

Parish News...

We are now in the Season of Lent. **Lent** is the **Christian** season of spiritual preparation before Easter. In Western churches, it begins on Ash Wednesday. During **Lent**, many **Catholics** observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial

As we prepare for Lent here is the schedule for how your family can participate here in the Parish:

Daily: 12:10 Mass Monday thru Friday

Stations of the Cross on **Fridays** 6pm

There are also other ways to prepare as well. Each week I will add something new to try.

- 1) Make a commitment to read the [Sunday](#) scriptures before Sunday Mass. In the same way that reading up on football players, opposing teams, and coaching strategies will help you experience a game more fully, familiarizing yourself with the readings ahead of time will help you experience them in a deeper way on Sunday
- 2) Unplug from your iPhone or turn off your car radio on your commute. The silence may be jarring at first, but you may find that you are able to concentrate better and will be more observant of your surroundings. I find this a great way to pray.

St Anthony/St Agnes begin on February 25th and end on April 15th their Fish Fries. Hours are from 4pm-7pm. You may either walk in or call in your order -call 315 732-1177 after 3pm on Fridays. Dinners will be TAKE OUT ONLY. Menu: Fish Dinners, (Haddock, either fried or baked) \$14; Shrimp dinners \$15. All dinners include potatoes (fried or baked) Coleslaw, dinner roll and condiments

Adult Catechism: Adult Catechism continues on the first Sunday of every month @ 10AM. Classes will be held in the Cow Palace for all interested in learning to love & grow in faith. A different topic will be discussed each month related to the teaching of the Catechism. March 6th



Faith Formation

Mask Update: With the Governor lifting the mask mandate for children and the Dioceses following the same, Mask wearing will be an option for children. This will be at the discretion of the parents if they still want their child to wear a mask in the classroom.

First Reconciliation & First Communion Families: These Sacraments are fast approaching. It is extremely important the children not miss any further classes unless due to illness. I will be sending home this week a list of important dates regarding banners and due dates, Blessing Cup and practices. Also, if your child was not baptized at Sacred Heart/St Mary's and you have not provided the Parish with a copy of the Baptismal Certificate, please provide to me as soon as possible.

First Reconciliation: It is this Saturday March 5th at 11AM. Please be at the Church no later than 10:50 so we may start on time. Families of the children are welcome to attend the Sacrament. Remember that this is a please Sacrament and while in Church should be time of reflection and prayer with no talking as the children receive this Sacrament.

The children were sent home with the Act of Contrition to learn. Please practice with your children. Following the Sacrament there will be reception for the families sponsored by the CCM.

First Communion Banners: Due to the large number of children in the class, I will have two (2) when the children may come in to pick up the banner material. This will be on Wednesdays March 13th from 5:30 to 6:30 & March 20th from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. If your child has not given the teacher their favorite color for the banner, please do so this Sunday. Banners are due no later than April 16th.

The Blessing Cup meal is scheduled for April 23rd from 12-2pm. A form will be sent home with children in the near future so I have counted the number of families attending.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS 10th Grade: It is important that all students attend classes in order to make Confirmation on May 19th. The attendance has been reviewed and a number of students have missed a number of classes. Students will be allowed 2 abeyances from class unless due to illness. If more than 2 more are missed, the student may not be able to make Confirmation.

Confirmation Retreat is March 19th @ St. Paul's Church Whitesboro. Please mark your calendar to attend.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday @ 3:15pm prior to Mass and the 1st Thursday of the month after the 12:10 Mass

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4pm

Sunday 7:30 AM, 8:30AM, 10AM Polish Mass and 11am

Let's remember that as Catholics, it is important to attend Sunday Mass. At Mass we are able to stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship. While Faith Formation before the 11AM Mass, all families are welcome to this Mass. If unable to attend this Mass, please attend the Church Masses. Faith Formation Classes alone do not teach your children about their faith. It is important they see their faith in the Mass.



While I have found these wonderful reflections on the Gospel readings, it is not meant to take the place of the Sunday Mass. Remember to attend Mass to hear Fr. Arthur or Deacon Kirk's a much better spiritual teaching of the Gospel reading

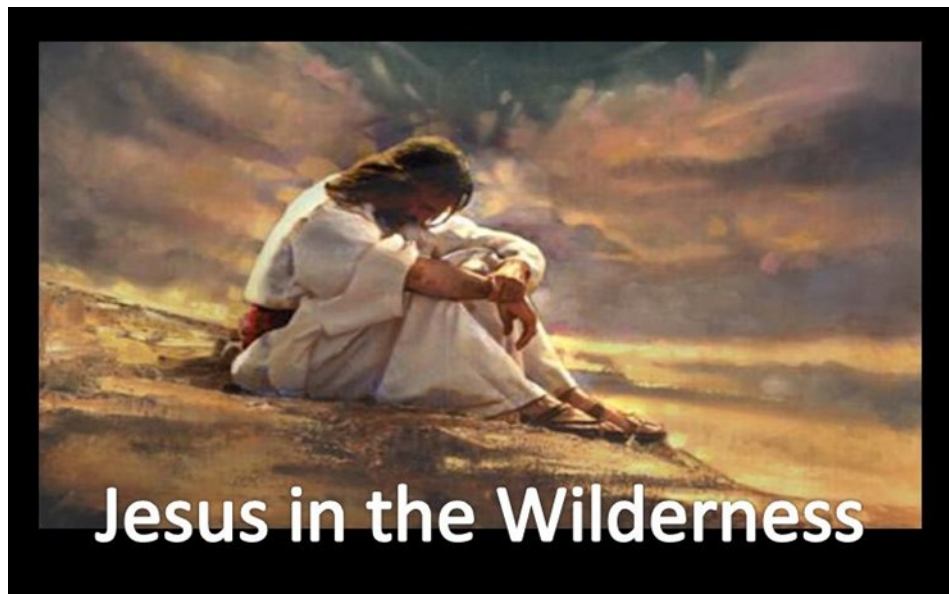
Sunday Reading - First Sunday of Lent

First Reading: DT: 26:4-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 91: 1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15

Second Reading: Rom 10:8-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13



Today's reflection comes from Sr. Kristine Anne Harpenau, OSB

In today's Gospel, Luke writes: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, went into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil." During his encounter with the devil, the devil tempted Jesus three

times. Each temptation tested Jesus. However, with each temptation, Jesus had a response to the devil. Jesus had the inner strength and wisdom to refuse the earthly temptations that the devil placed before him. Jesus was neither interested in power nor wealth, and he refused to prove who he was to anyone, even the devil. Finally, Jesus bluntly told the devil: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test!" Finally, the devil departed.

Today we also encounter these same earthly temptations: having extraordinary abilities, influence, power, and wealth. Do we have the inner strength to refuse these temptations? The world typically applauds those individuals who have power, wealth or extraordinary abilities. Are we content to be satisfied with a normal life, not to be extraordinary?

Jesus wants us to be holy, wise, and discerning individuals. He knew that the temptations of the world are powerful. Jesus also realizes that those same temptations do not necessarily bring happiness and peace. Power is extremely seductive. If we are not discerning, power may tempt us to take a road that might lead to our destruction.

Today, be mindful of the concept of power and its ability to seduce you. Ask Jesus to help you stay alert to these temptations. These temptations may seem insignificant. However, if we give into small temptations, we are more likely to give into more dangerous temptations.



Theme: Who will defeat Satan? By following Jesus' example

I got this new bracelet. (Show it to kids, and then put it on.) It says "WWJD," which stands for "What would Jesus do?" These used to be popular, and today some people are wearing them again. (Invite kids to tell whether they've seen anyone wearing them.) We can use this bracelet as a reminder to be like Jesus.

- So what kinds of things have you known Jesus to do that you could follow?
- Why might kids want a reminder like this throughout their days?

Kids can be tempted to do all kinds of things at school, in their neighborhoods, and even at home... things that aren't God-honoring or what's best for us, right? Well, Jesus knows what it's like to be tempted, too. The Bible tells about a time Jesus went out into the wilderness for 40 days to be by Himself. God's Spirit led Him out there to fast and pray. (Invite kids to tell about anyone they know who has fasted, or share your own story.)

During that time God's enemy, Satan came and tempted Jesus to do some things Jesus knew weren't right. But just because Jesus is God and He's powerful, that doesn't mean the things Satan suggested weren't tempting. Like first, Satan suggested Jesus turn stones into bread that Jesus could eat. (Have kids close their eyes for a moment and imagine what it might be like for them to not eat or drink anything for 40 days, and how that might feel. After a minute, invite them to reflect on their thoughts.)

Jesus could have easily done what Satan suggested, but He didn't. Instead, He answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone.' "

Then Satan took Jesus up to a high place and showed Him the worldly kingdoms below. He said, "All of this belongs to me. If You will bow down and worship me, I will give it to You."

- Worship can mean "make more important than God"; so what kinds of things are you sometimes tempted to make more important than God?

Here's what Jesus answered to Satan's temptation: "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.' "

Next, Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem and led Him up to the highest point on the temple. He said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. God will send His angels to rescue You." (Lead kids in a vote: Who thinks God could keep Jesus from harm if He did jump off that temple.)

Of course, God could keep Jesus safe, but Jesus quoted the Scripture, " 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Do you know what the devil did? He gave up! He said, "I'll come back and try another day."

The next time the devil tempts you to do something wrong, look in the Bible and see what the Bible says. Then...Do What Jesus Did...answer Satan with Scripture!

Dear God, help us use Your word and follow Jesus' example in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

**As we continue to pray and reflect on the season of Lent, attached is a prayer for families to say.
Each will contain a new prayer.**





COVID Update:

From Danielle Cummings, Chancellor: Mask Update and Ukraine

Mask Update: Following the recent announcement from New York State, masks will no longer be mandated to wear in our offices, churches or schools, effective March 2, 2022. Please note that schools are awaiting further guidance which will be sent from the schools office as it is received. Individuals who prefer to wear a mask are welcome to do so

Ukraine: As we continue to pray for a peaceful resolution to the war in Ukraine, we have been asked to invite the faithful to support humanitarian efforts through monetary contributions. As you know, today (Ash Wednesday) is the Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. These funds will allow the US church to partner in the rebuilding and restoring of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and to give critical and timely humanitarian aid now for Ukraine. Some may not have given to this collection and others may not have known that this collection will go to aid Ukraine. Therefore, we invite you to have a second collection for Ukraine **over the next two weekends**. Checks can be made out to **Diocese of Syracuse** and indicate it is for **Ukraine**. Once the collections are complete and funds sent to the Finance Department, we will then send all monies collected on Ash Wednesday and the next subsequent weekends to the Office of National Collections.

Attached please find the flier for A Lenten Retreat for Catholic Women on April 2, 2022 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Syracuse. There is a \$25 registration fee. RSVP to swc@syrдио.org

From the Office of Liturgy and the R.C.I.A.: Attached please find a flier for Lent March 2nd to April 14th Liturgical Supplement from the Diocese of Syracuse. It is a table of Liturgical days.

Have a Blessed and Safe Week

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