



St. Mary's Catholic Church



February 21, 2021– First Sunday of Lent - Cycle B

St. Mary's - Shenandoah
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Tues - 9-2

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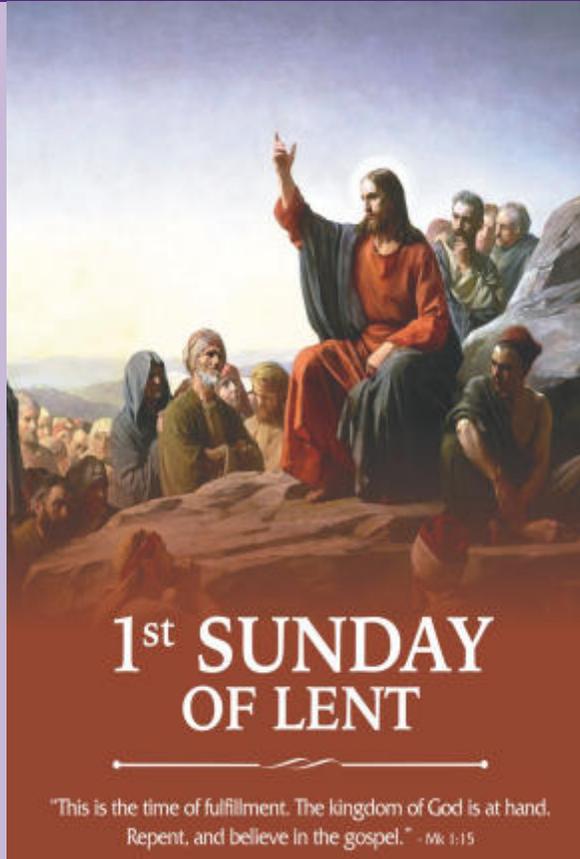
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402-813-2113



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Welcome to St. Mary's Church on this First Sunday of Lent. Forty days from now we will find ourselves at the foot of the cross. How can we prepare ourselves for this? Jesus' words at the beginning of his ministry are apt: "Repent, and believe in the gospel." Let us ask ourselves how we have sinned. Let us feel remorse for those times we have fallen short. Let us resolve to turn back to God and live out the gospel in our day-to-day lives. Let us find ourselves able to approach the cross forty days from today with profound gratitude for what our Lord has done for us.

Readings for week February 21, 2021

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/

1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

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

[18b]/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/

Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,

2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/

Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/

Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10,

15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Cycle B—Reflection on Readings

Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]
1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15



Theme: overcoming temptations

We began the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. It is a time in imitation of Jesus spending forty days in the desert. Jesus fasted in the desert and overcame the devil's temptations. Jesus never sinned but, in the desert, he was tempted, and during these forty days of Lent we remember Jesus in the desert as we try to overcome temptation in our lives and to overcome sinfulness. There is practically no hiding place or shelter in the desert and the difficulties of the desert make whatever is inside a person come to the surface. Lent is an invitation for us to take the courageous step of "going into the desert" and not hiding from what lies hidden deep within us.

This is a time to put our souls before a mirror and see ourselves as we really are. Lent is an invitation to allow our sin and darkness and wounds come to the surface so that we can deal with them and allow them to be healed by the grace of Jesus. During these forty days of Lent, we do not hide from our sinfulness or prevent God speaking to us or healing us during this Lent. It is only when we admit something that we can deal with it.

What must I do?

The first stage in overcoming anything is to admit the problem. If we remain in denial, we miss out on the grace of God to heal us and renew us and make us whole. During Lent we say no to the devil's temptations to continue committing sin, and instead we trust in our heavenly Father like Jesus in the desert.

The Church has suggested three things that we undertake during Lent - **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. It is for this reason that the Gospel text for Ash Wednesday every year is Jesus' instruction on prayer, fasting and almsgiving (Matt 6:1-6, 16-18). During Lent we want to pray more, fast and help the poor.

Lent is a time for more prayer. We live busy lives and there is much emphasis on enjoying life but *a life without prayer is a life without the joy of the presence of God*. **If we do not pray, we become a prey for temptation.**

Necessity to fast

Fasting is a penance the Church encourages us to undertake during Lent. From the spiritual point of view, fasting symbolizes our dependence on God. It expresses the fact that we really are trying to put God first in our life. The Bible tells us that fasting from food must go together with fasting from violence and fasting from oppressing people (Isa 58:3-12). In other words, when we fast from food it is to be accompanied by a loving and forgiving attitude towards others. To fast in a way that is genuinely pleasing to God, we can try to forgive those who have hurt us and not harbor resentment any longer.

Give until it hurts

For almsgiving or helping the poor, the Church makes it easy for us by giving us the opportunity to contribute to Catholic aid agencies. Helping the poor during Lent brings the words of Jesus to mind, "Whatever you did to one of the least of these you did to me." (Matt 25:45)

Reflective moment

The beginning of Lent is the traditional time for making Lenten resolutions. Based on today's readings you might examine those areas in your life most in need of change before determining this season's commitments. Changes will result in a new you and a better reflection of the new kingdom of Jesus.

Lent calls us to change. Of course, if we wish to change the outer aspects of our lives, we must first change the inner attitudes of our minds. The change of heart to which Lent calls us can be accomplished most of all through the power of prayer. Let us resolve during this season of grace to overcome all kinds of temptations. Shalom!

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday 3:30pm 4:30pm	Feb 20 Confessions Mass for Jarrett Harms+
Sunday 6:30am 10:30am - Also Livestream Zoom	Feb 21 1st Sunday of Lent Mass for TJ Gibson+ Mass for Good Health for Diane Mullenberg
Monday No Mass	Feb 22 The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle Fr Raphael Day off
Tuesday 12:10pm	Feb 23 St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr Mass for Sr Lois Coyne - Legion of Mary President - Omaha
Wednesday 12:10pm	Feb 24 Mass for Jose Refegio Aguero Trejo+
Thursday 12:10pm	Feb 25 Mass for Mike Dinville+
Friday 12:10pm	Feb 26 Mass for Mike Teachout+
Saturday 3:30pm 4:30pm	Feb 27 Confessions Mass for Matt McIntyre+
Sunday 6:30am 10:30am - Also Livestream Zoom	Feb 28 2nd Sunday of Lent Mass for Hughie Laughlin+ Mass for Jose Refegio Aguero Trejo+



Stations of the Cross

**Friday, February 26 @
5:30pm
via Zoom - Hamburg**

Lectors—February 27th & 28th

4:30pm — Laurie Johnson
6:30am — Steve Berning
10:30am — Steve Schuster

Holy Humor

Funny temptation story

A certain boy was severely warned by his dad not to go swimming again. He disobeyed and came back home all wet. His dad asked him why you have disobeyed me despite my warnings, he answered: "I was tempted by the devil I will not do it again. His father said good, next time you are tempted by the devil tell him NO that he should get behind you.

The next day the boy did the same thing again then when he got home his father was disappointed and asked him why he disobeyed, again the boy answered when the devil came to tempt me I said NO get behind me you devil then he went behind me and pushed me into the water.

Motivation of the week

WHOSE FATHER: Whose Father is He?

A beggar came asking for food. I told him to come around to the back door and asked him to sit on the floor while I went in to bring the leftover food.

I brought him food and said, let's pray. Now repeat after me, "Our FATHER in Heaven". He said, "Your Father in Heaven". I said, "No, say OUR FATHER in Heaven". He again said, "Your Father in Heaven"!!!

This extremely irritated me! I asked why do you say 'Your' father when I say 'Our' FATHER?'

He said, "Sir, it's like this. If I say Our FATHER, then we both become brothers. If we are brothers, you would invite me in through the front door and not the back; you would ask me to sit at your dining table not on the floor; you'd also not give me stale food! Sir, somehow it's not possible that we are sons of the same father"! He may be your Father, but he can't be OUR father!

Whose FATHER is He? It took a beggar to teach me the truth!!!''''

GOD becomes our FATHER when we treat one another as brothers and sisters.

Think very deeply about this. Be your brother's/ sister's keeper.

St. Mary's Church Support

Tithes - \$1,045.00

Plate - \$ 26.00

First Offering - \$10.00

Hamburg Stipend - \$1,059.66



Birthday's

2-24 Robert Lightfoot

2-26 Tom Madsen

2-28—Emily Daoust

Anniversary

2-29 Pete & Dana Wenstrand

St. Mary's Shenandoah Parishioners who would like to have their Birthdays & Anniversaries in the Church Bulletin, please email them to: saintmaryoffice.shen@gmail.com. Thank You



Mary Laughlin
Mary Lightfoot
Patricia Steffes
Evelyn Pontious
Carla Offenburger
Helen Lewis
Mary Berning
Homebound Parishioners



Knights of Columbus Council 1479. Meet the **second Tuesday of each month.** Meal at 7pm followed by meeting at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Shenandoah.

Legion of Mary group meets every Thursday at **5:30pm via Zoom.**

BAPTISM: Please call the Church office to schedule the Baptism. A class is required for first-time parents.

1ST COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION SACRAMENTS: Eligibility to receive these Sacraments includes being Baptized, in 2nd grade or above, enrolled in the Religious Education Program, and meet Sunday class attendance requirements including extra Sacrament Lessons. Please contact Lynda Marshall for more information.

CONFIRMATION: This Sacrament is offered every other year to 10th and 11th graders who have received their 1st Communion and Reconciliation Sacraments, meet the criteria of two years attendance in the Religious Education Program-Youth Ministry's Sunday classes and attend extra Sacrament Lessons. Please contact Lynda Marshall for more information.

MARRIAGE: Couples planning a wedding at St. Mary's should contact Fr. Raphael at least 6 months prior to the wedding to begin the preparation process.

RCIA: Each Fall the parish forms a group of adults who are interested in becoming Catholic, or in learning about the faith. Contact the Parish Office or Fr. Raphael.

CARE OF THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Raphael to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, or if you would like a visit while in the hospital or Communion brought to your home. Eucharist is taken to the homebound on Sundays by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

PARISH REGISTRATION: If you would like to register in the parish, please introduce yourself to Fr Raphael or stop by the Church Office. Forms are also available at the back of Church. Completed forms can be dropped in the collection basket.

UPDATE OF PARISH ROSTER: A constant effort of the parish office is updating our current registered parishioners email addresses, home addresses and home and cell phone numbers. Please address these changes to the church office. If you are new to the parish, please call the office to register or pick up form in back of Church. If you are moving to a new location, or if parishioners know of someone who has moved, please call the parish office.

If you are in need of sacramental records or would like **Masses** offered for anyone, please contact the Church Office. Envelopes are in back of Church. Masses are \$5.00 per Mass.

PARISH HALL RENTING: Please contact the Church Office. All communication with usage must be communicated with the Church Office. Parishioners using the Parish Hall for meetings or any other purposes should contact the Church Office.

Carrying the Message

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15 (NIV)

Based on Mark 1:9-15



S J P Y B A P T I Z E D P S S
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 J V Q Z L L V N R R N E I P E
 N E A R D O K N R E P T G M D
 W K D S D A E Z P O S G O E Z
 T I U U P V Y E Y P E C T Z F
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 R M Z O D E S G Q I E C T Q H
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 V J O R D A N K Q Y E D M W R
 M K Z L H G Z I K R R N E P D
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REPENT	TEMPTED	TIME	BAPTIZED	BELIEVE
DESERT	COME	VOICE	KINGDOM	JORDAN
FORTY	NEWS	OPEN	WATER	DAYS
GOOD	SPIRIT	DOVE	HEAVEN	NEAR

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH - From celebrating daily Mass to calling parishioners, arranging for outreach and more, our parish continues its mission of helping people know and love God. Please continue your tithing support so that we can continue our mission during these challenging times. Please drop tithes in the Lockbox in Church or in the mail. Thanks

• **BEST LENT EVER** It's time to experience their BEST LENT EVER! This is a free email program that sends daily inspirational videos directly to your inbox. This acclaimed program will help you prepare your heart and mind during the season of Lent for the coming of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Don't give up chocolate this Lent. Unlock your God given potential with BEST LENT EVER! Register at: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/best-lent-ever.html>

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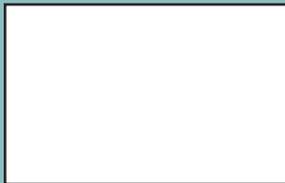


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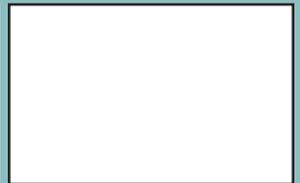
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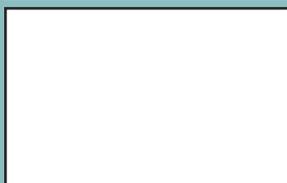
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