

Welcome

To our communities of faith

Our Divine Saviour Catholic Church

12th Street and Love Avenue
Tifton, GA

And

St. William Catholic Church
807 S. Merrimac Dr.
Fitzgerald, GA 31750

First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026

Pastor

Rev. Peter Oyenugba, MSP

Deacon

J. Brian Bergeron

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Psalm 51



The story of Jesus' temptation is always the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent.

The three temptations attack the three human faculties with which one is commanded to love God: heart, soul and strength.

The Gospel reading makes clear the difference between Jesus and Adam, the reason that Adam's act brought death and Jesus' act brought life.

Our Divine Savior

Office phone: 229-382-4600
Fax: 229- 382-7611

Email: ods@friendlycity.net
Website: odstifton.org

Office Address: 211 E. 12th Street
Church Address: 1205 Love Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 212, Tifton, GA 31793

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday.....10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday.....Closed

Any new parishioners who would like to register,
Please call the parish office

Pastor	Fr. Peter Oyenugba, MSP poyenugba@dio.sav ods@friendlycity.net	382-4600	X109
Deacon J. Brian Bergeron	Jbb@jesusrocksmministry.com		
Parish Secretary	Nayelly Balderas	382-4600	
Parish Secretary	Joann Prostko ods@friendlycity.net	382-4600	X101
Bookkeeper	Kevin Frizzell		
Finance Committee	John Wyatt		
Knights of Columbus	Gary Burtle	386-4330	
Council of Catholic Women	Carolyn Slade	238-2510	
CCW Cabinet Merchandise	Diana Balderas Carolyn Slade	472-3819 457-0873	
Liturgical (liturgy)	Margo Martin	402-0741	
Grupo Guadalupano	Margarita Zermeño	326-5352	
CCD Coordinator	Jackie Beals & Mayra Moreno		
EDGE Youth Ministry	Jackie Beals	382-4600	
Hispanic CCD Coordinator	Mayra Moreno	382-4600	
Parish Activity Center rental	Office	382-4600	
Choir Contact	Clare Jarboe		

Parish Council

Claudia Mejia	Claudiaaguilar77@hotmail.com
Martha Solis	marlettfol@gmail.com
Tania Bautista	Tbautista122898@gmail.com
Debbie Blakey	deborahblakey@hotmail.com
Juan Carlos Diaz	
Gary Burtle	gburtle@uga.edu
Bob Kemerait	pkemerait@gmail.com
Amalia Ramirez Silos	Amaliaramirez83@yahoo.com

February 22, 2026
First Sunday of
Lent

Readings:

Genesis 2:7-9
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Theme:

Temptation – What would Jesus do?

Question of the week:

When you yourself pause to be alone with God, what distracts and prevents you from dwelling in that?

March 1, 2026
Second Sunday
of Lent

Readings:

Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Theme:

Transfiguration – with the Spirit of Jesus within us, we will be transformed.

Question of the week:

In your neighborhood or community, who is waiting to hear the Good News?

Requests for Prayers

Please pray for the sick and those who have requested our prayers:

Maria Alanis, Allison Brannan, Rachel Brantley, James Brown, Mary Brown, Brady, Patricia Busby, Erica Carroll, Mary Carroll, Tommy Carroll, Sean Winn Carampatan, Laurie Creel, Margarie D'Souva, Tina DeWees, Lela Dillehay, Curtis Esmel, Carlos & Carrie Fletcher, Lauren Judy Fraelich, Rodolfo Hernandez-Labastida, Chloe Kendrick, David LaForest, Isaac Lindsey, Randy Long, LaVonja Mathis, Raeleigh Jane McCartha, Bob McDuffie, Andrew Meredith, Susana Melgar, Butch Parker, Charles Phenicie, John Potlanus, Katy Podagrosi, Miller Blake Prostko, Nancy Quynn, Marian Robinson, Jaxen Roberts, Rosalie Rohrer, Arlene Ruse, Josephine Sehrsamski, Marlena Smith, Sterling Saunders, Robbi Scarbrough, Wayne Scarbrough, John B. Sherlock, James Smith, Kaylon Spurlock, Jamie Thompson, Jennifer Unis, Dowson Bedore, Debra Vazquez, Sonia Webb, James Wyatt

Please Pray for our Military:

Andrew Byrd, Anthony Caucci, Jonathan Elder, Clayton F. Gibbs, Terry Jones, James Olands, Angel Olivos, Bong Tanesco, Aurelio Tovar, Gregory Camargo, Michael Gibbons, Jackson Bergeron

Announcements: February 21 & 22

Activity Center Rental Fee:

As of January 1, 2025 the fee to rent the Activity Center will be \$800 plus a \$200 deposit which will be returned if there is no damaged to the property.

CCW News:

The CCW is sponsoring a RADA Cutlery fundraiser effective immediately. RADA sells reasonably priced cutlery items, along with soup mixes, dips, cheese ball mixes, gourmet popcorn, cookbooks and more. Catalogs will be available in the Church vestibule. You may also order on-line at: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5276229.0684f0>. This will take you right to the ODS site. 40% of the proceeds are paid to the OCS CCW. Thank you

The Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 6:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Parish Activity Center. Please drop off goods to sell on Thursday, March 5th from noon until 4:00 pm. Friday, March 6th from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. No goods will be accepted on the day of the sale, Saturday, March 7th. If you need assistance in transporting your good, call Carolyn Slade at 229-457-0873.

Attention High School Seniors: The college scholarship application packets will be available for students starting January 27th for the "Joe and Martha Day AND the Jared A. Gibbs Scholarships. You can pick up your application packet from Mr. Guzman in the Guidance office. Please consider applying for these scholarships. If you have any questions, please call Janet Vanags at 229-392-6770 or Mary Anne Gibbs at 229-392-7676.

Harvest of Hope Campaign:

If you are writing a check to the Harvest of Hope Campaign, please make your check out to Harvest of Hope and not Our Divine Saviour. Thanks for your generosity.

OUR DIVINE SAVIOUR:

We continue to advance toward our Harvest of Hope goal. We are within reach of 77% of our goal of \$233,335.00 to be given during the next two or three years. According to the January 22nd report, 33.20% of our parish has given or pledged (84 donors). We have so far given a total of \$76,021.62 and have received \$19,708.78 to be applied toward our own parish projects. Thank you to all who have participated.

TOTAL PLEDGED: \$130,865.42 PLEDGE BALANCE: \$103,107.80

ST. WILLIAM: There have been 18 donors or 56.25% of registered parishioners.

TOTAL PLEDGED: \$4,300.00 PLEDGE BALANCE: \$3,890.00 TOTAL GIVEN: \$1,215

The Lenten Penance Service will be held at ODS on Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 pm.

Lenten Fasting an Abstinence Guidelines:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. Fasting is required for Catholics ages 18-59: one full meal and two smaller meals that together do not equal another full meal. No snacking between meals. Abstinence is required for Catholics ages 14 and older. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat for Catholics age 14 and older. Those who are ill, elderly, pregnant, nursing or whose health would be affected are excused from fasting and/or abstinence. These practices help us grow in prayer, repentance, and charity as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Stations of the Cross during Lent:

Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays during Lent. The schedule is:

- 5:00 pm Stations of the Cross (English)
- 5:30 pm Mass at ODS
- 6:00 pm 1 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

Dear Padre

February 22, 2026

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

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Good News!

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 /

Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 / Matthew 4:1-11

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. ●

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Querido Padre

22 de febrero de 2026

Me enseñaron que es necesario ayunar al menos una hora antes de recibir la comunión. Sin embargo, he visto donas antes de que comience la misa y he oído el ruido de envoltorios de dulces a mi alrededor. Esto me parece una falta de respeto.

Es importante utilizar las palabras correctas al describir una acción concreta. En este caso, «requisito» no capta realmente el significado completo y la comprensión de lo que enseña la Iglesia. Una mejor comprensión es que se trata de una disciplina y una práctica de la Iglesia observar normalmente el ayuno eucarístico durante una hora antes de recibir la Sagrada Comunión. Si tienes cierta edad, quizá recuerdes que ha habido cambios en relación con el ayuno eucarístico. Un «requisito» podría sugerir que el ayuno es parte integral del sacramento en sí. No lo es.

La segunda parte de tu pregunta parece ser una cuestión de percepción. Basándote en tu percepción, juzgas que algo no está del todo bien. Pero considera que hay muchas razones por las que se puede ofrecer hospitalidad antes de la misa. El crujir de los envoltorios podría ser algo distinto de lo que tú identificas. En cualquier caso, no estás obligado a asumir la responsabilidad de vigilar lo que ocurre en la misa. Es mucho mejor participar, celebrar y estar agradecido por el sacramento que nos reúne como comunidad de fe. ●

P. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR

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Buenas noticias

22 de febrero de 2026

Primer domingo de Cuaresma (A)

Génesis 2, 7-9; 3, 1-7 / Romanos 5, 12-19 o 5, 12, 17-19 / Mateo 4, 1-11

MIGUEL DULICK

El relato de las tentaciones podría presentarse como una obra cómica. El papa Francisco insistió: «¡No hables con el diablo!». De hecho, Jesús no entabla diálogo con Satanás, y mucho menos negocia o hace negocios con él. ¿Piedras convertidas en pan? Jesús puede haber ayunado durante cuarenta días, pero ha comido mucho: «toda palabra que sale de la boca de Dios» (Mateo 4, 4). Jesús tampoco «pondrá a prueba» a su Padre saltando desde «el alero del templo» (como el campanario de una iglesia gótica). (Véase Mateo 5-7). No se juega a ser Dios, ni se juega con Dios. Satanás realmente queda en ridículo con la última tentación: ¿prometer todo el mundo si Jesús se arrodilla? Nadie caería en eso, ¿verdad?

Excepto... la mayoría de nosotros. ¡Haríamos lo del pan, haríamos lo del salto y, sin duda, haríamos lo del mundo! Fíjate en la primera lectura, del Génesis. ¡Adán y Eva renuncian al paraíso por un trozo de fruta! Es una historia triste porque Eva charla con la serpiente, responde a sus preguntas y se deja convencer por un punto de vista diferente. Pero, como dicen en Facebook, ¡Satanás la «destruye»! Y a Adán también. Si no se hubieran cosido hojas de higuera el uno al otro, toda la historia sería insoportable. Incluso cuando se dan cuenta de su pecado, hay un poco de ternura.

San Pablo lo explica claramente. El pecado entró en el mundo, pero con Jesucristo hay un «desbordamiento» de gracia para muchos. (Ver Romanos 5, 15). Y de eso se trata la Cuaresma: de un torrente de gracia. ●

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EVENTS of the WEEK

Saturday, February 21

2nd Collection: Harvest of Hope

Mass at ODS [+Fr. James O’Kielty 5:00 pm
(Eloise Stone)]

Spanish CCD 5:45 pm

Spanish Mass at ODS (For ODS Parishioners)... 7:00 pm

Sunday, February 22

2nd Collection: Harvest of Hope

Mass at ODS (For ODS Parishioners) 9:00 am

CCD at ODS..... 10:15 am

Mass at St. William (Catholic Extension) 11:30 am

Spanish Mass at ODS [+Hector Nunez Aguilar. . . 2:00 pm
+Javier Nunez]

Monday, February 23

NO Mass at ODS

Tuesday, February 24

Mass at ODS 5:30 pm

Wednesday, February 25

Mass at ODS 8:00 am

Thursday, February 26

Mass at ODS 8:00 am

Friday, February 27

Stations of the Cross (English) 5:00 pm

Mass at ODS 5:30 pm

1 Hour Eucharistic Adoration 6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross (Spanish) 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 28

2nd Collection: ODS Building Fund

Mass at ODS [+Robin McDaniel..... 5:00 pm
(CCW)]

Spanish CCD 5:45 pm

Spanish Mass at ODS (For ODS Parishioners)... 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 1

2nd Collection: ODS Building Fund

Mass at ODS (For ODS Parishioners). 9:00 am

CCD at ODS 10:15 am

Mass at St. William (Catholic Extension Society) 11:30 am

Spanish Mass at ODS [+Fransisca Bautista . . . 2:00 pm
(Benito Estrada)]

Protecting Our Youth: Diocesan policy requires all diocesan Adult employees and every volunteer and employee who minister to the youth of the diocese attend VIRTUS (safe environment) awareness training undergo a background check, and read and sign the Diocesan “Code of conduct for working with minors” prior to commencing their ministry. The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People, toll free reporting hotline: (888) 357-5530.

ODS Weekly Offertory	(2/15/26):	\$6,834
ODS Offertory collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$192,297
ODS Building Fund	(2/15/26):	\$240
ODS Building Fund collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$19,093
St. William Offertory	(2/15/26):	\$1,403
St. William Collected to Date	(7/06/25):	\$17,683

ODS LITURGY TEAM

Saturday, February 28, 2026 – 5:00 pm

PRESIDER: Fr. Peter Oyenugba, MSP
LECTOR : Debbie Blakey
LECTOR Debbie Blakey
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Greg Harten
..... Michelle Harten, Pat Stephens
SACRISTAN Jhoy Abantao

Sunday, March 1, 2026 – 9:00 am

PRESIDER: Fr. Peter Oyenugba, MSP
LECTOR : Jill Bergeron
LECTOR Jill Bergeron
EUCRISTIC MINISTER Veronica Ogolowa,
..... Pius Ogolowa, Ben Fraelich,
..... Mary Moultrie, Bill McDaniel
SACRISTAN: Olga Montalvo

