

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 11, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17th

5 P.M. – Clarence & Marie Trichel

Sunday, February 18th

7 A.M. – Willie Maresh

9 A.M. – Edward Belcik

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for our homebound and shut-in parishioners.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1; Mk 1:40-45

Your Gift to God: February 4th

Sweet Home	\$1,780
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$140
DSA	\$137
Koerth	\$1,056
Building Fund	\$1,125
DSA	\$29

May God reward your generosity!

Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

Ash Wednesday – February 14th

Mass Schedule:

7:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

Ash Wednesday Collection

The collection at the Ash Wednesday Masses is for the Church in Eastern Europe.

CCD/Faith Formation

There will be **NO CCD** classes held on Ash Wednesday (February 14th) so that families can attend Mass.

Fast & Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

Prayer: Little Black Book

The Lenten Devotional, Little Black Books, can be found in the basket at the Church's entrance. This simple and easy devotional keeps one focused on the journey that Lent invites us to experience. Take advantage of this easy and concise booklet--pack it with your lunch, keep it in your purse, in your car to use before starting up the engine--it's brief and a great way to set aside a few moments and engage your faith a little extra--the very heart of our annual Lenten season!

Almsgiving: Operation Rice Bowl

Each Sunday of Lent the parish will take up a second collection for Operation Rice Bowl. This is a way where we give to the needy from what we sacrifice ourselves. The offerings are divided between national charitable organizations that serve the less fortunate and a percentage is returned to our region for local charitable help.

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

The Way of the Cross

Each Friday at 6:00 P.M. we will observe Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Easter Flowers

Those who would like to donate towards the Easter floral decorations are invited to use the envelopes in the church entrances. All memorial/donations will be listed in the bulletin after Easter.

Catholic Relief Services App

For those looking for another “modern” help during Lent...Catholic Relief Services have designed an App for smartphones that is free and helps in better understanding the importance of almsgiving and the real needs in our world we easily take for granted. Search in the Apps for CRS Rice Bowl and download it.

You are Invited to: “Rediscover Jesus”

An invitation is extended to you to join a small group using the book “Rediscover Jesus” by Matthew Kelly beginning the week of **February 4, 2018 through March 23, 2018**. Small groups are being offered from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Sunday through Thursday. Please call the Parish Office, 293-3518, if you would like to join a small group for Lent and indicate the best day of the week. If you would like to host or form a small group in *your* home (or for more information), call Ashley Hermes, 293-0700, Sharon Janca, 293-8367 or Joyce Harper, 798-6325.

Why I'm Catholic (and you should be too)

Has anyone ever asked you why you're Catholic? Have you ever wondered yourself? Would you like some good reasons? If so, you might enjoy this six part series presented by Fr. Jacob. Sessions will take place on the **Mondays of Lent from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Family Center beginning February 19th**.

Confessional

At long last the indicator lights have been installed over the confessional door. One burning light indicates priest is available...two burning lights indicate the confessional has a penitent inside and one should wait until they leave and one light (priest) is only one lit.



Lead Me Retreat by God's Embrace March 9-11, 2018

Registrations are open for a Lead Me Retreat by God's Embrace. Come from wherever you are to experience a deeper walk with Jesus. Retreat will be held March 9-11 at the High Hill Conference Center of God's Embrace located at 2911 FM 2672, Schulenburg, TX. Weekend begins Friday evening and concludes with Sunday Mass. Open to couples and singles. Cost is \$100 for retreat and food. Overnight lodging is not provided, but discounted rate is available at Holiday Inn in Schulenburg. Register online at www.godsembrace.org or call 979-561-8883.

2018 13-day Camino de Santiago/ Fatima Pilgrimage!

Please join other Catholics from the Galveston/Houston/Victoria area to hike the Camino de Santiago along the countryside of Spain. This tour begins in Sarria, the most popular Camino starting point, covering the last 100km of the Camino Francés to converge on Santiago de Compostela with an additional stop in Fatima and Porto. There are spots available for the following 2018 dates: June 4-16 and June 25-July 7. If you are interested in joining this spiritual journey, contact Jane Lakatos at jhlakatos@gmail.com.

*“Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”*

5 Ways the Devil Attacks During Lent

Sr. Theresa Aletheia Noble

Feeling more temptation than usual? 'Tis the season, and here's how to recognize and respond to it:

The Lord said to satan, "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on him." – Job 1:12

I don't know about you but ever since I returned to the Church, I tend to feel like Job during Lent. I feel like God lets the devil a bit off his leash and things tend to get chaotic in my spiritual life!

Jesus was tempted in the desert. And Lent is a time of desert. According to the Catechism, during "the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert." So it makes sense that we might feel more temptation in this time as well. But God does not allow anything that he cannot use for good; he can even use temptation and attacks from the devil for our conversion, transformation and holiness.

Here are some attacks that I have come to recognize and the responses that I have found helpful. Have you experienced any of these temptations this Lent?

1. **The Temptation to Distraction**

Purity of heart is to will the one thing. – Søren Kierkegaard

Lent can very quickly become about doing way too many things or nothing at all. The devil wants us to either drown in penances or feel discouraged right away and give up. The thing is that Lent should be about God, not our activities, as well-intentioned as they may be.

It is better to ask God to help us focus on one key thing during Lent, and then despite our failures, ask him for the grace to persevere.

2. **The Temptation to Judge**

It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels. – Saint Augustine

If we are naturally more disciplined or strong-willed than those around us, there is a temptation to spend Lent patting ourselves on the back and comparing ourselves favorably to others. This is exactly what the devil wants. He wants us to think we are better than other people and to grow in pride, which is precisely what we should repent of during Lent.

If we have this tendency, or are experiencing it this Lent, the best antidote is to choose a penance that is absolutely impossible to achieve perfectly and that challenges our tendency toward pride. This helps us to realize that Lent is not about being perfect, type-A, judges. It is about realizing that even with the natural gifts that God has given us, we are *still* sinful and very much in need of grace.

3. **The Temptation to Self-Improvement**

Lent can very quickly become only about losing weight or ending some bad habit that has become an irritation in our lives, rather than growing close to God. And the devil would *love* for Lent to be all about us. But this is not what Lent is about.

As Father Anthony Gerber pointed out in an excellent post on this subject: "Lent is ... about failing miserably—about you reaching that third week of doing the difficult, of choosing the nails and thorns of love... But then denying Jesus for a few pieces of silver, of comfort, of selfish, selfish self-love. And in that moment, you're going to be brought to your knees and you're going to lift your arms to the heavens and say, 'Lord, I cannot do this by myself! Lord, help me! I'm so bad at love!'"

We are usually good at loving ourselves, and bad at loving others. This is why it's important to choose penances that will help us to grow in selfless love.

4. **The Temptation to Division**

Where does division come from? The devil! Division comes from the devil. Flee from internal struggles, please! – Pope Francis

Division is one of the devil's favorite tools in his toolbox. He just loves to get between Christians and cause rivalries, confusion, jealousies, anger, and paranoia. The devil wants us to look at other Christians and see the enemy rather than recognizing that the only real enemy among us is the devil (and ourselves when we let him work on us).

So, of course, during Lent the devil may try to incite division among Christians in our homes, in our parishes, and even online. If you read material online from various sources, a good question during Lent (and really at any time) would be: "Does this material help me to love my fellow Christians more, or does it lead to division?"

Recently deceased Supreme Court justice and faithful Catholic, Antonin Scalia, once said: "I attack ideas. I don't attack people." This is a sign of character. And it is a distinction that is increasingly lost in our society. If what you are reading or writing online focuses on attacking people rather than working for unity in Christian love, it may be the tool of the devil to keep you (and others) from growing in the spiritual life.

5. **The Temptation to Discouragement**

Temptations, discouragement, and unrest are the wares offered by the enemy. – St. Padre Pio

The devil likes nothing more than to make us as miserable as he is. And he knows that if we are feeling discouraged we are likely to be less cooperative with God's grace. So, during Lent the devil can tempt us to feel like giving up on living the penitential spirit of the season. He can make us feel like we are constantly failing and just no good at this. The thing is – no one is "good" at Lent. If you think you are, you are not choosing the right penances.

So, when we feel discouraged, it is an opportunity to thank God with loud shouts of joy for saving us from our mediocrity and sin. It makes no sense to be lost in discouragement if we really believe the Gospel message. Even in Lent, we know that Jesus has died, yes, but he has also risen, and joy and grace is available *now* for us to be transformed. And thank God for that!