

1st Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2010 A.D.

Forty Days in the Wilderness

God has worked our salvation. The first reading of today's Mass assures us of his victory over our enemies: "He brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders..." He has renewed our world, the Psalmist tells us, bringing us to a "land flowing with milk and honey." Yet is that what we experience when we look around us? Has the devil who tempted the Lord in the desert in today's Gospel disappeared from our world? Does the Lord's victory mean that we ourselves will not be tempted? Decidedly not, as Pope Benedict XVI tells us:

"Last Wednesday, we entered Lent with fasting and the Rite of Ashes. But what does 'entering Lent' mean? It means we enter a season of special commitment in the spiritual battle to oppose the evil present in the world, in each one of us and around us. It means looking evil in the face and being ready to fight its effects and especially its causes, even its primary cause, which is Satan. It means not off-loading the problem of evil onto others, onto society or onto God, but rather recognizing one's own responsibility and assuming it with awareness. In this regard Jesus' invitation to each one of us Christians to take up our 'cross' and follow him with humility and trust ... is particularly pressing... It is an opportunity to follow Jesus and thereby to acquire strength in the fight against sin and evil. Thus, entering Lent means renewing the personal and community decision to face evil together with Christ. The way of the Cross is in fact the only way that leads to the victory of love over hatred, of sharing over selfishness, of peace over violence" (Angelus, February 10, 2008).

What the Lord's victory *does* mean, then, is that he is with us on our own sojourn in the desert, giving us his own strength, forgiving our failures, as Christoph Cardinal Schönborn reminds us: "Lent is beginning. There are forty days till Easter—exactly the length of time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. 'And he ate nothing in those days.' This was radical fasting—not for the sake of losing weight ..., but a time to be entirely with God and for God. Nothing should stand between Jesus and God, his Father. Jesus himself intends to live out, fully and completely, what he teaches his disciples to ask for from God, 'Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.... He was victorious over the devil, without using power, without an army, simply through staying completely faithful to the will of God. Jesus withstood temptation not only for himself but also for me. In cases where I fail, he has been victorious, for me, too. I can start again with him, despite my weaknesses. And even the devil is powerless to prevent this" (*Jesus, the Divine Physician*, 164-66).

That God would do this for us should fill this Lent with a spirit of gratitude and hope as we follow him to the Cross.

Fast from the negative—Feast on the affirmative.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

All children of the parish are invited to participate in Children's Lenten Liturgies on the Sundays of Lent at the 9 a.m. Mass starting this Sunday.

CRAFT FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is welcome to bring a craft or hobby this Sun., Feb. 21, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL MINISTRIES APPEAL

We are nearing our goal and thank those who have already made a pledge.

DCCW DEANERY MEETING

All ladies are invited to the DCCW Deanery Meeting on Sat., Mar. 6 at St. William's in Atascadero at 10:30 a.m. Please call Jeanne at 995-aaaa for carpool information.

TRIP TO LAUGHLIN

Sign up soon for a trip to Laughlin, NV, on May 3-6. Tour Includes: deluxe transportation on a new motorcoach, 3 nights lodging at Riverside Resort & Casino, 2 breakfasts & 1 choice buffet. Single, double, & triple occupancy rates at \$210, \$189, & \$179 per person. \$50 deposit will hold your place. Final payment due by Mar. 22. For more info., please call the office at 995-3243.

Let us Pray For the Sick: May our prayers be a comfort to those who are sick or chronically ill: Vincent LoBianco, Don Fontaine, Oscar & Kate Linscott, Bill Coyle, Jim Sohler, Jack Sable, Dennis Domaille, Gloria Aulbach, Evelyn Menn, Jeanne Lowe, Bill, Danny & Kelly Wade; Jim Greene Sr. & Jr., Mayre Marcollo, Denise Clark, Amelia Casaletti, Onnie Midiri, Jill Kelly, Don Monson, Margaret Jung, Tricia Scot, Joseph Henderson, Mark Sigmund, Jenna Franklin, Jennifer Pasa, Katy Wilson, Benjamin Kafman, Jim James, Shalom Tinsley White, Kelly Pittner, Elizabeth English Porter, Maria Howe, Jacqueline Durazo, Bobbie Planansky, Richard Lyons, Barbara Gray, Jack McGilvray, Larry Stayton, & John Dias.

Ministry Schedule (Feb. 27-28)

4th Saturday & Sunday

Sat. 5 p.m.:

Lector: Jean-Luc D'Abreau
EMs: E. Molnar, S. Rindge, E. Sigmund
Ushers: Tom & Karen Hogan
Server: Red Harris
Cantor: _____

Sun. 9 a.m.:

Lector: Kathy Boyte
EMs: Sam Ayoob, Sallee Detomaso, Judy Monson
Ushers: Evie Pellaton, Jack Monson
Servers: John Detomaso, Quinnten Thomas
Cantor: _____
Hospitality: Carol Lowry, Jean Hartzell

Sun. 11 a.m.:

Lector: Glen Bennett
EMs: Stan & Dinah Piwowarski, Evaline Curti
Ushers: Joe & Joyan Svancara
Server: Walter Terrio
Music: Terry & Judy Ann Cross
Hospitality: Joe & Maria Pascoal

Lenten Schedule

Morning Prayer with Mass

Tuesdays of Lent at 9 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

followed by

Soup Supper

Fridays of Lent at 4:30 p.m.

Lenten Adoration:

Thurs., Mar. 18. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Get your tickets for \$15 for dinner on Sat., Mar. 13, at the Vets' Hall at 5:30 p.m. Please call Kay at 772-4653 to make a donation to the Silent Auction.

Next Sunday's readings: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Psalm 27:1-14; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36.

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Last month: Fiscal Year to Date:

<u>Revenue:</u>	<u>Last month:</u>	<u>Fiscal Year to Date:</u>
Plate:	\$11,578.20	\$55,742.85
Other:	\$3,411.23	\$18,084.71
Total Revenue:	\$14,989.43	\$73,827.56
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Operating:	16,043.64	\$81,575.56
<u>Building Fund:</u>		
Folding Wall	\$979.00	\$14,146.36
Revenue:	\$840.00	\$18,012.00
Expenditures:	\$13,167.28	\$24,116.96

Mass Intentions (Feb. 20-28)

- Sat. 5 Millie Faherty
- Sun. 9 St. Joseph's Parishioners
- Sun. 11 The living & deceased members of St. Joseph's Women's Society
- Mon. Mr. & Mrs. Javier Uribe
- Tues. For all Catholic missionaries
- Wed. †Jane Reyna by Jose & Belinda Gonzalez
- Thurs. For more vocations to the priesthood
- Fri. Margo Alberg (health) by the Wades
- Sat. 5 For respect for human life
- Sun. 9 St. Joseph's Parishioners
- Sun. 11 For all those on our parish sick list

While every effort will be made to offer Mass for your special intention on the requested date, please understand that circumstances occasionally make this impossible. Mass Intention Envelopes are available in the church. For further information call Mary at 995-aaaa.