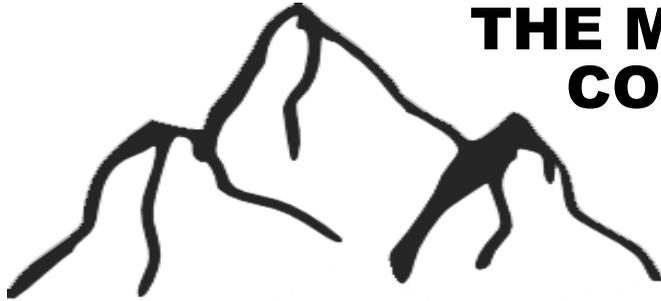


THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC



Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity you are God. Psalm 90:2

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

MONDAY 2/20

James 3:13-18
Mark 9:14-29

TUESDAY 2/21

James 4:1-10
Mark 9:30-37

WEDNESDAY 2/22

Jl 2:12-18; 2Cor 5:20--6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY 2/23

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Luke 9:22-25

FRIDAY 2/24

Isaiah 58:1-9
Matthew 9:14-15

SATURDAY 2/25

Isaiah 58:9-14
Luke 5:27-32

Feasts, Solemnities, and Memorials This Week:

Tuesday, Peter Damian; Wednesday, Ash Wednesday; Thursday, Polycarp

St. Joseph Lenten Parish Mission



We will celebrate the season of Lent in a very special way this year with a Parish Mission on beginning at the Saturday Vigil, March 17, through Tuesday evening, March 20. Fr. Tim Keppel of the Congregation of the Resurrection and Pastor of Our Lady of the Desert in Apple Valley, California, and St. Paul in Lucerne Valley, will be our Spiritual Director. Fr. Tim will preside and preach at all weekend Masses on the weekend of March 17 and 18. Then Fr. Tim will celebrate the morning Masses on the following Monday and Tuesday. On Monday evening he will preach during a Reconciliation Service, with individual confessions, on Monday evening at 7pm. On Tuesday evening at 7pm he will celebrate Mass and conclude the Parish Mission. The topic of Parish Mission will be the Sacraments, the Life of the Church. During the weekend Masses he will talk about the Initiation Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. On Monday he will talk about the Healing Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and the Anointing of the Sick. On Tuesday he will talk about the Vocation Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders.

PRAYERS

Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Diane Evans, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreira, Julie Rogers, Antonio Salinas, Josefina Flores, Jim Rothe, John Wallis, James Patrick Hawkins, Beatrice Tomko, David Russell, Ted Wiedemann, and Sue Ann Logar

DAILY MASS

Weekday Mass is celebrated Monday through Saturday in St. Joseph's Rectory in Mammoth Lakes beginning at 7 AM. The door is open; just come in; don't ring the bell. Everyone is welcome to stay after for coffee and fellowship.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS & EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Every First Friday of the month beginning at 7:00 PM in St. Joseph Church, Mammoth Lakes.

February 19, 2012

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

Mark 2:3-5

**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH,
MONO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

P.O. Box 372,
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Phone: 760-934-6276

Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

ASH WEDNESDAY
Mammoth: 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Lee Vining: 6:00 PM
Bridgeport: 6:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Joseph Church in Mammoth Lakes from 5:30 to 5:45 on Saturday afternoons, 7:30 to 7:45 on Sunday mornings, y en español a las tardes del domingo de 5:00 a 5:15; and upon request before mass at Our Savior of the Mountains mission in Lee Vining and Infant of Prague mission in Bridgeport. The "Act of Contrition" is on page 190 of the missalette.



SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church -
Saturday Vigil 6:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM

Lee Vining:
Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM
Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -
Sunday Mass 12:00 Noon

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 43:18–19, 21–22, 24b–25

Don't remember the events of the past; don't consider the things of long ago. I wipe out all your offenses and I remember your sins no more.

For these, and for all the sins of my past life, I ask pardon..." Many of us celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation wrap up our confessions with this line. It is the way we were taught and we've held onto it through the years, much like perfunctory signs of the cross and genuflections that attend the customary practice of our devotions. Is it just a harmless habit, a rote ditty pulled from some mental card file like the occasional "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts..." people use to begin their confessions? Or does the expression burn a line of belief into our minds that contradicts what God's word is trying to say to us?

Saint Paul writes in Romans 10:9–10 that what we believe and what we say are closely linked to what we experience. The constant expression of faith will encounter the reality of its fulfillment in creation. "I think I can," said *The Little Engine That Could*, and it did. "There's no place like home," said Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, and she was home. "If you have faith and do not doubt, you can say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will be done," said Jesus in Matthew 21:21.

Have you ever been out in your kayak and drop something overboard like your car keys or something? Then you know it's gone, man, no matter how much you want it to come back. There's a great passage in the book of the prophet Micah (7:19) that says, "And (the Lord) will cast into the depths of the sea all our sins."

The belief that God is keeping track of our sins is just not true. The power of Christ's crucifixion removes our sins from the cosmic memory. The debt is paid. The data has been

erased. In Christ, God hits the reset button! Or, as we like to say in our Sunday profession of faith, "I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins".

SECOND READING:

2nd Corinthians 1:18–22

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, was not "Yes and No"; but in him it is always "Yes." Every one of God's promises is a "Yes."

We face two difficulties dealing with this passage. First, the awkward translation of the new lectionary renders it almost incomprehensible. And second, because we've grown up in a religion that is characterized by a certain strictness and a lot of thou shalt nots, we find it difficult to imagine a God that is always "Yes!" But that's what the Bible says.

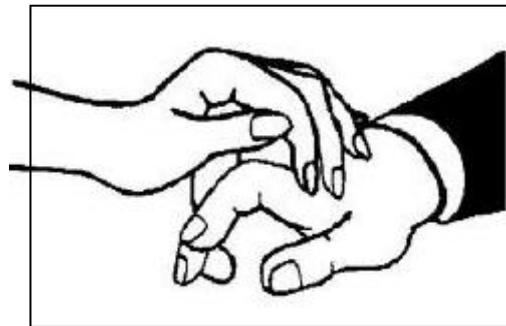
Ever notice that the third word Baby learns after "Daddy" and "Momma" is "No"? People in authority, such as parents and pastors,

God's wisdom is foolishness to us and God's strength is weakness. (See 1Corinthians 1:25) Imagine a parent or a pastor who always says "yes" to everything! The house would be brought down around our ears! Yet this is what God says, like it or not. Perhaps we need to reassess how we handle authority and begin to use it in a way that is more consistent with the teachings of Jesus. It is the power of the kingdom, not to make people toe the mark, but to allow them the freedom to be transformed by the love of God.

GOSPEL: Mark 2:1–12

Jesus said to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven." The scribes thought to themselves, "He blasphemes! Only God is supposed to forgive sins."

All Mrs. Lot ever did was look back. But because God told her specifically not to look back, she was turned into a pillar of salt. That was a pretty harsh sentence for just one little



El Toque Sanador del Señor

En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús cura al paralítico por medio del perdón de sus pecados. Jesús conocía su corazón. Sabía que tenía que sanar al hombre entero, la persona entera, no sólo su persona física. Habiendo ya sanado su espíritu, Jesús sanó también su cuerpo y el hombre levantó su camilla y se fue a su casa. La reflexión que podemos hacer hoy podría ayudarnos a descubrir el pecado que paraliza nuestra vida. ¿Qué aspecto de nuestra vida necesita el toque sanador del Señor?

like the word "no" a lot and tend to use it often. It maintains a certain amount of control, which is always very important to people in authority, keeps things squared away, and prevents the kids, or the parishioners, from messing things up. Establish the authority, set up the structure, lay down the law; it all equates to a big "No!"

But the Bible says that God governs us with lenience. (See Wisdom 12:18) Unlike those who hold authority in the world, God's power is manifested in kindness and mercy. God's ways are obviously not our ways. (See Isaiah 55:8–9)

peek. But such was the way of God as understood by a primitive people and expressed by the ancient, albeit inspired, source of Genesis. (See Genesis 19:1–29)

Perhaps the scribes of today's gospel story recalled this barbaric understanding of God while watching the roof being torn open and a man who had suffered the judgment of Lot's wife being dropped in. After all, if God turned the woman into a post just for glancing back, what had the paralytic done to be rendered immobile for the rest of his life?

Which is precisely why they took umbrage at the absolution given by Jesus. What right did he have messing up God's judgment? If God were going to forgive the man, he'd do it in the same way he punished him, only in reverse. He'd set the man free of his paralysis. As it was, the man, like Lot's wife, must have been deserving of what he got, no matter how harsh it may have seemed.

Maybe so, but it wasn't Jesus' mission to reiterate the punitive interpretation of historical tragedy vis-à-vis God's justice that had been in place since the Stone Age. "Forget all that," Jesus might have said echoing the prophet of today's first reading. Jesus came to announce that all this stuff about God's punishment was over. What God was revealing in his Son Jesus was God's cosmic favor. From now on God was forgiving sins. Okay, who's next?

+ + + + +

THERE BE DRAGONS is the story of a young journalist long ago rejected by his now aged and dying father, who finds himself investigating one of his father's former friends who is a candidate for Catholic sainthood. Uncovering the two men's complicated relationship from childhood through the horrors of the Spanish Civil War unveils a compelling drama filled with passion, betrayal, love and religion. An action packed story set during a murderous time in history that ultimately serves the present by revealing the importance and timeless power of forgiveness. It's a drama that, despite the cruel events that it portrays, opens your heart to hope and puts you on a quest for transcendence. This 2-hour film will be shown this Friday evening, Feb 24, beginning at 6:30 in the religious education room off the foyer of the Mammoth church, sponsored by Communion & Liberation. Contact Gina Lopez 203-464-7799.

+ + + + +

Fasting and abstinence are part of our Lenten observance. We abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday of Lent. We fast, partaking of no more than one main meal, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. These practices are needed exercises in self-denial and help us to unite more completely with Jesus.