

March 6, 2022
First Sunday of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Ps. 91
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

Led By the Spirit

Luke tells us Jesus was led into the desert. The Holy Spirit was with Jesus and prepared him for his ministry. The Holy Spirit was with Jesus at the beginning of his ministry. Later we will learn through the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit is with the Church at the beginning of its ministry.

We have begun the Season of Lent. Through our Parish Mission this past week we have been prepared by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has healed us through the Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation. Perhaps we will be tested as Jesus was tested in the desert.

At the conclusion of the testing of Jesus he says to the devil, "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

Is Lent a test of ourselves? Is life a test? I do not know if God means to test us. Perhaps it is merely that life goes on and we go through it and many challenges come to us. As I have noticed in my own life, I am asking God to help me through the challenges, and he welcomes my prayer. Then, if I am well-disposed, I recognize and accept God's Grace. The Holy Spirit comes to me and lifts me up.

What I am getting at is this: maybe God is not deliberately testing me. Life on earth is imperfect and causes me some pain along the way. As much as I like to blame God for all the things that happen to me that I do not like, God is actually the one helping me through the Gifts of His Holy Spirit. God is not trying to harm me but is helping me. However the challenges arise there is an outcome that comes when God leads us by his Spirit. I find this in the first reading.

Moses teaches the people to have gratitude. Be humble. Know you are wandering through the desert on your own. Then God makes some gesture that awakens you to Grace. With an eye of Faith come to recognize the little and large ways the Lord has intervened. Then Moses teaches them to respond to the Lord.

The response is to offer "First Fruits". We offer the best of the first crops that rise. Gratitude. We do not offer First Fruits to make God do something for us. We offer First Fruits because God has already done something for us. The Spirit has been present from the very beginning.

Next week's scripture readings.
First Sunday of Lent!
Gen15:5-12, 17-18; Phil3:17-4:1; Lk9:28b-36

Time, Talent, Tithing
It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.

Attendance last week:	335
Tithes Collected:	\$6,329.50
Online Giving:	\$357.00
Total:	\$6,686.50

Today's second collection is for The Church in Latin America.

Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive
ABCD
Disciples in Faith. Missionaries of Hope. Servants for Charity.
Please make your pledge. Make sure your pledge card designates your pledge originates from Blessed Sacrament Parish. We must claim our quota.

Our Goal
\$62,000.00
Let Us Do It!

SPIRITUALTY
Pray
Morning, Noon and Night!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Thursday Evening During Lent
7:00pm

This "Stations" is a dynamic scriptural based presentation. On some occasions our youth of the parish will lead us. This has been very popular in our parish. Join us if you have not in the past.
(RCIA and Faith Formation students are expected to participate.)

Solidarity With Christ and His Faith Community
During Lent.
What do We Do?

Our corporate disciplines during Lent help us remain one with each other in the faith. We stand proudly together. Our Lenten practices guide us in reflection and lead us to give example of a Grace filled life. That is why we do what we do during Lent.

Fast and Abstinence

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

To fast is to eat lightly. That is to eat the equivalent of one meal for the whole day.

To abstain means to refrain from something. In this case we abstain from eating meat other than fish.

Abstinence on all Fridays of Lent.

Abstaining from something.

Giving up something for Lent has been a part of Lenten practices for a longtime.

-Fast from fault finding and nagging, a critical tongue or closed mind.

-Give up impulse purchases.

-Give up an unhealthy habit, like smoking, drug addiction, pornography.

-Limit time watching T.V. or surfing the WEB.

-Give up fast food and donate the money you save.

DO Something.

Do something good that you have not been doing. Sin is also the sin of omission.

-Go to Mass in the middle of the week besides on Sunday.

-Attend the Stations of the Cross on Thursday evenings during Lent at 7:00pm.

-Read the up-coming scripture readings that are prescribed for Sunday Mass. (Listed in the Bulletin every week.)

-Volunteer at an apostolate.

-Get up early to pray.

Operation Utility Bag St. Vincent de Paul Society

It is time to pick up your "Utility Bag" for this year's drive to support the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Bring the bag home. Fill it each day with money you would have used on a "treat" for yourself. Or, simply place change, large or small, in the bag each day and let it multiply.

At the End of the Easter Season return the Utility Bag to the church.

This money is used to help pay utility bills for clients of the Society.

Thank You in Advance!

!!! Daylight Savings Time Begins Next Saturday Night!!!!

Turn Your Clock AHEAD By One Hour.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 5

4:00 p.m. † Virginia Fabbri by Robert Kraljevich, Cathy McAfee, Audrey Cavaliere

† Steven Campbell by Mainlands 3 B.O.D.

Sunday, March 6

9:00 a.m. † Julius Delisio by Friends

10:45 a.m. † Rose Marchese by David

† Steven Campbell by Anita Brommer

Monday, March 7

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, March 8

8:00 a.m. People of the Ukraine by Parish

Wednesday, March 9

8:00 a.m. World Peace by Fr. Bob

Thursday, March 10

8:00 a.m. The Parish Staff by Fr. Bob

Friday, March 11

8:00 a.m. Victims of Abuse by Parish

Saturday, March 12

4:00 p.m. † Michael Mawhinney by Albert Family

† Ida & Frank Polumbo by Fr. Bob

Sunday, March 13

9:00 a.m. † Fernando Armenti by Angiolina Armenti

10:45 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish