

# Sacred Heart Church



260 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060-1404

Telephone: 609-267-0209 • FAX: 609-267-9293 • Website: [www.parishofsacredheart.org](http://www.parishofsacredheart.org)

Office Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9:00am - 5:00pm (Closed for Lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm)

Evening Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 6:00pm - 9:00pm • Sunday 8:30am - 1:00pm

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday: 4:30pm (Vigil)**

**Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am & 7:00pm**

Weekday: Mon.-Fri. 7:00am & 8:30am

Saturday: 8:30am

## Confessions

**Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:00pm**

(Reconciliation Rooms are to the right of the Eucharistic Chapel)

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. John P. Czahur ext. 308

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Roberto Padilla

Residence: Christ The Redeemer Church  
113 South Avenue, Mt. Holly  
(609) 261-0181

Deacons: Deacon Jim Casa  
[fisherking13@comcast.net](mailto:fisherking13@comcast.net)  
Deacon John Hoefling  
Deacon Stan Orkis  
Deacon William Rowley

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Michele O'Toole ext. 301  
[secretary@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:secretary@parishofsacredheart.org)

Business Manager: Mrs. Deneen Thomas ext. 303  
[accountant@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:accountant@parishofsacredheart.org)

Cemetery Manager: Mrs. Paula Powell ext. 304  
[cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org)

Coord. of Ministries: Ms. Merry Marcellino ext. 305  
[ministry@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:ministry@parishofsacredheart.org)

Parish Maintenance Mr. Jason D'Entremont ext. 319  
[jasontmd@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:jasontmd@parishofsacredheart.org)

## Sacred Heart School

250 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Telephone: 609-267-1728

Email: [schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org](mailto:schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org)

Website: [www.sacred-heart-school.org](http://www.sacred-heart-school.org)

Principal: Ms. Kathryn Besheer ext. 340

Admin. Assist. Margo Lihvarcik ext. 316

## Sacred Heart Religious Education

Telephone: 609-267-6319

Email: [rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org)

Director of Rel. Ed: Mrs. Jessica Donohue ext. 307

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Barbara Kane ext. 324

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9:00am – 2:00pm

### **Fall Program Class Times**

Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

**March 9 – March 10, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **Parish Registration**

Our Parish family warmly welcomes new members. Please register at your earliest convenience by stopping by the Parish House during the office hours.

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

We welcome new life into the Church through the sacramental sign of Baptism which is celebrated **every Sunday of the month at 1:00pm** with the exception of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We encourage parents who wish to have their child baptized to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole, at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 or stop in and pick up a Baptism packet.

Once the Baptismal Preparation class is attended, the form completed and the Godparent Eligibility Certificates are turned in then a date for your child's Baptism will be set.

### **Baptismal Preparation**

Catholic Godparents are required to complete an Eligibility Certificate and have the certificates signed by the pastor of the parish where they are currently registered and practicing their faith.

We offer a Baptismal Prep Class for parents as a way of preparing them for their child's journey of faith. Classes are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. Please contact the Parish Secretary to register.

### **Sacramental Sponsorship Letter**

This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. To receive this form the following requirements must be met:

- If married, be in a valid marriage according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Completed the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Be a registered, active participant of a Parish.

### **The Sacrament of Marriage**

Couples wishing to celebrate and consecrate their love in the Sacrament of Marriage are asked to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole at 609-702-1848 ext. 301.

**Arrangements are to be made with the Pastor a year in advance of the requested date.** At least one person should be a registered member of the parish. All couples are required to attend preparation sessions.

### **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**

Any Catholic who is seriously ill, advanced in age, or who feels the need for the comforting presence of the Church's sacramental prayer life may be anointed. Please contact the Parish Office at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 during office hours. In the case of an emergency, please call and follow the instructions listed on our telephone message.

### **Funerals**

In all cases, the family of the deceased parishioner should contact the funeral home directly. They will contact the Church to make further arrangements. For information regarding our Parish Cemetery, please call the Cemetery Office at 609-702-1848 ext 304

### **Care of the Sick, Homebound and Elderly:**

The sick, the homebound and the elderly are valued members of our parish. Please call the Parish House at 609-267-0209 ext. 305 for a visit.

### **Bulletin Articles**

Articles for the Bulletin need to be submitted **No Later than Friday** to appear the next weekend (**9 days prior**). Articles can be emailed to

[bulletins@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:bulletins@parishofsacredheart.org)

**March 9 – March 10, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**  
**March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**MONDAY**

7:00am **Carolanne Wismer** Req. By The Klutts Family

8:30am **Michael Giambalvo** Req. By His Family

**TUESDAY**

7:00am **Carol Stoehr Setten** Req. By Mark & Laura Jean Beierschmitt

8:30am **Diane Campbell** Req. By Lorraine Spille

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00am **Miriam Olivares-Suguitan** Req. By Marcia Fields

8:30am **Martin O'Conner** Req. By His Wife Vicky

**THURSDAY**

7:00am **Charles Connell** Req. By Dave & Annette Marcil

8:30am **Betty Grafwallner** Req. By Toni Rudd

**FRIDAY**

7:00am **Louis F. Piccone** Req. By The Vecchio Family

8:30am **Louis A. Piccone** Req. By The Vecchio Family

**SATURDAY**

8:30AM **Robert LaPata** Req. By The Troise Family

4:30pm **The People of the Parish**

**SUNDAY**

7:30am **Tecla Czahur** Req. By John & Bea Bobko

9:30am **Ernest M. Campos, Sr.** Req. By His Grandson Christopher

11:30am **Anthony Falcone** Req. By Valerie Falcone

7:00pm **Alice & James Sampson** Req. By Their Children

*The Devotional Candle in the  
 Chapel of the Two Hearts*



*Will Burn for the Special Intentions of:  
 Dolores Chepega*

**Readings for the Week**

**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

**Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17 — 4:1 or Phil 3:20 — 4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

**SUNDAY OFFERING**

**Weekly 3/2 – 3/3 \$ 14, 718.86**  
**Easter Flowers \$ 170.00**

*Thank you for the faithful and generous support  
 that you continue to give to our Church.*



**BAPTISMS**

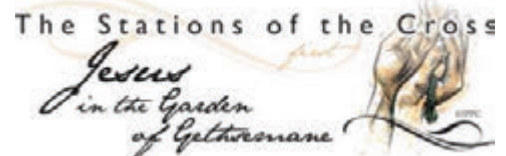
*We extend a warm welcome to our  
 newly baptized.*

**Ella Grace Giambrone**

*May the Lord give His angels  
 charge over you,  
 to guide you in all your ways.*  
 Psalm 91:11



*III Nicole Mozdy & Andrew Leber*  
*I Dana Winkler & Richard Rajchel*



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Fridays during Lent Stations of the Cross will  
 be held at 4:00pm and 7:00pm in the Church.**

**March 9 – March 10, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**THE SEASON OF LENT**

During the holy season of Lent, from Ash Wednesday, March 6th, to Holy Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, you are strongly encouraged to participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion daily, to receive the Sacrament of Penance, to attend Lenten devotions and the Stations of the Cross, to read the Scriptures prayerfully, and to perform acts of self-denial and works of mercy.

**PRAYER:**

Daily Mass is celebrated at 7am & 8:30am. Weekend Mass and Confession times can be found on the front of the bulletin.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena is held every Wednesday at 7:15pm in the chapel. Stations of the Cross are held at 4pm & 7pm every Friday during the Lenten Season. Eucharistic Adoration is Monday through Friday from 9am to 9pm in the Chapel of the Two Hearts, on the side of the Parish House.

**FASTING:**

The days of fast and abstinence are ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY. The other Fridays of Lent are DAYS OF ABSTINENCE.

**ALMSGIVING:**

Give of your time, talent and treasure. Donations of canned or boxed food to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry can be made by placing the items in the collection bins in the vestibule of the church. Monetary donations are accepted at the Parish House or you may mail them to The Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Fridays during Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held at 4:00pm and 7:00pm in the Church.**

**LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE  
MONDAY, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

Following a brief prayer service and examination of conscience, priests from around the region will be available to hear private confessions.

A general absolution will not be given

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia, Millie Stellwag, Trish Lehman, Tom Hartzell, Jacob Wig, Judith Gomez, John Dowches, Jane O'Brien, Jim Beierschmitt, John Madden, Jessica Carter, Kelly McLaughlin, Tracy Schwab & infant twins, Martha Evans, Ann Graff, Helen Hannon, Ralph Jones, Nancy Beckett, Clyde Quin, Megan Dezur, Joy Geller Simmerman, Gail Marchese, Greg MacDonald, Karen Buller, Heidi Manja Rountree, Sister Priscilla Koblarchik, IHM, Bob Paccillo, Brandon Trojak, Joel Rivera, Donald McGhee, Vickie Robles, Jenise Labron, Richard Dow, Benjamin & Molly Schuyler, Clarence Pugh, III, Fred Hammer, Marty Wilkinson, Stephanie James, Margaret & Gaylord Jeffers, Eric Wall, Caellie Boyd, Nicholas Gonzalez, Betty Doviak, Ed Ciletti, Michael Dow, Marie Chirico, Janice Staff, Pat Adornetto, Nadia Nieves, Trey Nieves, Talia Rosko, Garrett Schwab, Frank Anton, Christopher Pierce, Renate Connors, Freddie J. Faber, III, Arleen Bishop, Maria Wolfe, Matthew Ottenwess, Matthew McDonald, Kristal Faber, Justin Beckett, Robert Lally, Tonya DeMaio, Olga Aponte, McKenzie Hunter, Gail Reilly, Alva Marino, Wayne Potts, Stephanie Martin, Corey Kaiser, Stella Grundahl, Daniel DeMaio, Sue Troise, Kay Weiss, Fredrick Naphys, Clara Hynes, Daniel Toussaint, Zoey Reed, Mason Damico, David McCoy, Lois Pedrick, John Rubino, Evan Martinez, Sabrina Kaiser, Celeste Bunn, Jenny Hand, Annabelle Ochipinti, Arthur Netti, Loretta Minakee, Patricia Parker, Wilma Peterson, Morgan Ackerman, Raymond Bishop, Dylan Crespo, Patricia O'Connor, Sharon Carroll, George Schneider, Marie Donahue, Peggy Stewart, Don & Mary Hartman, Michelle Schafle Reed

**As a parish family, we remember all who are struggling or suffering in mind, body, or spirit, especially those who have requested our prayers.**

**Please pray for the men and women now serving in the military, especially the loved ones of our parishioners who are serving overseas:**

TSgt. Paul J. Stoshak U.S.A.F.  
Capt. Robert J. Boccio, U.S.A.F.  
Douglas Schwenck, Army Reserve  
Richard DeLorge U.S.M.C.  
Peter Liedman, Dorinia Dibuono  
Capt. James Rankin U.S.M.C.  
SSgt Daniel E. Naro, Sgt. Alison Lyport  
Sgt. Stephanie Robertson, U.S. Army  
Sgt. Russell Norton, NG Army  
Sgt. Marshall Norton, U.S.M.C.  
Corporal Maxwell Hughes, U.S.M.C.  
Lt. Matthew Carr, U.S.M.C.  
Lt. Victoria Carr, U.S.M.C.



**March 9 – March 10, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**



**Led By The Spirit**

In today's Gospel according to Luke, Jesus is "put to the test" in addition to being tempted by the devil. There is significance in the meaning between testing and tempting and the number forty as they relate to the multiple events in Israel's sacred history.

In those challenging forty days, Jesus experienced His inner strength and found clear direction for His ministry. Life may lead us to our own "deserts", challenges that take us away from a contented life.

"Lord, at these times, strengthen our faith and give us assurance that we can, as Jesus did, always choose for good in the face of temptation and conflict."

**The SVDP Pantry is in need of the following:**

Canned Potatoes, Tuna, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Shelf-Stable milk, Breakfast Cereal, Bathroom Tissue, Canned Soup, and Meals in a can.

If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to:

***SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL***  
***Thank you!***

**OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT**

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org). The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

**SERRA VOCATION PRAYER CHALICE**

**HOLINESS IS A CHALLENGE** for us all, whatever our specific vocations. We are called to be holy in all aspects of our lives. This is an ongoing process, often slowed by setbacks. When the saints were alive, they did not regard themselves as saints; rather, they knew they were sinners — and they strived to be saints. The process of becoming holy is, even for saints, painful and filled with struggle. Know you are a sinner; strive to be a saint. Serra for priestly and religious vocations *Thank you for praying for vocations.*

*To learn more about the Vocation Prayer Chalice, please call **Ann (609)-267-5836***

***Sacred Heart School News***

**Sacred Heart School PTA**  
**St. Patrick's Day**

**10th Annual BEEF & BEER**  
**MARCH 16 - 7pm**  
**in the Auditorium**

**Beer, Wine, DJ, Dinner and Dancing!**  
**\*No one under 21 yrs. of age permitted\***  
**\$30 a ticket**

**Tickets must be purchased in advance!**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

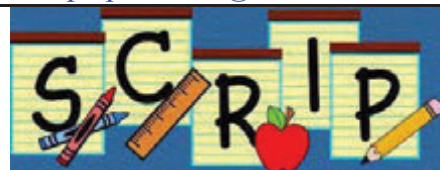
**# of Tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Table of 10?**

**Table Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:** [ptapresident@sacred-heart-school.org](mailto:ptapresident@sacred-heart-school.org)



Thank you for supporting the SHS Scrip Program! Scrip orders may always be placed by submitting an order form to the SHS school office. Orders submitted by Tuesday will be available for pick up that Friday. Thank you again for supporting the SHS program!

**March 9 – March 10, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**



### **Navigating the Medicare Maze**

As many as 10 thousand people every day are aging into Medicare. You may be one of them. Many people don't understand Medicare, how to enroll into Medicare, and when they do enroll what they need.

Parishioner Brian Curtis will be presenting an education workshop on Medicare in the **Auditorium, Tuesday evening April 9th at 7pm.** The workshop will last about an hour; light refreshments will be served.

Even if you're still a few years away from aging into Medicare; this workshop will explain Medicare and better prepare you for the decisions you'll need to make. Please RSVP to Brian Curtis at [brianjcurtis45@gmail.com](mailto:brianjcurtis45@gmail.com).

If you can't make the workshop on April 9th, then plan on attending one of the other scheduled Medicare workshops June 11th, August 13th or October 8th.

### **Clothing & Shoe Drive Fundraiser for**

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL PTA**

**WHEN:** April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup> 2019

**WHERE:** SHS Auditorium

**\*Drop off times coming soon\***

**Help our organization raise funds** by cleaning out your closets, attics, garages, and basements. Please place your gently used/unwanted items in **tightly tied** bags. All styles & colors of bags are accepted. Give your items a second chance to be worn/used again.

The more our collection weighs...the more we raise.

**Thank you for your support!**

**Items we will be collecting are: Gently Used -**

Clothing, Shoes, Sandals, Sneakers, Boots, Jackets, Coats, Rain Gear, Leathers, Belts, Ties, Pants, Shirts, Sweaters, Vests, Blouses, Dresses, Skirts, Robes, Undergarments, Curtains, Sheets, Pillowcases, Bedspreads, Blankets, Comforters, Towels, Linens, Tablecloths, Hats, Scarfs, Gloves, Handbags, Purses, Wallets, Jewelry, Watches, Uniforms, Jerseys, Backpacks and New Diapers. **Any Questions-**

**contact us:** [ptapresident@sacred-heart-school.org](mailto:ptapresident@sacred-heart-school.org)

### **The Dorian Gray Project**

- update - by Deacon Jim Casa

As you continue exploring the strange world of the main character, Dorian, in Oscar Wilde's ***Picture of Dorian Gray***, find the challenge of going deeper in your appreciation, consider some important questions:

Bring on the tough stuff - there's not just one right answer.

# Who is Dorian? Can we define his true nature as either good or evil? When Basil says that the painting is the "real Dorian," is that true? How might Dorian have turned out if he had not met Lord Henry?

# What role does art play in ***The Picture of Dorian Gray***? What are each of the three main characters' attitudes towards art? How do they think art functions in a free society?

# What does Sibyl represent to Dorian? Does he really love her? Why does he leave her?

# Dorian rationalizes Basil's accusations, saying that every individual is responsible for his or her actions, and therefore for his or her downfall. Do you believe this? Likewise, is Dorian responsible for his own ruination, or is Lord Henry?

Well, ***The Picture of Dorian Gray*** will not only entertain you - but, it will make you think. Isn't that great?

We will continue to look at this memorable story of mystery, culture, religion, romance and self-reflection. So, read ***The Picture of Dorian Gray*** and enter the world of Dorian and in it, you may find part of yourself. If you haven't started your reading of this classic story, inexpensive editions can be purchased at Barnes & Nobles as well as at Second Time Books in Mount Laurel.

Our movie part of the project will ask you to save the date of Friday, April 12th at 7:30pm; then we will gather to see the classic, 1945 film version of ***Dorian Gray*** which stars George Sanders and the talented, young ensemble of Donna Reed, Angela Lansbury, Peter Lawford with Hurd Hatfield as Dorian.

**March 9 – March 10, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**PARISH**  
**CHICKEN DINNER**

Saturday, April 6th at 6pm  
In the Sacred Heart Auditorium



**Dinner includes: salad, baked and fried chicken, green beans, potatoes, rolls, beverage and dessert.**

**Price is \$11 per person, children under 6 are free**

**If you are attending, please call the Parish House at 609-702-1848 ext. 305 or by email [brianjcurtis45@gmail.com](mailto:brianjcurtis45@gmail.com)**

**Please give us your name, the number of people in your party, and the number of children under the age of 6.**

**We need volunteers. If you are able to help, please use the contact information above. This is a social event and not a fundraiser.**

**Discernment Retreat-Friday, March 22 (6pm)- Sunday, March 24 (1pm), Villa Maria House of Studies, 220 IHM Drive, Malvern, PA 19355**  
Experience a weekend retreat at the IHM Motherhouse with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters and novices. Single young women ages 18-35 are invited to come for a weekend of prayer, spiritual conferences, meals, and times of recreation with the sisters. Daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and Eucharistic adoration are included in our weekend retreat.

**Contact: Sister Marianne at 610-889-1553 or [ihmvoc@gmail.com](mailto:ihmvoc@gmail.com)**



**Offerings at Francis House of Prayer**

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center

Box 392 • Rancocas, NJ 08073

609-877-0509 or [FHOP@verizon.net](mailto:FHOP@verizon.net)

Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for directions and for our other offerings!

**THE PASSION AND THE CROSS**

Monday, March 11 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

This Monday morning retreat in the first week of Lent will get your Lenten Season off to a good start. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, offers us new appreciation of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. His book will be of inestimable use to anyone who has ever suffered or struggled in life... which is to say, everyone. Donation: \$25, includes lunch and book.

**MAINTAINING INTERIOR PEACE**

3 Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:30 PM

March 13 March 27 April 10

We live in a day and age characterized by an extraordinary amount of agitation, fear and anxiety. This tendency manifests itself in our interior as well as our exterior lives. How can we find peace of heart and learn to respond graciously to the upsetting situations we must all face? Would you like to choose the practice of interior peace as the focus of your Lenten Journey? Donation: \$50, includes book.

**SACRED DARKNESS – ENCOUNTERING DIVINE LOVE**

**IN LIFE'S DARKEST PLACES**

3 Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 PM

March 13 March 27 April 10

By learning to embrace darkness rather than run from it, we can experience God's love in ways and in places where we would least expect it. This is a 3-part Lenten Retreat on the necessity and beauty of darkness as a means of encountering God in our lives. How appropriate that we are having it at night! Donation: \$50, includes *Sacred Darkness*, which we will read between sessions.

**To register, call 609-877-0509. Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for our other offerings!**

**March 9 – March 10, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Good News Reflection**

First Sunday of Lent  
March 10, 2019

**Pray:** Strength I ask from You today, Lord, to face all those temptations that are too difficult for me to resist. Only You can defeat them in me, I only say 'yes' to Your will. Amen.

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Ps 91:1-2, 10-15

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

**Union with Christ**

Jesus' life is our life if we're sincere about our faith. We unite ourselves to him by receiving his body and blood in the Eucharist. We meet him in the scriptures and walk with him on the path to heaven.

During Lent, the readings that the Church provides for Sunday and daily Mass will help us with this journey if we listen with an ear that recognizes our personal connections to Christ.

In this Sunday's Gospel passage, we journey with Jesus into the desert. Consider your own struggles with temptation; reflect on how sin makes your life feel barren and dry like a desert.

When we walk with Jesus, we unite ourselves to his struggle with the devil and to his victory over the devil. Our temptations become his temptations, and in our efforts to remain united to him, we reject Satan and choose the life of holiness. The Church helps us do this by giving us ways during Lent to improve our self-discipline and conquer the self-centeredness that makes us vulnerable to sin: fasting and abstinence, alms-giving, reconciliation services, faith formation events, reading materials, and more.

Every meal and meat that we give up for Lent, every sin that we confess in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, every sacrifice of time that we make to add more prayer and spiritual reading to our daily life, and every other Lenten activity is a practice of self-denial that unites us to Jesus in the desert.

Jesus fasted from food and other physical comforts during his battle with the devil, and this strategy strengthened him and prepared him for the ministry that came afterward. This is what Lent should be for us, too.

Satan is not someone to fear. Jesus already defeated all demons on our behalf, first in the desert and then on the cross. Our battle is really only against temptation and our personal weaknesses that make us vulnerable to succumbing to sin.

We don't always want to follow Jesus. This is what we must surrender to God during Lent. Then Easter will be far more meaningful, because we will emerge from Lent much stronger in our faith.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

What are the temptations that are most pressing in your life? Be honest with yourself! How are you succumbing to the devil, even though he really has no power over you? Don't be ashamed. Guilt is not what Jesus wants from you. What he does want is your desire to receive his help in overcoming temptation. He's waiting for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Questions for Family & Community Faith Sharing:**

How do you know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation really works? How is it more than just a confession of your sins? How has it helped you grow stronger in following Jesus?

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## March 9 – March 10, 2019

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

#### Living the Good News Today

*“One does not live on bread alone.”*

The week before the Lenten season started, some members of my family were sharing Facebook posts about the Polish tradition of Fat Thursday, a day to savor sweet treats before Lent’s 40 solemn days of fasting and praying. The centerpiece of Fat Thursday were the deep-fat fried donuts called “*pączki*.” As I remembered the delicious smell and taste of the *pączki* that my grandmother (Babci) made for us, though, I also remembered my mother teaching us that not everybody in the world had such indulgences. In fact, many suffering people in the world long for any bread to eat. As a refugee herself, my Mom knew firsthand what that hunger and longing was like!

Lent is a purposeful season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Church provides us with some guidelines for days of fasting and abstinence from meat. As pilgrims on a faith journey, however, we have many options on how to focus our prayer, fasting, and charitable good works. The Scripture readings help us to see those possibilities.

After Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days in the desert, the devil tempted Him in His hunger, Jesus replied, “*One does not live on bread alone.*” The temptation was a direct attack on Jesus’ free will and ego: show your power and turn stones into bread. How easy that would have been for Jesus to do! Although truly the Son of God, He chose to remain hungry and humble. The stones remained unchanged.

Lent is a season of change. We come closer to Christ through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, giving up our hard-heartedness and finding grace in God’s mercy and love. So much for us still to learn!

It is so important to think about others and their needs. The image of bread is such a vital one, as bread is an intrinsic part of most cultures throughout the world. In many nations, rice also holds a central dietary position. Let’s take a look at three possible approaches to a very meaningful Lenten season:

1, **Global:** The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) established Catholic Relief Services (CRS) 75 years ago to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. Every year, CRS offers its Rice Bowl as a means for us to set aside an offering that is beneficial to others in need. Almsgiving of this kind may come from fasting (using the money that would have been spent on other things, e.g., soft drinks, snacks, lottery tickets, sports or entertainment activities, etc.). The CRS website shares stories of people who have benefited from the education, nutritional support, and counseling that CRS provides in countries with immense need. We must see the face of Christ in

those served by CRS. It is even more gratifying to participate in CRS Rice Bowl when it is done as a family, with everyone sharing their means to help others in need.

2. **Local:** Our parish is fortunate to have a St. Vincent de Paul Society outreach ministry serving our local community. Every week, the food pantry lists specific items in the parish bulletin that are needed to make up food bags for weekly distribution. There are recurring items that make the list: peanut butter, jelly, canned meals and meat, soup, rice, tuna, vegetables, beans, etc. On some regular basis, everyone shops for food. Consider the possibilities if our fasting and abstinence reduced our shopping list for our own intake and allowed us to give those items to the food pantry. Imagine the impact to the food pantry if every family in our parish made an effort to bring non-perishable food items to the bins in church every week! Once again, all that this requires of us is to recognize Christ’s face in those who are seeking help and to respond with love.

3. **Time:** Sometimes, people have limited economic means and struggle with almsgiving. There are other ways to be charitable that do not involve money. The gift of time (presence) is a priceless almsgiving. What does this look like? Here are some simple starter examples: visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, doing chores for a homebound person, tutoring someone struggling to learn, making meals for a family with someone seriously ill, visiting our meditation chapel and praying for the intentions in the prayer box, committing to a parish ministry, and any other selfless act that requires us to give up some time that we hold for ourselves and give it for the good of someone else.

When Pope Francis was in Panama in January for World Youth Day, he made the *Via Crucis*, prayerfully asking how we were to react as we see Jesus suffering in others:

- *Do we console and accompany the Lord, helpless and suffering in the poorest and most abandoned of our brothers and sisters?*
- *Do we help carry the burden of the cross, like Simon of Cyrene, by being peacemakers, builders of bridges, a leaven of fraternity?*
- *Do we remain, like Mary, at the foot of the cross?*

Only with God’s grace will we overcome the temptation to stay comfortable and to avoid those compelling encounters with others who are suffering, neglected, or forgotten. As Lent invites us into deeper prayer, let us listen to the Word of God on a daily basis and trust that Christ is with us in our daily actions:

***“Be with me, Lord.”***

Teresa S. Redder, OFS

**March 9 – March 10, 2019**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**WEEKLY PLANNER**

**SUNDAY March 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

Rite of Sending/Election RCIA 9:30am Mass  
 RCIA 10:00am LIB & PHCR  
 Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church



**MONDAY March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Bible Study 9:30am PHCR  
 RCIA Teen 11:15am to 12:00pm PHCR  
 Religious Ed. Summer Program 5:30pm-6:30pm  
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm to 8:00pm PHMR  
 Basketball 6:30pm AUD

**TUESDAY March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm-6:45pm  
 Basketball 6:30pm AUD  
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR  
 SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center  
 Columbiettes 7:30pm PHMO  
 Knights of Columbus 7:30pm PHMR

**WEDNESDAY March 13<sup>th</sup>**

Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm  
 RCIA Teens 1 yr. Program 4:30pm in the School  
 RCIA Teens 5:30pm PHMO  
 Daisy Troop 6:00-7:30pm PHMR  
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help 7:15pm Chapel  
 Baptism Prep. 7:30pm in the Church  
 Bible Study 7:30pm LIB

**THURSDAY March 14<sup>th</sup>**

SH School Choir Practice 2:30-3:30pm Church  
 Music Practice 5:30pm Church  
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR  
 Adult Choir 7:30pm Church  
 Columbiettes Chapter Meeting 7:30pm AUD

**FRIDAY March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Sacred Heart School Stations 1:45pm  
 Stations of the Cross 4:00pm and 7:00pm

**SATURDAY March 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mass Music Practice 3:30pm Church  
 PTA Beef & Beer 7:00pm AUD

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SUNDAY March 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**



Penitential Rite RCIA 9:30am Mass  
 RCIA 10:00am LIB & PHCR  
 SVDP Volunteer Meeting 1pm-3pm AUD  
 Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church

**MONDAY March 18<sup>th</sup>**

RCIA Teen 11:15am to 12:00pm PHCR  
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm to 8:00pm PHMR  
 KOC Basketball 7:30pm AUD

**TUESDAY March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Sacred Heart School's Kindergarten through  
 4<sup>th</sup> grade at 8:30 Mass  
 Dads & Donuts AUD  
 Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm-6:45pm  
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR  
 SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center

**WEDNESDAY March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm  
 RCIA Teens 1 yr. Program 4:30pm in the School  
 RCIA Teens 5:30pm PHMO  
 Daisy Troop 6:00-7:30pm PHMR  
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help 7:15pm Chapel  
 Bible Study 7:30pm LIB

**THURSDAY March 21<sup>st</sup>**

SH School Choir Practice 2:30-3:30pm Church  
 Music Practice 5:30pm Church  
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR  
 Adult Choir 7:30pm Church

**FRIDAY March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Sacred Heart School Stations 1:45pm  
 SH School's 8<sup>th</sup>gr. Bean Bag Toss 6pm AUD  
 Stations of the Cross 4:00pm and 7:00pm

**SATURDAY March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**First Communion Retreat**  
**9am to 11:30am School/Church and AUD**  
 Mass Music Practice 3:30pm Church

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