covenant at Mount Sinai was not made with Moses as representative of Israel, but with the whole nation of Israel (see Ex 19:3-8). God and Israel were the parties to the Covenant.

After Joseph's **death**, the descendants of Israel continued to be fruitful and multiply "so that the land was filled with them" (Ex 1:7). In a matter of centuries, Jacob's twelve sons had grown to become the twelve tribes of Israel. But they weren't a unified nation yet, and things went from bad to worse.

Through Moses, God sent a chilling message to Pharaoh: "These plagues will ruin the gods of Egypt to show Israel that I'm the God of the universe and to break them of their addiction to power, to wealth and to pleasure." The ten plagues symbolized judgment, condemnation and slaughter of all these false deities including Apis, the bull god; Hathor, the cow goddess; and Khum, the ram god.

Provisions of the Mosaic Covenant at Mount Sinai

The key provision of the Mosaic Covenant was the Law. The laws given reveal the unique design that God apparently had in mind in calling Israel. First, the Ten Commandments, listed in Exodus 20:1-17, gave this ragtag outfit of twelve loosely knit tribes a new identity. The Decalogue revealed to Israel a radically new way of living under the lordship of Yahweh.

The Ten Commandments are sometimes described as Israel's Declaration of Independence from Egyptian slavery. That's fine, as long as we recall that these laws were meant to serve – more accurately – as Israel's formal Declaration of Dependence **upon** God. The laws in the next three chapters (see Ex 21-23) form the "Book of the Covenant" and – to extend the political analogy – served a purpose very similar to the Articles of Confederation, which transformed thirteen colonies into the United States: for the Israelites, this was accomplished by turning the twelve former slave-tribes of Israel into God's national family. Like the Articles of Confederation, the "Book of the Covenant" proved inadequate and was eventually superseded by the "Book of the Law" (otherwise known as Deuteronomy), which Moses gave to the second generation at Moab, forty years after Sinai (see Dt 29:1).

The "Book of the Covenant" contained 613 commandments, plus blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. These 613 commandments are the key provisions of the Covenant. The 613 commandments are just too many to list, let alone discuss, in our 1 hour lecture. So, instead, we shall look at seven observations in connection with the Law.

1. A Totality of 613 Commandments in the Law: Of the 613 commandments in the Law, 365 were negative commandments (things which were forbidden), and 248 were positive commandments, things which should be done.
2. The Blessings and Judgments of the Law: Since this was a conditional covenant, blessings were promised if the people obeyed, and judgment (curses) if they disobeyed. (Exodus 15:26; 19:3-8).
3. The Blood Sacrifice: The key element of the Mosaic Law was the blood sacrifices: There were five different types of offerings detailed in the first seven chapters of Leviticus.
4. Dietary Restrictions: For the Jews, the Law restricted some of the provisions of the Noahic Covenant. Beasts had to be cloven-hooved, and chewers of the cud. Fish had to have both fins and scales. Concerning fowls, no birds of prey were allowed. Insects were forbidden, except locusts.
5. The Death Penalty: The Noahic Covenant imposed the death penalty only for those guilty of killing a human being. The Mosaic Covenant added the death penalty for other sins, such as idolatry, adultery, cursing God, cursing parents, breaking the Shabbat, practicing witchcraft, and many others.

Our continued journey through Salvation History this past week has taken us out of Egypt and bondage to Mount Sinai with Moses, the friend of God, as our guide. God's Sinai Covenant was not with Moses but with the Israelite people, all twelve tribes. God promised Abraham, and reaffirms through Moses, the Promised Land (an image pointing to Heaven) 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. The entire exposé on Moses is provided in Sacred Scripture in the Book of Exodus 2 through the Book of Deuteronomy 34:12.

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.

HELP US DECORATE FOR EASTER

We will be readying the church for our Easter Services beginning at 9:00am on **Saturday, April 19th**. If you are available to help place flowers, dust, and spruce up the church we would be most appreciative of your help. If you have callalilies or orchids from your garden to share please let us know. No need to RSVP just looking forward to seeing you!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Offices will close at 12:Noon on Good Friday, **April 18th**. Additionally the Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, **April 21st**, and re-open at 9:00am on Tuesday, **April 22nd**. The entire staff wishes all of you a very Happy and Holy Easter.

OUR LADIES GUILD

There will not be a luncheon and meeting of the Ladies Guild Friday, **April 18th** as it is Good Friday. Our next gathering will be Friday, **May 16th**, please join us then for a delicious luncheon. Contact Elaine Hammer at 537-5061 to make your reservation.



**FAITHFUL STEWARDS
BISHOP'S APPEAL 2014**

Following is the status of our Annual Bishops Appeal through **April 2nd**:

\$ 14,957.00 – Actual Donations Received

Our Goal for 2014:	\$25,139.00
# of Registered Families	1,555
# of Acknowledged Donors to date:	117
Funds Raised (includes pledges)	\$19,477.00

We are currently at 77% 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 April 6th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 9,408.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,773.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$111,367.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$101,534.00

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 |
| Mary Franks | Pat Silva |
| Byron Griffith | Carolynne Steen |
| Raymond Lowe | Nancy Swinyer |
| | James Van Wert |

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.

- EMILCE ARCHBOLD**
HELEN MAES

ICF HAPPENINGS IN APRIL...

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!

**REGISTER TODAY FOR FESCO'S
17th ANNUAL SHELTER SHUFFLE
STRIDING HOME**

San Leandro Marina--May 3rd

FESCO is asking you to join us in striding toward home at our 17th Annual Shelter Shuffle. 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. Register today for our annual walk-a-thon Saturday, **May 3rd**, this is a family, pet friendly event. OLG Team Captain's, Chris Ippolito and Colleen Lindberg are asking for your help in support of FESCO. Registration materials are available in the parish office or contact Colleen at olgcv@sbcglobal.net



**MAY 17th, 2014
Live & Silent Auction
Dinner & Dancing**

Our Lady of Grace Spring Auction is the biggest one night fundraiser of the year for the school and Parish. Please join us to raise funds for the Parish and school while having a great time! Tickets to the Auction are available in the Parish Office for \$28.00 buy early --ticket prices go up to \$30.00 after **May 1st**.

Don't miss out on this adults only evening --dinner catered by Miraglia, No host bar; Live and Silent Auction, dancing and much more!

To make an Auction Donation contact Colleen Lindberg at the Parish office, 537-0806.

THIS WEEK

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

Spanish Mass

2:00pm--Church

Tuesday, April 15th:

Religious Education Classes

3:45pm--Stack Center

Wednesday, April 16th:

Lenten Soup Meal

Following 5:30pm Mass

Lenten Lecture Series

6:30pm--Stack Center

Thursday, April 17th:

HOLY THURSDAY

Serenity Group

8:15pm— Augustine Center

Friday, April 18th:

GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross

12:Noon--Church

Saturday, April 19th:

HOLY SATURDAY

Sunday, April 20th:

EASTER SUNDAY

Spanish Mass

2:00pm--Church

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.

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 14th Church)
8:30am Rosario Castellanos (D)

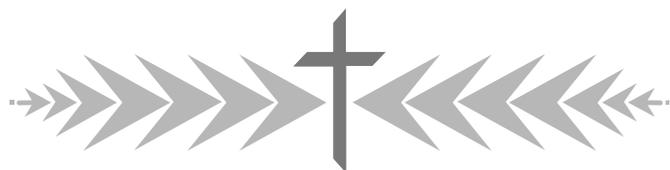
TUESDAY, APRIL 15th
7:00am Lee, Yaka & Frank Music (D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16th
7:00am Raymond & Evelyn Trezza (D)
5:30pm Tom Hayes (D) (Church)

THURSDAY, APRIL 17th (CHURCH)
HOLY THURSDAY
No Morning Mass
7:30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

FRIDAY, APRIL 18th (CHURCH)
GOOD FRIDAY
12:00pm Stations of the Cross
1:30pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:30pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

SATURDAY, APRIL 19th (CHURCH)
HOLY SATURDAY
8:00pm *THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL*



EXECUTION ALERTS

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

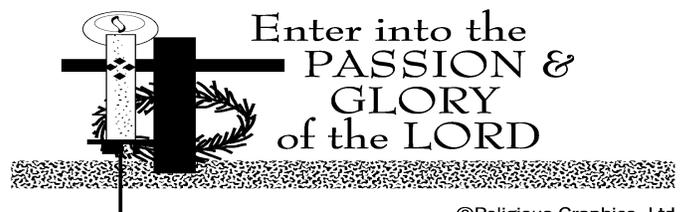
April 16th	Jose Villegas	TX
April 22nd	Nikolus Johnson	TN
April 22nd	Clayton Lockett	OK

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

April 14th through April 20th

- Monday: Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11
- Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33,36-38
- Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9; Matthew 26:14-25
- Thursday: Isaiah 61:1-3,6,8-9; Luke 4:16-21
- Friday: Isaiah 52:13—53:12;
Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9;
John 18:1—19:42
- Saturday: Genesis 1:1-2:2,26-31;
- Sunday: Acts 10:34,37-43; Colossians 3:1-4;
John 20:1-9



Gospel for EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 20th)
John 20:1-9

Jesus said to his disciples: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe."

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our advertisers who make our weekly bulletin possible and so generously support our parish. We are grateful to them !

This week we extend our gratitude to:

AL'S MARKET