

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



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Charitable Donation Receipts

Your 2022 Charitable Donation Receipts are available for pick up at the table by the front of the Parish.

Any envelopes left over will be mailed out on Monday. Thank you.

If you have inquiries or would like an electronic copy of your receipt emailed to you please

do not hesitate to contact the office at 780-987-2858; or via email at dcc2006@telus.net

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.

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

St Charles - Warburg: Jack Penner - 780.848.2293

Holy Trinity - Nisku: Ron Chamulka 780.955.8031

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

First Sunday of Lent – February 26, 2023

1st Reading: Genesis 2.7-9, 16-18, 25; 3. 1-7

2nd Reading: Romans 5, 12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4, 1-11

Forty Days = Your Entire Life

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2

“Forty” is a significant number. In Scripture, it is used more than 145 different times. For example, the rain during the Great Flood lasted forty days and forty nights. Each time Moses went up Mount Sinai, he remained there for forty days and nights. The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days before ascending into Heaven. And there are many other uses of “forty” throughout the Bible. Interestingly, forty is even significant within human nature, in that we develop within our mother’s womb for forty weeks before being born.

The “forty” that we commemorate today is the forty days and forty nights that our Lord spent in the desert being tempted by the devil while He fasted and prayed. Forty is used to symbolize a time of testing, purification, trial or probation. For that reason, it should also be seen as a symbol of your entire life here on earth. In Saint Matthew’s version of Jesus’ temptation in the desert, He specifically uses the wording “forty days and forty nights.” Saint Bede, in commenting upon this, points out that this period of time not only symbolizes our entire lives, but the “days” represent the many graces and blessings we receive, while the “nights” represent the crosses we endure.

As we begin our Lenten journey, it is important to once again apply the lessons of Jesus’ time in the desert to our entire lives. Let’s consider two lessons we can take from the passage quoted above. First, we see that Jesus was “led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” This teaches us that Jesus not only endured temptation, He confronted it. He was not afraid of the devil and did not fear his attacks. Instead, He willingly faced those temptations, being led by the Spirit, so as to not only overcome them in His life but also to enable us to confront, in our lives, every temptation by the power and initiative of the Holy Spirit. We must never be afraid to confront temptations directly and confidently when the Holy Spirit is in the lead.

A second important lesson is that Jesus voluntarily fasted during this time in the desert. This illustrates the importance of the virtue of temperance in life. If we see this period of forty as a symbol of our whole lives, then we will understand that temperance must always be part of our lives. When we experience the joys and blessings of life (the forty days), we must certainly celebrate them. But we must always do so with a certain self-denial, in that we must never allow the passing things of this world to become the primary satisfaction we seek. Saint John of the Cross teaches that we can even become overly attached to spiritual consolations. Conversely, when we experience the crosses of life (the forty nights), we must also practice a certain self-denial, in that we must not allow the difficulties we endure to discourage us or to distract us from seeking out and fulfilling the will of God. Fasting, meaning our acquisition of the virtue of temperance, must lead us always through the ups and downs of life, helping us to keep our eyes on the truths God has revealed to us and rejecting the lies of the devil.

Reflect, today, upon the importance of embracing the virtue of temperance with courage throughout life. Throughout life’s many ups and downs, joys and sorrows, blessings and crosses, we must allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, confronting every circumstance with courage and self-control. Reflect upon any ways that you struggle with the crosses you endure or excessively cling to the consolations of life. Seek to embrace the road of virtue this Lent in imitation of Jesus’ forty days and nights in the desert.

My temperate and courageous Lord, You confronted all temptation with courage and strength. You fasted throughout the forty days and forty nights so as to teach us how to navigate the ups and downs of life. Please give me the virtues of temperance and courage, and bestow the Holy Spirit upon me so that I may follow You into the desert of my own life. Jesus, I trust in You. (mycatholiclife.com)

CWL FOOD BANK DRIVE

February 25, 2023 to April 2, 2023



Some of the items that the Food Bank is in great need are:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Hamburger Helper | Chili | Rice or Pasta side-kicks |
| Mayo small jars | Stews | Instant potatoes |
| Cooking Oil | Chunky soups | Small jars of Jam |
| Canned Meats | Cake mixes | Assorted veggie cans |

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”
 Hebrews 13:15

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 month of February 2023			
Date		Intention	
4	Sat	Rhodes & Hills Family members, Living & Deceased	SMG
5	Sun	Repose of the Soul of Doreen Fell R.I.P.	SMG
11	Sat	Repose of the Soul of Ethel Dallow R.I.P.	SMG
12	Sun	Thanksgiving for the birthday of Dionne Fajardo	SMG
17	Fri	Thanksgiving for the birthday of Connie Schumacher	SMG
18	Sat	Thanksgiving for the birthday of Fr. Arun Rodrigues	SMG
19	Sun	Al Shilling - May God grant him peace	OLV
19	Sun	Al Shilling - Health and personal intentions	SMM
19	Sun	Thanksgiving for the birthday of Maria Blanchette	SMG
20	Mon	Repose of the Soul of Fr. Ted Wesolowski	SMG
21	Tue	Repose of the soul of Leo Roth R.I.P.	SMG
22	Wed	Thanksgiving for the birthday of Rosemarie Walter	SMG
23	Thu	Repose of the Soul of Jean Belanger - R.I.P.	SMG
24	Fri	Savoie Family Intention - Living & Deceased	SMG
25	Sat	Thanksgiving for the birthday of Chelsea Quaranta	SMG
26	Sun	Thanksgiving for Mitchell, Joyce and Jason Forchuk Birthdays	SMG
27	Mon	Thanksgiving for the 50th Birthday of Tammy Aguiar	SMG
28	Tue	Repose of the soul of Leo Roth R.I.P.	SMG