

*TELEVISION ACTOR TO PERFORM GOSPEL OF MARK
AT ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH*

PARISH MISSION

7:30PM

SUNDAY AND MONDAY

MARCH 9TH AND 10TH

CONCLUDING WITH PARISH RECONCILIATION

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH AT 7:30PM

Television and film star Frank Runyeon will bring his acclaimed performance of the Gospel of Mark and Hollywood vs. Faith to St Joan of Arc Church on Sunday, March 9th and Monday, March 10th at 7:30p.m.

Runyeon starred opposite Meg Ryan on *As the World Turns* in the 80's, as well as on *Santa Barbara*, *Falcon Crest*, *General Hospital* and *LA LAW*. He appeared most recently on *Melrose Place*.

But Runyeon has recently pursued a very different career. He has performed the Gospel of Mark for hundreds of thousands of people in almost every state in America.

The play has won high praise from church leaders and scholars of all denominations, as well as from the secular press. *People Magazine* calls his performance "Remarkable! Runyeon brings his charm center stage." *The Catholic Transcript* reviews it as "Spellbinding." Christ Church, Cambridge, calls it "Stunning! Brilliant! Clearly a work of faith."

Runyeon is a graduate of Princeton University and received his Masters degree, with honors, from General Theological Seminary in New York City. He is now pursuing his doctorate in Biblical Studies.

His performance of the Gospel of Mark is set in the catacombs of Rome by candlelight and is entitled, *AFRAID!* Its text is the Gospel of Mark, translated into contemporary American speech. Runyeon tells the story in the present tense, here and now, with entertaining audience reaction. As characters and settings and lights constantly shift, the Gospel engages the audience's imaginations, surprises them with flashes of humor, and drives relentlessly forward with all the dramatic suspense you would expect from great theater. It is a play which is appropriate for the whole family, including grade school children.

HOLLYWOOD vs. FAITH

A TV AND Film Actor Tells the Inside Story. with Humor

Everyone is hotly debating the influence of the media today, but few people are speaking a language that captures the attention of youth and adults, sheds new light – and ignites real laughter. Frank Runyeon does. And he just may change the way you and your family relate to the media forever with his speech, **HOLLYWOOD vs. FAITH**.

Runyeon speaks with humor about his own experiences in the media, inviting his audience to “look behind the curtain” at the wizards who have become America’s storytellers. Drawing on examples from his 25 years in television, film, and radio, Runyeon describes with humorous anecdotes exactly how the media operates.

Runyeon should know. He is a veteran of over 1,000 television shows, most notably opposite Meg Ryan on *As the World Turns*, and on the Emmy Award-winning *Santa Barbara*. He also starred in the film *Sudden Death* and appeared in recurring roles on *LA LAW*, *Falcon Crest*, *General Hospital*, and *Melrose Place*. He has hosted his own comedy talk show on top-rated KFI in Los Angeles and WCNN in Atlanta. (And there is talk of his launching a nationally-syndicated talk show soon.)

But Runyeon is also a man of faith, with impressive academic credentials. He graduated from Princeton University (he wrote his thesis on the Mass Media), continued his studies at Yale, and earned his Masters of Arts, with honors, from General Theological Seminary. Over the past few years, he has taken a sabbatical from Hollywood to translate Biblical texts and perform them (to rave reviews) for hundreds of thousands of people in virtually every state in America.

Runyeon says that people continually asked him about his experiences in Hollywood, while he was touring his plays. Slowly his observations and stories grew into a speech.

In *HOLLYWOOD vs. FAITH*, Runyeon urges his audience to think about the media, not just take what they present for granted. He suggests, with humor, how to watch TV “inside-out.” He discusses the subtle impact of commercial sponsorship, as well as the real reasons for all the sex and violence in the media, offering a fresh perspective as an actor who desires truth in storytelling, not censorship.

Finally, Runyeon identifies what he calls the “Three Big Lies” the media inadvertently teach, and shares personal experiences that illustrate how deeply Americans have come to believe in them. He urges his audience to think clearly as they make their own life choices and learn to enjoy the mass media’s wizardry without believing too deeply in the world of Hollywood.