

## St. Mary's McGowan Church begins summer Mass



This season, St. Mary's McGowan Church will only have four Mass days, including the first one that occurred this past Sunday. The remaining dates at the iconic church are July 5, Aug. 23 and Sept. 6 — all Sundays at 6 p.m. The church is located on the grounds of the Middle Village/Station Camp Unit of Lewis and Clark National Park just east of the Chinook tunnel in Washington.

**LAURA MULLENIX-DAVIS**  
For EO Media Group

## Biblical soap opera enjoys heavenly success in Brazil

The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — The actress agonizes on her deathbed, her hair and makeup impeccable, as the hunky male lead clutches her hand. Tears pour down his face while her eyelids flutter to a final close.

The scene oozes with over-the-top drama that makes Brazil's prime-time soap operas as much of a national institution as soccer or Carnival. However, in this case, the actors aren't playing wealthy sophisticates with complicated sex lives, but rather characters out of the Old Testament.

Set in ancient Egypt and loosely based on the story of Moses, "The Ten Commandments" is billed as Brazil's first biblical soap opera. Swathed in Egyptian robes and sporting lapis lazuli jewelry and Cleopatra wigs, some of the characters are based on biblical or other historic figures, while others are invented.

The soap is taking the country by storm. It's helped propel the Rede Record television network, owned by the founder of Brazil's main Pentecostal church, the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, into a showdown with top broadcaster Globo, which for decades has had a lock on prime-time soaps, known as novelas.

Some suggest that the surprise success of "The Ten Commandments" lies in the show's family-oriented script.

"There is a more conser-



Brazilian actresses perform on the set of the Brazilian prime-time soap opera, "The Ten Commandments" at a RecNov studio in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Set in ancient Egypt and loosely based on the story of Moses, "The Ten Commandments" is billed as Brazil's first Biblical soap opera.

vative audience in Brazil that we've seen is quite strong," said Bruno Dieguez, a communications professor at Rio's Pontifical Catholic University.

That audience includes a burgeoning evangelical community that now accounts for one-fifth of the population of around 200 million. In the world's largest Catholic nation, members of that majority faith also tend to be social conservatives, especially in rural areas.

"They now feel they have an alternative (to Globo) and they're tuning in," Dieguez said.

Since its debut in March, "The Ten Commandments" has attracted about three times as many viewers as Record's previous prime-time offerings, boosting the network from its typical third-place standing into

second place, network officials said. In one recent episode, a male character based on the historic 13th century BC Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II held vigil over the deathbed of his fictitious wife, Maya, after she was poisoned by a jealous rival.

An earlier time slot for the program, which begins at 8:30 p.m. six nights a week and competes with Globo's national news program, also seems to have helped the show's success.

Globo's "Babilonia," a tale of female vengeance set in contemporary Rio de Janeiro, remains the most popular. It nevertheless has been panned by critics and subsequently had its run cut by three weeks.

"Babilonia" especially offend conservatives with a kiss between two of Brazil's most

famous actresses playing an elderly lesbian couple in its first episode.

Despite its international reputation as a sexually liberated, gay-friendly country, Brazil has many people who view homosexuality as immoral.

One day after the lesbian kiss on "Babilonia," Brazil's most influential Pentecostal pastor, Silas Malafaia of the Assemblies of God church, called the show "an instrument of moral rot" in a blog post he linked from his Twitter feed with nearly 900,000 followers. He blasted Globo as "the biggest sponsor of immorality and homosexuality in Brazil."

Malafaia and Record have denied involvement in an anonymous petition that later circulated on Facebook urging viewers to boycott "Babilonia." But Record has nevertheless capitalized on the controversy.

Network brass gives most of the credit for the success of "The Ten Commandments" to the quality of its production. Each of its 150 episodes costs around \$230,000 to produce with extravagant sets, on-location shoots in Chile and Egypt and special effects.

But Record officials also assert the family-friendly content has played a major role.

"Whether you like it or not, the public is still very traditional," said Anderson Souza, who oversees soaps at Record. "Families want to be able to peacefully sit down in the living room and not worry about ... being embarrassed."

## RELIGION BRIEFS

### Astoria Hilltop

The Rev. Kenneth Jagger of Astoria Hilltop Church, a Church of the Nazarene, was honored with the Faithful/Fruitful Pastor Award at the May 14-15 District Assembly of the Oregon Pacific Church of the Nazarene in Bend.

The recipient of the award is chosen by the district superintendent. The award is given each year to one pastor in the district (which is comprised of 80-plus churches), who is selected for his years of service. Rev. Jagger has served as pastor of the Astoria church since 1995.

### Great Vow Zen

CLATSKEANIE — The Great Vow Zen Monastery, located at 79640 Quincy-Mayger Road in Clatskanie, is holding a Transforming the Inner Critic Weekend Workshop from 5 p.m. June 12 to 1 p.m. June 14.

During this workshop, Buddhist and psychological teachings are used to see one's inner critic more clearly. There will be guided meditations, group discussions and interactive exercises.

The cost is \$150 (\$125 for Zen Community of Oregon; a \$75 reduced rate available to those in need) plus donation.

For details, call 503-728-0654 or email [registrar@greatvow.org](mailto:registrar@greatvow.org). Regis-



KIMBERLY FLAIGG — The Daily Astorian  
**The Rev. Kenneth Jagger recently received the Faithful/Fruitful Pastor award.**

ister online at [www.zendust.org/events/inner-critic-jun-2015](http://www.zendust.org/events/inner-critic-jun-2015)

### Star of the Sea

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church is holding a cake reception in the Star of the Sea School auditorium, 1411 Grand Ave., following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass to honor its graduating high school seniors.

Graduates are encouraged to wear their graduation caps and gowns.

For information about St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish, call 503-325-3671 or go to [www.stmaryastoria.com](http://www.stmaryastoria.com)

### Grace Episcopal

There is a single 9 a.m. service Sunday at Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave. Graduates will be recognized, as well as families who are leaving.

Submissions of artwork for the judged Jean Barney Memorial Art Exhibit Amazing Grace are being received from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Parish Hall. The Gala Opening Reception is June 21. Guidelines and entry forms are available at the church or on the website.

For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to [www.graceastoria.org](http://www.graceastoria.org)

### First Lutheran

First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St., is holding a rummage sale at the church from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Saturday. The event includes a bake sale, plant sale, and mixes-in-a-jar (cookie mix, soup mix, other mixes) sale.

The church is altering its weekly schedule Sunday to celebrate Unity Sunday, when the early and late service participants worship together.

This has become a fifth Sunday tradition. The service is a Blues Mass, and worship is at 10:30 a.m. An adult class is being held at 9:15 a.m.

In addition, eight graduating seniors are being honored, and wrapped in quilts, as they prepare for their final days in high school. This is a long-standing tradition at First Lutheran Church. The quilts are made by the women of the Stewardship Sewing group, who makes quilts primarily for Lutheran World Relief. Sunday is also Confirmation Sunday for one student.

For questions, call the church office at 503-325-6252.

### Beit Salmon

Congregation Beit Salmon is holding its monthly board meeting at 11 a.m. Sunday in the Fellowship Hall of the Peace Lutheran Church, 565 12th St. Interested community members are welcome to attend. Among items to discuss are summer activities with Rabbi Abram Goodman. Snacks will be provided, and the meeting is casual.

For information, call Ann Goldstein at 503-791-4611.

### Astoria First United Methodist

The Astoria First United Methodist Church, 1976 Franklin Ave., invites the community for a free bowl

of soup and bread at 11 a.m. Sunday, when the church trades its traditional worship service for serving soup instead. Vegetarian and gluten-free choices will also be offered. Off street parking and handicapped access are available.

For information, call the church office at 503-325-5454 or go to [www.unitedmethodistastoria.org](http://www.unitedmethodistastoria.org)

### Warrenton United Methodist

The Warrenton United Methodist Church, 679 S. Main Ave., is ringing in the summer season with an Old Fashioned Hymn Sing at the 10 a.m. Sunday service. All are welcome to bring a musical instrument and join organist Dave Warren and pianist Diane Curs as they provide the accompaniment to hymns and choruses requested by guests in the audience.

Those attending are encouraged to arrive early and thumb through hymnals to select the songs they want sung during this hour of musical worship. Light refreshments will be served immediately following the Hymn Sing. Off-street parking is available, and the building is Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

For information about the Hymn Sing, or to inquire about Wednesday afternoon Bible Study, call the church pastor, Jane Hill, at 503-458-6633.

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