

## St. Louis Catholic Church

Thursday of the 4th Week of Lent

Exodus 32:7-14

John 5:31-47

"If you keep My Commandments, I will be your God and you will be My people". A conditional covenant was established between God and His people. Like a parent with a child who promises ice cream if the child will behave. As soon as the freezer door is shut and the ice cream is in the bowl, the child is hitting his brother, screaming at his mother and throwing a tantrum.

God too can't believe what He sees. I just told you and already you are looking to worship a false god. He even tells Moses that they are "your people" and not "My people". He had divorced Himself from the Israelites and was determined to destroy them and make a new people for Himself. How fortunate they were to have Moses as their mediator before God because at his intercession God "relented in the punishment He had intended to inflict on His people".

Someone greater than Moses is our mediator before God, the one about whom Moses wrote, Jesus Christ Himself. He is the High Priest who intercedes by offering His life. He is also praying with us in Mass for "through Him, with Him, and in Him all glory and honor is the Father's". We are united with Christ at the time of consecration, when Jesus renews His sacrifice. He is mediator still because He is able to sympathize with our weakness. He became like us in all things but sin. He understands the trials, temptations and struggles of humanity and therefore pleads before the Father in our behalf.

Moses cared for the Israelites and went to bat for them. I often think of the men and women in religious houses--especially the cloistered--who pray and intercede for the church and world every day. We send often our intentions and concerns and they, before the Blessed Sacrament, pray for those to be heard. Parishioners pray for special intentions and personal concerns that come to their attention.

I think of Mary who was approached by the young couple at Cana. She took it to Jesus. Prayer is powerful. It is an armor and a powerful medicine. Sometimes when people come across as so full of despair because the "world is so bad", I wonder how worse it could be if so many prayer warriors weren't active.

Israel had made a molten calf to worship. They lost their way and forgot the covenant. They tried it "their way". Our society has many who worship false gods. The false gods of possessions, materials and treasures. God easily gets pushed aside. Many worship the pillow, the golf course, the lake, the fishing gear and the office on Sunday mornings. Many worship the TV, I-Pad, bottle or white powder and have lost the way.

We can be critical and negative. We can also become a modern day Moses. Pray more frequently for those who are losing or have lost the way. I have enjoyed praying in front of the Planned Parenthood Building. I pray the Rosary for a change of heart. Come join me this week. Let's be Moses. Spend an hour in the Bread of Life Chapel. Christ is there waiting to be asked to intercede. Bring your concerns.

I have a priest friend, Msgr. Val Handwerker, who always writes in correspondence, "Let's Pray for One Another". God heard Moses. He is an equal opportunity Lord. He hears us all. Let's Pray for One Another. Christ, the Mediator, Mary, the saints and all in heaven are there to help us. Use them--depend on them. Those down here also have us. Let them use us, depend on us to change their hearts and ways.

God Bless,  
Msgr. John McArthur

#### Key Events This Week:

1. Confessions Thursday from 5:00-6:00 p.m.
2. Stations of the Cross--Friday Evening--5:30 p.m.
3. Daily Masses--6:15 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 12:00 Noon (except Saturday)
4. Saturday, April 9th--Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood--10:00-11:00 a.m.
5. The St. Vincent de Paul Society collects food for the poor year round. Collection baskets are at all entrances to our church.

#### Congratulations

Through Wednesday Evening, April 6, 2011

Bishop's Annual Appeal Report

Pledges--606

Amount Paid and Pledged--\$335,000.00

Wow! Wow! Wow!

Great Job

We have a ways to go

Parishioners on roster--1,800+

Parish Goal--\$439,000.00

We can and will make it soon with your help

Thanks