

February 21, 2021

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



Thursday, February 25

4:30 p.m. Mary Smolik

Saturday, February 27

4:30 p.m. Louis G. Stryk

Sunday, February 28

8:00 a.m. The Deceased of the Vrana & Schaefer Families

Individual Confessions in Praha and Moulton.

- Available anytime by appointment. Call the office.
- On Thursdays after the 4:30 p.m. Mass in Praha.
- On Fridays in the Family Room after Mass in Moulton.
- During Advent/Christmas season and in Lent.

Diocese of Victoria Men's Conference Rescheduled for March 13

For more information/to register (\$25) go to www.victoriadiocese.org/arise.

The Sanctuary Light will be lit
this week in memory of
the Cerny-Patalik Families.



2020 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2020 Assessment \$8,179.00

We thank the following for their recent contribution and all those who contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far:

Pam & Nathan Vrazel

LITURGICAL ORIENTATION

Lent



The First Sunday of Lent is an invitation to see the whole season before us. Lent culminates in the Celebration of the Paschal Triduum of the Death, Rest and Resurrection of the Lord. We are usually aware of this Holy Season as a

time of preparation and sacrifice. These attributes are underlined in the readings and in the Liturgical prayers throughout. The bad news is that sometimes the beginnings of Lent can be more about what *I am giving up this year* rather than a celebration of God's renewed covenant, our conversion and the saving work of Christ, whose first steps after baptism encountered the wild beasts of the desert for our sake. We need to think broadly about Lent and where we would like to be at the celebration of Easter. This challenge could both be at a personal and parish level. What does it mean to recognize God's covenant and renewal for me and my family Together, as a parish we will journey towards the mysteries hidden in Christ as we eagerly await the joys of Easter.

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: Romans 8:31b-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

We switch from Cycle B readings to Cycle A Readings for Lent.



Rosary every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Come join a group of church ladies at the Zdravas Maria Plaza to pray.

REFLECTION

Genesis 9:8-15 Psalm 25 1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

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 21 – Susan Ivey, Barbara Prause

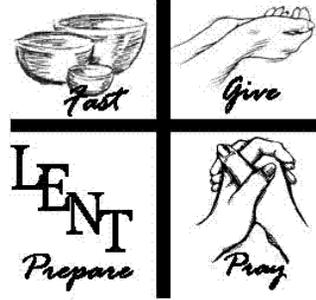
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Our Covenant In Christ

The original followers of Jesus imitated him long before they worshipped him. Jesus' first disciples did not drastically change their lifestyles and follow him because they believed he was God, but because they saw the value in imitating the way he taught and lived. He not only focused on things and people they had never before noticed, he also showed them how to change the world in which they lived. Jesus did this by showing them how to integrate his unique insights into the faith. Just as Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the flood, so we are saved through the waters of Baptism. We make a commitment to share in his righteousness. The first disciples were convinced that unless repentance takes place, unless we make people and their needs the most important part of our existence, we will never experience God working effectively among us.

LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD



Prayer establishes a relationship with God in love.
Almsgiving (charity) establishes a relationship with others in compassion
Fasting establishes a relationship with my own self in humility.

Second Collection Today - 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.

Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent, 5:30 p.m.

The journey of the Stations of the Cross is a time-honored tradition in the Church. The Lenten Season affords us all a great grace moment to participate in the sufferings of Christ for our salvation. Make an effort to join the Parish Family at 5:30 p.m. in church.

Lenten Food Drive

Leave your canned goods for the needy at the main entrance to Church.

Abstinence From Meat on Fridays of Lent

The age-old custom of eating fish on the Fridays of Lent goes back to the earliest Christians. It fulfills the norm from meat on Fridays of Lent. This honors Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for the salvation of the world.



LENTEN FISH FRY

St. Joseph's Church, Moulton



Fridays of Lent

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.00 Per Plate
Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert

*Dine in the Social Center with
social distancing protocol in place
or*

Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go

*All proceeds go to charities.

Next Friday's Menu: Fish, Hush Puppies, Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert
(Menu subject to change)