

First Sunday of LENT

February 22, 2026



Pull up a soft chair, the devil says. He's such a gracious host, always concerned about our comfort. As we sit, he fluffs the pillows and brings out the dessert even though we have just eaten a huge feast in the dining room. How can we refuse? Everything is so delicious.

The devil's conversation is always laced with flattery. "How nice you look. You should buy that sweater in every color. You deserve it!" Why shouldn't I have one in every color? What harm could there be in a little indulgence?

The devil appeals to many of our favorite vices: gluttony, sloth, vanity, greed. If we start to feel guilty about simple luxuries, he reminds us that our neighbors have more than we do, and are far less charitable than we are. This stirs our envy and makes us feel so good about ourselves. We even make Lenten resolutions each year to combat our world by temptations.

It is Sunday today, the devil says. Sundays do not really count during Lent. So give in to your temptations. Then we try to justify ourselves: a little selfishness here, overindulgence there, white lies and bent rules. We say, I am not a fanatic. I am just being practical. One more sweater or candy bar is not going to hurt me.

All the while, the devil is loving it. Little by little, he erodes our souls and makes it all feel just so right and good.

Whatever Lenten practices of renewal that we choose to do is less important than the rationale behind what we do. Whether you choose to "give something up" or to "perform positive practices", be faithful to your resolutions. Whatever you do, do not allow the enticements of the devil go very far in your life. Quickly turn away from temptation and replace it with some form of prayer, fasting or good works. The devil may keep on talking, but if we do not give him a hearing, he will move on to an easier target. There are plenty of folks around who like the company of flattery and sweet nothing.

As we begin Lent, make your resolutions and be faithful to them. By resisting the devil, we can live in the presence of God and prepare for the joys of Easter.

God love you, Fr. Larry



Palm Sunday
March 29th
4:00 PM Mass Saturday
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Mass Sunday

Good Friday
April 3rd
No 9:00 AM Mass
12:00 PM Divine Mercy
12:30 PM Rosary
1:00 PM Stations of the Cross
1:30 PM The Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday
April 4th
Food Blessing at 11:00 AM in Church
Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 PM
(No confessions or 4:00 PM Mass)

EASTER SUNDAY
April 5th
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Mass

Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent
3:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Fish Fry
Fridays during Lent
(February 20th-April 3rd)
4:30—7:00 PM
(or until we run out!)

Perpetual Help Devotion
Every Tuesday after 9:00 AM Mass

Eucharistic Adoration (one hour)
First Friday of Each Month
after 9:00 AM Mass

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

31530 Beechwood Garden City MI 48135
(734) 427-1533 Thomastheapostle.org

SCAN TO DONATE



This N That

Today's column courtesy of Catholic Answers' Joseph Shaw.

Go Beyond Giving Something Up for Lent

Presented with the imperative to "do something" for Lent, a familiar response is to "give something up." Giving up alcohol, or even chocolate, can be a reminder of the nature of the season and a noticeable sacrifice. Alternatively, people think of giving up something bad, trying to overcome a habitual sin. This is laudable, but penance is the sacrifice of something good, not something bad. Catholics should be able to go beyond both kinds of "giving up."

The imperatives of Lent are the *eminent good works* of prayer, penance, and almsgiving. These really are *good works*—works that earn us merit. These works will cancel out temporal punishment we would otherwise suffer in purgatory. Good works in this sense are possible only if we are in a state of grace (sanctifying grace), and they will themselves be done in and through God's assisting grace (actual grace). When we do them, we may say with St. Paul, it is not we who do them, but God who does them through us (Phil. 2:13).

Accordingly, if we want to do something more than give up chocolate or habitual sins, the first thing we should think about is prayer.

The best prayer of all is the Mass, and more frequent attendance at Mass is always to be recommended. The prayer of the Church is the most perfect prayer, because it is offered by Christ, the head of the Church. We unite ourselves with that perfect prayer when we take part in the "public prayer of the Church," which is the liturgy.

For further information, visit Catholic.com



We will NOT be accepting food donations until further notice.

Easter Basket Raffle

THE THIRD ANNUAL EASTER BASKET RAFFLE IS ALMOST HERE!

Tickets are available at the Fish Fry every Friday during Lent.

We have baskets for babies, men and women, boys and girls and even cats and dogs! Something for everyone.

The drawing will be held the weekend of Palm Sunday.

Hope to see you there!



Scripture Readings for the Week of February 22, 2026

Sunday, February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17;
Rm 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11

Monday, February 23, 2026

Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Jonah 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8;
Mt 7:7-12

Friday, February 27, 2026

Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8;
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22;
2 Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9



CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

On Sunday,
February 15, 2026
we welcomed

Blake Nora Holmes

into the St. Thomas the Apostle Church
by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

CAPUCHIN RETREAT | SOLANUS CASEY CENTER

LENTEN SERIES

The Human & Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 25

Solanus Casey Center: Noon - 2:30 p.m.

Capuchin Retreat Center: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Nankin Family of Parishes



Mass Schedule

St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy (734) 425-4421
8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

St. Mary, Wayne (734) 721-8745
34530 Michigan Avenue, Wayne

St. Richard (734) 729-2240
35851 Cherry Hill Road, Westland

St. Thomas the Apostle (734) 427-1533
31530 Beechwood Street, Garden City

Monday	9:00 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	12:00 pm	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland <i>(followed by Eucharistic Adoration)</i>
Tuesday	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	9:00 am	St. Richard, Westland
Wednesday	12:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
Thursday	9:00 am	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland
Friday	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	9:00 am	St. Mary, Wayne
Saturday	4:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	4:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
	5:30 pm	St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
Sunday	8:30 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
		St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	10:00 am	St. Richard, Westland
	11:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	11:30 am	St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	11:30 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	2:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne (SPANISH)

Confessions (also by appointment)

Tuesday		St. Richard, Westland (after 9 am Mass)
Saturday	3:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	3:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
	6:30 pm	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland

Perpetual Help Devotion

Every Tuesday after 9:00 AM Mass

Eucharistic Adoration (one hour)

First Friday of Each Month after 9:00 AM Mass



Hello Good People of St. Thomas the Apostle!

Hard to believe it is 2026, let alone time to start preparations for this year's festival!

We need help in finding volunteers to chair booths, and functional activities.

We need:

- Treasurer
- All Around Town Raffle
- Boutique
- Dining Room Chair (New)
- Friday Food (replace Ron)
- Jewelry Booth
- Setup/Cleanup (New)

Some of these positions are fantastic opportunities for younger parishioners to learn business skills.

If you are, or know of, someone interested in gaining practical skills of running a small business, these booths are ideal. You'll learn from real world, resume building, practical experience:

- Time Management
- Logistics (supply ordering, and procurement)
- Personnel scheduling
- Financials

All without the risk of investing your own money in a small business.

In addition, you'll get to meet, and know, all those faces you see in mass every weekend. You'll be part of something bigger than yourself, by helping to keep our parish functioning.

If fear is holding you back, contact Ron, Matt, or Nick, and we'll be happy to talk it over with you. We were in your situation last year, and the help and guidance we received was outstanding.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Ron Balicki - (734) 812-2656

Matt Malenfant - (313) 443-6074

Nick Hedrick - (734) 564-3970

or

stthomastheapostlefestival@gmail.com

Spring Flower Sale & Basket Raffle Event

Hosted by the Joyful Women of St. Mary Cause of Our Joy

When: Holy Saturday,
April 4, 2026

Where: Parish Social Hall at
8200 N. Wayne Road
Westland 48185

Time: 9:00AM - 11:00 AM

All are Welcome!



Worship Schedule		February 28 & March 1, 2026	
MINISTERS	SAT 4:00 PM	SUN 9:00 AM	SUN 11:00 AM
CELEBRANT	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI
ALTAR SERVERS	ISABELLA POWELL	JULIE GALDES	DAVID GERSTENBRAND ANDREW GERSTENBRAND
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	CORDELIA CHUKWUDI DIANE PROUTY TONY SIVAKO VIKKI WOROSZ	TEDDY LUTHER JOAN PALMER JESSICA PIETKA EILEEN POHL	RUTH EBBITT SALLIE QUINN JOHN SANREGRET JOE SMITH
LECTORS	LINDA LUTKE	DAN LOBB	VICTORIA APOLZAN
SACRISTAN	CAROL STEC	MARGARITA LOPEZ	SALLIE QUINN
MASS INTENTIONS	+ JASON JONCA	+ LLOYD WOROSZ + BEN & PHYLLIS ORNATOWSKI THE GOY FAMILY	+ EDWARD & ANGELINA KASKE

Offertory collection is reported quarterly.

Thank you for your support and may God bless you!

Please remember St. Thomas the Apostle when writing your will.

ARE YOU REGISTERED AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE?

If you have been looking for a new parish we would appreciate you considering St. Thomas the Apostle as your parish. Stop by the Parish Center and fill out a registration form or download one from our website www.thomastheapostle.org.

You can stop by the office, or put it in the collection basket at Mass. Young adults over 18 should be registered on their own registration form.

Bulletin Editor
Sandy.Mulcahy@thomastheapostle.org

Bulletin article deadline is Monday before the issue date by 8:00 a.m. During holidays, articles must be submitted two Mondays before issue. All articles and submissions are subject to approval and editing.

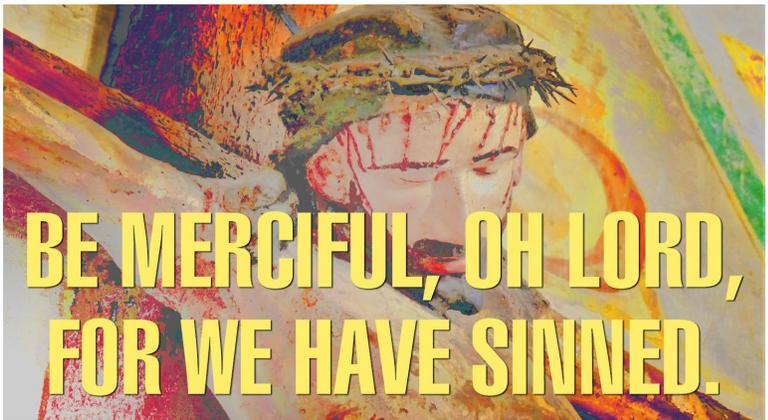


Weekday Masses
 February 23-27, 2026

Tuesday, February 24
 9:00 am
 + AMY LOU ARNOLD-JONES

Wednesday, February 25
 12:00 PM
 + AGNES ODGERS

Friday, February 27
 9:00 am
 LARRY & DONNA LINE



Please Pray For...

Alaska, Shirley	Cielma, Genevieve	Feiler, Alex Horne	Murawski, Veronica	Tennent, Joan
Batherson, Barbara	Cislo, Dan	Fichtner, Leanne	O'Connell, Evan	Tsaprazis, Pete
Baumgardner, Patty	Cole, Jean	Filak, Julianna	Oliverio, Jr., Robert	Turcotte, Joshua
Berger, Ron	Cole, Regina	Fornasiero, Joseph	Pastula, Shirley	Walker, Ian
Beuer, Donna	D'Angelo, Rebecca	Gentilia, Judy	Prokop, Bob	Whitfield, James
Block, Karen	Dacus, Shirley	Gozowsky, David	Prosser, Cindy	Wielechowski, Kenneth
Boyak, Carolyn	Daugherty, Kenny	Hagen, Jenifer	Rintala, Genevieve	Wildauer, Mark
Bringold, Bonnie	Decaminada, Mona	Harte, John	Romanek, Virginia (Pat)	Zarzycki, Stanley
Burgess, Evie	DeGrande, Colleen	Hubbard, Carl	Ruby, Nancy	
Burke, Larry	Dempsey, Sgt Joseph	Kapanke, Dolores	Sanak, Francene	Prayer list requests can be made only with the knowledge and permission of the person being added. To add, keep a person on the prayer list, or to remove a name, please call the parish office.
Burris, Nikita and Family	Dempsey, Michele	Kathan, Thomas	Sanregret, John	
Calley, Julie	Dewey, Thomas	LeVair, Lorraine	Smith, Mary	
Canini, Ricky	Dial, Philip	LeVair, Sherry	Smitt, Deb	
Carpenier, Mike	Durkin Jr., Gerald Lee	Lobb, Cindy	Smith, Patricia	
Chichila, Pam	Duval, Chuck	Lowe, Jannette	Soine, Dianna	
Chop, Nancy Grabel	Dzandzel, Mary Ann	Lowe, Jonathan	Stites, Keith	
	Eichstedt, Laurie	Malish, Rosemary	Sutherland, Eleanor	
	Eves, Debbie	Mathison, Bonnie	Swiercz, Bobbie	

Pray for the First Saturday Memorial Association from July 2025-June 30, 2026

Deceased Members of Ajlouny & Blaty Families	Living & Deceased Members of Kwilos & Stecker Families
Living & Deceased Members of Barnes & Digregio Families	Deceased Members of LaMar and Dryja Families
Deceased & live members of the Batherson Family	The Malish and Porembiak Families
In Memory of Bruce Birmingham	In Loving Memory of Margaret Mirabitur
Loving Memory of Aunt Loretta Brandt	In Loving Memory of Reynold Mirabitur Sr.
Deceased and Live Members of Butka & Wojtkowiak families	In Loving Memory of Audrey Mocadlo
In Loving Memory of Walter & Mary Burdis	Loving Memory of Jerry Moynahan
Loving Memory of Sgt. Bryan K. Burgess	Living & Deceased Members of Mroz & Rutkowski Families
Loving Memory of Coach Dave Cain	Angel Dr. Dominic J. Noonan
Deceased Members of Cielma and Niwa Families	In Loving Memory of Ben and Phyllis Ornatowski
In Loving Memory of Tommy Cockrum	Deceased members of Pattock & Stuecken families
Deceased Members of the Darnell Family	Angel Danny P. Pepera
Living & Deceased Members of Dooley & Firestone Families	My loving wife of 66 years, Mary J. Pepera
Living & Deceased Members of Duncan & Williams Families	For the Prouty Family
Living & Deceased Members of Gizowski & Sovel Families	Living & Deceased Members of Rand & Vasquez Families
Loving Memory of Gorny and Kushnir Families	In loving memory of Frances J. Read
In Memory of Donald Grant	In Memory of Richard and Eleanore Reed
Loving Memory of Jessie & Chester Gugala	Memory of Kathy Rodgers
In Loving Memory of Bob and Ann Hoelscher	In Loving Memory of Edward and Helen Romanowski
In Loving Memory of Robert S. Hoffman	In Loving Memory of Mark Roy
In Loving Memory of Eugene Josphe Hynek	In Loving Memory of Thomas and Barbara Stempniak
My Wife Joanne Who I Love and Miss Very Much	Deceased Members of the Sturm & Preba Families
Kapanke-Omilian Family	Deceased Members of the Szuba & Balawajder Families
Deceased Members of the Kattula Family	Martin A. Tofil
Living & Deceased Members of Keiller & Marciniac Families	In Loving Memory of Edwin L. Wendrick

Pray for those Serving in the Military

Ainsworth, Sgt. Raymond	DiCicco, Bill	McCarville, William E.	Smith, David
Angelovic, Adrian	Dwyer, Tyler	McGahan, Wade	Smith, Sgt. Leven
Angelovic, George	Ellsworth, Justin	McGaw, Douglas	Smitt, David
Ardinger, Stephanie	Fisher, Bob	Meadows, Erin	Spiczka, Cathy
Baumgardner, AJ	Gentilia, Anthony	Moody, Samantha	Spiczka, Greg
Becker, Justin	Hunter, Cassidy	Murray, Daniel	Sparrow, Justin
Bregand, David	Julien, Nick	Nguyen, Staff Sgt. Truong	Spohr, Raymond
Brozek, Timothy	Kapelanski, Isaac	Ohannesian, Brandon	Squires, Zachary
Burris, Peter	Kashou, Christopher	Pastula, Michael Thomas	Szerszen, Michael
Campbell, Mary	Laichalk, Robert	Porcaro, Jeff	Waldo, Michael
Canfield, Chaz	Logan, Jonathon	Preba, Danny	Waldon, Nathan
Chokr, Jamel	Logan, Sean Patrick	Rosa, Brian J.	Webb, Brian
Cinka, Jonathan	Logan, Jeff	Rosa, Douglas J.	Wiertella, Jonathan
Coatsworth, Michael	Lowe, Jonathan	Rousseau, Philip	Witt, Christopher
Comment, Scott	Masiarak, Luke	Sheko, Destiny	



Missy Taylor

Director of Faith Formation / Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



A great big **THANK YOU** to our generous parish family. Thanks to your contributions, we were able to earmark \$500 towards our Easter Basket Project with Redford Interfaith Relief. Our middle school students will head to Divine Child Parish in Dearborn on Saturday, March 7; and along with our friends from neighboring parishes, we will assemble the baskets with the items your generous donations helped to purchase. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness! Middle School students (Grades 6-8) wishing to help at this project, please contact me for a permission slip.



CYT Middle School EASTER BASKET PROJECT For Redford Interfaith Families

WE NEED TO FILL 225 EASTER BASKETS!!

When: Saturday, March 7th
10:00 to 12:30

Where: Divine Child Elementary School Cafeteria
1055 N. Silvery Lane
Dearborn, MI 48128
(use the door near the Athletic Complex from the main or center parking lot)

Cost: \$5 per participant (all money goes to purchases for the Easter baskets)

**RSVPs to your Parish Youth Minister
Needed by Thursday, March 5th**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE (734)425-5550

mtaylor@thomastheapostle.org