

1st Sunday of Lent

Jesus was “tempted by Satan.”

Announced Masses for the Week of February 18th , 2018



Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018

9:00 am † Mr. Magmo & Carmelita
Pulmano by Elisa Pulmano

11:00 am For all parishioners

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018 - Family Day

9:00 am

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

NO MASS

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018

7:00 pm † For the health of Venanzo Marinelli by Anna Marinelli
† Del King by Karen & Rick Vantour

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018

7:30 am

Friday, Feb. 23, 2018

7:30 am

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018

9:00 am † Maxie & Richard Fernandez by the Serrao family
† Patricia Kannon by Betty Kannon

4:30 pm † Maureen Comerton by Villana Murray
† Bob Harrison by Rita Cullen

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018

9:00 am † Jacques Lemay by Joe & Cathy Healy

11:00 am For all parishioners

First Reading: Gen. 9:8-15 God promises Noah that the world will never again be destroyed by a flood. God gives a sign of this covenant—the rainbow among the clouds.

Second Reading: 1 Pet. 3:18-22 Christ died once for sin. Because of sin, God destroyed the earth by water. Now Christians are saved by the water of baptism. It becomes the pledge of resurrection.

Gospel: Mk. 1:12-15 Jesus prayed in the desert for forty days. After John’s arrest, Jesus came forth, announcing the time of fulfillment.

COLLECTION FOR SUNDAY 04 February, 2018:

Envelope Holders: \$1,978.90 Loose Collection: \$442.50; Other collections: \$125.00; Candles: \$188.60

Thank you for your generosity and support.



The Secular Franciscans within our parish invite YOU to join us as we walk with Jesus in the Way of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 7 p.m. (February 16 - March 23) and on Friday March 30 at 10 am. See posters on the Parish bulletin

boards for more information. Two thousand years later, Jesus, and we still remember. **Will you walk with us?**



We welcome to the family of the church the newly baptized:

AUBREY CARON

TRISTAN CARON

Coldest Night of the Year – February 24, 2018 Fund-raiser for the Ottawa Mission

On February 24th, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Women’s League will participate in the Coldest Night of the Year – February 24th, 2018. The Coldest

Night of the Year is a 2km, 5km or 10 km walk that in some small way symbolizes what it would be like to live on the streets in the dead of winter. It is a **fund raiser for the Ottawa Mission** which provides shelter and food for the homeless in our community. Helen McGurrin will be participating in the 5 km walk. If you wish to sponsor Helen's walk, donations can be made directly to the Ottawa Mission by calling 613-234-1155, or on-line at ottawamission.com or go directly to cnoy.org/ottawa and find Helen McGurrin's name as one of the walkers and donate through that webpage. Donations of \$20 will receive a receipt. There will be a table set up at the back of the church after Masses on the week-end of **February 17th and 18th to collect donations.**

Please support Helen for this run. She is running so you don't have to!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: (Part 2 of 3)

What is the significances of the 40 weekdays before Easter?

The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan.

Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. We participate in abstinence, times of fasting, confession and acts of mercy to strengthen our faith and devotional disciplines. The goal of every Christian is to leave Lent a stronger and more vital person of faith than when we entered.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies and pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works)." (CCC 1438)

When does Lent end?

Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday. That is when the "Triduum", great three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday occur leading to Easter. Easter is not only a day but an Octave (eight day) celebration leading to a Season of the Church, Easter Season, which ends on Pentecost.

Giving something up

For most older Catholics, the first thought that Lent brings to mind is giving something up. Lent is about conversion, turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not just to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent, but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ. For catechumens, those preparing to be received in the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil, Lent is a period intended to bring their initial conversion to completion.

Scrutinies: Examining Our Lives

The primary way that the Church assists the catechumens (called the elect after the celebration of the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent) in this conversion process during Lent is through the celebration of the rites called Scrutinies. These ritual celebrations on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent are communal prayers celebrated around the elect to strengthen them to overcome the power of sin in their lives and to grow in virtue. To scrutinize something means to examine it closely. The community does not scrutinize the catechumens; the catechumens scrutinize their own lives and allow God to scrutinize them and to heal them.

All of us are called to continuing conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the elect in scrutinizing our own lives and praying to God for the grace to overcome the power of sin that still infects our hearts.

Many parishes today seek to surface the concrete issues that the elect need to confront; these issues then become the focus of the intercessions during the

Scrutinies. Every Catholic should spend some time reflecting on what obstacles to gospel living exist in his or her own life. Then when the Scrutinies are celebrated, we will all know that the prayers are for us as well as for the elect.

Taking seriously this dynamic of scrutiny and conversion gives us a richer perspective on Lenten "giving up." What we are to give up more than anything else is sin, which is to say we are to give up whatever keeps us from living out our baptismal promises fully. Along with the elect we all need to approach the season of Lent asking ourselves what needs to change in our lives if we are to live the gospel values that Jesus taught us. Our journey through these forty days should be a movement ever closer to Christ and to the way of life he has exemplified for us.

Scrutinies and Penance

The elect deal with sin through the Scrutinies and through the waters of the font; the already baptized deal with sin through the Sacrament of Penance. The same kind of reflection that enables all members of the community to share in the Scrutinies can lead the baptized to celebrate this Sacrament of Reconciliation to renew their baptismal commitment.

Lent is the primary time for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, because Lent is the season for baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal. Early Christian teachers called this sacrament "second Baptism," because it is intended to enable us to start again to live the baptismal life in its fullness. Those who experience the loving mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation should find themselves standing alongside the newly baptized at Easter filled with great joy at the new life God has given all of us.

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The key to renewed appropriation of these practices is to see their link to baptismal renewal.

Prayer

More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for the elect who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion journey by our prayer. We might pray for all those who will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with us during Lent that they will be truly renewed in their baptismal commitment.

Fasting

Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. In fact, the paschal fast predates Lent as we know it. The early Church fasted intensely for two days before the celebration of the Easter Vigil. This fast was later extended and became a 40-day period of fasting leading up to Easter. Vatican II called us to renew the observance of the ancient paschal fast: "...let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind" (Liturgy, # 110).

Fasting is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. The first reading on the Friday after Ash Wednesday points out another important dimension of fasting. The prophet Isaiah insists that fasting without changing our behaviour is not pleasing to God. "This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own" (Is 58:6-7).

Fasting should be linked to our concern for those who are forced to fast by their poverty, those who suffer from the injustices of our economic and political structures, those who are in need for any reason. Thus fasting, too, is linked to living out our baptismal promises. By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ's love to the world, especially to those in need.