



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 6, 2022

First Sunday of Lent (C)

Dt 26:4-10

Rom 10:8-13

Lk 4:1-13



*Then the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders.*

DEUTERONOMY 26:8

JOHN THEODOR / SHUTTERSTOCK

## It's All Gift

**T**here is one word that could almost be erased from our religious vocabulary. That word is *earn*. So many of us take on a Lenten program of penance to earn God's forgiveness. Or we engage in prayer to earn indulgences that will lessen our time in purgatory. Somewhere along the line we missed the class in which the primacy of God's free gift of grace was taught. Consequently, we still might use language that emphasizes our own hard-won merit apart from God rather than freely given love as the basis of all that follows. Today's first reading refutes such thinking.

The passage from Deuteronomy contains an important creedal statement, describing the heart of ancient Israel's faith. The people were instructed by Moses to commemorate the event of their founding as the special people of God. The creedal statement was probably recited during that commemoration. The statement itself describes how God called their

ancestor; from that ancestor called forth a great people, delivered those people out of slavery, and then settled them in a land that became their own. Every event was God's work. The people did nothing to deserve it. It was all gift. Why did God choose these people, make them great, free them, settle them, and provide them with abundant harvests? Because they were good? No! Because God is good. They earned nothing, deserved nothing. It was all gift.

Why is it so difficult for us to realize that we really do not give gifts to God? It's just the opposite. When it comes to God's grace, it's all gift.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ✦ *Spend a moment thinking about all the free gifts God has given you.*
- ✦ *Let your Lenten practice be graciousness to others.*



# St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community Fort Belvoir, VA

## New to St Martin of Tours?

Please contact our Catholic Coordinator at [FBCInfo@gmail.com](mailto:FBCInfo@gmail.com) to register and get our email mailing list for the latest Catholic Community announcements!

### Mass Schedule

**Monday – Thursday, 1205** at Fairfax Chapel

**Saturday, 1700** at Belvoir Chapel

**Sunday, 0930** at Belvoir Chapel\*\*  
**1100** at Fairfax Chapel

**The Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed and can be viewed from this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

\*\*Watchcare is available during this Mass for children ages 6months – 4years. Watchcare is located in the Religious Education Center next to Belvoir Chapel.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

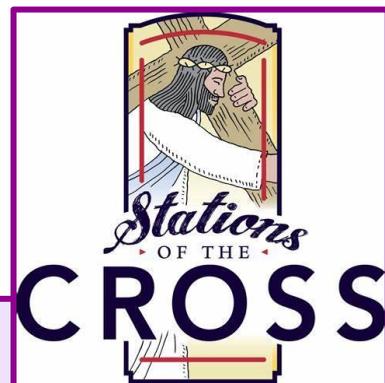
**Saturday – 1600-1645** at Belvoir Chapel or by appointment. Contact Fr. Lindsay directly to schedule.

### For More Information

**CH(MAJ) Michael P. Lindsay**, Catholic Chaplain  
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Office located at: Religious Support Annex, Bldg 221, 10011 Middleton Rd, Ft Belvoir, near post office.



## **Stations of the Cross & Soup Dinner 1800 Stations; 1845 Dinner**

**Join us for Stations of the Cross, followed by Soup Dinner every Friday during Lent.**

The Music Ministry and Altar Servers will host this Friday, 11 March 2022. Both the Stations and the dinner will be held at the REC.

The (free) Soup dinner will be catered and served in individual containers. Due to social distancing protocols, and costs of catering, we will require attendees to register for the dinner portion only.

Please register using this link:  
<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=632342&k=0462400A7F55>

## **DIGITAL GIVING TO OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

**You can now make a donation to our  
Ft. Belvoir Catholic Community ONLINE!**

**To donate go to:**

[www.ArmyCTOFDigitalGiving.com](http://www.ArmyCTOFDigitalGiving.com)

**Remember to choose:  
Fort Belvoir, VA; Catholic – RCKA**

Please write “Catholic Community”  
in the memo line for accurate depositing.

## St. Joseph Icon

5 – 6 March



An icon of St. Joseph will be the centerpiece of special prayer services flowing from the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis in 2021 and inspired by his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*. The icon program is sponsored by Knights of Columbus #11170 to honor St. Joseph and pray for his intercession in preserving, cultivating and passing on the Catholic faith to future generations.

The ICON will be displayed at every weekend Mass, 5-6 March.



## Young Man & Young Woman of the Year

The Fort Belvoir Knights of Columbus are again sponsoring the Young Man and Young Woman of the Year Contest. It is open to all 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Use this QR Code to access the application. Submissions are due 18 Mar 22.



RSO Family Nights begins 23 March 22.

## Caring For Souls: Yours & Others

is one of the classes that will be offered.

God's commandment to "love thy neighbor" first requires a vital sense of self-love. Explore and discuss real-life, mental health-related topics, such as, how grieving (in the right way) is good and why humor is so important to your mental health. All delivered from a faith-filled perspective. Each week, two healthcare professionals, with decades of experience, will guide you through different, yet pertinent mental health subject matters, while providing direction to Bible-based suggestions; all with the potential to deepen your faith, improve your relationships, and ultimately, empower you to live a more meaningful, God-centered life.

Alice Long Ford, MSW

Deborah L. Zebrowski, RN, BSN, MSPsy

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

6 March 2022

*"Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil." "The devil said to him...." (Luke 4:1-3)*

God led Moses and the people of Israel into the desert to learn to trust and rely on God as they faced temptation, so Jesus also is sent into the desert to face and temptation. As Israel passed through the Red Sea, Jesus passed through the water of John's baptism and was affirmed as 'God's beloved Son.' Israel was tempted by hunger, and so also Jesus. The Israelites grumbled against God but Jesus focused on being fed spiritually. Israel lacked trust in God's protection and quarreled at Massah, but Jesus would not test God's care. In the journey of the desert, God's people had given into the temptation of turning from God to worshiping worldly wealth and power. Jesus rejected the temptation of worldly power and wealth and remained true and committed to serving God alone.

"The people of first-century Palestine who were living under the oppression of the Roman Empire were hoping for political redemption. If Jesus seizes power and glory, suggests the devil in his second temptation, what he could do for them! But Jesus knows what this would mean: power and authority handed to him but the tempter would also bring oppression and violence (Luke 4:1-14). Jesus will go the longer, less immediate, and more sacrificial way of service to others rather than domination over them. He will wait to receive the kingdom from the hand of his Father rather than from the devil, the ruler of a 'counter-kingdom.' Jesus will establish a healing reign over sick bodies, tormented psyches, and a troubled cosmos. We are only too familiar with scenarios of unjust wars and political compromise that accompany the lust for power. We certainly need to take a stand against these, but perhaps we are less conscious of the compromises we make ourselves: that bargaining for a little more status and authority at the expense of others and the effect that this has on world history – whose time we share. We can often be tempted to serve personal success rather than fidelity to God, our own reputation rather than the needs of our brothers and sisters, political expediency rather than justice. 'God...alone shall you serve' will involve Christians in the self-sacrificing obedience of Jesus." (Living Liturgy 2022, Liturgical Press, 2021, pg. 78)

May this Lenten Season strengthen each of us to be more trusting and faithful to God.

*Fr. Mike*

# Dear Padre,

**My fourteen-year-old daughter is very thin. She says giving up food during Lent is proof that she honors God. How can I convince her God doesn't want her to starve herself? Is there anything else she can do for Lent?**

**A**ccording to the *Code of Canon Law*, at age fourteen your daughter isn't required to fast (eating only one full meal a day, no snacks); the Church requires this only of people age eighteen through fifty-nine because people outside those age groups need more than one full meal a day to maintain good health (1252).

She is, however, old enough to abstain from meat, as required of Catholics age fourteen and older. But she should replace that meat with another source of protein like cheese or fish.

Please tell your daughter that the Lenten fast is about preparing our hearts to celebrate the joy of Easter. Fasting and abstinence are not about starving or losing weight. They're about making room for God and deepening our relationship with Christ.

And the word *abstain* isn't limited to matters involving food. Your daughter can abstain from watching television, using her mobile phone except in emergencies, or using

the computer for anything other than schoolwork. Prayer and almsgiving (donating money or time to charity) also are part of our Lenten practice. Anyone can safely do these things to achieve the same result: growing closer to God in preparation for Easter.

*Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR / [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)*

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Fasting makes us share the situation of many people who face the torment of hunger and makes us more attentive to others; almsgiving is a blessed opportunity to collaborate with God's providence for the benefit of his children. And I invite you to make almsgiving a way of life and to persevere in concrete help to those in need.*

ADDRESS TO PRO PETRI SEDE ASSOCIATION, FEBRUARY 16, 2018



## Calendar

### Monday

MARCH 7

*Lenten Weekday*

Lv 19:1–2, 11–18

Mt 25:31–46

### Tuesday

MARCH 8

*Lenten Weekday*

Is 55:10–11

Mt 6:7–15

### Wednesday

MARCH 9

*Lenten Weekday*

Jon 3:1–10

Lk 11:29–32

### Thursday

MARCH 10

*Lenten Weekday*

Est C:12, 14–16,  
23–25

Mt 7:7–12

### Friday

MARCH 11

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 18:21–28

Mt 5:20–26

### Saturday

MARCH 12

*Lenten Weekday*

Dt 26:16–19

Mt 5:43–48

### Sunday

MARCH 13

*Second Sunday of Lent*

Gn 15:5–12, 17–18

Phil 3:17—4:1 or

3:20—4:1

Lk 9:28b–36

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