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

1ST SUNDAY OF

The Temptation of Christ by the Devil by Félix Joseph Barrias, 1860



Diocesan

SAINT RITA PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN

February 18, 2024 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 7

7100 Jefferson Highway Harahan, LA 70123-4928 737-2915

www.stritaharahan.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

7:30 p.m.

Mon.-Fri.: 7:00, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00-3:45 p.m. Sunday: 8:30-9:15 a.m. &

6:45-7:15 p.m.



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DEACON: Greg Flores
SECRETARY: April Wahl
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CRE: Erin Maffe emaffe@arch-no.org

Youth Minister: Joseph Rivera jrivera@arch-no.org

PRINCIPAL: Toni Ruiz

SCHOOL: 194 Ravan Avenue 737-0744

stritahar@arch-no.org

CAFETERIA: 737-2773

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & SHITTLINS

Holy Communion will be brought to the home. Please call the church office when someone is ill and unable to come to church, or when someone is in a hospital. Prayers may be requested for the sick and elderly.

Sign up to make a recurring automatic donation by going to StRitaHarahan.com where you will find a link to our Online Giving page or make a one time donation



Our St. Joseph Perpetual Adoration Chapel is located on the first floor of the Msgr. Champagne Complex on the corner of Jefferson Hwy. and Ravan Ave. and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (For everyone's safety, only assigned adorers are allowed entry with a key code between the hours of 6:00 pm and 7:00 am) Prayerfully consider spending an hour a week with Our Divine Lord. If you cannot commit to a specific hour, why not consider being a substitute? If you are interested, please contact the church office at 737-2915.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The sacrament is administered upon request to those near death, gravely ill, permanently handicapped, very elderly and those undergoing major surgery.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

3rd Sunday of each month following the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

BAPTISM SEMINAR

Parents and Godparents are required to attend a baptism seminar held at 7:00 p.m. Every other month in the Mary Room at the rectory. Parents must attend the baptism seminar before their child can be baptized.

SARAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements should be made 6-8 months in advance by the bride and groom in person. Call one of the parish priests before coming. Couples must attend one of the pre-marriage courses.

FUNERALS

The family of the deceased should consult one of the parish priests concerning the time and place of the funeral before making commitments with the funeral home.

NEWCOMERS

Welcome, we are happy to have you. Please fill out an application in the binder at the front entrance of the church.



First Sunday in Lent



Sat. Feb.17, 4:00 pm Whitney, Gertrude, Leslie, & Gina Estay Edwin L. Sternberger, Jr. Rita Norton Douglas E. Wilson Cesar Bragagnini Dominick Ogg Joe Tassin Abe Davis George & Mary Ann McKearan Peter Vallelungo Henry Bonck Sunday Feb. 18, 7:30 am Monica Flick 9:30 am Paul Wang, Sr. Robert, Randy, & Family & Blaise & Pechon Families Virginia Trapani Stansbury Carlynn Gardner Gary P. Cancienne Jeanne Gauthreaux Monica Naquin Jessica Hanna-Healing Betty Monistere Marie Campagno Joseph H. Vincent III 11:30 am Jane Giovenco Thomassie & James Giovenco 7:30 pm Parishioners Mon. Feb. 19, 7:00 am Fr. Philip Whitney 8:30 am Carlynn Gardner Tues. Feb. 20, 7:00am Carlynn Gardner 8:30 am Clifford & Myrna Friloux Wed. Feb. 21, 7:00am Paul Wang, Sr. 8:30 am Lawrence Kemp Thurs. Feb. 22, 7:00 am Fr. John Gallen 8:30 am Virginia Stansbury Fri Feb. 23, 7:00 am David Allen (birthday) 8:30 am Virginia Carrecca Sat. Feb. 24, 8:30 am Joseph Roman Jr.

Scripture Readings For the Week of February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent Sunday

Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk

1:12-15

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

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

15

Wednesday Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Jl 2:12-13; Lk

11:29-32

Thursday Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:18; Mt 16:13

-19

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

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

Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-

17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

First Sunday of Lent:

In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist families, providing in food, for utility, rent and other bills. God Bless

You!

Weekly Collection Totals

Feb. 11

Feb. 4

\$8959.50

Weekly Parish Expenses

\$14,945.60

These Figures exclude extraordinary income & expenses

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Parishioners Chapel Lamp

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Sanctuary Lamp

3

St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana Sunday February 18, 2024



Sun. Feb. 18 10:30 am CCD 5:30 pm Confirmation Class

Mon. Feb. 19

Tues. Feb. 20 6:00 pm Holy Hour 6:00 pm St. Vincent

Wed. Feb. 21 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thur. Feb 22 8:30 am School Wide Mass PK-7 10:00 am Legion of Mary 7:00 pm Silver Trotters

Fri. Feb. 23 2:15 pm Stations 5:00 pm Dads' Club Fish Fry 7:00 pm Stations

Sat. Feb. 24 9:00 am-3:00 pm St Vincent

Church office Hours * Lunch 12:00 pm— 12:30 pm Hours: 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Silven Trottens

The St. Rita Silver Trotters monthly meeting is on February 22nd, 2024 at 7:00pm in the gym. Doors open at 6:00pm. At this meeting, we will select a Nomination Committee and approve the new Silver Trotter Bylaws. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Dues of \$20.00 per member are due now and must be paid by the March 2024 meeting. For additional information please contact Louise Chapman at (504) 737-3797.



Friday February 23 5:00 pm

Pray for Them

John, Earl Deibel, Mary Ann Schmitt, Catherine Kives, Willie "Bill" Wolverton, John Paris, Doris Mary Dal Daigle, Fr. Randy Roux, Dc. Nolen LeBlanc, Joyce Harris, Pat Trahan, Dale Fishel. Jo Maraist, Mark Crawford, Randy Smith, Gloria Krieger, Andrea Liahtfoot, Thomas, Diane Smith, Phil Crowson, Mary Morvant O'Neill, Edwyna Combe, Letty Loomas, Harold Bartchy, Lena Sparacio, Deborah Mula, Bonnecaze, Deacon Garv Borne, Patricia Whetleman, Bobbie Ann Bergeron, Caiden Reid, Jack Serigne, Josephine Piazza, Lindsey Collier, Charles Slocum, September Wang, Vincent Palestina, Judy Ewens Hof, Lois Dupuy, Andrea Glandt, Suzanne Unger, Linda Mayer, Robert Petty, Cynthia B. Farrara, Barbara Dziubla, Dora Higgins, Amanda Livaudais, Mr. Tim Smith Sr. & Family, Mr. Tim Smith Jr. & Family, Worley Parks, John Bel, Henry S. Tuminello, Rebecca Gandy, Joyce Benoit, Bridget Celestin, Robert Vallejo, Alicia Walker-Cole, Alvin M. Castay, Sr. , Hilda Orgeron, James McCilwain, Bob Velez, Beau & Trudy Barrett, Joseph McAdam, Leslie and Al Mendoza, Barbara Guidry, Louise Chapman, Tim Walker, Nellie Barsoza, Francis Parks, Joel Stansbury, Rousset, Donald Geier, Dan Peeler, Rebecca Wahl, Betty Oneill, Paige Brock, Randy Sroeba, Kathy Livaudais, Charlotte Evola, Janet Wild, Fred Grilletta, John Johnson, Louella Lange, Laura Knipper, Gerard Tonglet, Elizabeth Bonnette, August V. Cristina, Claude Barsoza, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ward, Theresa Arroyo, Rodney Este, Sr., Philip Godbold, Gabriella Ogg & Baby Dominic, Tommy Woods, Bruce Perry, The Picou Family, Shelley Vathy, Melissa Korn, Tomalyn Disalvo, Marilyn Pankratz, Lee Belgarge, Stephen Parks, Angie Kimbell, Jolene Salito, Frances Kemp, George & Greg Fay, Eric Rousselle, Lynne Podany, Steve Culotta, Linda Bauer, John McCrossen, Norma Gogreve, Joe Miceli

Name will remain on the list for 6 weeks. If at the end of 6 weeks you wish for them to remain on the sick list for 6 more weeks you must call the office. This request must be made by the individual or an immediate family member.

First Sunday in Lent

What can I give up for Lent?

Rather than give up some trivial pleasure like candy or beer.....

What about giving up 15 minutes each day to do something very meaningful toward making true repentance in our hearts and minds; something we've always SAID we have wanted to do but never actually do, like reading Scripture or familiarizing ourselves with the Catechism of the Catholic Church; something concrete that will help us understand the path of life that leads to ETERNAL HAPPINESS WITH GOD???

Can we give up **just 15 minutes per day** of social media, video games, or watching the political posturing on news channels?

Now, I understand that we probably wouldn't be able to read the Bible or the entire Catechism during this Lenten season, but there are certain sections of the Catechism and Books of the Bible that we are certainly capable of reading in bite-sized quantities in **just 15 minutes per day**.

Option 1 – Suggestion for Lent

Read both the Gospels of Luke and John. (They are both Gospels but written very differently). The Gospel of Luke contains 24 chapters while John contains 21 chapters for a total of 45 chapters. Guess what??? From Ash Wednesday to Good Friday there are 45 days.

That equates to only 1 chapter per day, which certainly can be read in less than 15 minutes.

Option 2 – Suggestion for Lent

Read Part 3 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which addresses our Life in Christ.

Section 1 in that Part explains Man's Vocation. This is a great start to understanding the very

purpose of our lives. It is 75 pages short. That equates to 1 ½ pages per day or 9 paragraphs per day.

Section 2 in that Part delves into the Ten Commandments. There's a lot more to these commandments of God than just the surface. This section is a little longer at 113 pages, but that's still less than 2 pages per day or 10 paragraphs per day!!

Option 3 – Suggestion for Lent

Read Part 4 of the Catechism, which addresses the power of Prayer. It is also 75 pages, but fewer paragraphs, only 8 paragraphs per day will get you through the entire Part 4 on Prayer.

Option 4 – Suggestion for Lent

Read just the Passion Narratives from each of the Gospel accounts. Below is a breakdown of the verses in a format that can be used as a bookmark in your Bible as you progress through the readings.

The breakdown amounts to less than 45 verses per day, which certainly can be read in less than 15 minutes.

----- cut along line for bookmark -----

The Passion Narratives	1 st Week Mon. MT26: 1 – 46 Tues. MT26: 47 – 75 Wed. MT27: 1 – 31 Thurs. MT27: 32 – 66 Fri. MT28: 1 – 20	2 nd Week Mon. MK 14: 1 – 42 Tues. MK 14: 43 – 72 Wed. MK 15: 1 – 32 Thurs. MK 15: 33 – 47 Fri. MK 16: 1 – 20	3 rd Week Mon. LK 22: 1 – 38 Tues. LK 22: 39 – 71 Wed. LK 23: 1 – 43 Thurs. LK 23: 44 – LK 24: 12 Fri. LK 24: 13 - 53	4th Week Mon. JN 12: 1 – 50 Tues. JN 13: 1 – 38 Wed. JN 14: 1 – JN 15: 17 Thurs. JN 15: 18 – JN 16: 33 Fri. JN 17: 1 – 26	5th Week Mon. JN 18: 1 - 32 Tues. JN 18: 33 – JN 19: 16 Wed. JN 19: 17 – 42 Thurs. JN 20: 1 – 31 Fri. JN 21: 1 - 25
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St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana Sunday February 18, 2024

Reflection of An Adorer

12/26/23

My dear daughter, I love you very much. My dear precious children, I, the Lord your God, has come to you on this earth to show you how to live your life in love, joy, and forgiveness. This feast day of my beloved disciple Saint Stephen, has shown you an example of forgiveness. He has imitated his Lord by forgiving his persecutors as he died. His eyes were fixed upon heaven as I welcomed him into paradise. My dear children, you are to do as Stephen; you are to imitate your Lord by forgiving your enemies. How else can they be saved if you do not bring your light upon them in prayer to cast out the darkness. You, who are my children, have seen a great light! You, who know how to love me, should know that love and mercy are the virtues I desire most. You are to be imitators of Christ Jesus and cast out the darkness by your light. Then my dear children, you will see the gates of heaven open up for you. My arms will reach down for you and bring you to myself. Go in peace, I love you very much!

Covenant and Commitment

At first glance it may seem a little odd that the first Sunday of Lent would have a reading about God's covenant with Noah. We all know the story. God sent a flood to wipe out the earth because of their sin and disobedience and then God made a covenant with his people to never again send a flood that would destroy the earth. So why has the Church chosen this reading for Lent? Isn't Lent all about suffering, not God's loving plan for his people?

Well, I think this reading actually fits perfectly in this penitential season. Time and time again in the Old Testament we see God enacting covenants with his people, and time and time again we see human beings breaking these covenants. God wants to give his life and love and we as a human race are quick to turn our backs on him and break the commitment of the covenant.

I see Lent as a time of preparation for Easter and this Holy Feast day celebrates the culmination of the New Covenant that Christ enacted on the cross. We reflect on the suffering and death of Christ, we fast and abstain, and we pray, in order that our hearts might be more ready for the covenant that God has for us.

Instead of reliving history and breaking the small commitments God asks of us, Lent is a time to dive deeply into these commitments so that his covenant can ring true in our hearts and we will be ready for it. Even Jesus as the Son of God knew how important it would be for us to slow down and reflect on what is most important. He didn't need to spend any time in the desert, but today's Gospel reminds us that he went there anyway. He gives us the example of what it looks like to be faithful to his heavenly Father.

This Lent, I encourage you, and myself, to dive deeply. Let's allow this to be a time of purification and penance so that when Easter time comes, we will truly know what it means to rejoice.

From all of us here at Diocesan, God bless!

By Tommy Shultz

First Sunday of Lent Clear Conscience

Usually, the first reading has something in common with the gospel. Today's however, has more in common with the second reading from St. Peter. They both talk about Noah and the ark, where the few good people were saved by going through the water. Peter compares that to the waters of Baptism, in which we are saved by God. He also has an interesting image of Jesus "preaching to the spirits in prison." It refers to the fallen angels whose disobedience lead the rest of the population to turn away from God. Just as God washed away the evil of the world in the waters of the flood, so the waters of Baptism made us into a new people who have clear consciences, both because God has forgiven our sins and because we promise to follow only Him.

That leads to the Gospel, where Jesus is tempted by Satan. But unlike the people of Noah's time, Jesus does not fall to the temptations. Instead, he comes out of the desert, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is near. He tells us to repent and believe in the good news.

That means we have a choice to make: Do we accept this kingdom and repent, or do we ignore our baptism and do what we want? We may say that we are willing to repent, but do we do anything about it? Do we still have a clear conscience when we think of how much time we spend getting to know Jesus? Ever pray or read the bible outside of church? Do we spend near as much on the poor, as we do for movies, hobbies, video games, or drinks? Do we ever tell anyone about the kingdom and what Jesus has done for us?

Next time you see a rainbow, think about the covenant that God made with Noah. Just as God's promises get better and better till the coming of Jesus, we are challenged to be more and more like Him. Are you satisfied with just a promise that God won't destroy us all in a flood? Or are you ready to live the New Covenant that Jesus promises to those who will follow him?

Tom Schmidt



Joshua Bryant, DPT, OCS

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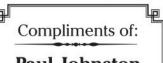


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