

Dear Padre,

I was taught that it is a requirement to fast at least one hour before receiving Communion. However, I've seen donuts out before Mass begins and hear candy wrappers being crumpled around me. This seems disrespectful to me.



It is important to use the correct words when describing a particular action. In this case, "requirement" does not really capture the full meaning and understanding of what the Church teaches. A better understanding is that it is a discipline and a practice of the Church to ordinarily observe the eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving holy Communion. If you are of a certain age, you may remember that there have been changes regarding the eucharistic fast. A "requirement" might suggest that the fast is integral to the sacrament itself. It is not.

The second part of your question seems to be a matter of perception. Based on your perception, you judge something to be not quite right. But, consider that there are many reasons why hospitality may be set up before Mass. The crumpling of wrappers could be something other than what you identify. Regardless, you are not required to assume the burden of policing what is taking place at Mass. It is much better to participate, celebrate, and be grateful for the sacrament that we gather to experience as a community of faith. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Second Sunday of Lent
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Is 55:10-11	Jon 3:1-10	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	Ez 18:21-28	Dt 26:16-19	Gn 2:1-4a
Mt 25:31-46	Mt 6:7-15	Lk 11:29-32	Mt 7:7-12	Mt 5:20-26	Mt 5:43-48	2 Tm 1:8b-10
						Mt 17:1-9

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025



St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Jesus for the Win

MIGUEL DULICK

The account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play. Pope Francis insisted, "Don't talk to the devil!" Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he's had plenty to eat—"every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus "test" his Father by jumping off the "parapet of the temple" (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5-7.) You don't play God, and you don't play *with* God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We'd do the bread; we'd do the jump; we'd definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It's a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan "destroys" her! And Adam, too. If they didn't sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an "overflow" of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that's what Lent is about—a flood of grace. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What grace do I pray for this Lent—for myself and for someone who is struggling?

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

MATTHEW 4:1



First Sunday in Lent (A) February 22, 2026

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

**Mass Schedule & Intentions
For the week of Feb 23, 2025**

Mon.	Feb.	23	No Mass		
Tues.	Feb.	24	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Feb.	25	5:30 PM	SA	Iganacio Kiyochi †
Thurs.	Feb.	26	5:30 PM	SB	Hadley Brogan
Fri.	Feb.	27	8:30 AM	SJ	Dorothy Harouff †
Sun.	Mar.	01	8:00 AM	SJ	Marie Lemmer †
Sun.	Mar.	01	9:30 AM	SA	Elizabeth Romano †
Sun.	Mar.	01	11:00 AM	SB	People of the Parish †

**Saint Gabriel Possenti (1838-1862)
Feast Day February 27**

"Love Mary! She does not look to see what kind of person you have been. She simply comes to a heart that wants to love her. She comes quickly and opens her merciful heart to you, embraces you and consoles and serves you."



Lucy Kimball Feb 23rd
Elizabeth Phelps Feb 23rd
Corbin Walz Feb 26th
Kylee Lehmkuhler Feb 27th

**Blessed Maria Caridad
Brader (1860-1943)
Feast Day February 27**

"See God's will in everything, and do His will with joy, out of love

Ministry Schedule

Date: March 1	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	<u>Sunday 8 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Cody & Charli S.	Julie B.	Seth & Tristan P.
Lector	Jon W.	Katie W.	Emily P.
Server	Tate B. & Avery B.		Erin F. & Taygen B.
EMHC	Steve & Cindy F.	Charles F. & Gary M.	Rod B. & John R.
	Music: Kelsey A.		<i>Communion to shut ins</i> Mike P.

St. John's
Our Gifts to God & Church
February 15 & 18, 2026
Total Collection: \$811.90

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal \$4150 of \$5179
with 11 of 15 Donors

CCD Wed, Feb 25th
PreK to 5th 3:40 PM
6th -12th Supper 6:30
Class Begins 7:00 PM

St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
February 15 & 18, 2026
Total Collection: \$472.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal the
GOAL is MET!!!

Thrift Store
Open Feb 13 9AM to 4PM
CCD Wed Feb 25th
Elementary 3:40 PM
High School 7:30 PM I

Coffee and Rolls 2-22

St. Boniface
Our Gifts to God & Church
February 15 & 18, 2026
Total Collection: \$2768.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal \$6800 of \$7452
with 15 of 17 Donors

CCD Wed. Feb 25th
PreK to 2nd 4-5 PM
Supper 6:10
Class 6:30 to 7:30 PM

**Blessed Josefa Naval Girbes (1820-1893)
Feast Day February 24**

"Prayer, prayer; pray for a while each day, and life will be easier and bearable. Learn to speak with God without words and, in this way, practice the prayer of meditation."

**Blessed Maria Caridad
Brader (1860-1943)
Feast Day February 27**

"See God's will in everything, and do His will with joy, out of love of Him."