FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 1, 2020

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1

NEW Sunday Mass Times:
Sat. 4:30pm, Sun. 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish) & 6pm

St. Mary Catholic Church
www.stmary-wc.org  925-891-8900
Dear Friends,

Happy Lent to all of us! We don’t often think of this season as one to celebrate, but we should. These forty days (or so) are a special time for us to “retreat” from our regular ways of life, to examine ourselves and our need to change, and to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Feast of our Salvation through Christ’s Death and Resurrection. Now that’s reason to rejoice!

Throughout this season, we have special times for additional prayers. In addition to our regular daily and weekend Masses, we also have the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent starting at 6:00 p.m. in English. Beginning at 6:30 each Friday evening we will have our annual Lenten meal, to which everyone is invited. Stations of the Cross in Spanish will begin at 7 pm.

I also encourage you to take one of our Lenten prayer booklets to use as a springboard to your daily prayer. This can be a wonderful time to grow closer to the Lord, to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel” in what we say and do.

May the Lord bless us throughout this holy season, and may we be prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation and the promise of life in heaven with our loving, Risen Lord!

Father Fred

STRENGTH AGAINST TEMPTATION

The first Sunday of the season of Lent always includes a Gospel account of the temptation of the Lord Jesus in the desert by the devil. This year, the story is set against the backdrop of the first reading from Genesis, which recounts the very first temptation by the devil. That story is set in a garden of delight. The Gospel story is set in the desert. As believers, we know that temptation comes our way in our own gardens of delight as well as the deserts of our lives. As Lent begins, our attention is drawn to that temptation within each of us to become like God—we want control, power, and answers to all of life’s difficult questions. As communities of faith, we are given this season of repentance so that we can join our hearts with others on the difficult journey of conversion. We look to God and to one another for strength against temptation.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

This weekend’s second collection is for Parish Maintenance. We appreciate your generosity!

On Saturday, March 7, at 12:00 Noon we will have a special Mass which will include the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. All those advanced in years or with serious illness are encouraged to attend. All are welcome!
Pray for the Sick

St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) - March 3

Born into Philadelphia society, Katharine was an infant when she lost her mother. Her father remarried and the couple taught their daughters that their wealth was a "gift on loan" to be shared with the poor, whom they fed and cared for in their home. Invited by priest friends to witness firsthand the destitution on Native American reservations, Katharine resolved to devote her inheritance to this apostolate and enter a contemplative order. When, however, in private audience, she begged Leo XIII to send missionaries to staff the schools she was building, the pope replied, "My child, why not become a missionary yourself?" Katharine renounced a 20-million-dollar fortune and founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, adoring Christ present in the Eucharist and ministering to Christ suffering in victims of racial discrimination. Her Sisters established over 60 schools nationwide, including Xavier University, New Orleans, the first dedicated to professional education for African Americans. In 2000, John Paul II canonized "Mother Drexel," praising her "excellent example of practical charity and generous solidarity with the less fortunate, long the distinguishing mark of American Catholics."

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR
March 2-8

MONDAY, MARCH 2
7:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration/Chapel
7:00 PM Walking with Purpose/FF

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
7:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration/Chapel
7:00 AM Men of St. Joseph/SA
8:30 AM Walking with Purpose/FF
9:30 AM Rosary Makers/FF-ST
7:00 PM Hispanic Prayer Group/SA
7:00 PM Faith Form. 6th-7th-8th Gr/FF
7:30 PM Choir Practice/Church

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
7:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration/Chapel
6:45 PM Encounter Youth Group/SJ
7:00 PM Charismatic Prayer/FF-SM
7:00 PM Catholic Man Night/Chapel

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
7:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration/Chapel
4:00 PM Faith Formation 4th-5th Gr/SE
7:00 PM Hispanic Prayer Group/Church
7:00 PM Young Adults/FF-SP

FRIDAY, MARCH 6
7:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration/Chapel
7:00 PM Hisp. Choir Practice/SA

SATURDAY, MARCH 7
8:00 AM Men’s Prayer Group/FF-SM
9:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration/Chapel

SUNDAY, MARCH 8
9:30 AM Faith Formation K-3rd/FF
10:30 AM RCIA/FF-SJ
11:00 AM Hispanic Faith Form./FF
4:00 PM Band Practice/Church

DAFFODIL SALE TO BENEFIT A FRIENDLY PLACE/ MANOR March 7-8

Pots of lovely daffodil bulbs will be available for $12 each after all Masses next weekend (except the 7am Mass). Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph, A Friendly Place/ Manor in Oakland offers a safe haven for destitute women. A Friendly Place serves as a daytime hospitality center, and A Friendly Manor provides transitional housing for homeless women. Many women have found a new lease on life through the efforts of the Sisters and their staff. Your support of this cause is greatly appreciated.

Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship for Lent – Mindful

What is it that tempts you the most? Is it an action, a person, or a place? It is something that seems innocent enough, like a food, a drink, or an event? When you really start reflecting, you find that there are many temptations all around. Even if you are strong and never succumb to a certain temptation, it is still there waiting for a weak moment in your life.

One difficulty in the life of a disciple trying to live a stewardship way of life lies in the temptations we never actually see. We are too busy thinking about past failures or successes, or we are fixated on what possibilities the future holds that we miss the important things going on in the present. Jesus could be standing directly in front of us, but we miss him because we are looking everywhere except straight ahead.

Being mindful means that we are looking out for how and when God will call us this very day. Our decisions this day will have a huge impact on the future. If we only look to the future, we will miss those important calls to action. We may even find ourselves in a desert of sorts, looking for any way out we can find. However, God may need us to give of ourselves for a reason we cannot yet discern while in that desert. We need to stay awake, be aware, and look for His hand in all things. If we don’t, we may even miss the pathway out of that desert when it presents itself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LP

As usual, St. Mary’s Council of the Knights of Columbus will be hosting Lenten Suppers on the Fridays of Lent. Supper will be served in the parish gym at 6:30 pm, after the Stations of the Cross. Tickets will be sold after Mass on Sundays and in the parish office. It helps a lot with planning if you can buy your tickets ahead of time instead of at the door.

| Adults: $10 |
| Children under 12: $5 |
| Family (2 adults & up to 4 children under 12): $30 |
| Season ticket (6 meals): $50 |

Join us for Stations of the Cross in the church all the Fridays of Lent. English: 6:00 pm Spanish: 7:00 pm

MARCH 8 - SPRING FORWARD

Join us for coffee, donuts and fellowship this Sunday, March 1, after the 9:00 Mass.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS
DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS
Calling All Women!

Magnificat SOTI, a Ministry for Catholic Women, invites all to their Prayer Breakfast - Saturday, March 21 - 9:30-12:30
Crowne Plaza, 45 John Glenn Dr, Concord, CA

Please join us for a morning of Praise, Prayer, and Inspiration as our speaker, Cindy Rippee, a religious educator and Bible study teacher, shares with us her testimony about how the Life in the Spirit seminars have changed her life and the life of her family. Born into an alcoholic home, she is now a Benedictine Oblate affiliated with the Prince of Peace Abbey. Cindy will share with us how the Word of God has brought her through unspeakable loss into living with joy each day. Men are always welcome to attend!

Tickets are $33/$40 after March 14.

For more information: https://magnificat-ministry.net/ca-walnut-creek
For reservations or questions, call Kim Sullivan at 925-683-8220 or email: Magnificatsotirsvp@gmail.com

When You REDISCOVER THE SAINTS, Amazing Things Happen!

Join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic Team for another incredible journey through our BEST LENT EVER daily video reflections. It’s not what you give up; it’s who you become. Who will you become? Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/amazing

This weekend, in preparation for St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Sunday, we will be making available bags for your donations. Parishioners can pick up an empty bag in the vestibule of the church, and then take it home and fill it, and return it to the SVDP truck in the church parking lot the weekend of March 14-15.

Items we can accept: baby bottles (unless new & unopened), car seats, mesh playpens, cosmetics, exercise equipment, BBQ grills, lawn furnishings, gas-powered lawn or garden equipment, golf clubs, major appliances, carpet, tires or wheels.

No better way to celebrate St Patrick and St Joseph this month than Catholic Man Night!
Adoration, Rosary, and Confession for men, Wednesday, March 4, 7pm in the chapel. Be with God for an hour, and join like-minded men for fellowship afterward. Rosaries and cheat sheets provided. Food and drink follow. Invite a friend. Questions? Contact: michaelgallagher1025@outlook.com

Our kick-off event last Sunday was well attended and featured Father Neal Clemens, who opened the evening with prayer, followed by Fr. James Moore, O.P. and Blayne Wittig from Options Health, a pregnancy center. The attendees were especially moved by Fr. Moore’s testimony that after seeing the movie Unplanned last year, he drove directly to the closest Planned Parenthood to pray. We should all imitate Fr. Moore’s unabashed following of Christ. What does Christ expect of us? Does He expect us to give up candy for the 40 Days of Lent? Or does He expect and demand MORE from us?

Just think about it. The horrendous slaughter of pre-born children occurs right in our midst. We are compelled to act. WE MUST ACT.

PLEASE make this a Lent to remember... a Lent when we heard the cry of the innocent victims of abortion and acted decisively. A Lent when we became more Christ-like, not worrying about what the "world" will say, but just doing the work of God, without reservation or fear.

To sign up for prayer hours, please go to: 40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek
Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm, Monday-Saturday, until April 4

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALES!
Get them while they last!!

2nd Grade Brownies & 5th Grade Junior Troops from St. Mary School

Cookies will be available for purchase after 9:00am Mass every Sunday till 3/15!
**THE VINEYARD**
St. Mary Church
YOUTH MINISTRY (K-12)

**SAVE THE DATES**
June 22-26

**VBS**

Helping Youth Encounter Christ through a Catholic Experience of Service, Community and Faith!

Don’t let your 9th - 12th grader miss out on this one-of-a-kind retreat coming to St. Mary Parish this Summer July 5 - July 10!

For Registration Info., visit www.YoungNeighbors.org or email Nancy@cmdnet.org.

**First Communion **
Parent Meeting
March 5 at 7:00pm
In the church

**LITTLE SAINTS**
Kinder - 3rd
Sunday
9:30am - 11:00am

Catequesis en español
Ages 6-13 yrs
Sunday
11:15am - 12:45pm

**ROCK**
4th - 5th Grade
Thursday
4:00pm - 5:30pm

**BLAST**
6th Grade
Tuesday
7:00pm - 8:30pm

**EDGE**
7th - 8th Grade
Tuesday
7:00pm - 8:30pm

**CONFIRMATION**
Call for info

**YOUTH GROUP**
9th - 12th Grade
Wednesday
6:50pm - 8:30pm

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Office
925-891-8939
Lifeteen@stmary-wc.org

Are you looking for ways to get involved in the Parish Community? Consider helping out at one of our action-packed summer activities! We are looking for adults AND teens to be a part of our awesome team! Contact the Faith Formation office for more information!
Hoy es el Primer Domingo de Cuaresma. Cuaresma significa cuarenta días y es el tiempo donde se prepara la fiesta más importante del año, “La Pascua”. La Cuaresma nos recuerda el periodo de preparación para un verdadero encuentro con Dios. La Cuaresma nos invita al arrepentimiento y a la conversión. Es un tiempo sagrado para orar, dar limosna y ayunar. La Cuaresma dio inicio el 26 de febrero y termina el Jueves Santo, antes de la Misa de la Cena del Señor. La Oración colectiva nos ayuda a ver con claridad el propósito de la Cuaresma: “Concédenos, Dios todopoderoso, que, por las prácticas anuales del sacramento cuaresmal, progresemos en el conocimiento del misterio de Cristo y traduzcamos su efecto en una conducta irreprochable.”

Que seamos santos y perfectos nos recomendaba el Señor Jesús el domingo pasado. ¿Lo recuerdan? Pues, ahora es el tiempo de practicar constantemente el vencer las tentaciones que se presentan en el vivir cotidiano. La tentación es una gran oportunidad para vencer el mal y persistir siempre en hacer el bien. El desierto es el lugar preferido de Jesús para fortalecerse en el Espíritu del Padre. ¿A qué desierto entraremos? ¿Qué descubriremos en él? ¿A quién encontraremos? Ahora es la oportunidad de retirar el mal que hay en nuestra vida con las mismas palabras con que Jesús al final de este Evangelio rechaza al demonio: “Aléjate, Satanás, porque dice la escritura: Adorarás al Señor tu Dios, y a El solo servirás” (Mateo 4:10). Con Jesús, vayamos al desierto y preparémonos para las pruebas. ¡Señor que tu misericordia nos acompañe en esta Cuaresma que comienza! ©LPi

FECHAS IMPORTANTES

Marzo 1, NO HAY CLASE
Marzo 6, II Viernes de Vía Crucis
Marzo 8, Clase 11:15am
Daylight saving time
(925)357-3048 jcain@stmary-wc.org

Retiro Formación de Discípulos
Febrero 20–23, 2020

Nuestro evento inaugural del domingo pasado estuvo bien concubirido y le dio apertura con una oración el Padre Neal Clemens. A él le siguieron el Padre James Moore, OP, y Blayne Wittig, directora de Options Health, un centro de ayuda para las mujeres embarazadas. Los asistentes se sintieron movidos por el testimonio del Padre Moore, quien después de haber visto la película Unplanned el año pasado, inmediatamente se fue a la clínica de aborto más cercana para orar allí. Todos deberíamos imitar la manera decidida del Padre Moore de seguir a Cristo. ¿Qué espera Cristo de nosotros? ¿Quiere que eliminemos los dulces durante los 40 días de cuaresma, o espera y exige algo más de nosotros? Pensémoslo bien: La horrenda masacre de los niños pre-nacidos ocurre en nuestra propia comunidad. Tenemos la obligación de actuar. Hagamos de esta cuaresma algo inolvidable...una cuaresma en la que nos llegó el clamor de las inocentes víctimas del aborto y actuamos con decisión. Una cuaresma en la que nos asemejamos más a Cristo, sin preocuparnos por lo que digan los demás, sino haciendo el trabajo de Dios, sin reservaciones y sin temor. Escoge tus horas de oración en: 40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek
Horas de la vigilia de oración: De 7 am a 7 pm, de lunes a sábado, hasta el 4 de abril.