



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
 Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

First Sunday of Lent

February 26, 2012

I Domingo De Cuaresma

26 de Febrero de 2012



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Tus sendas, Señor, son misericordia y lealtad, para los que guardan tu a lizanza.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ma 25:31-46
 Martes: Is 55:10-11; Ma 6:7-15
 Miércoles: Jon 3:1-10; Lc 11:29-32
 Jueves: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
 Viernes: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
 Sábado: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
 Domingo: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Sal 116 (115); Rom 8:31b-34; Mc 9:2-10

Mass & Church Schedule

Monday, February 27 :

Noon Communion Service with Deacon Tom at St. Joseph's, Elma

Tuesday, February 28:

Noon Mass - St. John's, Montesano
For our Benefactors

Thursday, February 29:

Noon Mass - St. John's, Montesano
For our Benefactors

Friday, March 1:

Noon Mass - St. Joseph's, Elma
For our Benefactors

12:45 Confessions

Saturday, March 22:

4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament

4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.-Confessions at St. John's, Montesano

5:00 p.m. Mass at St. John's, Montesano

Sunday, March 23:

9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph, Elma

11:30 a.m. Mass at St. John, Montesano

Horario de la masa y de la iglesia

Lunes 27 de febrero:

Servicio de Comunión al Mediodía con el Diácono Tom en San José, Elma

Martes 28 de febrero:

Misa de Mediodía - San Juan, Montesano

Jueves 29 de febrero:

Misa de Mediodía - San Juan, Montesano

Viernes 1 de marzo:

Misa de Mediodía - San José, Elma

12:45 Confesiones

Sábado 2 de marzo:

4:00 p.m. a 4:30 p.m.-Confesiones en San Juan, Montesano

5:00 p.m. Misa en San Juan, Montesano

Domingo 3 de marzo:

9:00 a.m. Misa en San José, Elma

11:30 a.m. Misa en San Juan, Montesano

Stewardship— GOD GIVES IT ALL— THEN CALLS US TO SHARE



St. Joseph's:

Collection. 2/19 & 2/22/2012	YTD
Budgeted \$ 2,300	\$ 78,200
Collected \$ 1,789	\$ 61,724
Difference \$ (511)	\$ (16,476)

St. John's:

Collection 2/18, 02/19 & 2/22/2012	YTD
Budgeted \$ 2,300	\$ 78,200
Collected \$ 1,892	\$ 67,199
Difference \$ (408)	(\$11,001)

THANK YOU FOR GIVING OF YOUR FIRST FRUITS!

Donaciones

Su donación apoya nuestra misión de amar y servir al Señor Jesucristo como Católicos Romanos en el este del Condado de Grays Harbor. Si lo desea, especifique si prefiere que San José o San Juan reciba su do-

SECOND COLLECTION

Every Sunday for fire alarms and church repairs. Please give to save our churches.

Special Prayer Requests:

Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.

Matthew 18:19

Peticiones de Oración Especiales:

Asimismo yo les digo: si en la tierra dos de ustedes se ponen de acuerdo para pedir alguna cosa, mi Padre Celestial se la concederá. Mateo 18, 19

All are invited to join in praying the rosary before Mass each Sunday at St. Joseph's. The prayer usually begins at 8:25 a.m. Please join us.

Todos están invitados a unirse en el rezo del rosario antes de Misa cada domingo en San José. La oración generalmente comienza a la 8:25 a.m. Por favor acompañenos.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL TRAINING

Be an Advocate to help parishioners resolve prior marriage cases according to canon law. Training on **March 7-9** at the Palisades in Federal Way. Registration is limited to 40 people. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible for more information or to register.

Please pray for:

Parishioners, family and friends who are serving our country. Five good vocations to the priesthood and religious life from St. Joseph's and St. John's.

Diane Vangeystel

Russ and Marcella Rattie

Evelyn Van Agtmael

Rayj Johnson

Repose of the Soul Carolyn Carlson

We are updating our prayer request list, if you would like to have a name added to our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 360-482-3190 or pjm.twosaints@gmail.com

Parish Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<u>Feb. 26</u> 9a: Mass, Elma 11:30a: Mass, Montesano St. John & St. Joseph Coffee Hour After Mass 5p: Confessions, Montesano 6p: Donna Cori Gibson- The Way of the Cross Concert, St. John's Montesano	<u>Feb. 27</u> Noon: Communion Service, Elma	<u>Feb. 28</u> Noon: Mass, Montesano	<u>Feb. 29</u> 9-Noon Office Open	<u>Mar. 1</u> Noon Mass, Montesano	<u>Mar. 2</u> 9 - Noon: Office Open Noon Mass, Elma 12:45 Confessions 6p: Stations of the Cross & Soup Dinner, St. Johns', Montesano	<u>Mar. 3</u> 9-5p:Office Open 4p: Adorations, Montesano 4p: Confessions, Montesano 5p: Mass, Montesano
<u>Mar. 4</u> 9a: Mass, Elma 11:30a: Mass, Montesano St. John Coffee Hour After Mass 3p.-5p: Mexican Folklore Dance Group, St. John's 4p: Choir Practice, St. John's 5p: Teaching Mass, Montesano	<u>Mar. 5</u> Noon: Communion Service, Elma	<u>Mar. 6</u> Noon: Mass, Montesano	<u>Mar. 7</u> Office Closed 7p: Joint St. Joseph & St. John Finance Coun. Mtg., St. John's	<u>Mar. 8</u> Noon: Mass, Montesano St. John's Altar Society Mtg. After Mass	<u>Mar. 9</u> 9-Noon: Office Open 11:30a: Montesano Ministerial Assoc. Prayer and Soup Lunch Noon: Mass, Elma 12:45 Confessions 6p: Stations of the Cross & Soup Dinner, St. Joseph's, Elma	<u>Mar. 10</u> 9-5p:Office Open 3p: Stewardship Mtg., Montesano 4p: Adorations, Montesano 4p:Confessions, Montesano 5p: Mass, Montesano Jr. High Youth Rally at Highline Community College in De Moines
<u>Mar. 11</u> <u>Daylight Savings</u> 9a: Mass, Elma First Communion Class after Mass, McLaughlin Hall, Elma 11:30a: Mass, Montesano	<u>Mar. 12</u> Noon: Communion Service, Elma	<u>Mar. 13</u> Noon: Mass, Montesano	<u>Mar. 14</u> 9-Noon Office Open	<u>Mar. 15</u> Noon: Mass, Montesano	<u>Mar. 16</u> 9-Noon: Office Open Noon: Mass, Montesano 12:45 Confessions 6p: Stations of the Cross & Soup Dinner, St. John's, Montesano	<u>Mar. 17</u> 9-5p:Office Open 3p: Stewardship Mtg., Montesano 4p: Adorations, Montesano 4p:Confessions Montesano 5p: Mass, Montesano
<u>Mar. 18</u> 9a: Mass, Elma 10a: St. Patrick's Day Breakfast, St. Joseph's First Communion Class after Mass, McLaughlin Hall, Elma 11:30a: Mass, Montesano	<u>Mar. 19</u> Noon: Communion Service, Elma	<u>Mar. 20</u> Noon: Mass, Montesano. 6:30p. - Liturgy Mtg., St. John's	<u>Mar. 21</u> 9-Noon Office Open	<u>Mar. 22</u> Noon: Mass, Montesano	<u>Mar. 23</u> 9-Noon:Office Open Noon: Mass, Montesano 12:45 Confessions 6p: Stations of the Cross & Soup Dinner, St. Joseph's, Elma	<u>Mar. 24</u> 9-5p:Office Open 4p: Adorations, Montesano 4p:Confessions Montesano 5p: Mass, Montesano



Tickets available in the office. There will be an offering taken to help defray the cost of having Donna Cori Gibson come for this concert.

LENT SACRED CONCERT

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Featuring Donna Cori Gibson

The Way of the Cross: a song for each station

Take up your cross and follow Jesus with a moving presentation of the Stations of the Cross.

CONFESSIONS FROM 5:00 TO 6:00

Reception after concert in parish hall.

Marriage Help – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the April program beginning with a weekend on April 20th-22nd call 206-706-2608 or visit our website at www.helpourmarriage.com

Mexican Folklore Dance Group

All are invited to join us in this fun new venture!

St. John's Parish Hall

March 4th

3pm to 5pm

Stewardship of Time

Making a Commitment

Stewardship isn't just about the money and ministry we give to church and charity, but also about how we use all of our time, talent, and treasure. Your Parish is asking if you would make a commitment of the gift of your time to worship, to prayer, to your family, and to community involvement.

Commitment and special prayer requests cards will be in the pews for the next few weeks. Please place commitment and prayer cards in the collection basket or return to the parish office.

Coffee Hour—St. Joseph's

There will be a coffee hour hosted by the Altar Society after the 9:00 Mass, Sunday February 26th.

This follows the rectory story board. Here parishioners can express their interests and view the story board. Members of the rectory board will be available to answer any questions that may arise after the presentation to the parish.

YOUNG ADULTS

Get into YouCat, the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, and discuss it in our online classroom with Father Dickey and our Confirmation teens. Visit our parish website (www.twosaints.us) email Diane Young and get started.

Suggested donation is \$14 per book, which is our cost.

Coffee Hour - St. John's

Please join us after Mass for refreshments and good company.

February 26th will be hosted by Sally Baxter and Pat Prkut.

March 4th will be hosted by Jane Reibel and Jackie Watkinson.

JOIN THE CHOIR

Any singers and wannabe singers are invited to come to the choir loft at St. John's at 4:00 on **March 4** to sit with the Teaching Mass.

St. Joseph's First Communion Preparation Classes

Those who completed classes and made their first Reconciliation this winter will begin First Communion classes on March 11, 2012. Classes will be held after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in McLaughlin Hall.

There will be no class on March 4, April 1, and May 6 when students are required to attend the 5:00 P.M. Teaching Mass.

First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, June 10. **Note** to students: Please make sure to say the prayers that you have been given. **Note** to parents: I look forward to seeing all of you soon to begin preparation for this very important Sacrament in your life. -Victoria Dilley

Clases de Preparación para la Primera Comunión en San José

Quienes completaron las clases e hicieron su Primera Reconciliación en el invierno van a comenzar las clases de Primera Comunión el 11 de marzo del 2012.

Las clases tendrán lugar después de Misa de 9:00 a.m. en el Salón McLaughlin. No habrá clases el 4 de marzo, 1 de abril y 6 de mayo cuando los estudiantes están obligados a asistir a la Misa de Enseñanza de 5:00 p.m. La Primera Comunión está programada para el domingo 10 de junio.

Nota a los estudiantes:

Por favor, asegúrese de decir las oraciones que se les han dado.

Nota a los padres:

Espero verlos a todos pronto para comenzar la preparación para este Sacramento de gran importancia en su vida.—Victoria Dilley

Catholic Women's Retreat

Saturday March 10, 2012

St. Mary Parish Center, 306 East 3rd Street

Aberdeen, WA 98520

8:15 am Check in and breakfast

9:00 am Retreat program, reflection and prayer

12:30 pm Closing

Presenter: Barbara Anderson, Pastoral Associate of Corvallis, Oregon

Hosted by St. Aurilla Guild of St. Mary Church

Tickets \$12.50 * For tickets and reservations call Cheryl Melville at 360.533.3647

or Barbara Randich 360.532.5670

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY
MARCH 1st**

Camp Don Bosco

Spanish weekends will be

September 20-23 (men)

September 27-30 (women)

English Weekends are:

October 4-7, (men)

October 11-14, (women)

NOW is the time to pray about possible candidates. Remember to talk to God about your candidate before you talk to your candidate about Cursillo.

A sponsor should be in a reunion group or seeking a reunion group. It is also good to be attending an Ultreya.

There is considerable information on the Seattle Cursillo Website: www.seattlecursillo.org/

Please contact Kathleen Manning at carlmanning@comcast.net or 360.485.8467 if you have any questions.

REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

ARREPIÉNTANSE Y CREAN EN EL EVANGELIO

La Cuaresma es la época del año que dedicamos a examinar nuestras vidas a la luz de nuestro Bautismo en la muerte y Resurrección de Jesús. Las lecturas de hoy son un catecismo abreviado de lo que significa estar bautizados. Como Noé pasó por las aguas del diluvio a una alianza con Dios, así también nosotros entramos en una alianza, una relación con Dios, mediante nuestro Bautismo.

La carta de Pedro da una explicación explícita de lo que nuestro Bautismo significa: un llamamiento que hacemos a Dios para que nos dé una conciencia tranquila. ¿Cómo podemos obtener esta conciencia tranquila? Las palabras proclamadas por Jesús inmediatamente después de su tentación nos muestran cómo: "Arrepiéntanse y crean en el Evangelio" (Marcos 1:15). Podría ser un buen ejercicio espiritual mantener estas lecturas ante nosotros durante todo el tiempo de Cuaresma, un medio que nos ayude a volver a una vida vivida por las promesas bautismales.

The Priory Spirituality

Center, Lacey

Below you will find a list of programs available through the next few weeks

The Prayer and Grace of Icons

March 3, 2012(Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM)

Register by prior Friday: \$50.

Lectio Divina and the Creative Arts

March 10, 2012

(Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM)

Lucy Wynkoop, OSB

To register call The Spirituality Center at 360-438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org. Join us on our Facebook page (The Priory Spirituality Center) and our Twitter feed

Rite of Confirmation for Teens

The 2012 Rite of Confirmation will be on: **Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

Please contact Diane Young at the parish office, if you are interested in helping with confirmation.

ENTERING INTO MARRIAGE

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.



Special Intention Mass

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your special intention.

Mass is a good way to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, memorials, a newly married couple, mother's day, father's day, as a spiritual bouquet gift for someone, and to pray during illness, before surgery, and for a safe pregnancy.

Contact the parish office to schedule a Mass intention.

Special Intention Masses can be scheduled on:

Tuesday	Noon - St. John's, Montesano
Thursday	Noon - St. John's, Montesano
Friday	Noon - St. Joseph's, Elma

Intención Especial de la Misa

El Santo Sacrificio de la Misa se ofrecerá por su intención especial.

La Misa es una buena forma de conmemorar cumpleaños, aniversarios, graduaciones, memoriales, una pareja de recién casados, día de las madres, día de los padres, como para regalar un ramillete espiritual para alguien, y para rezar durante una enfermedad, antes de una cirugía y por un embarazo sano.

Póngase en contacto con la oficina para programar una intención en la Misa.

Las Intenciones Especiales de las Misas pueden ser programadas en:

Martes	Mediodía— San Juan, Montesano
Jueves	Mediodía— San Juan, Montesano
Viernes	Mediodía— San José, Elma

Formación en la Fe de Todas las Parroquias

A todos los feligreses mayores de ocho años de edad se les invita y anima a participar en nuestras sesiones de Formación en la Fe de Todas las Parroquias.

El Padre Dickey va a dirigir cada sesión en el santuario de San Juan en Montesano los domingos por la tarde.

Adoración y Bendición del Santísimo Sacramento: 5:00 a 5:30 p.m.

Enseñanza Eucarística usando la Tercera Edición del Misal Romano: 5:30 a 6:30 p.m.

Se proveerán actividades para los niños menores de ocho en el sótano de la iglesia durante la sesión.

Por favor asegúrese de apartar las fechas:

Marzo 4 Abril 1 Mayo 6

St. Joseph's & St. John's All Parish Faith Formation— Teaching Mass

All parishioners eight years of age and up are invited, and encouraged to participate in our All Parish Faith Formation sessions. Father Dickey will lead each session in the sanctuary at St. John's, in Montesano on Sunday evenings.

5:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Teaching Eucharist using The Roman Missal
Third Edition

Please make sure to save the dates:

March-4 April-1 May-6



Soup Dinners 6:00 p.m. & Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 2 - St. John's

Friday, March 9, 11:30 am - Montesano Ministerial Association Prayer and Soup Lunch

Friday, March 9 - St. Joseph's

Friday, March 16 -St. John's

Friday, March 23 -St. Joseph's

Friday, March 30, 11:30 am - Montesano Ministerial Association Prayer and Soup Lunch

Friday, March 30 -St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's Stations of the Cross will be recited in Spanish.

Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: God's Covenant

In today's first reading, we hear about God's covenant with Noah, with his descendants and with all living creatures. During Lent, we are called to deepen and strengthen our baptismal and covenantal relationship with God, which includes our responsibility to care for God's creation. This week through Operation Rice Bowl, we learn about subsistence farmers in Madagascar. We pray for all who struggle to feed their families on depleted land, and we fast in solidarity with those who hunger. We give so that CRS can help farmers improve their growing methods and act as good stewards of God's creation.

Homily

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. It is significant that in the opening reading we hear about the covenant that God made with Noah. Our Jewish brothers and sisters refer to this as the Noahide Covenant. This covenant does not just apply to Jews, but to the whole human race. You will remember that in the Bible Noah and his family were the sole survivors of the great flood.

According to Jewish scholars, the Noahide Covenant has seven pillars. They include the prohibition of idolatry, murder, theft, sexual immorality and blasphemy. This applies to us today. Sometimes people ask if there are moral rules that all humans must follow. We have an answer in the Noahide Covenant: It is wrong to kill, to take innocent human life. It is wrong to steal - to do violence to another human being by robbing his possessions. It is wrong to engage in sexual immorality. Do I need to go into details? These teachings are not new – they go back to Noah.

The covenant with Noah lives today in the voice of conscience. Just as God spoke to Noah, he speaks to us in our conscience. In recent weeks our bishops have been reminding us Catholics - and our fellow citizens as well - that conscience is real. In our conscience God speaks to us about the meaning of human life and human sexuality. Even if it means fines and imprisonment, our bishops are telling that we must not go against conscience. It is the voice of God. It is good to have that reminder, especially as we begin these forty days of Lent.

God made a covenant with our father, Noah. But something has gone wrong. To understand what happened, I would like to quote from C.S. Lewis: "What Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could 'be like gods' - could set up on their own as if they had created themselves - be their own masters - invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history - money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery - the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."

When you think about it, every sin is a form of idolatry - imagining that something other than God will us peace, lasting happiness. That is why the first pillar of the Noahide covenant is the prohibition of idolatry - the attempt make some person or thing into a god.

Regarding idolatry, it is important to remember that, although as Christians we obey the laws of our country, we cannot allow the government to take the place of God. That is a temptation today. Since we have lost the consensus about right and wrong, we can be tempted to look to the government to tell us what is morally correct. For example, we see our government telling us that it is OK for two men to marry – or that it is OK to take the life of an unborn child. The government is not God. There is a commandment that says, "I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me." I would to make this observation:

When we are tempted, we need to remember about Jesus going into the desert for forty days. St. Mark states very briefly that Jesus was "tempted by Satan." Unlike us he withstood temptation. In doing so, he shows us that it is possible - with grace - to resist Satan, to put God first, to recognize that only He can make us happy, only He can give us peace. The things of God's creation are good. We should receive them with gratitude, but if you have made some created thing into a god, Jesus has a word for you, "Repent."

"This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Now, Jesus is not speaking about some vague repentance. He has a specific plan. The first step is to pray. He gave us an example by spending forty days in prayer. You might say, "How can I get time to pray?" That's where the second step comes in: fasting. Not just eating more simply - but fasting from other things: video games, chat rooms, television, the Internet and cell phone. Instead of email, why not try knee-mail? Knee mail is getting down on your knees and praying for the person you are concerned about.

So, prayer and fasting. They lead to the third step: financial sacrifice. Let's face it, as Americans it is easy for us to make money into an idol. Go to a poor country, and see how a small amount of economic help can make an enormous difference in the life of child or a family. Our financial sacrifices can make a positive change in our world. Giving will not only help the other person, but the giver himself. It is the most practical way of saying, "all that I am and all I have, I owe to you. It belongs to you, not me."

I began this homily with Noah and I will end with Noah. St. Paul tells us that Noah prefigures baptism because he and his family "were saved through water." During Lent we look forward to the baptism of our elect - and the renewal of our own baptism.

As we focus on baptism, we remember the covenant God made with Noah – a covenant that God continues in the voice of conscience. We have a somewhat anemic sense of conscience today, but it was not always so. Blessed John Newman said, "if I am asked why I believe in a God, I answer that it is because I believe in myself, for I feel it impossible to believe in my own existence (and of that fact I am quite sure) without believing also in the existence of Him, who lives as a Personal, All-seeing, All-judging Being in my conscience." (Apologia Pro Vita Sua) The Catechism quotes Newman's definition of conscience: "Conscience is not a long-sighted selfishness, nor a desire to be consistent with oneself; but it is a messenger from Him, Who, both in nature and grace, speaks to us behind a veil, and teaches and rules us by His representatives. Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ." (1778)

Like our ancestors we often do not listen to that voice; we give in to temptations. Jesus has a concrete plan of repentance that includes prayer, fasting and financial sacrifice. Repent, and believe in the gospel. Amen.

Homily

Hoy celebramos el Primer Domingo de Cuaresma. Es significativo que en la lectura del Antiguo Testamento escuchamos de la alianza que Dios hizo con Noé. Nuestros hermanos judíos la llaman la Alianza Noajida. Esta alianza no aplica solamente a los judíos sino a toda la raza humana. Recordarán que en la Biblia Noé y su familia fueron los únicos sobrevivientes del gran diluvio.

Según los estudiosos judíos, la Alianza Noajide tiene siete pilares. Incluyen la prohibición de la idolatría, el asesinato, el robo, la inmoralidad sexual y la blasfemia. Esto aplica a nosotros hoy en día. Algunos se preguntan si hay normas morales que todo ser humano debe seguir. Tenemos una respuesta en la Alianza Noajida: Es malo matar, quitar una vida inocente. Es malo robar - ejercer violencia sobre otro ser humano por el robo de sus bienes. Es malo participar en la inmoralidad sexual. ¿Necesito dar detalles? Estas enseñanzas no son nuevas - vienen desde Noé.

La alianza con Noé vive hoy en la voz de la conciencia. Así como Dios habló a Noé, El nos habla en nuestra conciencia. En las últimas semanas los obispos nos han recordado a los Católicos - y a nuestros conciudadanos - que la conciencia es real. En nuestra conciencia Dios nos habla sobre el significado de la vida y la sexualidad humanas. Incluso si eso significa multas y encarcelamientos, nuestros obispos están diciendo que no debemos ir en contra de nuestra conciencia. Es la voz de Dios. Es bueno que no lo olviden, especialmente cuando comenzamos estos cuarenta días de Cuaresma.

Dios hizo una alianza con nuestro padre, Noé. Pero algo ha salido mal. Para entender lo que sucedió, quisiera citar de C.S. Lewis: "Lo que Satanás puso en las cabezas de nuestros remotos antepasados era la idea que podían ser 'como dioses' - actuar como si se hubieran creado a sí mismos - ser sus propios dueños - inventar un tipo de felicidad por sí mismos fuera de Dios, aparte de Dios. Y de ese intento desesperado ha salido casi todo lo que llamamos la historia humana - dinero, pobreza, ambición, guerra, prostitución, clases sociales, imperios, esclavitud - la larga y terrible historia del hombre tratando de encontrar algo más que Dios que lo hará feliz."

Al pensarlo bien, todo pecado es una forma de idolatría - imaginar que hay algo más que Dios nos dará paz, felicidad duradera. Por eso el primer pilar de la Alianza Noajida es la prohibición de idolatría - el intento de convertir alguna persona o cosa en dios.

En cuanto a la idolatría, es importante recordar que, aunque como cristianos obedecemos las leyes de nuestra patria, no podemos permitir que el gobierno tome el lugar de Dios. Eso es una tentación hoy. Puesto que hemos perdido el consenso sobre el bien y el mal, podemos tener la tentación de esperar que el gobierno nos diga lo que es moralmente correcto. Por ejemplo, vemos a nuestro gobierno diciéndonos que está bien que dos hombres se casen - o que está bien tomar la vida de un niño nonato. El gobierno no es Dios. Hay un mandamiento que dice, "Yo, el Señor, soy tu Dios...No habrá para ti otros dioses delante de mí." Quisiera hacer esta observación:

Cuando estemos tentados, necesitamos recordar que Jesús pasó cuarenta días en el desierto. San Marcos dice brevemente que Jesús fue "tentado por Satanás." A diferencia de nosotros, El resistió la tentación. Al hacerlo, nos muestra que es posible - con la gracia de Dios - resistir a Satanás, poner a Dios primero, reconocer que solo El puede hacernos feliz, solo El puede darnos la paz. Las cosas que Dios ha creado son buenas. Debemos recibir las con gratitud, pero si ha hecho creado algo en dios, Jesús tiene una palabra para usted, "Arrepiéntete."

"Se ha cumplido el plazo.

El Reino de Dios está cerca.

Arrepiéntete y cree en el Evangelio."

Ahora bien, Jesús no está hablando de vagos arrepentimientos. Tiene un plan específico. El primer paso es orar. Nos dió un ejemplo pasando cuarenta días en oración. Podemos decir, "¿Cómo puedo encontrar tiempo para rezar?" Ahí es donde entra el segundo paso: Ayunar. No solamente comer más sencillamente - sino ayunar de otras cosas: juegos de video, chatear, televisión, la Internet y el teléfono celular. En vez de correo electrónico, ¿porqué no intentar correo de rodillas? Correo de rodillas es arrodillarse y rezar por la persona que le preocupa.

Así, la oración y el ayuno. Conducen al tercer paso; sacrificio económico. Hay que admitir, como americanos es fácil hacer un ídolo del dinero. Vaya a un país pobre, vea como una pequeña cantidad de ayuda puede hacer una enorme diferencia en la vida de un niño o una familia. Nuestros sacrificios financieros pueden hacer un cambio positivo en nuestro mundo. Dar no solamente ayudará a la otra persona, sino al mismo donante. Es la forma más práctica de decir, "todo lo que soy y lo que tengo, te lo debo a ti. Te pertenece a ti, no a mí."

Comencé la homilía con Noé y la terminaré con Noé. San Pablo nos dice que Noé prefigura el bautismo porque él y su familia "se salvaron por las aguas." Durante la Cuaresma esperamos por el bautismo de los elegidos - y la renovación de nuestro propio bautismo.

Al enfocarnos en el bautismo, recordamos la alianza que Dios hizo con Noé - una alianza que Dios continúa en la voz de la conciencia. Tenemos una forma de sentido anémico en la conciencia hoy en día, pero no siempre fue así. El Beato John Newman dijo, "si me preguntan por qué creo en un Dios, respondo que es porque creo en mí mismo, porque me parece imposible creer en mi propia existencia (y de ello estoy seguro) sin creer también en la existencia de El, quien vive como un Ser personal, que todo lo ve, todo lo juzga en mi conciencia." (Su Apología Pro Vita) El Catecismo cita la definición de Newman de la conciencia: "La conciencia no es un previsor del egoísmo, ni el deseo de ser coherente con uno mismo; la conciencia es la mensajera del que, tanto en el mundo de la naturaleza como en el de la gracia, a través de un velo nos habla, nos instruye y nos gobierna. La conciencia es el primero de todos los vicarios de Cristo." (1778)

Al igual que nuestros antepasados muchas veces no escuchamos esa voz, caemos en las tentaciones. Jesús tiene un plan concreto de arrepentimiento que incluye oración, ayuno y sacrificio financiero. Arrepiéntete y cree en el Evangelio. Amén.

**February 26, 2012
Parish Office**

501 W. Main St. Phone: 360-482-3190
PO Box 3027 Fax: 360-482-3107
Elma WA 98541 www.twosaints.us

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

**PASTORAL COUNCILS
ST. JOSEPH AND ST. JOHN**

Each committee, ministry, or guild is invited to submit up to two names for Pastoral Council of their parish. One member will be selected from each group to serve for a year. Applicants with email are preferred.

Horario de Oficina:

Domingo a Martes: Cerrado
Miércoles: Abierto 9am - Mediodía
Jueves: Cerrado
Viernes: Abierto 9am - Mediodía
Sábado: Abierto 9 am - 5 pm

Office Hours:

Sunday through Tuesday : Closed
Wednesday: Open 9am - Noon
Thursdays: Closed
Friday: Open 9am- Noon
Saturday: Open 9am - 5 pm

NEW PARISHONERS:

If you are new to St. Joseph's or St. John's and have not registered, please fill out a registration form and return it to the parish office. Forms are located in the back of the church. If you would like the registration form sent to you electronically, please submit an email request to: diane@elmamontecatholic.comcastbiz.net

Thank you !!!

Our Parish Home Messenger

If you know of someone who is not able to attend Mass, but would like to receive a copy of the Parish Home Messenger, please contact the parish office.

If you have a notice or prayer request you would like in the Parish Home Messenger please submit your requests by Thursday at 6:00p.m. to ensure that it is received before the Parish Home Messenger is printed.

Requests can be made by phone at 360-482-3190 or email at phm.twosaints@gmail.com.

Nuestro Mensajero Parroquial:

Si sabe de alguien que no puede asistir a Misa, pero quisiera recibir una copia del Mensajero Parroquial, por favor comuníquese con la oficina parroquial. Si tiene un aviso o una petición de oración que quiera incluir en el Mensajero Parroquial por favor envíe sus peticiones más tarde el jueves a las 6:00 p.m. para asegurarse que lo recibimos antes de imprimir el Mensajero Parroquial. Las peticiones pueden hacerse por teléfono al 360-482-3190 ó por correo electrónico phm.twosaints@gmail.com.

Black and Indian Mission Collection

The Black and Indian Mission Collection provides yearly grants to United States Bishops to promote evangelization and catechesis among Native American and African American peoples, with an emphasis on serving economically challenged areas within our dioceses.

NUEVOS FELIGRESES:

Si es nuevo en San José en San Juan y no se ha registrado, por favor llene una forma de registro y devuélvala a la oficina parroquial. Encuentra las formas en la parte de atrás de la iglesia. Si desea que le enviemos la forma de registro electrónicamente, por favor envíe un correo electrónico solicitándola a:

diane@elmamontecatholic.comcastbiz.net

Gracias.