

Temptation is Subtle

We begin Lent in the First Reading with the story of Adam and Eve's fall into sin. They were created from clay and God's breath. God's breath indicates that there is something of God in each of us. God's love for His creation placed our first parents in the garden of *Eden (paradise)*. Eve is tempted by the serpent who implies that God has lied to them and is withholding from them something they deserve. The serpent's lies are cloaked by *suggesting* an untruth, by *enticing* and *implication*. The opening of their eyes is not exactly what the serpent promised nor all they had expected. Before they sinned, they lived in *innocence*, evidenced by their lack of shame about their nakedness. In the Fall, they lost something good that could only be regained by the death and resurrection of the Savior. Lent reminds us of these consequences. • The Responsorial is a penitential psalm that recognizes our fundamental need of God's compassionate mercy and forgiveness. We have sinned against God and neighbor, so we turn to God for a clean heart, a new beginning. • In the Second Reading, we see that where sin increased, grace increased even more. Adam's sin damaged the God-man relationship so much so that spiritual death, as well as physical, was the result. We inherited the weakness to sin. Once Adam sinned, it was easier for all to sin. By the curse of sin we are subject to its punishments. Though the effects of sin are catastrophic, the effects of Jesus' death and resurrection are much more powerful. • In today's Gospel we find Satan tempting Our Lord after a 40 day fast. Jesus is tempted to use His power inappropriately, which He steadfastly rejects. When tempted at the city's parapet, Satan correctly calls Jesus the Son of God; as a spiritual being, Satan recognized that Jesus truly *is* the only-begotten Son of God. (*In the Old Testament "Son of God" was a hero's title, as kings and prophets were often so-called.*) Satan typically tempts by subtly presenting the choice to sin as the better thing to do; in this way he also tempted Our Lord.

Faith First

Prayer of the Week

Lord our God, you formed man from the clay of the earth and breathed into him the spirit of life, but he turned from your face and sinned. In this time of repentance we call out for your mercy. Bring us back to you and to the life your Son won for us by his death on the cross, for he lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First Friday, March 6

Masses at 8 am, 12 pm & 5:30 pm
Stations of the Cross following Noon Mass

Running on God (taken from C.S. Lewis)

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. (Luke 4:1-2) • What Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could "be like gods"--could set up on their own as it they had created themselves--be their own masters--invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history--money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery--the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God to make him happy. • The reason why it can never succeed is this: God made us, invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on gasoline, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing." • *Lord Jesus, help me to remember that I am not God. Most of all, help me to be satisfied with that.* (Taken from "Daily Lenten Reflections" from C.S. Lewis)

In Our Prayers

**Daily Mass Intentions
March 1 - March 8**

Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Melecio M. Santos
	11:00am	Grayson Kemp (+)
Mon	8:00am	Helen Jankowski (+)
Tue	8:00am	Nita York (+)
Wed	8:00am	Elise Alves (+)
Thu	8:00am	George & Elaine Lane (+)
Fri	8:00am	Joseph Vanacore (+)
	12:00pm	Kang Simon Lee (+)
	5:30pm	Jennifer Gray Small (+)
Sat	9:00am	William Charles Mitchell (+)
	5:30pm	SH Sch. Found. Mem & Rem
Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Ed Humphrey (+)
	11:00am	Mark Zane (+)

In Memoriam

Mark Anderson • February 18, 2020
William Charles Mitchell • February 20, 2020

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Please Pray for the Sick

Paul de Silva, Charles French, Adria Laubacher, Margarita Enriquez, Marjorie Green, Robert McAleese, Helena Enright, John Vostrez, Robin Aurelius, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Isabel Harper, Richard Honey, Dale Wooldridge, Donald Anderson, Nancy McGarry, Patrick Valenzuela, Michael Fletcher, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, Robert Arkebauer, Libby Basurto, Dena Foster-Cook, Marie Schumacher, Ralph Goodall, Josephine Haddock, G.R. Gurley, Darren Stewart, Marge Mugartegui, Angel Curiel, Phillip Worth, Sonia Damiano, Ava Grace Arnold, Karen Amnon, Mary Terese Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

Youth Group Update

During the month of March, the Sacred Heart Youth Group will be working on its annual "Blessing Bags" Project. This Lenten Service project involves putting together bags of toiletries, non-perishable snacks, and other essentials to distribute to the homeless in our community. The bags will be distributed to Loaves and Fishes to support their work with the homeless in the Sacramento area. • Parishioners who would like to support the project are welcome to drop items by the school office between now and March 31st. Members of the group will be making a shopping trip to purchase necessary items, so if you would prefer to make a small donation, we are happy to purchase items on your behalf! • Our two meetings this month will be held on March 11th and March 28th. • Our meeting on March 11th will be a Charity Movie Night to raise funds for the Blessing Bags Project. If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us for one of our upcoming meetings. All meetings are held in St. Anthony's Hall from 6:30-7:30 p.m. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net

Disciples on the Journey Lenten Program

Sign-ups for the *Disciples on the Journey* program will continue to take place after each Mass this weekend. Small groups meet in homes for the six weeks of Lent to discuss the Sunday Scripture readings and their application to daily life. Guide booklets will be available at the first meeting. The cost of the booklet is \$5. We are looking for group leaders and participants. • If you have questions please contact the Parish Office at 916-452-4136, ext. 2 or shchurchoffice@gmail.com.

40 Days for Life

From February 26 to April 5, 2020, you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer, vigil and fasting for an end to abortion. You are invited to stand and peacefully pray with us during a 40-day vigil in front of FPA Abortion Clinic at 2322 Butano Drive, Sacramento, and to help spread the word about this important community outreach. For more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Susan Money at 530-320-1614 or email: susanalive@gmail.com or contact Wynette Sills at 916-9551577 or go to 40daysforlife.com/sacramento.

Verdi Requiem Concert

The Verdi Requiem will be performed on Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 pm in the Memorial Auditorium to honor the longtime Sacramento chef Biba Caggiano by Sacred Heart's Schola Cantorum and the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra. The program will also feature four outstanding soloists from the Metropolitan Opera and will be given in place of Schola's annual Lenten Choral Mysteries concert. • For tickets please visit sacramentochoral.com or call 916-808-5181.

Choral Festival

Sacred Heart Parish School Choir will be participating in a diocesan wide Choral Festival on March 6 at Christian Brothers High School. The choir will perform a song by Steve Angrisano called "Love is What We Need". The choir is directed by Mrs. Mazzaferro, the third grade teacher and accompanied by Mr. Sunderman, the 8th grade teacher.

Meetings & Events

Parish Study Group

We are discussing *Rediscover Catholicism* by Matthew Kelley. The assignment for Tuesday, March 3 is Chapters 6, 7, and 8: pages 57-107. We meet from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Newcomers are always welcome. • For more information call Mary Anne Smith at 530-676-7874.

Thank You from the Annual Catholic Appeal

Many of our parishioners have donated to the Annual Catholic Appeal, either on appeal Sunday or in response to the Appeal letter. Thank you so very much for your generous response. If you have not yet donated, it is never too late! Appeal envelopes are available in the vestibule. Remember, 25% of what is donated by Sacred Heart is returned to our parish, so please write "Sacred Heart Parish, Sacramento" on the Appeal envelope.

Adult Faith Formation

The US Bishops document "Open Wide Our Hearts, The Enduring Call to Love," is a Pastoral letter against Racism. The Bishops encourage us to meet and discuss the many manifestation of racism still in our midst. Session Two is scheduled for Monday, March 9th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 pm in the school cafeteria. On that night we will discuss what the phrase "white privilege" means and how it is used. Issues of immigration will also be discussed. Our evening will involve prayer, listening, patience, kindness and sincere dialogue with one another. If you have questions please contact Adult Faith Formation Director Rita Spillane at ritaspillane@gmail.com.

Academic Decathlon

The Sacred Heart Parish School Academic Decathlon team will be competing at Jesuit High School on Saturday, March 7th. The decathletes from 8th grade are Reese Hughes, Colin McGhee, Adam Sunderman, Sydney Laird, Mia Lederer, Daniela Lopez and Dominic Parra. The decathletes from 7th grade are Adam Parra, Mikiko Palmieri, Andy O'Neill, Mason Barnes and Maddie Souza. These students have been studying diligently for this event. • Let us pray for their success.

Parish Safety Measures

This past week several of our safety projects have moved forward. A lighting consultant came to evaluate at night the exterior lighting needs and proposed a plan to provide much better lighting along 39th Street and to illuminate the bell tower to highlight its architectural beauty. Other consultants came to examine the Pieta chapel. They assessed the original chapel ceiling and floor. They investigated the temporary moving of the Pieta. Once the chapel has been reconfigured to allow for the reopening of its doors, the statue will be returned to the chapel. Finally, an ironwork fencing consultant reviewed the area between the church and the medical building and between the parish hall and the rectory to improve security of those areas.

Irish Night Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Council 953 is offering a traditional dinner of corned beef, cabbage, carrots, red potatoes, salad, and ice cream on Saturday March 14 at 5961 Newman Court, across the street from sac state Newman Center. The cost is \$20 per person with social hour beginning at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. • For reservations call Matt Herman at 916-549-5232. We hope you can join us.