

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (3/14-15/2009)**

*Exodus 20/1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1/22-25, John 2/13-25*

Who needs the ten commandments?

We all have a moral compass (GPS) at work within us, right?

And there are many who say that the commandments as listed in the reading from *Exodus* today are primitive and need updating to have any relevance at all.

Well, today's Scripture readings may put the lie to all that.

These readings, along with the daily news items that keep coming out about corruption in politics and business and government and bail-outs and private enterprise and yes, even the church, alert us that all is not on the up and up.

Anyone who is naïve enough to think we do not need some stricter regulation in our lives is courting disaster.

That's why a simple review of the ten commandments may well be in order for all of us.

There is one God whom we worship. Not money or power or position or pleasure, but God.

We trust God's name and we do not abuse it. Nor the name and reputation of anyone else either.

We are to keep holy the Sabbath, to give time to our conversation and communication with the Lord, to come together as a worshipful community in God's presence.

We are to honor our fathers and mothers; and, conversely, fathers and mothers are to live their lives in an honorable fashion, giving good example to their offspring.

We are not to kill. Violence is out!

Peacefulness and sincere efforts to work out our differences are in.

We are to wish others well even though we may not hit it off with them.

Every life is sacred, yours, mine, the fetus in the womb, the disappearing Alzheimer victim.

Every life is a miniature miracle fashioned after the Holy Trinity.

Do not commit adultery. What could be clearer than that?

So don't give credence to the public media and entertainment world when they hold up as examples those who besmirch the importance of good, lasting relationships.

Don't steal. Don't even desire to amass worldly goods.

Be satisfied with less than the culture around you dictates. Live simply.

Don't spread rumors and gossip; don't judge or denigrate your neighbor.

Let respect be the hallmark of your personality and of your interaction with those others.

Don't covet and yearn for your neighbor's wife or husband or home.

Again, be satisfied with the many gifts God has bestowed on you.

However you paraphrase or sum up the commandments, they apply, brothers and sisters.

If they need some further elucidation, fine, do it.

But for heavens' sake, don't set them aside! Abide by them. We will all benefit immeasurably.