LENTEN ADULT BIBLE STUDY
This 7-week course will examine the particular insights found in the passion and resurrection accounts of the four Gospels. Incorporating these stories into the core of our faith, the study will challenge participants to see both the pain of the cross and the hope of the resurrection in daily living. The study will take place at the Lee Vining Rectory Tuesdays, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, & 3/5; Thursday 3/14; and Tuesdays, 3/19, 4/2. For details call David and Linda Dore at 760-847-1055.

LENT IS COMING
A reminder to folks that the holy season of Lent begins a week from this Wednesday: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting. That means those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to limit themselves to one full meal and only two smaller meals. Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. That means that all those over the age of 14 are obliged not to eat meat. These are regulations that unite Catholics in a Lenten journey of repentance and conversion of heart and remind us of our own frailty and make us more sensitive of the needs of others. We observe these practices in a spirit of generosity and solidarity.

LENTEN FRIDAY DEVOTIONS
During the Season of Lent we will celebrate Friday Devotions consisting of Exposition, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross in St. Joseph Church, Mammoth, beginning at 7 o'clock in the evening.

PRAYERS
Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreir, Julie Rogers, Josefina Flores, Glenn Inouye, Peter Mariniello, Consuelo Mendoza Aéyon, Brian Venneman, Gary Boyd, John Wallis, Jill Morstad, Dolores Glynn, and for the repose of the soul of Bill Glynn.

THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC
You must open the interior eyes of your soul on this light, on this heaven within you, a vast horizon stretching far beyond the realm of human activity, an unexplored country to the majority of human beings.
-Saint Vincent Ferrer
FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4–5, 17–19

Be not crushed on their account, as though I would leave you crushed before them; for it is I this day who have made you a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of brass. They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.

Were these words of the Lord of some comfort to Jeremiah as he sank into the mud at the bottom of the cistern, where his detractors had unceremoniously thrown him? (Jeremiah 38:6) Did his enemies shout down to him, "How's that 'wall of brass' holding up, Jerry ol' boy?" Did they remind him of the promise of God way back at the beginning that they would not prevail over him? Did he wonder what exactly God meant by "I will deliver you" when the conquering Babylonians burned down the temple and the king's palace, and smashed the walls of Jerusalem, (Jeremiah 52:12–14) and the prophet himself, according to Jewish tradition, was relegated to street life with the dregs of the defeated city? And how about when, again according to tradition, the pitiful remnant of the population left behind in the rubble detested Jeremiah so much that they exiled him to Egypt, where he was finally murdered by a angry mob of his own countrymen: did that get to Jeremiah, to whom God made the promise, "I am with you"?

It's a tough deal to be one of God's prophets. But we'd better get used to it, we who are baptized to be a nation of priests, prophets, and kings. God's promises are true, but they aren't always fulfilled in this life.


Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Before this month is over, Jesus will be telling us in the gospel to love our enemies and offer the other cheek to those who strike us. Facing what seems to be the constant threat of our enemies, we might be sceptical about this teaching. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what would happen if we actually did what the Lord commanded. Before long we'd find ourselves in the same muddy cistern with the prophet Jeremiah!

The great lasting love celebrated in this reading is not human love, but divine love. "God proves his love for us," Paul writes in Romans 5:8, "in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." This love of God is constantly poured out in us even though we don't make good on it, persist in our injury. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

To be infinitely loved by God is to be filled to overflowing. A thousand times a day the blood of Christ washes away our sins and flows out into the world around us, loving all. A soul converted by God's love is willing to give it all up, even to an enemy, for the sake of God's promise, even if it won't be fulfilled in this world.


There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent. But only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. There were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha: yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syriam.

The gathering in the synagogue of Nazareth that day was not unaware of the Scripture stories about the widow of Zarephath or Naaman the Syriam. It was just that they never really thought of them in quite the same context Jesus presented them. As far as they were concerned, it was just two examples of the many odd stories about the prophets, such as when Elijah slit the throats of the 450 prophets of Baal (1Kings 18:40), or the time Elisha commanded a couple of bears to attack 42 children who made fun of his bald head. (2Kings 2:23–24)

But Jesus saw the stories and examples of God's love reaching beyond the borders of race, religion, and nationality. The ancient Israelites were taught to keep themselves strictly segregated from foreigners and people of other faiths. They were not supposed to intermarry. History and their own prophets in the Bible blamed most of Israel's woes on the fact that their kings ignored the rules and took foreign wives. And the way the people understood it, most of the trouble came from Sidon and Syria.

So they were greatly offended by the Lord's teaching. They were supposed to be the people of God, the nation to whom God had shown great favor. And sure, they appreciated God's love, but not when it went out to their enemies.