



## Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

### This Sunday's Scriptures (Revised Common Lectionary, RCL)

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Cor 1:18-25; and John 2:13-22 can be read from the Lectionary Calendar at <http://www.lectionarypage.net/> - this contains a calendar of all 2021 readings.

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### Can You Name the 10 Commandments?

This is not a test but ... at some point in all our Christian education we had to learn the 10 commandments. Today's the day to refresh our memories: Exodus 20:1-17. It is one of two locations in the Bible with "the 10 commandments" (the other is Deut. 5:1-22). When is the last time we tried to recall the 10 commandments or read them in Scripture? If you have not recently read it, read Exodus 20:1-17 before you read further in the "Blast."

### A Rule of Life

A "rule of life" is an orderly way of existence, and we usually think of monks and nuns living by the "Rule." Adherents to the "Rule" embrace it as a way of life, not just keeping a list of rules. A rule of life is a path to our higher selves so we might seek God with faithfulness and live more successfully, walking "humbly with our God." What if we thought of the 10 commandments as a rule of life? I believe that was the original intention.

### Won't That Be Hard?

Maybe this will help. In the notes of my study Bible I read, "Words' is more suitable than 'commandment.' Nowhere does the Bible establish how these ten should be enumerated, and there was a diversity of views on this already in antiquity."

I suggest we add adjectives and say, "holy words," "healthy words," "guiding words," and so forth. By using "word" rather than "commandment" we turn our focus away from ***I tried to obey the commandment, but I failed*** to ***I lived by the holy words almost all the time, but I slipped up***. The commandments are not just a list of rules on a poster. These holy words are not a prison, but a supporting scaffold and a lifetime pathway. These words remind us every day that God is forgiving and knows our innermost intentions. And we can, therefore, live an authentic life the way God intends with confidence in faith. May it be so. AMEN.

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**Special Prayers:** for John undergoing chemo treatments; a special prayer for domestic and other animals in our care during the cold winter season; for those people who continue to suffer the aftereffects of the harsh winter; those suffering during the COVID pandemic; and finally, for peace and justice within our country.