

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Tri - Parish Contact Information

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Office Hours: Mon - Wed & Fri. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (**Thursday - CLOSED**)

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PPC Chair: Barbara Abel 780-985-3655

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Liturgy: Barbara Abel 780-985-3655

Stations of the Cross during Lent

after Friday morning Mass at St. Maria Goretti - Devon, and after Tuesday morning Mass in St. Margaret Mary - Calmar.

Guideline for Fasting and Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and during Lent

Roman Catholics must fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 14, 2024 and Good Friday, March 29, 2024. *Additionally, they must abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent.*

Ash Wednesday is one of two yearly days of obligatory fasting and abstinence for Roman Catholics, along with Good Friday. According to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the norms of fasting are obligatory from age **18 until age 59**.

Fasting means a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but they are not to equal that of a full meal.

The rule of abstinence from meat is binding upon Catholics aged **14 and onwards**.

For those outside the age limits, Canon Law notes that "Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance."

Cemetery Contacts:

Our Lady of Victory - Thorsby: Mark Bendoritis - 780.985.3779

St Francis: Ed Naprawa - 780.789.2195 and/or George Cygan 780 918 3412

Holy Trinity - Nisku: Ron Chamulka 780.955.8031

St. Margaret Mary - Calmar: Barb Abel 780-985-3655 and/or Cheryl Hancar 780-980-3046

1st Sunday of Lent – February 18, 2024

1st Reading: Genesis 9, 8-15

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3, 8-12

Gospel: Mark 1, 12-15

The Ministry of Angels

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. Mark 1:12–13

What an amazing event we reflect upon today. Jesus, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity humbled Himself in two ways in the passage quoted above. First, He allowed Himself to endure the temptations of Satan. Second, He permitted His very own creation, the good angels, to minister to Him in His human form.

First of all, recall that Satan is a fallen angel. He was created by God and was created good. But the Book of Revelation (12:4) indicates that one-third of the created angels were cast out of Heaven to roam the earth. These demons act under the direction of the highest fallen angel, Satan. It was Satan himself who tempted Jesus in the desert. Additionally, Jesus permitted the good angels to minister to Him in His human nature. These acts reveal the perfection of the virtue of humility within the humanity of our Lord.

According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, angels were created for three primary reasons. The first is for the purpose of worship. Worship of God brings about communion with God and enables perfect love to flow back and forth from God to each angelic being. Second, angels enact the will of God in all things. This includes the implementation of the laws of nature and the imparting of the grace that Christ won on the Cross. Third, God uses angels as messengers. Scripture records various ways that the angels spoke to the prophets, to our Blessed Mother, to Saint Joseph and to others. Saint Thomas Aquinas also believed that each of us is given a particular guardian angel whose role is not only to protect us but also to communicate the will of God to us.

As God, Jesus was the Creator of all angelic beings with the Father and the Holy Spirit. As man, Jesus was the recipient of both the ministry of the good angels and the attacks of the fallen angels. By humbly subjecting Himself to the natural powers of these angelic creatures, Jesus was also teaching us that we must do the same.

Reflect, today, upon the amazing truth that both angels and demons are constantly active in your life, seeking to influence you. As you ponder their spiritual role in your life, consider the various ways you can learn more about them. Speak to your guardian angel. Ask for the intercession of the highest of angels. Try to join them in their divine worship. Pray for their protection. Ask them to communicate to you the highest of truths from God. Seek to be attentive to these holy angels so that as you learn to discern their voices, you will be ready to follow the direction they give to you from God.

My Lord and Creator of All, You created the angelic order for the glorious purpose of love and worship. You also give them the mission of enacting Your holy will and communicating to us on earth. Please help me to be more aware of the deceptions of the fallen angels and the direction of the good angels. Angels of God, pray for me, protect me and guide me into God's perfect will. Jesus, I trust in You. (mycatholiclife.com)

YOUCAT Study Group: St Maria Goretti Parish

The YOUCAT is the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church. Although written for the youth, it is relevant for all to study and learn from. It has a different format from the Catechism of the Catholic Church as it clusters various passages from the catechism and poses them as a question. The four major parts include: What We Believe, How We Celebrate the Christian Mysteries, How We Are to Have Life in Christ, How We Should Pray.

A YOUCAT Study Group will begin on **Friday, February 16 at 10:00 AM** following the morning Mass and the Stations of the Cross during Lent. The group will meet **every second Friday**. This group is sponsored by the Catholic Woman's League and as our Spiritual Advisor, Father Luan will be with us. All parishioners are welcomed to attend.

To Register, email pmarch@shaw.ca or sign up on the bulletin board in the gathering space.

Sick? Shut-in?

Would you like to receive communion? Please call the office at 780-987-2858 to arrange communion, and/or to be put on our prayer list.



World Day of Prayer 2024

Please join us for World Day of Prayer, a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. The service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine.

I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love

St. Maria Goretti Parish - Devon

**is hosting the
ECUMENICAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**

Friday March 1, 2024 at 7:00 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please join us for hospitality after the service.

MASS INTENTIONS

When a priest celebrates Mass every day, he offers each celebration of the Eucharist for a particular person or intention. By doing so, he applies special graces from God upon that person or intention. To request a Mass intention, please visit or call the parish office.

Mass Intentions for the rest of February 2024

Date		Intention
16	Fri	Rest of the Soul of Rose Dublinski
17	Sat	Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Connie Schumacher
18	Sun	For the speedy recovery of Wendy Bendoritis
21	Wed	Rest of the Soul of Rose Dublinski
22	Thu	For the Rest of the Soul of Kerry Meyer
23	Fri	Connie Schumacher - Personal Intentions
24	Sat	Savoie and Schumacher Families - Living and Deceased
25	Sun	Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Maria Palma
27	Tue	Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Jason Forchuk
28	Wed	Thanksgiving for the Birthday of Tammy Aguiar

Carmelite Sisters and Food Bank Drive

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you. "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land." Deuteronomy 15:11

Part of Lent:

- Prayer - Thank God for all your blessings.
- Fasting - sustain from eating meat on Fridays.
- Almsgiving - give monetary or items to the less fortunate.

Help us fill the donation baskets located at the entrance of the Church !