



Journeying Through Lent A Time to be Taught by Jesus

Encountering this Sunday's Gospel is like trying to take a drink from a fire hose. This is typical of John's Gospel. The Gospel reading for the fourth Sunday of Lent consists of a powerful flow of symbols: a serpent that is held up, eternal life, believing and light. This is quite a bit to swallow all at once.

We begin with the character Nicodemus, a learned Pharisee. He belonged to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious supreme court of the time. He leaves his house one night under the veil of darkness to covertly meet and talk with a rural carpenter/rabbi Jesus of Nazareth from Galilee. This is astonishing. It would be like a justice of the United States Supreme Court surreptitiously slipping out at night to talk to a street corner preacher in Washington, D.C. Nicodemus came to Jesus under the cover of darkness because he didn't want to be known publicly as a follower of Jesus. He was still uncommitted. Sometimes we act the same way--- hiding in the shadows, hiding our doubts and weak faith from others. But we are called to live in the light and let others see our deeds so that God's glory is revealed in our lives. We are called to be courageous about our faith, to be more public about our commitment to it.

Jesus reminds Nicodemus that Moses lifted a bronze serpent up high (Numbers 21). All the Israelites that looked at it were saved from the bites of poisonous snakes. In the Gospel of John, Jesus will be lifted up high on the cross to be seen by all. All who look upon the crucified Jesus and believe (cont. p. 2)

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ Saturday Faith Formation meets March 28 & April 18
- ◆ Sunday Faith Formation meets March 29 & April 19
- ◆ Monday Faith Formation meets March 30 & April 20
- ◆ April 5: PALM SUNDAY
- ◆ April 6-10: Spring Break for Poway & San Diego Schools
- ◆ April 12: EASTER SUNDAY



MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ Sunday 5/6 meets March 29 (special Thursday class March 26th) and April 26
- ◆ Sunday 7/8 meets April 19 & May 3
- ◆ Thursday 5/6 meets March 26 & April 16
- ◆ Thursday 7/8 meets March 19 & April 2
- ◆ Middle School Movie Night:
April 17: 6:00pm—8:30pm
May 1: 6:00pm—8:30pm
- ◆ 8th Grade Lock-In March 27-28—
Pre-Registration is mandatory



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*Pre-Registration for
Faith Formation
2009-2010
Begins
April 18-19*

**Check out the
new website at
www.stgg.org**

**VBS 2009
August 10 to 14
Carnival
Saturday, Aug 15**



**Registrations
begin
April 18-19**

in him will be saved. Ironically two instruments of death, a snake and a cross, are presented here as a means of remaining alive. In the case of the cross, it is a means to eternal life.

Ask Yourself

- ◆ Of all the teachings of Jesus, which ones are closest to your heart?

Jesus continues to teach Nicodemus and in so doing also teaches us. He tells him that "...God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but might have eternal life" (John 3:16).

What then are we suppose to believe? We are called to believe that God did not just love part of the world but the whole world. Even though we suffer, even though we hurt, even though the world is loused up, and innocent people die, God did not condemn the world but loved it. God loved and continues to love it the very same way a parent loves a child and so God shared his Son with everyone and this love knows no bounds.

Reflection Questions

- ◆ When have I experienced God's great love for me?
- ◆ Do I understand that God's love is universal? What actions can I perform and what relationships can I develop to share God's universal love?
- ◆ While holding a crucifix, the symbol of Christ being lifted up, ask yourself what you believe about Jesus.

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WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD

For Father Nick Clavin, Deacon Ron Diem, Deacon Ferris Bell, Father Ed Gallagher and Father John Gubbins, that the Lord lift them and make their daily loads light;

For world leaders to practice justice for all and care for the needy of the world;

For the parishioners of St. Gregory the Great, that the teachings of Jesus fill their hearts this Lenten season;

For Fr. Nick Clavin, that he continue to heal and recuperate;

For Tom Hobbib who is undergoing treatment for cancer;

For the catechists and children of Faith Formation, that their hearts be open to the wonder of God.

For all these intentions and those in our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

To submit a prayer intention for our Faith Formation family, please e-mail Cheryl@stgg.org