

February 18, 2018

Lent

First Sunday



The Desert, A Place to Encounter God

Today, we recall the temptation of Jesus in the desert. *He was among wild beasts.*

The rawness of our nature stares at us directly in the face as Jesus stares down the natural inclinations of the flesh. At the same time, God is present in the angels ministering to him. Yes, there is sin in the world. The wild beasts are at our door but the way into our home has been sealed by divine covenant. With repentance and belief in the good news, this flood of transgressions will be taken away. This is the coming of the Kingdom, now at hand.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, February 24
4:30 p.m. Willie C. Migl
Sunday, February 25
8:00 a.m. Richard O'Brien

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Second Sunday of Lent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 116
Second Reading: 8:31b-34
Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

St. Joseph's Church Altar Society

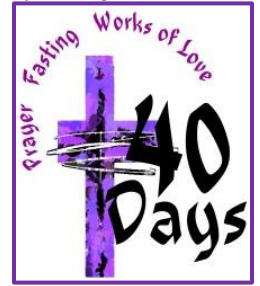


Noodle Soup Dinner and Drawing Next Sunday
St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Moulton

Dine In or Soup, Sandwiches and Desserts To-Go

LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD

Lent offers us a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God. We are invited to practices of **Prayer**, **Fasting** and **Almsgiving** as outlined in the Ash Wednesday Gospel. We do this to divest ourselves of anything that is blocking us from God, and to ask God to use that space to bring us closer to him.



Lent is an act of **Prayer** spread out over 40 days. As we journey, our prayer is the invitation that God will transform us, opening our hearts and minds so that this Easter we can encounter the Risen Lord in new and powerful ways.

Lenten **Fasting** typically brings our minds to food. We can honor the fast from meat without having our Friday meals become meatless banquets. It is also a time for personal discipline in general. Our self-denial can include letting go of behaviors God would not wish for us.

Lenten **Almsgiving** provides us the opportunity to reach out in charity to others. In addition to our annual Rice Bowl collection, consider visiting the homebound, or nursing home residents; supporting families that are stretched thin by supporting the food drive; reaching out and helping others without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

As we journey through Lent God draws us home as individuals. But, it is also a very communal journey. Let us pray for each other on this journey to the foot of the cross.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent, 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Fasting and Almsgiving

*Lenten Food Drive:

We will once again be collecting canned good for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. You may leave your canned goods at the back of Church.

*Lenten Second Collection (Rice Bowl):

All Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday.

St. Mary's Altar Society

In an effort to include all men and women in the parish, the Altar Society would like to be able to communicate by email with those that have access to the Internet. Please email Robin Cerny at rlcerny@aol.com so that you can be included on the list. All men and women are welcome and encouraged to join the Altar Society. Dues are \$5.00 and the society supports the needs of the parish and its members.

Thank you,

Lori Janecka, Altar Society President

REFLECTION

Facing Temptation Aware of God's Presence

The Sacred authors encourage us to follow Jesus' lead and to regard the experience of temptation as a time and a place in which we meet and lean on God rather than a sort of jousting with Satan. While we cannot deny the existence of evil and the human tendency for instant gratification and self-aggrandizement so we cannot regard the experience of temptation as entirely negative.

The continuing struggle to choose between evil and good, between God and self, between self and others can be a graced and positive experience. To mention the forty days in reference to Jesus' temptation suggests that the presence and power of God was always with Jesus. He emerged from his struggle with temptation stronger and more given to the mission for which he was sent.

Encouraged by this we are encouraged to rely on God in our struggle and emerge from the experience more deeply aware of the presence of God in our thoughts, words and action.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



February 19 – Jill Noska
February 21 – Susan Ivey
– Barbara Prause

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



February 18 – Jill & Brian Noska

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS

The Catholic custom of lighting candles is rooted in Church teaching that Christ is the Light of the World. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They are our silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord.



Remember to pray for the following intentions:

For Justine Velasquez

For My Sister, Aileen Undergoing Chemo

For Health For My Husband, Myself & My Mom

For Healing From A Work Injury & Financial Help

For Daughter-in-law & Upcoming Gall Bladder Surgery

In Memory of Darrell Langlinais – Our Dearest Friend

For Our Many Friends in Praha: Lived There For Nine Years

For My Mother Who Has Passed, Also For Better Health For Me

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND



Rice Bowl

This fund helps bring drinking water, food, shelter and other essentials of life to people less fortunate than we are. *Weekly Rice Bowl envelopes are provided in your monthly envelope mailing. Be generous.*

Liturgical Orientation



First Sunday of Lent

The First Sunday of Lent is an invitation to see the whole season of Lent before us. All of Lent culminates in the Celebration of the Paschal Triduum (Three Days) of the Lord's Death and Resurrection. The good news is that we are usually aware of Lent as a time of preparation and sacrifice. The bad news is that sometimes the beginnings of Lent can be more about what *I am giving up this year*, than making it a celebration of God's renewed covenant, our conversion and the saving work of Christ, whose first steps after baptism began his paschal journey through the desert *driven* by the Spirit. There he confronted Satan and his temptations, the wild beasts of the desert. He empowers those who follow him to walk through baptism, on the way that leads to God, that they may arrive at eternal life and at the glory of his Resurrection.

This should lead us into thinking broadly about Lent and where we would like to be at the celebration of Easter. This challenge confronts us as individuals and as a parish. Ultimately, what does it mean for me to recognize God's covenant and renewal for me and my family?

Catholic Daughters Court St. Rose #1597: Fried Chicken Dinner Today, 10:30 a.m., \$10 per plate. Drive through or dine in at the Schulenburg KC Hall.

LENTEN FISH FRY

St. Joseph's Church, Moulton

Fridays of Lent

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$9.00 Per Plate

Next Friday's Menu

Fish, Hush Puppies, Oven Baked Potatoes,
Corn & Dessert



Dine in the Parish Hall Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go

*All proceeds go to charities.