St. Clizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish

Richmond, IN

3rd Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2020





St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH OFFICE: 240 SOUTH 6TH STREET, RICHMOND, INDIANA 47374

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m-4:00 p.m. | Phone: 765-962-3902 | Fax: 765-966-0820 | Web: setoncatholics.org

r. andrew	ST. MARY	HOLY FAMILY
35 S. 5th Street Inday Worship: 0:00am - English :30pm - Spanish	720 North "A" Street Sunday Worship: Saturday - 5:00pm - English	815 W. Main Street Sunday Worship: 8:00am - English

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Sengole T. Gnanaraj frsengole@setoncatholics.org

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Jim Miller deacon_jim@setoncatholics.org

Journeying together as missionary disciples, committed to bring everyone to Christ in His Holy Church

3rd Sunday of Lent - Readings: A cycle March 15, 2020						
HOLY MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS				STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT 3/8		
Saturday, 3/14	SM SM	8:15 am 5:00 pm	Bernadine Flatly Andrew Zuzolo	Envelopes	256/600 43%	11,022.45
				Loose	00%	1,088.37
Sunday, 3/15	HF SA SA (SPA)	8:00 am 10:00 am 1:30 pm	Clara Rodal Dr. Jose Clemente For the people of SEAS	Faith Direct (35) We Share (69) Online Total (87)	(Feb) 8,210.09 (Feb) 10,502.82 18,712.91	(Avg) 4,678.23
NA 1 2/00		·		Spanish	1:30pm	121.89
Monday, 3/16	HF	8:15 am	CS - Cancelled	Actual Offertory	RECEIVED	16,910.94
Tuesday, 3/17	SA	8:15 am	Mike Pardo	Budget (weekly)	We Need	20,169.71
Wednesday, 3/18	SM	8:15 am	Pat Turner	2nd Collection 3/8 Last Week	Black & Indian Missions	1,254.87
Thursday, 3/19	HF	8:15 am	Deacon Frank Roberts	2nd Collection	Catholic Relief	Thank you!
Friday, 3/20	SA	7:00 am	Raymond DeLucio	3/22 Next Week	Services	•
Saturday, 3/21	SM	8:15 am	Anna Brinker			
	SM	5:00pm	For the people of SEAS	Thank yo	u for your gene	vrosity!
Sunday, 3/22	HF SA SA (SPA)	8:00 am 10:00 am 1:30 pm	Pablo Ilano Petrelli Family John Lahman	Please consid	you for your generosity! ider setting up online giving! Parish office for assistance.	

Stewardship Reflection: When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

Our Mission Statement

As committed Christians of the Roman
Catholic Church in Richmond, Indiana, we are a community,
centered in Christ, rooted in the Eucharistic communion,
journeying together in our call to be holy,
constantly discerning the
charisms of the Spirit,
making one another disciples of Christ
and seeking God's kingdom
in service, stewardship and charity.



"The angel of the Lord revealed to Joseph the dangers which threatened Jesus and Mary, forcing them to flee to Egypt and then to settle in Nazareth. So too, in our time, God calls upon us to recognize the dangers threatening our own families and to protect them from harm."

A note from Fr. Sengole

Lent encourages us to examine our conscience so we can see where we stand in our relatedness and attitudes towards Jesus. Examination of conscience is an age-old tradition in the Catholic Church. Like praying the rosary, the divine mercy chaplet, the *examen* is an everyday practice for faithful Catholics. The examen generally focus on our attitudes towards God and others. Some select a particular passage of the Bible and try to do a check-list of our actions. Again, the examen is never done without any slightest reference to Jesus. While many people do the examen based on the Ten Commandments, it is not the only way to do. Below is a list of Bible verses and the corresponding themes. A good book to read about all these is, *From Sinners to Saints: A Guide to Understanding the Sacrament of Reconciliation* by Fr. Kurt Stasiak, OSB.

Jeremiah 18: 1-6 – Jeremiah speaks of God as the potter. He calls the people to do God's will. As the potter does with his clay, so God does with us. Do I give in to God's ways?

Matthew 5-7 – the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus offers lessons on judging, forgiveness, anger, retaliation, adultery, swearing oaths, love for enemies, almsgiving, prayer, fasting, worry, serving God, serving money/wealth, the narrow gate to enter into the kingdom of God... Do I put time into practicing what Jesus is asking me to do?

Matthew 18: 23-35 – the parable of the unmerciful servant challenges us to examine ourselves if we have willfully refused to show mercy to a family members/friends/cocliques?

Mark 10: 46-52 – Jesus asks the blind beggar, "What do you want me to do for you?" – If Jesus would ask me the same question, what would be my answer?

Luke 17: 11-19 – Jesus heals ten lepers. One returns to thank Jesus. Jesus replies, "your faith has made you well." Do I believe that our faith saves us for eternal life? Do I grow in my attitude of gratitude to God and to others through whom I receive God's blessings?

Luke 15: 11-32 – the elder son in this parable of the prodigal son is angry. The father tells him at one point, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours." God would say the same thing to us, meaning we have access to God sacramentally, liturgically and spiritually – but are we happy with receiving those who return to us asking for *our mercy?*

Romans 12:14-21 – Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all... never avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God... if your enemy is hungry, feed him. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Do I yield to love?

Romans 8: 31-39 – Paul asks, "Who can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus?" Paul lists many things that may threaten us to separate us from love of Jesus. Are there things/people who can separate me from Christ and His holy Church?

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 – Paul writes about the "thorn in his flesh" to speak about his personal struggle. What is the thorn/struggle/cross that I can't seem to get rid of? How can I surrender myself to God with all my sufferings?

What is your favorite Bible text that challenges you and helps you be a better disciple of Christ?

This V	This Week's Liturgy: March 16 - March 21		
MON	16	Lenten Weekday [3]	
TUE	17	Lenten Weekday [3]	
WED	18	Lenten Wednesday [3]	
THU	19	St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
FRI	20	Lenten Weekday [3]	
SAT	21	Lenten Weekday [3]	

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Thi	is Week's	Comm	nunity Activities
SUN 3/15	8:00am 10:00am 11:15am 1:30pm	HF SA SCHS SA	Mass Mass Religious Education Misa en Español
MON 3/16	7:35am 8:15am 3:30pm 5:00pm 7:00pm	HF HF SA SA HF	Rosary CS - Cancelled Prayer Group Holy Hour - Reparation Bible Study
TUE 3/17	8:15am 4:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	SA SM SA FHH	Mass Individual Confession Schola Practice RCIA
WED 3/18	8:15am 11:00am 2:30pm 6:30pm	SM NH NH RCO	Mass - Cancelled C. Service - Cancelled Faith Formation
3/19	7:35am 8:15am 9:00am 3:00pm 6:00pm 6:40pm 7:00pm	HF HF HF HF HF	Rosary Mass Eucharistic Adoration Divine Mercy Chaplet Hour of Power Evening Prayer Benediction
FRI 3/20	7:00am 3:30pm 4:30pm 7:00pm	SA SA HF SA	Mass Prayer Group Fish Fry Stations of the Cross
SAT 3/21	8:15am 3:30pm 5:00pm	SM SM SM	Mass Individual Confession Mass
SUN 3/22	8:00am 10:00am 1:30pm	HF SA SA	Mass Mass Misa en Español

RCIA Classes: Fr. Hillman Hall at 7:00pm

March 15, 2020 First Scrutiny (St. Mary Church)

March 17, 2020 The Way of the Cross

March 22, 2020 Second Scrutiny (Holy Family)

March 24, 2020 The Lord's Prayer

HUBBARD COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Our parish is offering a scholarship for parishioners attending a Catholic College or university. The money is made available through the John & Gertrude Hubbard Fund. An application must be filled out for each school year. Application packets are available at the back of each church. Complete applications are due back to the Catholic Office by April 24, 2020 to be considered. Any questions may be directed to Peggy Rokosz, at 765-914-6486.

Catholic Women United & Knights of Columbus

Fish - Cod (Fried or Baked)

French Fries — Mac & Cheese
—Apple Sauce — Cole Slaw —
Dessert — Water & Lemonade

\$10.00 Adults /

\$5.00 Children (6-12yrs)

5yrs & younger - Free



Fish Fry - next 3 weeks during Lent
March 20th,
March 27th & April 3rd
4:30 - 6:30 pm at Holy Family Campus
Please support Fish Frys and bring your friends
and family!





NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Seton Catholic High School is proud to recognize the following students from the Class of 2021 who were inducted into the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapter of the National Honor Society on Monday, March 9, 2020.

Evalynn Aleman Andrew Himes

Grace Amyx Olivia Howard

Kara Amyx Shelby Kutter

Mahlya Carter Nhien Le

Xen Cartwright Luke Leverton

Colby Cox Ashly Lopez Hernandez

Jonah Falcone Katelyn Meeks

Madelyn Gault Audrey Mosey

Kaylen Ruble

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES BEING TAKEN

Suspension of cups:

We have suspended the cups but please know that Jesus is present entirely and wholly in one species, bread.

Holy Water Font:

We will empty all Holy water fonts until further notice. If you need Holy water, please see sacristans.

Exchange of Peace:

We will stop shaking and holding hands at the time of exchange of peace and Our Lord's Prayer.

Nursing Home Mass:

Nursing home Masses will be cancelled until nursing homes lift their restrictions.

Church volunteers:

Please wash your hands with soap before your service and use sanitizer as needed.

Purification of sacred vessels:

We are making sure that all sacred vessels are washed in hot water and soap after use.

Thank you for your understanding!

3er. Domingo de Cuaresma Ciclo: A

Marzo 15, 2020

¿Cómo vencer las tentaciones en Cuaresma?



Por el Padre Rogelio Alcántara, Arquidiócesis de México. La Cuaresma no se reduce al ayuno del Miércoles de Ceniza y a la abstinencia de carne los viernes. Te presentamos algunos ejercicios que puedes practicar.

La Cuaresma para el cristiano es de algún modo estar con Cristo en el desierto y enfrentar con Él las tentaciones del enemigo. Quien se atrevió a tentar al mismo Hijo de Dios para desviarlo de su misión, no "se tocará el corazón" para hacernos caer en el pecado (del placer, del tener y del poder). Para vencer sus embestidas hay que estar muy vigilantes (de aquí la palabra vigilia) y bien entrenados. El Evangelio de Mateo nos habla de entrenarnos en la oración, el ayuno y la limosna (cf. Mt 6,1-6.16-18), y la Iglesia, desde antiquo, nos propone tres tipos de ejercicios de Piedad (oración), Penitencia (ayuno) y Caridad (limosna), que nos mantendrán "en forma" y que podemos (y debemos) practicar con más energía durante la Cuaresma. De su ejercicio depende que Cristo venza en ti, que su fuerza arrolladora actúe con eficacia en tu vida. La medida e intensidad del ejercicio dependerá de tu estado de vida, edad y salud actual; pero también, y sobre todo, de tu generosidad. No pienses que la Cuaresma se reduce al ayuno del Miércoles de Ceniza y a la abstinencia de carne los viernes, o que basta con que dejes de comer algo que te gusta; no, la gama de ejercicios que puedes practicar es mucho más amplia y va en tres direcciones: con respecto a Dios (ejercicios

za y a la abstinencia de carne los viernes, o que basta con que dejes de comer algo que te gusta; no, la gama de ejercicios que puedes practicar es mucho más amplia y va en tres direcciones: con respecto a Dios (ejercicios de piedad), en relación a ti mismo (ejercicios de penitencia) y en relación a los demás (ejercicios de caridad). Me gustaría desarrollar detalladamente cada uno de estos puntos, pero por ahora quisiera que los conocieras y te los presento casi a modo de lista, para que profundices en ellos y saques propósitos concretos que manifiesten tus auténticos deseos de conversión. Ejercicios de Piedad

La piedad es la virtud de ser buen hijo con su padre. Con respecto a Dios se refiere a todas las cosas que hacemos para relacionarnos con Él como buenos hijos, y abarca: a) la oración, b) la formación y c) la recepción de los Sacramentos. Ya sabemos que hay oración mental y vocal.

La mental (también llamada meditación) es el diálogo íntimo con Dios, en el que tratamos de comprender "el por qué y el cómo de la vida cristiana para adherirnos y responder a lo que el Señor nos pide" (CEC 2705); lo cual se puede hacer en la *Lectio divina* o en la lectura reflexiva de un texto "sagrado" (o espiritual).

¿Qué es la oración? La oración vocal es cuando, "por medio de palabras mentales o vocales, nuestra oración toma cuerpo" (CEC 2700); por ejemplo, en el rezo de la Liturgia de las horas, el Rosario, la Coronilla de la Misericordia, el Viacrucis y la adoración al Santísimo, en la que pedimos, alabamos, agradecemos y glorificamos. La formación, puede ser personal o grupal. Lectura espiritual del Catecismo, del Magisterio, de la vida y escritos de los santos, etc., los retiros, los círculos de reflexión, los ejercicios espirituales. La recepción de los sacramentos, cuya gracia nos santifica, y que recibidos con la mejor disposición posible de nuestra parte, constituyen actos de piedad por excelencia (Ej. La Confesión, Santa Misa – Comunión).

Ejercicios de Penitencia

Aquí entran todos los ejercicios que hacemos para dominar nuestros sentidos externos (vista, oído, gusto, tacto, olfato) e internos (memoria, imaginación). Hoy, más que antes, se requiere una decisión determinante para dominarse ante los medios de comunicación visual; batalla decisiva si queremos vencer con Cristo. Se añade a esto la cantidad de ruidos y voces externas a las que es preciso renunciar para poder elevar el espíritu a las realidades sobrenaturales.

Hay que trabajar muy duro en los gustos del paladar, para lo que nos ayudará el ayuno y la abstinencia, cuidando no caer en la materialidad superficial de quien se priva de algún gusto en este tiempo, pero no por motivos religiosos, sino de conveniencia y vanidad. El dominio de mi lengua (de mis palabras) puede ser una buena penitencia, sabiendo además que es un excelente acto de caridad. En fin, cada uno tendría que ser creativo para hacer muchas y continuas penitencias, pero pasando desapercibido, como quien no hace nada. La auténtica virtud siempre pasa como algo natural, como algo que "se nos da".

Ejercicios de Caridad

Se pueden resumir en las obras de misericordia, las siete corporales:

- Dar de comer al hambriento
- Dar de beber al sediento
- Vestir al desnudo
- Visitar al enfermo
- Redimir al cautivo
- Dar posada al peregrino
- Enterrar a los muertos

Te puede interesar: Por qué la caridad es más que sólo regalar dinero Y las siete espirituales:

- Enseñar al que no sabe
- Dar buen consejo al que lo necesita
- Corregir al que se equivoca
- Perdonar al que me ofende
- Consolar al triste
- Soportar con paciencia los defectos del prójimo
- Orar por vivos y difuntos

Cuánto bien nos haría meditar en cada una de estas obras de misericordia y concretar para practicarlas en serio.

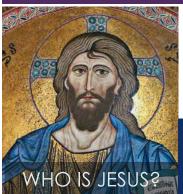
La Cuaresma es una magnífica oportunidad para manifestarle a Cristo nuestra adhesión y amor. Acompañemos a Jesús, en estos momentos en los que es llevado por el Espíritu al desierto para prepararse a redimirnos; estemos con Él, oremos con Él al Padre, suframos las tentaciones con Él y con Él venzamos al demonio. Así, tendrá más sentido mi Cuaresma, Él "será más en mí", caminaré hacia aquello de san Pablo: "ya no soy yo quien vive, es Cristo quien vive en mí"; de modo que pueda celebrar, al final de la Cuaresma, la mejor Pascua de mi vida. En otras palabras compartir lo que tengo y lo que soy.



3rd Sunday of Lent March 15, 2020

FAITH FORMATION

Lenten Discipleship Series of Talks



THURSDAY EVENINGS @ HOLY FAMILY

6:30-7pm Adoration & Evening Prayer
7-7:45pm Presentation w/ Kyle King
7:45-8pm Q&A w/ Fr. Sengole & Kyle

Session 1: JESUS AS PROPHET, March 5th Session 2: JESUS AS PRIEST, March 12th

*Session 3: JESUS AS KING, April 2nd

STATIONS OF THE CROSS. EVERY FRIDAY. 7PM

St. Andrew Campus

March 20th: Lay Franciscans & Carmelites



Holy Family Campus

March 27th: Led by SPRED



St. Mary Campus

April 3rd: Led by RCIA



Men's Ministry



BBQ + FAITH

Guest Talk: St Vincent de Paul

Learn about this important ministry & how you can put your faith into action!

7:15-8:45pm, Thursday, March 19th

Presented by the Catholic Men of Action

BBQ FIREHOUSE & BLUES IN THE DEPOT DISTRICT

Preparation for the Sacraments

- First Reconciliation: Holy Family, Thurs. April 16th, 6:30pm
- First Communion: St. Andrew, Sun. April 19th, 1:30pm
- Questions about the Sacraments or your faith? Contact Kyle King at kking@setoncatholics.org or leave him a voicemail or text message at 765-541-8420.

LENT & HOLY WEEK

SCHEDULE

Communal Anointing:

following 8:15 am Masses on March 10th, 11th, 12th.

Parish Penance Service

Sunday, March 29 @ 6 pm Holy Family Campus w/ Deanery Priests



Palm Sunday - April 5

Procession from parking lot at 8 am (HF) & 10 am (SA)

Chrism Mass - April 7

2:00 pm Indianapolis SS Peter & Paul

Holy Thursday - April 9

6 pm at St. Mary Campus

Good Friday - April 10

3 pm at St. Andrew Campus

Easter Vigil - April 11

10 pm at Holy Family Campus

Easter - April 12

8 am @ St. Mary Campus 10 am @ St. Andrew Campus 1:30 pm @ St. Andrew Campus (Spanish)

Saint Joseph

know that he was very obedient and trusted God, and that This Thursday, March 19th, is the feast day of Saint he must have been a very holy man- God chose him to The Bible doesn't tell us very much about him, but we Joseph. He is one of the greatest saints in the Church. look after His own Son, Jesus!

God saw that he was a very good man so He chose him to be the husband and protector of Mary, who would be the Mother of Jesus. Saint Joseph provided for Mary by his Saint Joseph was just a poor Jewish carpenter, but hard work

Joseph protected Him from the evil Him. He spent his days working to support Jesus and Mary and taught Jesus how to be a carpenter. Saint also learned from Jesus how to be Joseph was Jesus' teacher, but he King Herod, who wanted to kill When Jesus was born Saint

peaceful death in the arms of Jesus We should pray to him because he s a great protector and teacher for Saint Joseph died a holy and and Mary. Now he is in Heaven, nelping us when we pray to him. us, just like he was for Jesus.



Answer to puzzle inside: because, hearts, Spirit, given, still, time, difficulty, might, courage, God. "Christ died" Answer to puzzle on front: will never thirst

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulleti

Third Sunday of Lent March 15, 2020



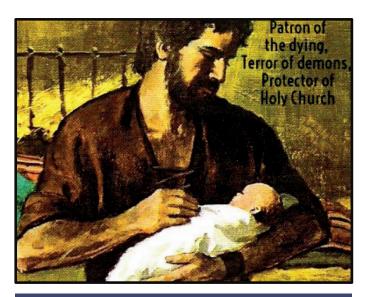


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How half a dozen recent popes have called us to learn from St. Joseph

A line from Pope Pius IX's 1870 decree by which St. Joseph was declared patron and protector of the universal Church strikes me as an open window into the home of Nazareth. The Church, Pius said, "after the Blessed Virgin, his spouse, has always held [Joseph] in great honor and showered him with praise, having recourse to him amid tribulations."

I originally misread it, and formed the idea of the Blessed Virgin, not the Church, showering Joseph with praise. My imagination sat with that and savored it.

Our Lady, the humble girl of Nazareth, the future queen of heaven, lovingly showering her spouse with praise. Her affections and affirmations would have been answered with his own unabating honoring of her, as the first representative of the first generation of all those generations that would call her blessed.

Our Savior had left the glories of heaven to take residence in that holy house, but with such interchange between his parents, he must have experienced some taste of what he'd left behind.

When I realized that I'd misread the line from the decree — that it was the Church doing the praising, not Mary — it seemed to me a providential error. What a lesson for me (my husband doesn't hear nearly enough praise from his wife). And as Mary is the image of the Church, in this too I'm sure the Church is following her example.

I love St. Joseph — my firstborn, who was due on his feast day, carries his name — but I've never had a particularly strong devotion to him. Yet when I find him in prayer, his testimony and example always bring light. Just like you'd expect from a dad, I guess.

One factor that can complicate devotion to St. Joseph is his silence. There are a handful of references to him in Scripture, but he himself never speaks.

Nevertheless, the Church even in just the last couple centuries has given us much to consider about his life.

There's the aforementioned declaration of Joseph as patron of the Church.

Then, just a few years later, in 1889, Pope Leo XIII devoted an encyclical to him. (I always love reading old documents of the Church. Imagine what the poor pontiff would think if he were alive today, since in 1889 he had this to say: "We see faith, the root of all the Christian virtues, lessening in many souls; we see charity growing cold; the young generation daily growing in depravity of morals and views; the Church of Jesus Christ attacked on every side by open force or by craft ...")

On the 100th anniversary of that document, Pope St. John Paul II offered an apostolic exhortation on St. Joseph, which includes a mini-reflection on eight key moments in Jesus' life when Joseph was the protagonist. These could serve as mysteries of a "Joseph rosary": the census, the birth, the circumcision, conferral of the name, presentation in the temple, flight into Egypt, Jesus' stay in the temple and the support and education of Jesus in Nazareth.

Both Leo's and John Paul II's documents are brief but provide much fruit for meditation.

There's also the Litany of St. Joseph, promoted for public use by Pope Pius X, but rather unknown today.

Without any words of Joseph's own to meditate upon, the listing of his virtues in the litany gives direction to our prayer: He is remembered as just, chaste, prudent, strong, obedient and faithful.

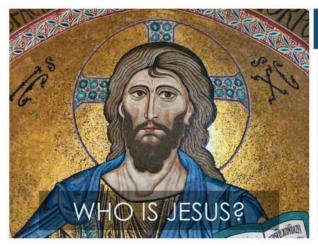
Then there's the special titles attributed to him, some an invitation to virtue, others a source of comfort in life's difficulties. Mirror of patience, for example, and lover of poverty. But also solace of the wretched and patron of the dying. I'm going to introduce my own Joseph to the saint's title as terror of demons. What action hero-crazed 7-year-old wouldn't relish contemplating his patron in that way?

Yes, St. Joseph has much to tell us, even in his silence.

As Paul VI said: "He is the proof that in order to be a good and genuine follower of Christ, there is no need of great things — it is enough to have the common, simple and human virtues, but they need to be true and authentic."

By Kathleen N. Hattrup | Mar 19, 2016

Source: www.aleteia.org



LENTEN DISCIPLESHIP SERIES 2020

"We live in a Jesus haunted culture that is Biblically illiterate, and so unfortunately... almost anything can pass for knowledge of the historical Jesus from notions that he was a Cynic sage to ideas that he was a... guru to fantasies that he didn't exist."

-Dr. Ben Witherington, World Renown Jesus & NT Scholar

"Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet, and king. The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them." (Catechism, CCC 783)

Session 1: JESUS AS PROPHET

Opening Questions: What was your first impressions of Jesus growing up?

What does our society say about who Jesus is? Who do you say that Jesus is?

Scripture: "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." **Matthew 16:13-15**

	Q. What do the words 'Christ' and 'Christian' mean?							
	Q. What does anointing have to do with Christ's 3 fold office as Prophet, Priest & King?							
	Q. How do Catholic Church buildings communicate His 3 fold office?							
	Example: Ambo/Pulpit = Prophet Altar= Priest Bishop's Chair = King							
Q. How does Catholic art and literature communicate His 3-fold office? Example: Lord of the Rings; J.R.R. Tolkien was a Catholic who infused theology into his books; Gandalf = Prophet, Frodo = Priest, Aragorn = King.								
	Q. What is a Jewish Prophet?							
Q. How do we best understand Jesus as THE Prophet? The best way to understand Jesus as a Prophet is not to look to other religions but his own religion that he claimed to fulfill. Error always creeps into our understandings of Jesus when we neglect the Hebrew Scriptures. Jesus is the sequel to the Old Testament story.								

I. ADAM AS PROPHET

A. Humans were created to be prophets/truth-tellers. Adam names the animals and declares the greatness of women 'Whoa-Man' "Flesh of my flesh and bone of my bones!" (See Genesis ch. 2)

- B. Adam eventually fails in his calling to be a prophet. How so?
- C. Reflect: How do we sometimes fail to be loving truth-tellers?
- D. Jesus reversed the failings of Adam by being the perfect prophet and rejecting Satan's empty promises during his 40 days in the desert. (BTW- How are you doing with Lent?!) "'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

II. MOSES AS PROPHET

- A. Moses was the Greatest Prophet before Jesus. Why?
 - 1. He encountered God. (We cannot know the truth without knowing God)
 - 2. He spoke the truth. (And gave the Law i.e. the 10 commandments).

"The people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had given heed to the Israelites and that he had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped." (Exodus 4:30-31)

- 3. He confronted evil.
- 4. He shepherded God's people (Compare Moses' shepherd staff w/ the staff of a bishop)
- B. Reflection: How can we be like Moses? How should our bishops be like Moses?
- C. Moses prophesied about the coming of a Greater Prophet.
- D. Jesus came as a New Moses.
 - 1. Jesus was commissioned at His Baptism when He encountered His Father.
 - 2. Jesus spoke the truth, is the TRUTH, and gave the a New Law (Sermon on the Mount).
 - 3. Jesus confronted evil and He is the Good Shepherd.

III. ELIJAH AS PROPHET

- A. Elijah was the 2nd greatest of Prophets in Israel
- 1. He did many of the things that Moses did and more. He confronted Queen Jezebel and a corrupt Israel who were worshiping the god, Baal.
- 2. He multiplied food & he raised the dead (1 Kings 17). He called down fire from heaven &parted the waters of the Jordan. He was raised into heaven body and soul. (Sound like Jesus?)
- 3. He passed on his prophetic authority to Elisha. (Jesus passed on his authority to his apostles to govern His church, forgive sins, proclaim the Gospel, baptize, and teach in his name).

Question: How do we know that Jesus isn't just another prophet like Moses and Elijah?

Answer: Moses and Elijah appear w/ Jesus at the Transfiguration and His divinity shines through Him. The clouds open up and God the Father declares: "This is MY SON, Listen to Him." (Matthew 17:1-8)

IV. THE CHURCH AS PROPHET (How is the Church called to be a prophet?)

"The difficulty of explaining "why I am a Catholic" is that there are ten thousand reasons all amounting to one reason: that Catholicism is true... (1) It is the only thing that really prevents a sin from being a secret. (2) It is the only thing in which the superior cannot be superior. (3) It is the only thing that frees a man from the degrading slavery of being a child of his age. (4) It is the only thing that talks as if it were the truth; as if it were a real messenger refusing to tamper with a real message ..." "The Church does often set herself against the fashion of this world that passes away; and she has experience enough to know how very rapidly it does pass away..." Nine out of ten of what we call new ideas are simply old mistakes. The Catholic Church has for one of her chief duties that of preventing people from making those old mistakes; from making them over and over again forever, as people always do if they are left to themselves ..." G.K. Chesterton "Why I am Catholic."

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