

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham, God came down to rescue His people from the slave drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant, He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction.

The Exodus was given as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink. Let us not forget that the events of the Exodus were also given as a “warning”, that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation.

Jesus warns us in today’s Gospel, that at any moment we could perish, not as God’s punishment for being “greater sinners” but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we too stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits. Jesus calls us today to “repentance”, not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We’re called to live our lives blessing God’s holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too God is giving Israel and us, one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of our repentance. Let us, then, allow “the garden-er,” Christ, to cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity.

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony



Consciente de su pacto con Abraham, Dios bajó para rescatar a su pueblo de los esclavistas de Egipto. Fiel a ese mismo Pacto, envió a Jesús para redimir todas las vidas de la destrucción.

El éxodo fue dado como preludio y presagio de nuestro propio bautismo por el agua, nuestra liberación del pecado, nuestra alimentación con comida y bebida espirituales. No olvidemos que los acontecimientos del éxodo también fueron dados como una "ADVERTENCIA", que ser hijos de Abraham no es garantía de que alcanzaremos la tierra prometida de nuestra salvación.

Jesús nos advierte en el Evangelio de hoy, que en cualquier momento podemos perecer, no como castigo de Dios por ser "pecadores mayores" sino porque, al igual que los israelitas en el desierto, nosotros también tropecamos con los deseos malignos, caemos en refunfujos, olvidamos todos sus beneficios. Jesús nos llama hoy al "arrepentimiento", no un cambio de corazón de una sola vez, sino una transformación constante y cotidiana de nuestra vida. Estamos llamados a vivir nuestras vidas bendiciendo el santo nombre de Dios, dando gracias por su bondad y misericordia.

A medida que la higuera se da una última temporada para producir fruta antes de que sea cortada, también Dios nos está dando a Israel y a nosotros, una última oportunidad para dar buenos frutos como evidencia de nuestro arrepentimiento. Permitenos, entonces, que "el jardinero", Cristo, cultive nuestros corazones, desarraigar lo que ahoga la vida divina en nosotros, fortalecernos para dar frutos que durarán hasta la eternidad.

Padre Miguel Jeeva Antony



40 Days for Life: From March 6 through April 14th, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic at 3579 Franklin Blvd., Eugene, Oregon 97403 (Glenwood area), and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach. On Saturday, April 13th, Fr. Peter Do of St. Thomas More Newman Center at the U of O will lead us in prayers at 1 p.m. at Planned Parenthood. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to pray for an hour outside the facility or help in other ways, please contact: Eileen at etmoregon@yahoo.com or 541-543-7168 or our Website page 40DaysforLife.com/Eugene. Thanks!

40 DÍAS POR LA VIDA: Esta primavera, desde el 6 de marzo hasta el 14 de abril, se invita a todos los Cristianos de nuestra comunidad a tomar parte del esfuerzo provida Nacional más grande en la historia: 40 Días Por La Vida. Además de los 40 días de ayuno y oración por el fin del aborto en America, por favor considera participar en la vigilia de oración afuera de Planned Parenthood clínica de aborto en 3579 Franklin Blvd., Eugene, Oregon 97403 (Glenwood área), por una o mas horas durante los 40 días y corre la voz a otras personas sobre este importante esfuerzo por salvar vidas. El sábado 13 de abril, el Padre Peter Do de St. Thomas More Newman Center en la Universidad de Oregon nos guiará en oraciones a la 1 pm en Planned Parenthood. Para más información, o para ayudar como voluntario(a), por favor contacta a Violet Olszyk en minispiel@gmail.com o 925-490-5389 o regístrate en 40DaysforLife.com/Eugene. Todos son bienvenidos!



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.rediscoverthespark.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

ST BENEDICT LODGE HOLY WEEK RETREAT -

Our Holy Week Retreat centers around the great celebrations of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, the Passion and Death of Jesus on Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Saturday, leading to the Mass of Resurrection on Easter Sunday. By coming away to a beautiful place with the single focus on these feasts, with lots of time for yourself, but also with people similarly focused, one can participate in Jesus' saving love in a most marvelous way for benefit of yourself and our world.

April 18 (5pm) - April 21 (brunch)
\$125 -- includes room and meals

Reserve your place, contact us EARLY.
Call St. Benedict's at 541-822-3572
or email us at sblodge@opwest.org

Job Opportunity:

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