

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 5, 2017

*"The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."*

— Matthew 4:10

### 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.

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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (*Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7*).

**Psalms** — Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned (Psalm 51).

**Second Reading** — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (*Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]*).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (*Matthew 4:1-11*).

### OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
<b>Last Week's Collection</b>	\$2,697.10	\$1,744.10
Number of Families contributing	150	123
Total Pledge for 2017	\$175,815.00	\$188,514.00
Pledged to Date (9 Weeks)	\$29,955.00	\$32,932.00
Received to Date	\$30,351.10	\$26,337.10
Envelopes Outstanding	( \$396.10)	\$6,594.90

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$318.00	\$3,057.00

Forty-two ladies made a contribution last week.

### BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2017 Parish Goal	
Amount Received to Date	\$1,663.00
Amount Outstanding	

Four people made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

### HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$25.00	\$3,780.00

Four people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

**PARKING LOT** totaled \$22.00.

42 **CHILDREN** contributed \$188.00.

**POOR BOX** totaled \$81.00.

**CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE** totaled \$223.00.

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 150, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 135 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 140.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A Nevada youth was stopped by a policeman in a routine investigation. Angered, he grabbed a pistol and shot. The officer died. Today the youth faces a life sentence behind bars. His moment of anger cost him his freedom forever.

God tried to communicate the cost of sin to Israel. "I gave Egypt and Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for your freedom, as your ransom. Others died that you might live..." (Isaiah 43:3-4). Man has always ignored the cost of sin. Even bloody sacrifices, repulsive to us, failed to convey effectively how God detests sin. Sins of fathers are visited on their children through inherited environment and weakened bodies. There is always a heavy price tag on sin.

In our age of spiritual apathy we see sin accepted as weakness rather than wickedness. Tragically, future generations will pay for our sins and many lives may be sacrificed because of us. How dreadful it will be to stand before God and give an account of our selfish sins!

*Lord, forgive my sins and forgive me for bringing grief on those about me because of my selfish ways. Help me to be "Christ-centered" rather than self-centered.*

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Family of Betty Costello in loving memory of her on her Birthday;
2. a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite;
3. Catherine Jabber and Family in loving memory of Tommy Jabber Riley on the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death and his Birthday, and Joseph Pio Riley on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death and 48<sup>th</sup> Birthday; Jack Speedball Carroll on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death;
4. and another Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

### 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:

**Mar. 10: Legion – O.L. of Epiphany**

**Mar. 17: Religious Education Teachers**

**Mar. 24: Lectors**

**Mar. 31: Youth Group & Young Girls Group**

**Apr. 7: Society of Mary Immaculate**

**Apr. 14: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy**

**Communion**

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend will be for *Black and Indian Home 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, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### MORNING PRAYER

Mon. thru Friday

9:30 a.m.

#### EVENING PRAYER

Monday & Friday

6:30 p.m.

Tues., Wed., & Thurs.

4:30 p.m.

**F.E.A.R.**

F.E.A.R. has two meanings.

“Forget Everything And Run **OR** Face Everything And Rise”  
**The choice is yours.**

**RICE BOWLS** are in the Atrium of the Church.

**THANK YOU** to a member for a donation in honor of St. Gerard; two members for their donations in honor of St. Expedite; and a member for their donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

**BIBLE GUIDE**

***What are the two main parts of the Bible?***

*The two main parts of the bible are the Old Testament and the New Testament.*

***How many books are in the Bible?***

*In the Bible as we know it, there are seventy-three books; forty-six in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New.*

**JOKE OF THE WEEK** A man was attending the funeral of a lawyer when he noticed that the casket had to be lowered at least 20 feet. “Why was that?” he asked the minister as they walked back to their cars.

“I guess,” the preacher said, “That down deep they can be good people.”

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

***Tuesday:*** Ss. Perpetua and Felicity

***Wednesday:*** St. John of God

***Thursday:*** St. Frances of Rome

***Friday:*** Abstinence

**MASS INTENTIONS**

***Monday:*** Funeral.

***Tuesday:*** In loving memory of Mary Lisa McNally on her 41<sup>st</sup> Birthday and in loving memory of Chris McNally on the 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death and for Rosie McNally on her Birthday.

***Wednesday:*** Funeral.

***Thursday:*** In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph and for Montela Gorman on her 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

***Friday:*** For Mike Thomas O’Hara on his 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT**

Have you thought about your soul, dear friend?  
Life as we know it will someday end.  
If you haven't, now I wonder why,  
For all things on earth must someday die.  
Have you thought then, where you will be  
When no longer things on earth you'll see,  
But your eyes will be opened wide  
When you see what's on the other side.  
Wide with joy, or wide with fear,  
Which shall it be, oh friend so dear?  
Will gates of pearl then open wide,  
Will you be received with joy inside?  
So think about your soul dear friend;  
It will live on, beyond the end.  
Eternity can come so fast,  
Choose Christ for life where joy will last.

**READERS**

**Sat. Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.**  
Rita Riley &  
Scott’s Mercedes

**Sat. Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.**  
Jay &  
Apple’s Mary Regina

**Sun. Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.**

Jimmy Joseph & Theresa Maria

**Sat. Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.**  
Raid’s Karen &  
Cathy Lisa Butts

**Sat. Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.**  
Dominique &  
Natalie

**Sun. Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.**

Jimmy Joseph & Mary Cat

**READERS – WEEKDAYS**

**Monday** Cheryl  
**Tuesday** Sable  
**Wednesday** Allison  
**Thursday** Natalie  
**Friday** Raid’s Karen

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND**

**Saturday 4:00 P.M.** **Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Front Bridget Ann  
Left Cup Winnie Ann  
**Saturday 7:00 P.M.** **Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Front Jay  
Cup Johnny Jay’s Ann

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

**Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>** **Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Pete Man’s Nora Pete Man’s Nora  
Rose Marie Rose Marie

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY**

**Monday** Mary Cat  
**Tuesday** Pete Man’s Nora  
**Wednesday** Ann T.  
**Thursday** Rose Marie  
**Friday** Bridget Ann

**POPE FRANCIS WORDS**

**Do you want to fast this lent?**

- Fast from *hurting words* and say *kind words*.
- Fast from *sadness* and be filled with *gratitude*.
- Fast from *anger* and be filled with *patience*.
- Fast from *pessimism* and be filled with *hope*.
- Fast from *worries* and *trust in God*.
- Fast from *complaints* and *contemplate simplicity*.
- Past from *pressure* and be *prayerful*.
- Fast from *bitterness* and *fill your heart with joy*.
- Fast from *selfishness* and be *compassionate to others*.
- Fast from *grudges* and be *reconciled*.
- Fast from *words* and be *silent so you can listen*.

**PRAYER CORNER**

**LENTEN PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus, give me a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, and great love for 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.*