

Old Testament Scripture Study

Are you one who has been thinking about Scripture Study? Would you like to spend some time learning about these famous people from the Old Testament: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Joshua, and David? Would you like to discuss how these Old Testament people relate to Jesus? Gene Kleinhans (Commissioned Lay Minister) will be repeating last winter's program, designed just for this purpose. We are using a short, user-friendly text, and will meet in the morning (coffee provided) in St. Cyril's Parish Hall (Walton St. entrance). There is no charge for the program. Please come on Thursday, July 12th at 9 AM to see if this is for you. Feel free to contact Gene (315-482-3981) with any questions.

Thoughts On Independence Day

On Wednesday, July 4, our nation celebrates Independence Day. The following article, taken in its entirety, was written by Bishop James D. Conley, Bishop of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE and appeared in the January 2013 issue of *Magnificat*. It has a good message for us today.

"In his powerful and profound *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*, Dr. Martin Luther King said the Constitution and Declaration together form the 'great wells of democracy' that express 'the most sacred values in our Judeo-Christian heritage.' King was right. Our country was not founded to be a theocracy. But our country is also unimaginable without reference to the values of our Judeo-Christian heritage. America's founded shared common belief that religion mattered-not only for the private salvation and welfare of individuals, but also for the commonweal of the nation.

Charles Carrol, the declaration's only catholic signatory, put it well in a letter to James McHenry, one of the signers of the Constitution: Without morals a republic can not subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments...

America's future depends today, as it always has, on the choices that faithful citizens will make. And that means rediscovering the basic religious and Christian values that are contained in our Declaration of Independence. It means living out our beliefs with what the declaration calls a 'firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.' And through our witness to our beliefs, and by God's grace, we can help restore our national soul."

Judy Pearson



A Prayer from a Preface for Civic Holidays

God our Father, you Son Jesus spoke to us a message
Of peace and taught us to live as brothers and sisters.
His message took form in the vision of our
Founding Fathers, as they fashioned a nation where all people might live as one.
This message lives on in our midst as a task for us today
And a promise for tomorrow.
We thank you, Father, for your blessings in the past,
And for all that, with your help, we must yet achieve.
Bless our nation and bless each of us. As we celebrate our independence
May we extend its blessings to our youngest brothers and sisters,
the children in the womb.
Hasten the day when our nation will be a nation with liberty and justice for all