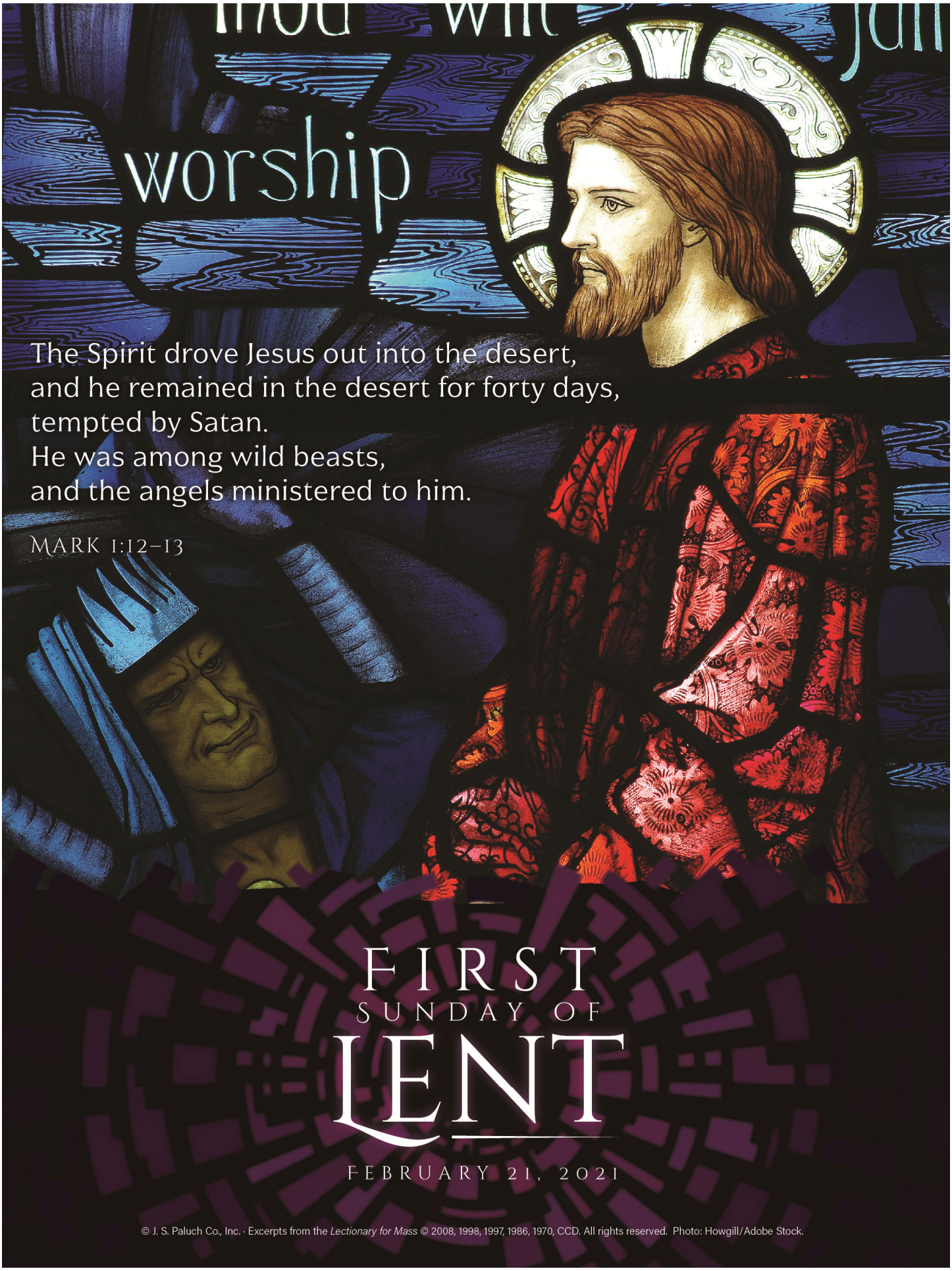

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days,
tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12–13

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT FEBRUARY 14, 2021	
Goal	**$12,500.00**
1st Collection	$3,300.00
Direct Deposit	$0.00
Online Giving	$2,365.00
Variance	**-$6,835.00**

First Sunday of Lent

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

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Upcoming Second Offerings
Your generosity is appreciated.
**Denotes Parish Second Collection.*

2/28	Building Fund*

Go to our **www.st-justin.org** to make safe and secure donations by credit card, checking or savings.
We have over 200 regular users!

Online Giving

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, former chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, offers **"10 Things to Remember for Lent":**

1. **Remember the formula.** The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists & formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.
2. **It's a time of prayer.** Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.
3. **It's a time to fast.** With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.
4. **It's a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."
5. **It's about dying to yourself.** The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

6. **Don't do too much.** It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.
7. **Lent reminds us of our weakness.** Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.
8. **Be patient with yourself.** When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.
9. **Reach out in charity.** As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.
10. **Learn to love like Christ.** Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

Mass Dedications for the Week of February 21 – February 28, 2021 + notes deceased

Monday 8:30 a.m.	Teleforo Trias +	Saturday 4:00 p.m.	No Intention
Tuesday 8:30 a.m.	Ariston G. Ferrer +	Sunday 7:30 a.m.	**FOR ALL PARISHIONERS**
Wednesday 8:30 a.m.	No Intention	Sunday 9:00 a.m.	Jo York + Audrey Zampedri
Thursday 8:30 a.m.	No Intention	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	No Intention
Friday 8:30 a.m.	No Intention	Sunday 12:15 p.m.	Pat Senton Sonia Lizardo
Saturday 8:00 a.m.	No Intention	Sunday 7:00 p.m.	No Intention

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

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

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

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

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

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

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

We pray for those who are ill or suffering from loneliness, sadness, or depression. We pray for those who care for them.

We pray for our deceased family and friends. We pray for our men and women who are serving in the military.

This week we pray especially for those who are ill or preparing for surgery:
Bob & Vivian Armenta, Rene Bayard, Vince Castaldo, Rich De Cair, Adoracion Depositar, Kathleen F. Farinas, Karen Gray, Jessica Krusezwski, Sal Madrid, Hiro Manaka, Pat O'Brien, Marjorie Perez, Jordan Ponce, Don Seghieri, Leticia Serrano, Lynda Sattler, Pat Sisco, Marlene Smith, Ernest Souza, Bob Trevey, Catherine Tran, Nilus Vincent, Vincent Vergano, Damaris Vieira, Olga Voith, Mark Walsh, Kathy Whelan, Connie Zornes

and for those who have died from the Coronavirus.

CATECHETICAL MINISTRY NEWS

Catechesis is more than just religious education.
It is a life long journey towards a deeper relationship with Christ.

Children's Faith Formation:

Ongoing Faith Formation Classes have begun and it's not too late to register! Registration forms and calendar can be found at st-justin.org.
Please drop off completed registration forms to the Parish Ministry Center.

Remote Sunday Sessions: Ensure we have your correct email address, as invitations will come directly from catechist for these sessions. These times may be subject to change.

3's videos	K videos	2nd 10am	4th 2pm	6th 1pm
4's 9am	1st 9am	3rd 10am	5th 1pm	JrHi noon

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

- Your child must be baptized.
- You may register for this program if your child has already completed one full year of Ongoing Faith Formation with consistent attendance or was enrolled at a Catholic School last year.
- Concurrent enrollment in our Ongoing Faith Formation Program or a Catholic School.

High School Confirmation Program

February 21, 2021
Session: **The Holy Spirit**

Please keep our Confirmation candidates in your prayers.

Ever Thought of Being a Catechist?

As we prepare to return to the classrooms with social distancing protocols in the Fall, we are in need of substitute catechists. Part of our adherence to the County Health Order is to ensure that anyone (catechist included) who is not feeling well should remain at home and not enter our facilities. Therefore, more than ever, we need to have back-ups. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to dip your toe into this ministry, obtain the training required, and join our catechetical team! We are in particular need for Grades 1, 4, & 5, as the catechists for those grades are from a single household. However, it is ideal to have substitute availability for all ages.

If the Spirit is speaking to you to share the gift of your faith with the youth of our parish, email kimberly.maramba@dsj.org for more information.

MINISTRY NEWS

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Community Ministry Food Pantry

Open: Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Closed: Sunday & Monday

Frequently asked questions:

1. What kind of food donations are you in most need of?
Shelf stable meals in pop-top cans (chili, ravioli, soup), boxes of mac n' cheese.

2. When can we drop them off?
Tues thru Sat, 9:30 – 11:30 am; the door should be open (to avoid crowds, come before 9:50 or after 10:30)

3. Will you accept fruit picked off our backyard tree?
YES, We love to give away your donated fruit and vegetables!

4. My children need to do community service / volunteer hours. Can they volunteer at the food pantry on Saturday?
YES, but … call Nancy Uyeda (see contact info, pg 2) to schedule times. Due to social distancing requirements, we limit the number of volunteers each day.

Thank you for the many grocery bags you've donated!

Have unused, plastic-enclosed utensil packets from restaurant take-out or delivery orders? The food pantry can use them in our brown-bag lunches. Bring them by! Due to Covid-19 precautions

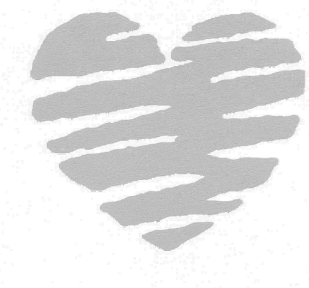
- no **Outreach Dinners** are currently scheduled, and
- the **Thrift Shop** is closed

until further notice. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Questions? Leave a short phone message / email for Joe Bauer or Nancy Uyeda (see contact info on pg. 2).

Christmas Food and Gift Project

We distributed Christmas food and gifts to all families requesting our assistance. While I do not have the final total of the number of people we served, I can guarantee you that all those who came to us appreciated what we were able to provide for them. Thank you for your continued support and Happy New Year.



FEAST OF FAITH

Seasonal Changes for the Liturgies of Lent

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. During this season of preparation for Easter, our churches look stark and simple—no flowers at the altar, no festive banners or decorations. And our liturgies feel different, too. The organ is quiet except to accompany the singing of the assembly. The Gloria, our Sunday song of rejoicing, is not heard except on solemnities, and we will not sing the Alleluia, our joyful acclamation of praise, until the Easter Vigil. "Alleluia cannot always / Be our song while here below," says an eleventh-century hymn. "Alleluia our transgressions / Make us for a while forego; / For the solemn time is coming / When our tears for sins must flow" (*Alleluia dulce carmen*, J. M. Neale, trans.).

These changes in the liturgy will catch our attention, and make us eager for the festive outpouring of joy that will return with Easter. This year, may the stripped-away liturgies of Lent remind us to strip away what is not essential in our lives to make space for the crucified and risen One, and thus to be ready to sing "Alleluia" once again when Easter returns.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Diocese of San Jose

Wedding Anniversary Mass

FEBRUARY 27, 2021

Couples celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries
(1st – 5th, 25th, 40th, 50th, and greater) may register using the following link:
https://www.dsj.org/evangelization/family-life/wedding-anniversary-celebration-mass/

Journeying Together in Hope
DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

This Mass will be a drive-in style Mass. All attendees will remain in their vehicles. Communion will be distributed to you. Due to COVID-19 restrictions pictures with Bishop Cantú are unknown at this time. Additional directions and reminders regarding this celebration will be sent to your email address (Including a live stream link.) Anniversary certificates will be sent to your home address the week after the Mass. If you have any questions, please contact Yoshy Moreno at yosharany.moreno@dsj.org or at (408) 983-0124.

Diocesan Black History Month Mass: Bishop Oscar Cantú will preside over this Mass held at St. Lucy's Parish on February 20th at 2pm. The Diocese of San Jose and Catholics of African Descent DSJ (CADDSJ) are hosting the Mass Black History Month Mass that will bring together people of African descent and their friends to liturgically celebrate their African heritage. Mass will be live streamed on the DSJ Facebook. Questions regarding this event can be emailed to caddsj@gmail.com.

ADS

Journeying Together in Hope
DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

Caminando Juntos con Esperanza
Diócesis de San José

ADA 2021
ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL
CAMPAÑA DIOCESANA ANUAL

40 Journeying Together in Hope
DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

Parish Goal $158,245.00		# of Contributors
$88,268.40	Total	183
	Wk9	
	Wk8	
	Wk7	
	Wk6	
	Wk5	
$12,785	Wk4	28
$28,565	Wk3	41
$27,680	Wk2	73
$19,238.40	Wk1	41

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