

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

*Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths.*  
 — Psalm 25:4

**REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL**

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

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**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:8-15).

**Psalm** — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).

**Second Reading** — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).

**Gospel** — Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him (Mark 1:12-15)

**OUR GIFTS RECORD**

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$4,017.00	\$2,941.00
Number of Families contributing	93	73
Total Pledge for 2021	\$161,051.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (6 Weeks)	\$22,944.00	\$23,110.00
Received to Date	\$17,992.00	\$14,477.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$4,952.00	\$8,633.00

**LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD**

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$186.00	\$1,416.00

Nineteen ladies made a contribution last week.

**PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT**

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$5,780.00	\$56,522.00

Five people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

**BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN**

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$63,780.00

**POOR BOX** totaled \$128.00.

18 **CHILDREN** contributed \$109.00.

**BAA** totaled \$185.00.

**BAA – SECOND COLLECTION** totaled \$212.00

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**When we die, our money remains in the bank. Yet, when we are alive, we don't have enough money to spend. In reality, when we are gone, there is still a lot of money not spent.**

**One business tycoon in China passed away. His widow, was left with \$1.9 billion in the bank, and married his chauffeur. His chauffeur said: "All the while, I thought I was working for my boss...it is now only, that I realize that my boss was all the time, working for me!"**

**The cruel reality is: it is more important to live longer than to have more wealth. So, we must strive to have a strong and healthy body. It really doesn't matter who is working for who.**

**In a high-end hand phone, 70% of the functions are useless! For an expensive car, 70% of the speed and gadgets are not needed. If you own a luxurious villa or mansion, 70% of the space is usually not used or occupied. How about your wardrobe of clothes? 70% of them are not worn. A whole life of work and earning...70% is for other people to spend. So, we must protect and make full use of our 30%.**

**Think about our soul and eternal life.  
 Work and live for eternal glory.**

**FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:**

1. the Family of Hambone's Mary Catherine in loving memory of her on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her death;
2. the Family of Bessie in loving memory of her on her Birthday;
3. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** The second collection this weekend will be for *Black and Indian Missions*. Please be generous in this collection.

**MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER** Thanks to the Legion of Mary, we will have Morning and Evening Prayer in the Church during Lent. All are requested to make use of this golden opportunity to join in the world-wide praise of God at the beginning and the close of each day. Morning and Evening Prayer will begin this Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**MORNING PRAYER** Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m.

**EVENING PRAYER** Monday thru Thursday 3:30 p.m.  
 Friday 6:30 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** during Lent, will be held every Friday after 7:00 p.m. Mass. The Stations of the Cross will be led on Friday:

- Feb. 26: Legion – O.L. of Epiphany**
- Mar. 5: Religious Education Teachers**
- Mar. 12: Lectors**
- Mar. 19: Youth Group & Young Girls Org.**
- Mar. 26: Society of Mary Immaculate**
- Apr. 2: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

**DIVINE MERCY NOVENA** will be held daily at 3:00 P.M. in the Church during Lent.

### **NEW LOCKDOWN PROTOCOLS FOR CHRISTIANS**

As you observe the government protocols, also try to observe heavenly protocols as well:

- ❖ *Wash your heart with Christ's blood. (Psalm 73:1)*
- ❖ *Keep social distance from evil. (Job 28:28)*
- ❖ *Avoid the crowd of wickedness and wicked men. (Psalm 1:1)*
- ❖ *Cover your mind from being infected from the sneeze of sin and hatred. (Lev 19:17)*
- ❖ *Do not shake hands with abomination. (Duet 25:16)*
- ❖ *Do not hug or embrace hearsay and false teachings. (2 Pet. 2:1)*
- ❖ *Be safe so that you will be saved. (Jer. 17:14)*
- ❖ *Sanitize your life with the Word of God. (Psalm 1:2)*
- ❖ *In case you notice any symptoms of sin, call the helpline of Christ in PRAYER. (Jer. 33:3)*
- ❖ *Always remember to boost your spiritual immunity with Faith and the Power of the Holy Spirit. (Jude 1:20)*

**THANK YOU** to a member for a donation in honor of the Infant of Prague for a special intention; a member for a donation in honor of the Sacred Heart, Precious Blood and St. Expedite; a member for a donation in honor of the Holy Spirit and St. Michael; a member for a donation in honor of the Holy Family; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite and St. Joseph for a favor received; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite, St. Padre Pio, and the Infant Jesus; and also, two members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

**JOKE OF THE WEEK** A bartender notices that every evening an Irish man comes and orders three beers. After several weeks, the bartender asks the man why he always orders three beers. The man says, "I have two brothers who have moved away to different countries. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping the family bond."

Several weeks later, noticing that the man only ordered two beers, the bartender said, "Please accept my condolences on the death of one of your brothers. You know, the two beers and all..." The man replied, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well...It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."

### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

- Sunday:** First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election; Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending
- Monday:** Washington's Birthday
- Tuesday:** St. Polycarp
- Friday:** Abstinence
- Saturday:** St. Gregory of Narek

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

- Monday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus for the sick and the Holy Souls.
- Tuesday:** For the repose of the soul of Hambone's Mary Catherine on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her death.
- Wednesday:** For the repose of the soul of Eddie Big Shot on the Anniversary of his death.
- Thursday:** For Bryan Jude Gorman on his Birthday.
- Friday:** For the repose of the souls of Betty McGuire and Huey Gabe Sherlock on their Birthdays.

### **READERS**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Sat. Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 4:00 P.M.<br>Christina & Natalie     | Sat. Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 P.M.<br>Carolyn & Bridgette Anna |
| Sun. Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup> , 10:00 A.M.                           | Jimmy Joseph & Jersey  |
| Sat. Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup> , 4:00 P.M.<br>Mary Martha & Julie Ann | Sat. Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 P.M.<br>Ritz & Savannah          |
| Sun. Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00 A.M.                           | Jimmy Joseph & Jersey  |

### **READERS – WEEKDAYS**

- |           |   |                 |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| Monday    | - | Taniel          |
| Tuesday   | - | Christina Apple |
| Wednesday | - | Cathy Lisa      |
| Thursday  | - | Claire          |
| Friday    | - | Mary Cabrina    |

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY**

- |           |   |            |
|-----------|---|------------|
| Monday    | - | Cathy Pole |
| Tuesday   | - | Kim Gallon |
| Wednesday | - | Rosie Cat  |
| Thursday  | - | Mary Cat   |
| Friday    | - | Rose Marie |

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND**

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 4:00 P.M.</b> | <b>February 20<sup>th</sup></b> |
| Front                     | Mary Margaret                   |
| Right                     | Cathy Pole                      |
| Left                      | Kim Gallon                      |

### **Saturday 7:00 P.M.**

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| February 20 <sup>th</sup> | February 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| Rosie Cat                 | Kim Gallon                |

### **Sunday 10:00 A.M.**

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| February 21 <sup>st</sup> | February 28 <sup>th</sup> |
| Rose Marie                | Rose Marie                |
| Mary Cat                  | Mary Cat                  |

### **ENJOY THE LENTEN SEASON**

- Give up complaining...and focus on gratitude.**  
**Give up harsh judgments...think kind thoughts.**  
**Give up bitterness...turn to forgiveness.**  
**Give up hatred...return good for evil.**  
**Give up anger...practice patience.**  
**Give up gossiping...control your tongue.**  
**Give up sin...turn to virtue.**  
**You can't direct the wind,**  
**But you can adjust your sail.**

### **~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~**

### **A LENTEN PRAYER**

**Lord Jesus, give me a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, and a great love of You. Take from me all lukewarmness in the meditation of Your word, and dullness in prayer. Give me fervor and delight in thinking of You and Your grace, and fill me with compassion for others, especially those in need, that I may respond with generosity. Amen.**