

**FROM FR. JOHN**

## **You Gotta Serve Somebody**

“Jesus answered them, Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin” John 8:34

Bob Dylan is famous for a refrain in one of his songs, “You gotta serve somebody. Now it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you gotta serve somebody.” All of our decisions to act or not to act can be seen as serving either one of two masters, Satan or the Lord. In the end there are only two masters and we are always choosing to serve one or the other. The church teaches that at some point in time Satan and his angels broke their relationship with God such that they were cast out of heaven. It was Satan’s decision to break from God and his reason for doing so has been described as that he would rather rule in hell than serve in heaven. After Satan chose to abandon God, the war for which master we would serve began.

For two years I lived in an intense community where we talked a lot about the reality and power of sin in our lives. Often we would confess our sins to one another and we came up with a neat distinction that helped us to take ownership with our sin. We changed from talking about “falling” into sin to “choosing” to sin. “Falling” into sin implied we did not have much control over this powerful beast of sin that always takes life away from us. But when we talked about sin as a choice it emphasized the power, gift and responsibility we all have with our free will. We simply are not helpless and things are not so out of control such that we have to serve Satan and sin.

A parishioner brought up an interesting and valid point to me the other day. She asked me why is it that so many Protestants seem much more confident about their faith and the scriptures than Catholics. This is good food for thought. As a priest, I often sense this lack of confidence. In some senses, it seems like knowing our faith can be framed in the context of falling into/choosing it analogy. A good reflection is to consider whether we have simply fallen into our faith practice or if we have chosen it and gone after it in understanding. We are not helpless human beings falling out of control when it comes to our faith. We have free will and can go after an understanding of our faith with total abandon.

We can start out this faith seeking understanding by clearly stating that we serve one of two masters, either Satan or the Lord. We join forces with Satan when we choose him as our master. He is a master who seeks to divide us from God and destroy all the love, relationships and joy in our lives. Satan serves us sin which never makes us happy. In stark contrast as our master, God brings us into joyful and loving relationships with himself and others that will last forever. He makes true on His promise to give us life following upon life if we serve Him.

If someone is in hell, they have chosen it. If someone is in heaven, it is because they have chosen it. Each of us has the gift and responsibility to choose where we will be for eternity. If this were not the case, it would be pretty silly of me to be a priest. We can choose to be a slave to sin and be unhappy- now and forever. Or, like St. Paul wrote, we can be a slave to Christ and be happy- now and forever.

You are serving somebody,  
Fr. John



**Parish Mission-** I am giving a Parish Mission at St. John's Eudes in Los Angeles from April 17-21st- lest you think I am on vacation 😊. I am praying for you. Tell the whole world Jesus lives! +Fr. John

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, April 19, 2010

Communion Service

### Tuesday, April 20, 2010

+Dorothy Hanson

(Mary Fromwiller)

### Wednesday, April 21, 2010

+Robert Best

(Mom)

### Thursday, April 22, 2010

+Mr. & Mrs. Kiem Nguyen

(Their family)

### Friday, April 23, 2010

+Grace Lewis

(Robinson & Provine Family)

### Saturday, April 24, 2010

+Catherine Schneider

(Don & Kathy Kreisman)

### Sunday, April 25, 2010

8:30AM +Annette and Julia

(Fred and Betty)

10:30AM People of the Parish

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, April 18, 2010

8:30AM-Baptism

9:00AM-Faith Formation

9:00AM-Jr HS Youth Group

12:30PM-Family Forum S.R.

7:00PM-HS Youth Group S.R.

### Monday, April 19, 2010

7:00PM New Orleans Meeting S.R.

### Tuesday, April 20, 2010

9:00AM-Prayer Chain S.R.

7:00 PM-Choir Practice

### Thursday, April 22, 2010

7:00 PM-Confirmation

(Archbishop Vlazny

7:00 PM-Bible Study Rm4

### Saturday, April 24, 2010

10:00PM-1st Communion & Reception

5:00PM-Car Wash/Bake Sale in S.R.

**Coffee and Donuts are served in the Social Room on Sunday morning after the Masses.**

### Back to Prayer Night:

#### Guest Speaker: Patti LaRue

Please mark your calendars for April 29th, 2010 at 7:00PM for an evening of prayer and community gathering. Join us and help us celebrate Jesus through prayer. We will begin in the church and then meet in the social room for refreshments and friendly conversation.

**The Prayer Chain** will meet Tuesday April 20th from 9-10 in the S.R. Anyone from the parish is invited to attend as we pray for those who have requested prayer support. We will continue our book Let in the Light-facing hard stuff with hope.

Don't forget to bring your appreciation book also. If you are new to the parish please come we share books well. There will be refreshments following.

**A bigger prayer chain** is desired at St. Joseph. Rather than just asking Fr. John or a few friends when something is happening that is concerning you, let us see if we can get most of the church praying too. We will have a sign up for your email address before all the Masses on May 1&2. You will receive a list of people to pray for once a week. You may pray right then and delete it or you may print it and pray for them all week. It's up to you how you do it. We also will have a section for praises on how God has answered you prayers so that we can all rejoice and glorify God together for his works. Those without email, can sign up for our phone list. The email is:

[sjtw-gapline@hotmail.com](mailto:sjtw-gapline@hotmail.com) and is on the front of the bulletin.

**Catholic Charities:Whoever, Wherever, Whenever.**—The theme of Catholic Charities' 2010 Annual Campaign is underway the weekend of April 17-18 with a collection on April 24-25. Last year, thanks to the generous support of donors in parishes throughout Oregon, Catholic Charities made a difference in the lives of children, families, women in crisis pregnancy, the abused, the mentally ill and those who turned to us in need regardless of religious affiliation. Ninety one cents of every dollar contributed went directly to the programs and services to help the 33,000 clients of Catholic Charities. Your donation provides maternity services such as adoption, counseling, and support for those impacted by abortion, domestic violence, services for more than 3,500 youth in after school mentoring programs; gang outreach services, housing placement and resident services for homeless women, low income families, disabled person, and chronically mentally ill, immigration and anti-human trafficking services, refugee services and elderly services. If you are among the luckiest in our community and are in a position to give help, please give as generously as you can. Find out more at [www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org) or call (503) 231-4866 X116.

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

**Budget amount:** \$ 7,032.00

**Amount collected:** \$ 8,797.30

Over/under: + \$1,759.30

### Youth Group Schedule Jr High

Sun Apr 18, 9 AM mtg, Rm 5

Sun Apr 25, 9 AM mtg, Rm 5

### High School

Sun Apr 18, 7 PM, Rm 5

Sun Apr 25, 7 PM, Rm 5

### CAR WASH/BAKE SALE

#### April 24-25

Come support our youth summer trips to New Orleans and Steubenville NW.

Have your car cleaned or enjoy a home baked treat.

### Steubenville NW 2010 July 28-Aug 1

All high school youth mark your calendars for the SNW Conference. Spend an exciting weekend seeking Jesus and the power of his Holy Spirit in your life. Contact Janet 503 761-8710

### 3rd Annual Real Catholic Men's

#### Conference: June 19th at St Joseph

Parish, Vancouver, WA. Featured speakers include: Evangelists Richard Lane and Hector Molina, Jr.; as well as Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. The morning session includes Confession, and Mass concludes the day. A continental Breakfast and deli lunch are part of the ticket price. For more information or to register: log on to [www.RealCatholicMen.com](http://www.RealCatholicMen.com) or call 503-640-3456

### St Joes' Annual Camp Out is Back:

Probably think we're nuts talking about camping when it's still raining out half the time. But it is never too early to start thinking about making a reservation. Twenty-two sites are already gone!

Camp out dates are: Aug 18th thru August 22nd. Reservations can be made in a variety of ways. **Online:**

[www.stjosephtheworkerpx.org/campout2010.html](http://www.stjosephtheworkerpx.org/campout2010.html) **Email:**

[Pattiurlvd@www.stjosephtheworkerpx.org](mailto:Pattiurlvd@www.stjosephtheworkerpx.org)

or [Duane-Dianne@comcast.net](mailto:Duane-Dianne@comcast.net) or

by phone: Dianne: 503 998-5683

Patti: 503 915-4096