

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



## PARISH STAFF

*Pastor:* Very Rev. Rob Adams, STL

*Deacon:* Dcn. Joe Jacobs

*Administrative Assistant:* Becky Griffith

*Custodian:* Lisa Scalf

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## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Adoration: Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

## BAPTISM - 2 WEEKS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.

## MARRIAGE PREP - 6 MONTHS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

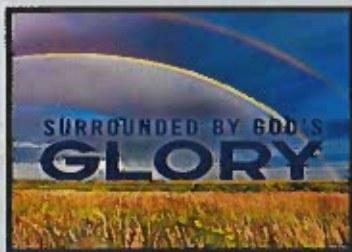


**Sunday Offertory**

02-11-2023.....\$2,647  
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700  
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$53

YTD  
 Offertory.....\$101,765  
 Budget.....\$89,100  
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$12,665

Food Pantry .....\$65



**Genesis 9:8-15**  
**1 Peter 3:18-22**  
**Mark 1:12-15**

Mindful of his covenant, the Lord promises never to destroy creations again by floodwaters. The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ. After fasting forty days and being put to the test, Jesus begins his public ministry.

**Readings may be found  
 in the Saint Augustine  
 Hymnal Number 934**

**From the Pastor's Desk....**

Hi everyone!

This week we celebrate the first Sunday in Lent. Our Gospel for this Sunday always tells us about the temptations that Jesus suffered in the desert. A few things stick out to me.

First, Jesus spent time in the desert. The desert is a place with nowhere to hide, nothing to bring comfort. Sometimes we need to be alone with ourselves and with God. Lent is like a desert where we strip away the things that we use to cope with life and face God.

But, like Jesus, we encounter the devil when we do this. The devil tempts us and tries to pull our hearts away from God. The three temptations in the Gospel story speak to something fundamental - Jesus was really tempted and he really wanted those things, at some level. When we are tempted by sin, remember that Jesus was also tempted and yet He stayed faithful.

Fr. Rob

**Mass Schedule & Intentions**

Saturday, February 17	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Covie and Nanette Schmidt
Sunday, February 18	10:30 am Mass 1:00 pm	For the People <b>NO LITURGY</b>
Monday, February 19	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tuesday, February 20	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wednesday, February 21	Noon Mass	Poor Souls
Thursday, February 22	Noon Mass	Poor Souls
Friday, February 23	Noon Mass	Poor Souls
Saturday, February 24	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Maria Ortale
Sunday, February 25	10:30 am Mass	For the People

# Parish Calendar & Announcements

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

When I feel down, I sometimes watch the famous "Double Rainbow" video on YouTube to feel better. It's hilarious. A young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. "Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!" he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, "What does it mean?" Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us. What does it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante's medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God's promise of peace. For Dante, it's even more: nature's encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment — but Jesus has made it visible in his glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, "Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory." This Lent let's embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine. - Father John Muir ©LPI

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### LENT AND THE FLOOD

I would bet money that somewhere in your church this Lent, there's a bare tree branch draped in purple fabric and an empty bowl filled with rocks.

I'm not poking fun, the desert imagery that surrounds the season of Lent isn't a cliché — or if it is, it's only because clichés are essentially true. Lent is the desert. Lent is the wilderness. Lent is the time of less.

But what if Lent was also the flood?

It seems counterintuitive, floods are excessive, and we don't think of Lent as a time for superabundance. Lent is when we limit experiences outside of ourselves in order to limit proclivities within ourselves. Lent is not a time for anything to be washing over us, consuming us, carrying us away on a tide.

Unless...it is.

Consider the flood of the Old Testament. An act of destruction, yes, but also an act of purification. An endurance test for the soul, an epic trust fall exercise between God and Noah in which Noah had to ride the literal waves, clinging to life as God wiped away everything familiar. Everything sinful.

In Lent, we relinquish our weaknesses and our infirmities to the flood. It's frightening, certainly. But it's also exciting. Because just as the flood destroys everything, it also makes everything possible. It is a baptism.

Lent, like the flood, makes the world new.

*"Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit." — 1 Peter 3:18* ©LPI

**LECTOR ROTATION** - Below are the name and dates of the lector rotation.

- 02/18 Doyle May
- 02/25 Steve Misczenski
- 03/03 Sidney Cline

"If you cannot make your assigned date, feel free to contact a fill in for yourself or contact Sidney Cline at 606-424-8118".

**IHM YOUTH GROUP** - Mark Jacob, IHM Youth Group, Mission Trip Coordinator, emailed us looking for projects for this summer. They are looking for 8 of St. Francis parishioners houses to work on (ex. build ramps or painting). Please let Lisa Scalf know if you are in need. The coordinator will be here in April to evaluate the projects. The group will be using the parish hall, June 10–June 14, 2024.

**LENTEN DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE**

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.



Kayla Frix, Elon Justice Frix's sister in law (waiting for a liver transplant)

Wilson Vanzant, Lisa Scalf's stepdad

Sister Kathy Avery

Ransom McCoy, Lindsay May's dad

Terry A. Williams, Becky Griffith's brother in law (lung cancer)

Jimmie Goss

Tim Deskins

Christine Misczenski, Steve Misczenski's mother

Melba Schmidt, Kenny Schmidt's mother

Ryan Altman, Helen Altman's grandson

Steve Misczenski, Sr. (cancer)

Erica Hunt, Lisa Scalf's friend (kidney failure)

Deacon Dirck Curry

Frank Shortridge, Becky Griffith's brother (ALS)

John Flichman, stroke

Chona Curry

Wanda Baker

Jeffrey Scalf, Lisa's son

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Ron Saros

Kenny Blackburn

Helen Altman

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

### VOTIVE CANDLES:

Suggested donation: Large votives \$3.00 and small votives \$0.50





[Jesus] remained in the desert  
for forty days, tempted by  
Satan.

MARK 1:13



## A Trek in the Desert

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**D**eserts come in all shapes and sizes. For Noah, it turned out to be a desert of water, an endless, dreary expanse. For Jesus, it was also without end, one of rocks and sand; it was a harsh existence. In our lives, deserts might be a debilitating illness, a dried-up marriage, grief over lost love, a job that seems to tax our sanity, or a childhood scarred by abuse. Not long ago, the world found itself in a pandemic desert. For many, it was one of cabin fever that isolated us from family and friends. Deserts are not alluring places. They are places from which we tend to run.

Some people deal with the inevitable deserts of life by becoming angry; others grow bitter and turn inward; others blame God and walk away from faith. Yet deserts can also be the very forces that reshape lives. With nothing else to distract us, in the desert we come face to face with ourselves, with who we really are and whose voice it is that we follow. There we take a stand on life, as Jesus did. It was the Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert, and it was there that he realized the future to which he was being called. So also with us. Deserts become places where we discover what God is asking of us and where we need to go, all discoveries that may otherwise never have occurred. In some strange and curious way, then, deserts may be blessings in our lives. ●

### Reflect

*Have you had a desert experience? How did it reshape your life?*

# Dear Padre,

*We're in the middle of home renovations, and the season of Lent is beginning. Everything is in total disarray. Any ideas to help me "keep my religion" at this time?*

"There is...a time to tear down, and a time to build" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3). During the season of Lent—a word meaning "spring"—we are called to put away the "dead" deeds of winter. It's a time of spiritual "spring cleaning" for the individual and for the faith community. As nature renews herself every spring, so do we. The change of season may even prompt a renovation project—the kind you are now undertaking. The structural changes to a home afford many spiritual parallels—the redoing of your physical home can be a challenge to realign your spiritual home during Lent.

In the Genesis story, God is pleased with the handiwork of his creation. Likewise, our stamina, perseverance, and patience to see a work through to its completion are cause for great satisfaction and celebration. This would remind us that we are made in the same image of God, who took delight in his own work. Lent also can become a time of delighting in ourselves as God's special and ongoing creation.

When your home improvement project is completed, arrange for a blessing of your home. Enthroned a special cross or icon to venerate, light a devotional candle, and use holy water in the area of the home that was improved. At that time, remind yourself again that you and your home belong to the Lord—renewed during the spring cleaning of Lent!



JU\_SEE / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
February 19	February 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Chair of St. Peter the Apostle</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18 Mt 25:31–46	Is 55:10–11 Mt 6:7–15	Jon 3:1–10 Lk 11:29–32	1 Pt 5:1–4 Mt 16:13–19	Ez 18:21–28 Mt 5:20–26	Dt 26:16–19 Mt 5:43–48	Gn 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 Rom 8:31b–34 Mk 9:2–10



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*How do we hear the voice of God? We hear it in his Word. For this reason, it is important to know Scripture, because otherwise we do not know how to react to the snares of the Evil One. And here I would like to return to my advice of reading the Gospel every day....*

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 22, 2015