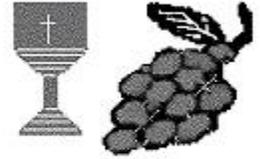


Taste the

NEW WINE



HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A CARING COMMUNITY

SPRING 2017

EXODUS AT EASTER: A DEFINING EVENT

by Al Aulner

Every year around the time of Easter, Cecil B. DeMille's epic movie, *The Ten Commandments*, is usually played by one of the networks. It depicts the story and the events recorded in the Book of Exodus. What a grand production work it is: thousands of extras, fantastic sets and wardrobes, and starring many of the greatest actors and actresses of the period.

At the center of course is Moses, played by Charlton Heston, who is to lead God's people out of their bondage of slavery by the Egyptians, and to the Promise Land. It is a story of great importance; a drama of a people as they are saved by God and led by His faithful servant.

Originally the Israelites had willingly migrated to Egypt when Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob, was a governor in Egypt. Joseph came to be in Egypt as a result of his brothers selling him into slavery, but rose to great power because of God's gift to him of accurately interpreting Pharaoh's dreams.

As long as Joseph was alive, the Israelites did very well in Egypt; they acquired both wealth and prominent positions in society. However, after the death of Joseph,

the Egyptians became envious and fearful of the Israelites, and soon the Israelites found themselves stripped of all wealth and position. The Egyptians then placed the Israelites into bondage where they remained until Moses was called by God to lead the people out of Egypt and into freedom and the promised land.

The Exodus, the deliverance of Israel from bondage, is the defining event for Israel. In the Exodus the people of Israel are saved by the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb, released from captivity, saved again by the parting of the Red Sea, and enter into covenant with God at Mount Sinai and given the Ten Commandments.

For the Exodus to happen, however, the people had to actually go; they had to follow Moses and leave Egypt behind. Without that there is no Exodus, no defining event, and no epic movie to boot.

The Israelites had to put their faith in God and His chosen leader. It meant leaving the known for the unknown. What was the promise land? They had no idea where they were going or when they would get there. Once there, they knew that they would have to carve out an existence.

They were truly being asked to believe in a promise, to trust their very existence and survival to God. Eventually Israel is brought by God and through Moses to the promised land. In the story we see the rich themes of the Exodus are: salvation, covenant, and freedom.

We Christians also have our defining event. It is the event of the Pascal Mystery, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. It is an Easter Epic, our own Exodus; it is an Exodus from sin.

The themes of the Exodus are not only present in the Pascal Mystery, they are perfected in it. It should not surprise us that the character of Moses is also present in our defining event, in our Exodus.

In the New Testament the character of Moses is seen in a perfected way, in Christ. This is especially evident in Saint Matthew's Gospel, where we see Jesus as a New Moses. Moses went up the mountain to receive the law, Jesus goes up the mountain to give a new law in the Sermon on the Mount; Moses brings ten plagues upon Egypt, Jesus gives ten miraculous cures; Moses fasted for forty days, and Jesus fasted for forty days.

Continued on page 2

From the Deacon's Desk

by Al Aulner

OMAHA GIVES!

Omaha Gives is an easy and unique way for the people you know to support the ministries of Holy Family Church. Omaha Gives is a one day, on-line event that takes place on May 24th. This event provides an opportunity for anyone, regardless of where they live, to support worthy causes in Omaha. Holy Family has been selected to be one of the charities that can participate in this fund raising event.

Donors need only follow these four steps.

1. Go to www.omahagives.org
2. Click on the Nonprofits link.
3. When the Nonprofit page appears simply type in Holy Family in the search box and hit search. The Holy Family Logo with "Give" button will appear.
4. Click on the give button and make a donation

HOW EASY IS THAT?!

The event begins at Midnight on the night of May 23rd and continues for 24 hours ending at Midnight on the night of May 24th. As a bonus,

donations may be made to Holy Family beginning May 1! That's 24 days of potential fundraising for the ministries. All funds donated go to the ministries at Holy Family.

We encourage all of our friends and supporters to spread the word about this opportunity to help the poor who come to our door. Please engage in social media such as Facebook and spread the word. Challenge everyone you know to match your gift!

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

The Holy Family Food Redistribution program is in desperate need of volunteer drivers to collect food from area grocery stores and re-distribute the food collected to area pantries. We need at least four new volunteers who are willing to give one morning per week to keep this special program going. Last month the volunteers of this program collected and redistributed over 25,000 pounds of food. That is 25,000 pounds of food that would have been in the dumpster, but instead found its way to the

tables of needy families, thanks to the volunteer drivers. We are also looking for volunteers who can give one Saturday morning per month to do the same. Giving your time to assist in feeding families in need is a great work of corporal mercy

FAREWELLS

The parishioners of Holy Family had to say sad farewells to two of its members these past few months.

On January 23rd, 2017 Patricia (Pat) Tuttle was called home to Jesus. Her funeral was at Holy Family on January 28th. Pat was a faithful part of the Holy Family Community. For decades she served and supporting both the parish and its ministries. She was a dear friend to many and will be missed.

On January 27th 2017, John "Bombay John" Relix was also called home to Christ. His funeral was at Holy Family on February 2. John had been a parishioner for several years and assisted many times in the Sack Lunch Program. John was very likable and his smile and good nature will be missed by all.

Exodus - continued from page 1

In the Hebrew writings Moses is clearly the greatest teacher and the lawgiver. In Matthew's gospel Jesus is the supreme teacher and person of the law.

The themes of the Exodus are perfected. **Salvation:** in the exodus the first born sons were spared from the Angel of Death by the blood of the sacrificed lamb. John the Baptist proclaims about Jesus: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Jesus is revealed to be the true Lamb of Salvation, and not just for the sake of Israel but the whole world. Jesus saves all by shedding his blood on the cross.

Covenant: Moses brings Israel into covenant with God making them his people. Through His blood, Jesus establishes a New and Everlasting Covenant that is universal and open to all peoples. Through Jesus everyone has the ability to be in covenant with God.

Freedom: Moses led the people out from the bondage of slavery and eventually to the promised land, Jesus leads believers out of the bondage of sin and to a place with Him in Heaven to share in His Divine Life.

Like the Exodus of old, where the Israelites had to leave Egypt behind, the Christian must leave something behind as well. The gift of Easter, which is freedom from

sin, requires the Christian to actually leave the bondage of sin behind. Easier said than done, but necessary. Without leaving our sin behind we remain in bondage and no Exodus occurs, no defining event.

We are called to follow Jesus away from bondage, away from sin. In the Paschal Mystery we see that in His passion and death, Jesus has done the hard part and fulfilled His promise to rise from the dead. By His precious blood He has removed our shackles and now he calls us to follow Him.

Jesus has brought about a New Exodus, a new defining event. The question we all have to answer every day is: do we stay or do we go?

Changes in Holy Family Annual Sock & Underwear Giveaway

by Barb Sawatzki

Thanks to our faithful volunteers, and to Goodfellows, we at Holy Family have been able to hold an Annual School Clothes Giveaway for thirty plus years. The program has evolved over the years, from a used-clothing giveaway, to one with new jeans, to one with new socks and underwear. Three years ago we began a voucher program, allowing parents to go the store and choose socks and underwear for their school-age children. We have relied on the volunteers' evaluations to streamline the program into one of efficiency, integrity, and compassion.

This year, the program will once again evolve. Holy Family Parish has decided that it is time to find a new home for the sock and underwear voucher program, due to small numbers in the parish and aging of those who do the planning.

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul, in agreement with Goodfellows, will be taking over the program. Holy Family will mentor them, this year doing everything the same as usual, with the exception that it will be held at the St Vincent De Paul site on 21st and Leavenworth St. They will then take over completely.

We urge our volunteers to join the St Vincent De Paul staff and volunteers this year, to help us mentor them, and in the years to come in order to insure that the spirit of the program is passed on. We have been blessed to be able to do this for so many years, and though it is with some sadness that we make this change, we believe it is what God is calling us to do, and that St. Vincent De Paul will continue the call to serve.

Please contact Bonnie Beacom at St. Vincent De Paul to volunteer: 402 731-4577 or bvbeacom@gmail.com

OTOC Report

by Don Zebosky

OTOC will sponsor an Omaha Candidate Accountability Session with candidates for Mayor and the City Council. The event will take place on Monday, May 1, at 7:00 PM, at St. Leo the Great Church, 102nd and Blondo. The primary election is on Tuesday, April 4. The first two candidates with the most votes for each office will advance to the general election on Tuesday, May 9. These candidates will be invited. Questions about safe and affordable housing, fair treatment for immigrants, the environment and sustainability, limits to Pay Day loan fees, welcoming refugees, and criminal justice will be posed and discussed. Candidates will be asked to state their positions on these issues and be asked to work with OTOC on actions to improve life in our city.



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil 5:30 p.m.

Easter Mass 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunrise service 7:00 a.m.
at Augustana Lutheran Church
3647 Lafayette Ave.

TASTE THE NEW WINE

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