

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Lent 1
Monday, February 19, 2018

Year 2/Cycle B
Gen. 9: 8-15; Mk. 1:12-15, 1Pt. 3:18-22

Promises To God

Last week was quite busy as we saw the celebration of Mardi Gras for some and Carnival (*good bye to meat*) for others. then in midweek we had Ash Wednesday which set an entirely different mood. Yes, the Lenten season has begun. What does Lent mean to us as Catholics in 2018? It is different now than in years gone by. For many people Lent was a time of giving up- things that give us pleasure... food, parties, music, movies... but times have changed so much... things that attracted our attention are far different now. Our focus is more about how much people “see” and “follow” us. We are not as centered on favorite foods as we are on our ‘*cell phones*’ our iPhones, Fitbit, our games, other electronics; then it’s our physique, our body shape, hair, or ageless skin, these take up most of our time. Let us place less focus on this area in our lives... avoid your diversions for three hours per day. What are you going to do to increase your spiritual connectedness with God?

This week’s Reading from the Book of Genesis, we hear a word ‘*Covenant*’, how did this play into Salvation history? We often speak about making a promise to ourselves or to others. Making a promise with our frail human nature, the promise is broken, before the end of the week. Let us examine how fast, for many. the marriage promises are often forgotten once said and we are poor examples of keeping a promise. Yet, the word Covenant is far different from a promise. We don’t have the power or the consistency to make a Covenant promise... as our words fail us sometimes, before they even leave our mouth. A Covenant is made by God and bestowed upon us. God’s Word is law and it does not fade or fail.

*“I am now establishing my covenant with you
and your descendants after you” (Gen. 9:9)*

Individuals are able to only commit to a promise which may last a few years, others may last decades; yet God's covenant last for generations, His Covenant can last forever... This Covenant which was made to the people of Israel began at the time of Noah and was reinforced in every generation until the birth of Jesus Christ.

*“With every living creature that was with you:
the birds, the tame animals, and all the wild animals that were with you.” (Gen 9:10)*

The limitations of our promise is a stark contrast to the Covenant promise made by God. This agreement established by God covered every creature created by the Creator. There is no comparison ... we as humans have created NOTHING.

*“I will establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all creatures
be destroyed by the waters of a flood.” (Gen. 9:11)*

At the beginning of Salvation History God, the Creator set the Covenant, that as much as He allowed humans and animals, whom He created, to be destroyed by water...never again will this happen. Not only did God give His Covenant promise to Noah and his descendants, but this included us... God added His visible sign in the sky.

*“I set my bow in the clouds to serve as
a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” (Gen. 9:13)*

The Creator of everything made His Covenant which not only was a verbal pronouncement but with a sign will be held in the sky to remind us of the limitless, binding time of God. In the same way, Jesus became the fulfillment of the final promise; the Lord of God was made flesh and dwells among us.

We recall that during the time of Noah, God allowed it to rain for forty days and forty nights; the Covenant Promise- Jesus went into prayer and exile for forty days without food. Noah was given the first Covenant promise, Abraham received the promise of the Messiah, and Jesus arrival was in fulfillment of this promised hundreds of generations after. The water which destroyed the earth then came to the Promise of the Messiah; water will be the sign of the power of salvation which will become the first sacrament joining us to be children of God the Father. Water once destructive, and devastating is not the symbol for living give hope, through our Baptism becoming followers of Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on how we will direct our focus during this year Lenten season. so as to

increase and strengthen our spiritual lives. Will we base our goals on the frailty of our humanly limited promises, which we make to break; or do we seek the Covenant Promise whom for us, by His death and resurrection, we have hope that to be included in His promise of eternal life? Will we be willing – to preach and teach the Gospel to the whole world- on our job, at my school, supermarket, at the bar, at the barber, at the tire shop, in my church? How much will we reach out to the poor, comfort those who mourn, share our clothes, connect our contacts and knowledge with those who don't know? How are you going to make your Lenten promises a possibility?

How will we meaningfully observe Lent this year? Put down your distracting devices. Open our Bible, listen to God word as it ministers to our heart, visit the Blessed Sacrament, sit silence; pray an extra rosary, give more to St. Vincent de Paul, listen more speak less.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's reading written by
Brenda Chee Wah, a parishioner of Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Lithonia, Georgia.
Available now on webpage/Facebook

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

[Now on FaceBook – Christ Our Hope Catholic Church Atlanta](#)

Your remarks, questions, and comments can be emailed to faithinlaity@gmail.com or parish Facebook page.

Scriptures: www.usccb.org