

*Saint Matthew Ecumenical Catholic Church ~ Orange, California
Summer, 2018 Occasional Series*

Great Figures of the Bible

Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar

Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 7 - 8:15 PM



Who were these people in this early Hebrew story? They are not perfect characters. They are -- like you and me -- flawed, sometimes manipulative or tricky, smart, but at other times quite clueless! But as best they know, they are also faithful.

When the primeval Genesis history ends in Chapter 11, humankind has simply gone downhill. We are all left scattered, unable to communicate with one another at the end of the Tower of Babel saga. We have to figure out how to live here when the world is such a mess.

On this evening, we will learn their story in the context of the Hebrew scriptures, and though it seems far away from us, we'll listen to Professor Amy-Jill Levine, in a half-hour study, discuss these characters. We will think about what the story has to say to us today in our time. Come join us for an interesting discussion.

One or more of our Saint Matthew clergy will guide our study. We also have excellent handouts to provide you. On these warm summer nights, feel free to bring a cooler with sparkling water, coke, beer or wine, or whatever your preference is as we come together in the Gathering Room.

Background Information and Summer Schedule:

We know that our people have many plans over the summer months, with travel, family visits, vacations, sports activities. Our regular Bible Study series during the academic year are designed to be sequential, where we will most benefit by participating every week.

This summer, we are offering what we term an 'occasional' series, which means it will not occur every week, and you need not attend all sessions to understand what is going on. You can pick and choose according to your interests or your schedule.

We plan to hold a Healing Service on the 4th Wednesday of every month [6/27, 7/25, 8/29] up to September, as our parish prays for healing for Bishop +Peter and to help us cope with the changes for us all.

All sessions will run from 7 – 8:15 PM. We will feature both Hebrew and New Testament characters:

6/20 Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar

6/27 Healing Service

7/11 'Doubting' Thomas

7/18 Moses and Exodus

7/25 Healing Service

8/01 John the Baptist

8/08 The Jacob Saga

8/15 Stephen

8/22 James

8/29 Healing Service

9/5 Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

9/12 The Samaritan Woman

9/26 Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son

Instructor: *We will watch and listen to a half-hour video presentation by Professor Amy-Jill Levine, a renowned Jewish scholar from the Vanderbilt Divinity School. She is not only a Hebrew scripture scholar but also a New Testament scholar. Some of you may have seen her book, The Jewish Annotated New Testament (2011) which we highly recommend.*