

TAKE UP AND READ

ST. AUGUSTINE ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 10, 2019

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

FR. BRICE HIGGINBOTHAM
HOMILETIC AND PASTORAL REVIEW

When we face temptation . . .

“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 [Greek *peirazō*] by the devil” (Lk 4:1; cf. Mt 4:1; Mk 1:12).

Why would the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into a place of temptation or testing or trial? (The Greek word *peirazō* can mean any of the three.) There is more than one reason for this. For example, Jesus was tested in the desert for 40 days just as the Israelites were tested in the desert for 40 years.

Today, however, I think it best to focus upon one reason that the Spirit led Jesus into this place of trial: for Jesus to teach us to battle temptation, and to show us that He is with us. The mysteries of Lent cannot be interpreted without the mystery of Christmas. Jesus truly is Emmanuel, God with us. He is with us — even in our temptations.

We can go to Him for help. We can go to Him because He loves us. “For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:15–16).

Let us listen to the words of St. Ambrose of Milan: “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, is led into the desert for a purpose, in order to challenge the devil. If he had not fought, he would not have conquered him for me.”² This is love, my friends, that God comes down to earth to fight for me, His beloved and to teach me how to fight alongside Him.

So, why do we experience temptation? It is precisely for that reason — that we might join with Jesus in His conquering of the enemy. How beautiful the vocation of the Christian! How sure the victory when my knight is Christ the Lord! Our mother the Church shows us that temptation to sin “is left

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“*O*ne does not live
on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God.”

Mt 4:4b

TODAY'S READINGS

1st Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Dt 26:4-10

Responsorial: Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

2nd Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

Responsorial: Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

Second Reading: Phil 3:17—4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

WORSHIP & LITURGY

SACRAMENTS RECONCILIATION

Sundays 9:20 am or by appt.
MATRIMONY, ANOINTING OF
THE SICK, BAPTISM
Call the rectory for more info.
(313) 921-4107

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Rev. Mr. Joseph Iskra, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Chris Rabaut, Deacon

Minister of Service

Mr. Lester Payne
Mr. Ronald Ford Jr
Mr. Herman Jones Jr.

Altar Servers

Cecilia Aguilar
Sakai Bradley
Alex Clark
Zoey Crawford-Sims
Reniah Fielder
Elijah Ford
Malachi Ford
Z'aire Pope-Clark
Charlie Spillman
Haley Williams

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Mrs. Lois Gibson
Mrs. Erika Lee
Mr. Tim Marshall
Mrs. Mabel Midgett
Mrs. Clarisa Piecuch
Mrs. Colleen Rabaut
Mrs. Joyce Shelton-Watkins
Mrs. Judy Vlckerman

Music Minister

Marjorie Gabriel-Burrow

Choir

Calvin Black
Valaurian Carter
Ellen Childs
Tracey Durden
Valerie Harvey-Ford
Steven Hunter
Lisa Jones
Genevieve Kocourek
Amy Parker
Deldon Treece
Tom Vickerman
Nick Waller
Lawrence Waller
Valeon Waller
Esther Walton
Barbara White

Praised be Jesus Christ. Jesus, knowing the Father's love through His Baptism, is covered with the Holy Spirit, who leads Him to the time of trial and endurance in the desert. Let's go with Him, to grow to full stature in Him. This Lent, we have a faith formation event or liturgy each day of the week. Please check the schedule below.

The First Sunday of Lent, March 10th/ 9:30 AM Confessions and Rosary/10 AM Mass/ Pancake Breakfast/ 5 PM Youth ministry

Monday, March 11th, 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, March 12th, 6 PM Men's Faith Sharing/ 7PM Young Adults /8:30 PM Holy Hour

Wednesday, March 13th 8 AM Holy Hour and 9 AM Mass/8:30 PM Holy Hour

Thursday, March 14th 6:30 Knowing the Shepherd Series/ 8:30 PM Holy Hour

Friday, March 15th, 11-7 Lenten Fish Fry/6 PM Mass and Stations

Saturday, March 16th, 8 AM Holy Hour and 9 AM Mass/10 Confirmation and First Communion Class/10:30 Evangelization visits/Ember Day Potluck rectory 6PM

The Second Sunday of Lent, March 17th/ 9:30 AM Confessions and Rosary/10 AM Mass/Tavola di San Giuseppe – St. Joseph Day brunch/ Youth Ministry at 5.

Thanks to the Ladies' Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver for breakfast this morning. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 6 and under. If this is a tight week for you and you need some help with a ticket, please see Lisa Jones or me.

Prayers. Please be praying for God's graces for those preparing for the Easter Sacraments, for First Communion and Confirmation.

Ember Days. The early spring Ember days are this week. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are days of fasting and prayer. Our prayer on Wednesday will be the Holy Hour at 8:30. On Friday, we will pray at 6 PM with the Mass and Stations. On Saturday, we will have a prayer service at 6 PM in the rectory thanking God for the year ahead. Please call the rectory or sign up in church if you will take part (special points for home grown and home made food).

Catechism class for adults. Deacon Chris teaches the class on the Catechism of the Catholic Church on **Sundays** after Mass. All are welcome to join.

On **Mondays** the Women's Bible Study meets at 6:30.

On **Tuesdays**, the Men's Faith Sharing meets at 7 PM; the Young Adults at 7 and Holy Hour at 8:30.

Lenten Bible Study Renewing Our Call to Holiness - Wednesdays. Mr. Joseph Jones, member of our parish who has a Master's degree in theology from the seminary, will lead a Bible Study on the Wednesdays of Lent. The Bible Study will begin at 6:30 and go for an hour.

Knowing the Shepherd Series. The series continues this **Thursday** at 6:30 in the rectory. Each session is self-contained; you don't need to have been at the prior sessions. Please bring your bible and journal. Please see Ms. Arlene Apone for more information.

On **Fridays**, Mass and Stations at 6 PM.

Lenten Penance Service. Because of some scheduling problems, we will have confessions on Sunday, April 7th at 12:30 instead of our usual penance service.

A blessed week! *Father Dan*

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (Continued)

for us to wrestle with, it cannot harm those who do not consent but manfully resist it by the grace of Jesus Christ.’ [Council of Trent; DS 1515] Indeed, ‘an athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.’ [2 Tim 2:5]” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1264). Indeed, our Blessed Lord desires that we share with Him in the glory of His victory!

Temptation remains to strengthen us. Temptation remains to point us to Jesus. “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:16).

How can temptation do that? How can temptation actually help us to become saints? Let us look today at one simple way.

Our temptations often show us areas where we have the opportunity to grow in love, if only we take the time to appropriately examine them, neither to beat ourselves up nor to strive for a kind of pseudo-perfection unattainable this side of heaven, but to simply remove obstacles to His love. Following St. Paul’s, perhaps we can begin to engage in a nightly examination of conscience: “Examine [peirazō] yourselves, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2 Cor 13:5).

Notice that the same Greek word, peirazō, is used for the “temptation” of Jesus in the Gospels and for St. Paul’s instruction that we should examine our consciences. The test is not necessarily a punishment for wrongdoing. It can’t be, because Jesus never did anything wrong, and so cannot have been subjected to such a test.

Again, the examination is a rooting out of things which prevent us from receiving God’s love. These things are called sins. “Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?” says St. Paul. He loves you. He gives Himself to you. He wants us to pass the test and will do everything short of impinging upon our freedom to help us. “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace . . . and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:16).

Let us all take just five minutes every evening to “with confidence draw near to the throne of grace.” First, ask the Holy Spirit for help. Second, reflect back on your day, remembering moments of grace and moments of sin. Third, thank God for His blessings. Fourth, say an Act of Contrition in repentance for your sins. And finally make a resolution to live with a greater openness to God tomorrow. Thus our temptations and trials will truly lead us deeper into the arms of our Father.

Fr. Brice Higginbotham is a priest of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in Louisiana, currently serving as parochial vicar at Christ the Redeemer in Thibodaux. Ordained to the Sacred Order of Presbyter in 2017

VETA DIDLAKE ELEVATOR

The lift is up and operational. There is still finish work to be completed but we are able to use it. We will have a blessing of the lift on Sunday, March 3rd. The lift is intended for wheelchairs, seniors and those who have a difficult time using stairs. It can accommodate 2 people and a wheelchair/walker or up to 3 people. Please see the ushers for use.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

MYRON BROWN
SISTER MARY ELISE CHAPMAN
LAYNE CHESNEY (REL. OF M. SERAPHINOFF)
JAMES DYAS
HANAA ESHAQ
ESTHER FIGUEROA-NUNEZ
SR MARY FINN, HVM
TONI FULLER
LOIS GIPSON
WENDEL GOLSON (SON OF B. WYRE)
DONALD HALSTEAD (REL. OF M. SERAPHINOFF)
HELEN HARRIS (AUNT OF TONI CHILDS)
SISTER ELIZABETH HARRIS, SISTER MARY JANE, HVM
MASTER SGT. SHEILA HOLMES (RET)
MILDRED JOHNSON (HOMEBOUND)
LYNN JONES
PEGGY JONES
WILNETTE JONES
KATE LINDHOLM (MOTHER OF TOM VICKERMAN)
BRANDON MARSHALL (SON OF R. MARSHALL)
TERRY MATHIS
PATTY MATIGIAN
DONNA METCALFE
MAGNOLIA MILLER
JOSEPH MONIER
LINDA MONIER
PEGGY MONIER
JACQUELINE MOORE
FANNIE NEWTON (HOMEBOUND)
DOROTHY PAYNE
DAVID PHILBERT
MARY QUINN
THEO ROBERTS
DARLINE RUCKER
RICKI RUGGS
CLIFF SUTTON
TERRY TUBBS (HUSBAND OF B. TUBBS)
SISTER JOLEEN VANHANDL
BERNADETTE WYRE

LENT 2019

MASS & STATIONS OF THE CROSS, Every Friday of Lent, **6:00 pm**, Fish Fry **11 am—7 pm**

MASS & HOLY HOUR (Eucharistic Adoration and Morning Prayer) **Wed. & Sat. 8 am**, **Mass, 9 AM**
See web calendar for exact dates.

NIGHT PRAYER, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8:30 pm

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, Mondays, **6:30 pm** with Genevieve Kocourek

MEN'S FAITH SHARING, Tuesdays, **6:00 pm** with Deacon Chris

YOUNG ADULT'S FAITH AND SERVICE TEAM, Tues, 7 pm

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, **Renewing Our Call to Holiness**, with Joseph Jones, **Wednesdays, 6:15 pm**

CALLED & GIFTED Spiritual Gifts Discernment, **Saturday, March 9th, 9 am** Mass followed by Workshop, 9:30 - 5 pm, Refreshments and Lunch.

KNOWING THE SHEPHERD with Arlen Apone. **Thursdays, 6:30 pm**

HOLY LAND 2020 INFORMATIONAL NIGHT

When Wed Apr 17, 2019 7pm – 8:30pm (EDT)

Where SHMS, 2701 Chicago Blvd.

Who People interested in the 2020 pilgrimage to the Holy Land

The Department of the Attorney General would like to give every victim of abuse and coverup, the ability to share more information the Attorney General toll-free hotline at 844-324-3374 (Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm) or send information by email, through the following link:

<https://www.michigan.gov/ag> and select "learn More" in the Open Investigations section.

PARISH STAFF

Monsignor Daniel J. Trapp, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Joseph Iskra, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Chris Rabaut, Deacon
Ms. Marjorie Gabriel-Burrow, Minister of Music
Mrs. Sara Bordato, Business Manager
Mrs. Kathleen Williams-Trice, DRE
Ms. Genevieve Kocourek, Evangelization Coordinator
Ms. Lisa Jones, Event Coordinator
Mr. Jerry Wyre, Maintenance Manager
Mr. Mark Marshall, Security
Ms. Paula Marshall, Security

Pastoral Council, Deidre Todd
Finance Council, Dan Alter
Christian Service, Artensia Wynn
Education, Kathleen Williams-Trice
Stewardship, Msgr. Trapp
Worship, Deacon Chris Rabaut
Travel Club, LaVerne Embry
Knights of Peter Claver, Stanley Pickett, June Ross
Ushers, Jacqueline Marshall
Sunday Refreshments, Lisa Jones
Pingree Park Assoc., Deacon Chris Rabaut

PARISH OFFICE

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Web: www.saintamparish.org

PARISH OUTREACH

Image of God Crisis Pregnancy Center of Detroit,
Thursdays, 5:30—7 pm
Saturdays, 10:30 am—12 pm
Ms. Gloria Page, Director Tel: 313.923.8018
Ms. Linda Linseman, President

SVDP Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, THAW
Jacqueline Marshall, President
Tues, Wed. 10:30 am—1:00 pm

WE, THE PEOPLE OF ST. AUGUSTINE AND ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE A MULTI-CULTURAL INNER CITY PARISH DEVOTED TO THE LOVE AND HONOR OF GOD. OUR MISSION IS TO ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST BY USING AND DEVELOPING OUR TALENTS TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF OUR PARISHIONERS AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.