CONSOLATA SHRINE

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18th FEBRUARY 2018

FIRST READING **Genesis 9:8-15**

God's covenant with Noah, delivered from the waters of the flood

A reading from the Book of Genesis

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Psalm 25:4-9**

Response. **All your paths, O Lord, are mercy and faithfulness,**
for those who keep your covenant

O Lord, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth,
and teach me; for you are God of my salvation. ***(Response)***

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
In your merciful love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. ***(Response)***

Good and upright is the Lord:
He shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgment;
to the humble he teaches his way. ***(Response)***

SECOND READING **1 Peter 3:18-22**

"Baptism now saves you."

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved: Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he

might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

The word of the Lord

Glory and praise to you, O Christ
Man shall not live by bread alone,
but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ

GOSPEL **Mark 1:12-15**

"He was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him."
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel."

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION
THE NEW CREATION by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

Lent bids us to return to the innocence of baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of baptism, Peter reminds us in today's Epistle. And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation. We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel. Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam - the beloved son of God, living in harmony with the wild beasts, being served by angels. Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death, Jesus is victorious. This is the good news, the "gospel of God" that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom. In the waters of baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son. We were made children of God, new creations. But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness - a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness. We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Savior - the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm. He feeds us with the bread of angels, and cleanses our consciences in the sacrament of reconciliation. As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows - to repent and believe the gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Every Friday of Lent is a day of abstinence. There is a Way of the Cross at 2pm and 4pm in the prayer Garden and after the 5.30pm Mass in the church.
2. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and alms-giving in order to restrain of our wrong desires and to be in solidarity with others. That is why we are invited to share from what we have and of what we abstain in view of the needs of others. Every year the Charities Committee of the Parish comes up with different proposals. For this year the proposals are two. On one hand the Education Project at St. Joseph – Deep Sea; and on the other hand, that we offer our sacrifices still for the Allamano Centre which will help many people in the parish and beyond. Kindly, pick one of the envelopes for Lenten contributions available at all the entrances of the Church and put back into the blue boxes with the result of your sacrifice and your sharing spirit. Thank you.
3. The registration for the pilgrimage to Holy Land is still ongoing. For more details, see the posters outside the church and visit the Parish Office.
4. The Consolata Youth Rehabilitation Programme (COYREP) is offering courses in Tailoring & Dressmaking, Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy and Leatherwork. For registration visit the Parish Office.
5. Consolata Youth Rehabilitation Programme (COYREP) is seeking to recruit a Nursery School Teacher in Charge for Deep Sea Nursery School. For more information, check the notice board.

6. Next Saturday there will be the on-going formation for children who have received the First Holy Communion from 10 am to 1 pm.
7. Coming Sunday 9 am is Children mass. All children are encouraged to attend for there will not be Sunday School Service.
8. For better service to the community, the Parish is setting up an Information Desk outside the Church, at the Gazebo. You can approach it for any information that you may require. Also the desks for the Allamano Centre collections will be all at the Gazebo, instead of being at the entrances of the Church.
9. The Construction of the **ALLAMANO CENTRE** to build a new block of pastoral offices, meeting rooms, hall and parking is on-going as you can see and even visit. The normal collections and pledges are on-going. As the car stickers to support the same cause are also on sale. You can pay using the Paybill number **804877** in instalments or in full.

DAILY READINGS & SCHEDULE FOR MASSES:

Monday: Lev 19: 1-2.11-18; Ps 19: 8-10. 15, Mt 25: 31-46
Tuesday: Is 55: 10-11; Ps 34: 47. 16-19; Mt 6: 7-15
Wednesday: Joh 3: 1-10; Ps 51: 3-4.12-13.18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 16:13-19
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130: 1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt: 26:16-19; Ps 119: 1-2.4-5.7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: 7.30 am **Kiswahili** 9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon and 5.30 pm **English**

Saturday: English 7.00 am, 9.00 am and 5.30 pm

Monday - Friday: English 7.00 am and 1.15 pm; 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

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