

# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

Julv 30. 2017 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

## SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

### Faith & Film: Kung Fu Panda 3

This past month we have explored five different stories from movies. I hoped that reflecting with me on the positive and negative spiritual insights in these movies has helped you grow not only in your faith but also in your ability to pick up different philosophical, and theological ideas that may be hidden within the special effects and stories.

#### **Kung Fu Panda 3:**

In the Spirit Realm, Grandmaster Oogway's (the turtle from the first movie) eternal peace is disturbed when he is attacked by an old enemy named Kai. Kai steals Oogway's chi (soul) and uses it to enter the realm of the living. Meanwhile Po (the Panda that became the Dragon Warrior) is given the task of teaching his fellow Kung Fu masters. This is a task that he fails miserably at. Before he can understand Shifu's advice about just being himself, Po meets his biological dad Li. Fast forward a bit and Po must train his fellow pandas the art of Kung Fu in order to defeat Kai who is coming to destroy the Pandas and their village. Po finally realizes that teaching is not about molding them to fight like him but rather it is about helping them

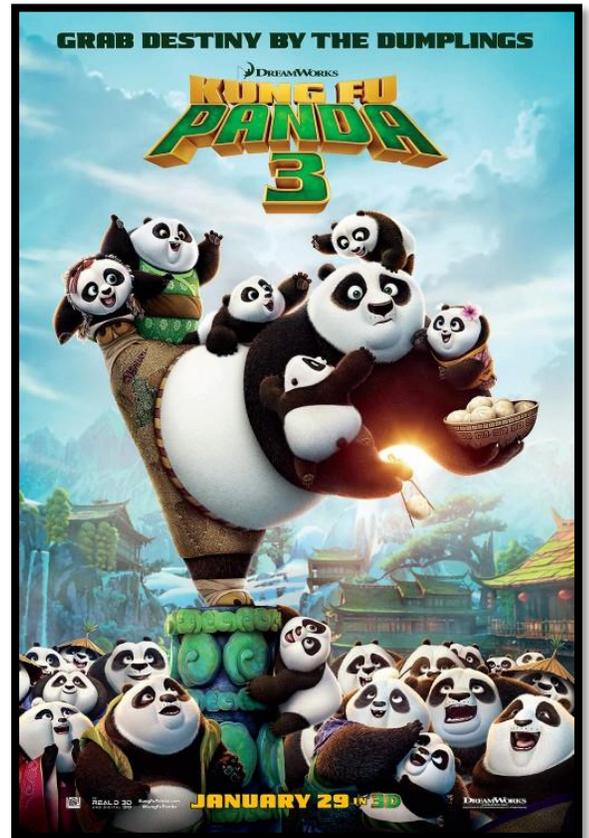
#### **Spiritual Insight 1: The Real Art of Teaching**

Throughout the story, Po has a hard time teaching because he tries to mold everyone to be like him and the furious five. Toward the climactic battle, he realizes that a good teacher is one who helps others develop their own strengths. He therefore helps the Pandas take things that they are good at and teaches them to turn them into Kung Fu moves.

As Catholics, we do not believe that God is trying to make us all the same. If He wanted us all the same He would have made us that way from the beginning. Our God does want us to use the gifts and talents that we have to best of our ability. St. Irenaeus of Lyon stated that "The Glory of God is a person fully alive."

#### **Spiritual Insight 2: Becoming a Teacher**

There is a part in everyone's journey in which they become a teacher (or should become a teacher) but not necessarily in an academic sense. For example, an alcoholic in recovery reaches a point where he or she becomes a sponsor (a teacher) and thus model the life of sobriety to a person in need of a mentor. In my work with Project Rachel, I can tell that a woman has



#### **Spiritual insight 3: Adoption**

All three Kung Fu Panda movies carry with them a very pro-life message because they are all pro-adoption. At first Po thinks his parents gave him up for adoption because they did not want him but Po discovers that his parents gave him up for adoption because they loved him and wanted him to be safe. Men and women who give up their child for adoptions show a great love for their child. There are some cultural of death myths that state that adoption is cruel because it lets the child wondering who he is or that his or her parents did not love them. This is sadly all smoke screen and lies by the devil to encourage abortion (which

ends a life). Children who have been adopted go on to live ordinary lives. In fact, sometimes when they are old enough and situations are right they reunite with their birth family and thus become doubly blest as Po end up being with having two dads in Kung Fu Panda 3. I know many wonderful families who are hoping to adopt children.

I think I will end today's reflection with a prayer for families trying to adopt. I invite you to pray with me.

"God, you do love adoption. You've adopted us into your family, giving us all rights and privileges of family. We are heirs and co-heirs with Jesus of all your treasures. We pray today for those seeking to adopt a child. Many children in the world do not have mothers and fathers. Many men and women do not have children. God, bring them together. Create the perfect match. Provide resources. Provide perfect timing. Give endurance and emotional strength through the grinding

details. Give wisdom for them to anticipate ahead how to prepare practically for the coming change. Strengthen their marriage ahead of this coming gift. Heal any past disappointment. Parental love is nature. Adoptive parental love has to be SUPERnatural. Give a miracle of love and bonding. May nothing stand in the way of you accomplishing a completion of this match – child to parent. In Jesus!"

## Breaking Open the Word

**July 30, 2017 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary:**

**109 Gospel MT 13:44-52**

**Spiritual Reflection:** The last line of the Gospel is a reminder to us not to get caught up in whether an idea or a devotion is new or old. If the idea is going to get you to heaven then use it. If is not then don't.

**Spiritual Questions:**

1. What are some devotions that help you grow closer to God?
2. What are some devotions that seem to help others but they seem not to help you?
3. What are some devotions that you would like to know more about?
4. How do you pray best?
5. How can you help other pray?



## Prayers for the Week

### LITANY FOR THE CHURCH IN OUR TIME

Lord, have mercy – Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy – Christ have mercy  
Lord, have mercy on us. – Lord have mercy  
Christ, Divine Founder of the Church - hear us.  
Christ, Who didst warn of false prophets -  
graciously hear us.  
God, the Father of Heaven - have mercy on us.  
God, the Son, Redeemer of the World - have

mercy on us.  
God, the Holy Ghost - have mercy on us.  
Holy Trinity, One God - have mercy on us.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God- pray for us.  
St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church - pray  
for us.  
St. Michael, Defender in Battle - pray for us.  
St. Peter, the Rock upon which Christ built His  
Church - pray for us.

St. Paul, Protector of the Faithful Remnant - pray for us.  
 St. Francis of Assisi, Re-builder of the Church - pray for us.  
 St. Anthony, Hammer of Heretics - pray for us.  
 St. Pius V Restorer of the beauty of the Sacred Liturgy - pray for us.  
 St. Pius X, Foe of Modernism - pray for us.  
 All ye Holy Angels and Archangels - pray that we may resist the snares of the Devil.  
 St. Catherine of Siena - pray that Christ's Vicar may oppose the spirit of the world.  
 St. John Fisher - pray that bishops may have the courage to combat heresy and irreverence.  
 St. Francis Xavier - pray that zeal for souls may be re-enchanted in the clergy.  
 St. Charles Borromeo - pray that seminaries may be protected from false teachings.  
 St. Vincent de Paul - pray that seminarians may return to a life of prayer and meditation.  
 St. Therese of the Child Jesus - pray that religious may rediscover their vocation of love and sacrifice.  
 St. Thomas More - pray that the laity may not succumb to the Great Apostasy.  
 St. Francis de Sales - pray that the Catholic press may again become a vehicle of Truth.  
 St. John Bosco - pray that our children may be protected from immoral and heretical instruction.

St. Pascal - pray that profound reverence for the Most Blessed Sacrament may be restored.  
 St. Dominic - pray that we may ever treasure the Holy Rosary.  
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world - spare us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world - graciously hear us.  
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world - have mercy on us.  
 Christ, hear us. - Christ, graciously hear us.  
 Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God - That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
 Let Us Pray.  
 Jesus, our God, in these dark hours when Thy Mystical Body is undergoing its own Crucifixion, and when it would almost seem to be abandoned by God the Father, have mercy, we beg of Thee, on Thy suffering Church. Send down upon us the Divine Consoler, to enlighten our minds and strengthen our wills. Thou, O Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, Who canst neither deceive nor be deceived, have promised to be with Thy Church until the end of time. Give us a mighty Faith that we may not falter; help us to do Thy Holy Will always, especially during these hours of grief and uncertainty. May Thy Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Thy Holy Mother be our sure refuge in time and in eternity. Amen.

## Catholic Trivia

 Last Week's Answers	 This Week's Questions
<p><b>Answer the Following Questions about Pope Francis?</b></p> <p>1. Who was Ruth's second husband? Answer: Boaz</p> <p>2. Who was King David's first wife? Answer: Michal (Saul's youngest daughter)</p> <p>3. Who was Jezebel married to? Answer: Ahaz</p> <p>4. Who was Elizabeth's husband? Answer: Ezekiel</p>	<p><b>Which one does not belong</b></p> <p>1. Enoch Cain Seth Abel</p> <p>2. James Simon Judas Matthew</p> <p>3. Reuben Ephraim Joseph Judah</p> <p>4. Samuel Job Samson Gideon</p>

## Quotes of the Week

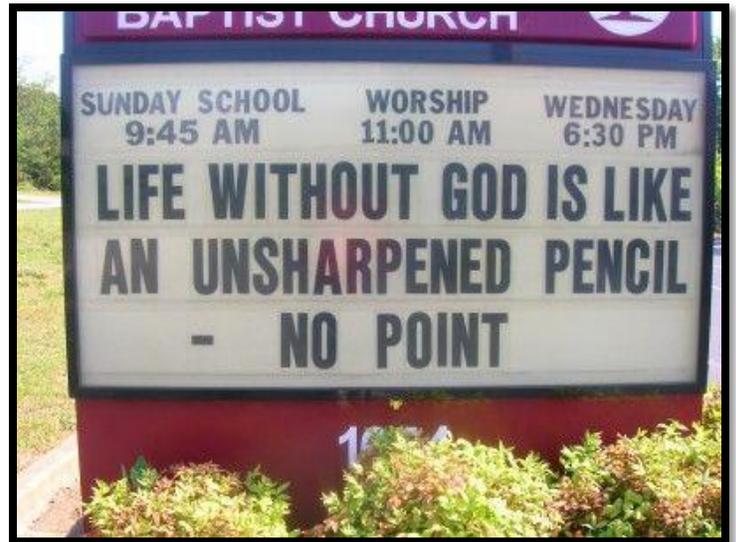
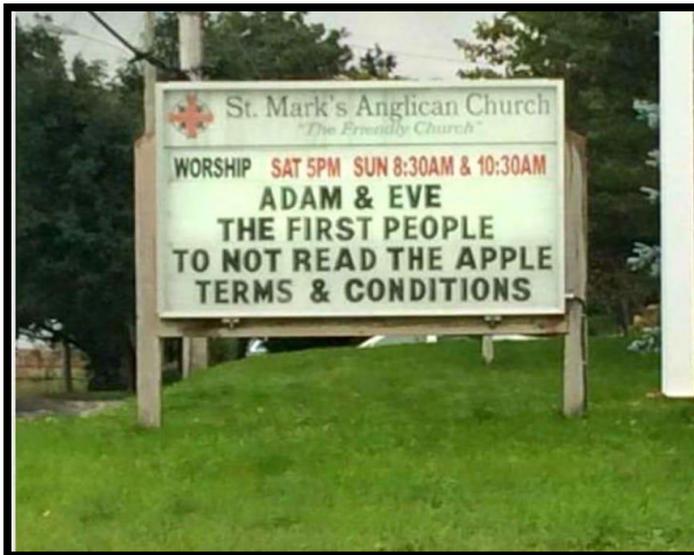
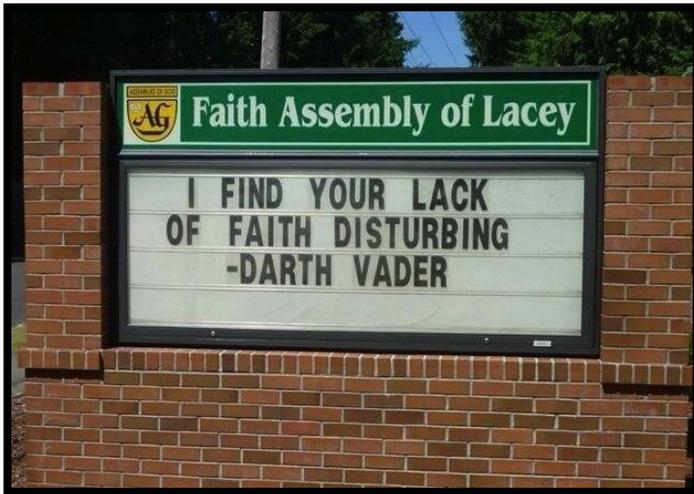
1. A faint faith is better than a strong heresy. –St. Thomas More

2. It is not the actual physical exertion that counts toward a man's progress, nor the nature of the task, but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken. -St. Francis Xavier

3. The dress of the body should not discredit the good of the soul. St. Cyprian

4. The purpose of clothing is to keep warm in winter and to cover your nakedness, not to serve your vanity. St. Cyril of Jerusalem

## Catholic Humor



## Spiritual Adoption

### Spiritual Adoption Prayer



"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby's name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion." - Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Seventh Month Your baby is now about 3 pounds – this added weight makes her skin look smoother. Her eyelids can now open and close, her eyes look around and respond to light. She has a powerful grip now - strong enough to support her body weight with one hand.