

Rachel Weeping

By Fr. Ray Pendelton

Whenever there is a loss of life or an event that leaves a significant void within us it is important to provide for a time for healing. The service that has been entitled, "Rachel Weeping" is that kind of opportunity.

Loss of life in the womb is a powerful and significant experience that leaves a mother with an ambiguous set of reactions. The expected joy of receiving a child has been lost and there is a grief reaction. The same set of complex reactions take place for many who have been through the experience of abortion. This latter is a choice that cannot be undone. Many find this a time of sadness coupled with guilt and a mixture of emotions.

It is important to find a time and place to reflect on these losses and to experience God's grace and healing: and where it is appropriate to experience God's forgiveness for actions taken that are now regretted, as in the case of abortion. The "Rachel Weeping" service is such a place.

This service includes a time of quiet reflection and a timely teaching on God's special grace to meet the needs of grieving persons. Each person is given an opportunity to reflect, to write a note and perhaps even to give a name to an unborn child. Each person is given a white rose, representing the child. As each person's senses that they are ready, the notes and roses are brought to the altar and placed there as a memorial response.



Sometimes it is a member of the extended family who joins this time of reflection when the mother is unable, for a number of reasons, to attend.

This year the Rachel Weeping service will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21st in the church. Any person who has experienced the loss of a child is invited to attend. If you know of anyone who might be helped by such a service, please invite them to attend.

For further information please contact the church office, (978) 774-3163.

Today at CTR



FORUM SERIES: 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall: / See *Satan Fall Like Lightning*. Book exploration and discussion with Fr. Tim. **10:00 a.m. in the Baptistery:** How to Read the Bible, with Dcn. Adam.

SENIOR HIGH LUNCH: Senior High School students (grades 9-12) have lunch and discussion together with Fr. Brian, following the 11 a.m. service (12:30-1:30 p.m.) in the Sacristy.

THE ANCHOR: Junior High Youth group today at the Keifer home, from 2-4pm. Snacks, games, Bible Study. Contact Fr. Brian for info, brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org.

This Week at CTR

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY: Saturday, May 13, from 8:30am until 1:30pm. We have plenty of outdoor chores big and small that need to be done to clean up and spruce up our property. Tasks for all ages. Come as you can and leave as you must; it's a great opportunity to meet new people as we share in caring for the building and grounds that God has provided for the work and worship of Christ the Redeemer. If you can participate, please contact David Greening at the church office: david.greening@ctr-anglican.org.



MANOS DE AMOR (Hands of Love) COLLECTION DRIVE: Help children and adults in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and other areas where there is need by donating cleaned clothing, toys, shoes,

bedding, bath towels. Items will be collected through May 31st—leave them in the CTR Parish Hall (in the corner near the high round tops.) Donations go straight to the people who will distribute them, so please wash before packing. To learn more about the organization sponsoring this, visit their website at www.fundacionmanosdeamor.org. Questions? Contact Patricia Charek pcharek@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

THIRD SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST: Men of CTR, join us on Saturday, May 20, from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall for food, fellowship, discussion and prayer. Newcomers welcome. If you want to bring along a breakfast entrée or accompaniment to share, please contact David Greening: david.greening@ctr-anglican.org

RACHEL WEEPING: A special service of healing for those affected by the loss of life in the womb will take place on Sunday, May 21 at 5:00 p.m. This service is planned as a time of healing for mothers, fathers, grandparents, and all whose lives have been touched by loss through abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth. Following music, readings, prayers, and teaching, anyone who desires will have the opportunity to receive prayer ministry for healing at the end of the service; a priest will also be available for confession. Please invite anyone you know who may be struggling with such a loss.

ASCENSION DAY OUTDOOR SERVICE: Join us at Beverly's Lynch Park on Ascension Day, Thursday May 25 at 5pm for a pot-luck picnic, followed by an evening prayer service at 6pm. More information to come. *Please note: Lynch Park is "carry-in carry-out" ie. no trash cans.*



EMAIL CASTING CALL FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY: If you can say "Praise the Lord" or "We adore You, God!" in a language other than English, please email me, Wendy Dixon at wendenn@gmail.com.

We need as many people as possible to help at the June 4 Pentecost festival day service, at 10am. You can use your native language, your high school French or Spanish, or google "how do you say Praise the Lord in Swahili?" (or whatever language you choose—kids or teens might enjoy this last idea.)



CONSECRATION OF THE NEW ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL: On Saturday, June 10 the consecration of All Saints' Anglican Cathedral in Amesbury, MA will be followed by a reception on the cathedral grounds. Come worship and celebrate!

Regular Events at CTR

TUESDAY:

Weekly Bible Study: 7:00pm-9:00pm. Contact Richard Thorndike, 978-922-3618, for more information.

WEDNESDAY:

Holy Eucharist & Confession: 6:30-7:30am

Seraphim Choir (grades 4 +), 4:00-5:15pm. Contact Dan McKinley dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.

Cherubim Choir (grades 1-3), 4:00-5:00pm Contact Cyndi Kreyling kreylingc@gmail.com.

THURSDAY:

Moms In Prayer International.: 9am-10am Contact Flora Lee, floraisabella@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study: 10am -11:30am Contact Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com.

Choir of CTR: 7:15pm-9:15pm. New members are welcome and needed. Contact Minister of Music Dan 978-774-3163x105; dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
LOVE
YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

During Eastertide Two Options for Adult Formation at 10 am:

Parish Hall: I See Satan Fall Like Lightning

For the remainder of Eastertide, during our 10 a.m. hour in the Parish Hall, we'll be taking a look at a very unusual but insightful book: *I See Satan Fall Like Lightning*. The title is taken from Jesus' words in Luke 10.18 — it is what He said when the 72 disciples he had sent out on mission returned to him. Why did he say that? What did he see? This book was written by Rene Girard, a French Catholic literary critic and anthropological philosopher, and shocked the Paris intelligentsia at the turn to the new millennium when it made the best-seller list there.

What Girard does in this book is to offer an explanation for much of what is good in Western culture, and where much has gone to extremes. More specifically, he offers a root idea for what has made Western culture unique, and what is the defining energy behind it. But in spite of having this extremely wide angle of view, the book also speaks to realities that come home to us everyday, to issues that are being played out before us in ever-increasing intensity it seems.

What we are doing in these weeks is not a book study; you don't have to go out and buy a copy and read along (though of course feel free!). I'll be offering a brief summary of the main idea of each section of the book as we go, and then I'll be interacting with a few of us who are also reading the book in terms of how that week's idea effects us and is being played out, and then we'll all chat about it together.

Baptistry: How to Read the Bible

The Bible is God's word to us, and is a profound gift of infinite worth through which our God loves us and meets us and grows near to us.

The Bible is also an ancient book written in another age and another culture. How do we read the Bible, understand it, apply it, find the Lord speaking to us through it?

Meeting in the Baptistry at 10 a.m. during these Eastertide weeks, Deacon Adam will be helping us to wrestle with these questions.



The Fourth Sunday of Easter: Strength in the Midst of a World Gone Awry

It's a dangerous world, but Jesus does not intend to be our escape mechanism. Jesus uses a metaphor that, granted, we don't meet everyday — "I am the door to the sheepfold" — but the idea is that Jesus offers strength to face the realities.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name

and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (John 10.1-10, ESV)

Notes on this Week's Sermon

Notes:

When Jesus uses the image of the door to the sheepfold to describe himself, what he means is:

What I find most surprising in this story is:

What in this story gives me hope, or joy, or courage, or _____:

God, I thank you for:

My prayer:

Itinerary for the Following Weeks

Try It in Life: Three weeks of Jesus' own metaphors explaining himself and his life: May 7, 14, 21.

May 14: A Beautiful Way of Life
Jesus' life stands as the most influential in history. His self-descriptive metaphor this week gives a part of the reason for that — "I am the way, the truth, and the life". We will emphasise the strand that seems to get the least attention: "the way". The idea is that following Jesus in his

way of self-giving love makes life blossom beyond expectation.

May 21: Life, Connected

It's a big world and even greater cosmos — is connection beyond the virtual possible? Jesus' metaphor this week is "I am the true vine" — as in the "source" and "energy" behind it all, and yet accessible to anyone.

Sermons are available online at, ctrnorthshore.org/teachings/.

