

Recently in the news it was reported that Borders Bookstore was going out of business.

That came as a shock to me - because I can remember the first Borders store in Ann Arbor; and the second one at the corner of Southfield and Thirteen Mile Road.

Books, it would seem, have gone paperless.

It seems that Amazon dot com is the new bookstore of choice; and you can wirelessly download books onto a device called a Kindle. If you already have a computer, you can download a Kindle APP for free.

So, on the Amazon dot com website, I typed in "JESUS" to see what was available.

The number one relevant choice that I got in reply was:

"Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary"

Followed by the Holy Father's best selling book:

"Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week."

Followed by: "Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible"

There are a lot of people who have a lot of different ideas about what we should know about Jesus ... not to mention who Jesus is.

Over the last three weeks, we have heard three very long Gospel readings.

At the end of the story about Jesus and the woman at Samaria, the Samaritans tell the woman:

*"We no longer believe because of your word;
for we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."*

In last week's story of the Man Born Blind, Jesus asks him:

*"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
He answered and said,
"Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"
Jesus said to him,
"You have seen him,
the one speaking with you is he."
He said,
"I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.*

And in today's story of the raising of Lazarus, Martha says to Jesus:

“Yes, Lord.

*I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
the one who is coming into the world.”*

Next weekend is Palm Sunday. We will begin Mass in the school gym/church hall and process into the church building. So, a week from Tuesday is the Chrism Mass; A week from Wednesday we will receive the oils blessed on that Tuesday at the daily Masses; a week from Thursday is the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper; and a week from Friday is Good Friday.

Lent 2011 is coming to an end. The images in the church this week are removed or veiled. The crucifix is covered. All that remains are the walls and the Stations of the Cross.

On Ash Wednesday, when we all received ashes on our foreheads, we were admonished with the words:

Repent and believe in the Gospel.

Have we been able to grow in virtue? Have we made any progress in FAITH?

The last three weeks' Gospels have dealt with belief - with FAITH. We started off Lent with the admonition to believe.

Have we grown in our relationship to God? God the Father? Jesus Christ - God the Son? The Holy Spirit?

Despite the many variations on WHO JESUS IS ... we KNOW who HE is ... the answer to that question is:

JESUS IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

He is OUR savior.

He is the Christ.

He is the Son of Man.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us pray for a deepening of our FAITH. Let us beg for an outpouring of the SUPERNATURAL VIRTUE of FAITH. Let us draw near to HIM WHO SAVES US - Jesus Christ ... the savior ... the Son of Man ... the Messiah – so we can stand with Martha in today's Gospel and say:

Yes Lord, I believe.