

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212

parishoffice@sgg.org • www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor • Rev. Anthony Cekada
Rev. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna



March 1, 2020

LENT I

ST. DAVID, BPC



¶ FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. The Blessing of Religious Articles will be available at the Communion Rail after all Masses. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM, ending early for Short Stations at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM. The Little Church is in the vestibule today to receive your alms for priests. God reward your generosity.

¶ FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 AM Low Mass

10:55 AM Confessions

11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction

5:00 PM Exposition

5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary

5:45 PM Sermon & Low Mass

6:45 PM Lenten Supper

7:30 PM Stations, Sorrowful Mother Novena. Blessing of the Sick,

8:30 PM (approx.) Holy Communion

All Night Adoration

Intention of First Friday: In reparation to the Sacred Heart and to pray for a good Lent.

¶ FIRST SATURDAY

7:10 AM Rosary, Confessions

7:30 AM High Mass

8:15 AM Devotions & Benediction

8:40 AM Low Mass

First Saturday Intention: In reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for blasphemies of heretics, schismatics, and impious men.

Collection Report

Sunday, February 23rd.....\$4,359.00



Lenten Friday Evening of Recollection – March 6th

5:45 PM: Low Mass

6:45 PM: Lenten Supper: Tuna salad, macaroni & cheese

7:30 PM: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick

8:30 PM (approx.): Distribution of Holy Communion

All Night Adoration

¶ DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday. Be sure to put your clocks *forward* one hour Saturday night.



¶ STATIONS

Stations of the Cross are now on Wednesday at 3 PM, with Holy Communion, Friday at 7:30 PM (Holy Communion at 8:30), and Sunday at 11:15 AM.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT II

Next Sunday is the second Sunday of Lent. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Short Stations will be at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 *Set Your Missal:* Lent II, second collect of St. John of God. Preface of Lent.

¶ LENTEN READING

Everybody should read a good book during Lent. Children should do me a short book report at the end. Visit our Lending Library or our Gift Shop.

– Bp. Dolan

¶ CATECHISM CORNER

The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

To admonish the sinner,
To instruct the ignorant,
To counsel the doubtful,
To comfort the sorrowful,
To bear wrongs patiently,
To forgive all injuries,
To pray for the living and the dead.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Fr. Cekada, David, Pete & Willa Gebel, and the repose of the soul of †Steve Briggs.

¶ UPCOMING

Children's Lenten Day of Recollection, Wednesday, March 11. The day begins at 9:00 AM and closes at 3:00 PM. Lunch is provided. Please let us know if your children will be attending.
Altar Boys Day: Saturday, March 28th.

THE CALL OF LENT

Lent is the commemoration of the Passion of Christ, a book of great beauty for those who take time to read it. Lent is a song of love, with the Mass of the day its theme. Slowly, it unfolds its music, its pages filled with Christ's love for us.

To be so loved calls for loving back. If only we began that "loving back," our lives and those of our families, our nation, and all the world would be changed and become Christ-centered instead of self-centered. The essence of it all can be found so easily, in any parish church, morning, noon, or night at Mass. A few minutes in a quiet church, following and participating in the Mass, preparing with the priest to offer the Perfect Sacrifice, and with it, our lives, our loves, our problems, our business, we plunge into the fire of the Mass—*God*—and come out ourselves a fire, a light, a flame, warming our cold world, lighting its path home.

Lent brings with it Calvary. Let us, then, arise and walk every step of these Lenten days until, standing with Mary under Christ's cross, we begin to love Him back as He should be loved, and by that very loving, restore His kingdom to Him. Our walking through the slow, beautiful days of Lent must begin with the Mass, the fruit of Calvary, the fruit of the cross.

— Catherine de Hueck Doherty

It was the Cure of Ars who said, "A Spiritual Communion acts on the soul as blowing does on a cinder—covered fire which was about to go out. Whenever you feel your love of God growing cold, quickly make a Spiritual Communion."



IN TEMPTATION

Almighty and most gentle God, listen mercifully to our prayers, and that we may become fit dwelling places for the Holy Spirit, deliver our hearts from the wicked thoughts that tempt us. Amen.



¶ LITTLE FLOWER LIBRARY

Little Flower Library is celebrating its first anniversary! Plenty of good reading is at your fingertips. Several titles for Lent will be on display. The Lives of the Saints, Meditation, or the Life of Christ are great subjects for spiritual growth. The process for checking out books is as follows:

- 1) Select books of your choice.
- 2) Fill out receipt with your name, date, and titles.
- 3) Drop white receipt slip into receipt box.
- 4) Enjoy your reading for up to two months!

The Little Flower Library is located through the school doors at the end of the hall.

Lumen Christi

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament during the next fortnight for the following intention:

To redeem souls in purgatory
(Patrick Curry)



"Be a rebel. Get married, stay married for life. Moms stay home with your kids. Don't use contraceptives. Be open to life with love. Have a big family. Raise them in your faith. Love expands with family size, it doesn't divide."

— Rae (@FiatLuxGenesis)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Audemus dicere 'Pater Noster.'"
— Canon of the Mass

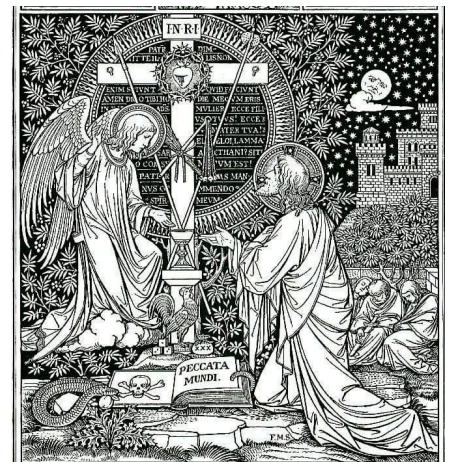
There is a bolder way,
There is a wilder enterprise than this
All-human iteration day by day.
Courage, mankind! Restore Him
what is His.

Out of His mouth were given
These phrases. O replace them
whence they came.
He, only, knows our inconceivable
"Heaven,"
Our hidden "Father," and the unspoken
"Name";

Our "trespasses," our "bread,"
The "will" inexorable yet implored;
The miracle-words that are and are
not said,
Charged with the unknown purpose
of their Lord.

"Forgive," "give," "lead us not"—
Speak them by Him, O man the unaware,
Speak by that dear tongue, though
thou know not what,
Shuddering through the paradox of
prayer.

— Alice Meynell



God, who enlighteneth every soul born into this world, we beg Thee to enlighten our hearts with the radiance of Thy grace, ever enabling us to think worthy thoughts pleasing to Thy majesty and to love Thee with our whole hearts.

✠ THE BISHOP'S CORNER ✠

Lent began, and then everything went white and cold and Christmassy by Friday. Still, Spring waits in the wings. So do innumerable graces for those who do *something* for the soul, some sacrifice for a spiritual life, something to permit new life and growth. This is Lent.

Most of you do not come for ashes at the start of Lent. Still, there were enough souls at each Mass so as not to make it *entirely* discouraging. **Fr. McGuire** kindly offered two Masses—that's called binating—for your convenience. Nevertheless, I'm always impressed each Ash Wednesday to see people I don't even know, maybe from another group or even Novus Ordo, who come for ashes. Very edifying, and maybe they'll come back. Thank God for the devout souls who *do* come back, even several times a week!

This Friday, the All Night Adoration calls in addition to the Mass, Stations and Novenas. Pete Gebel was a regular for years at Adoration, but disappeared in November. It seems he was too sick to answer our many phone calls, checking on him. I thought he was out of town. But his brother called last week, and Father will visit him. Keep him in your prayers. He's doing very poorly.

Of course, your prayers for **Fr. Cekada** are appreciated, and I can see their good effects. I'm also learning a lot about stroke, and caring for a stroke patient. It's not all that different from the spiritual care of souls, I think. People get forgetful, fall sometimes, try to do too much, and then neglect the basics. You are blessed to have priests to be your caregivers. Pray for them all, but remember your basics, or you'll never get better.

Lent is a time, the Liturgy tells us, to increase, by God's grace, in health of soul *and* body. Jesus Christ is our Healer, our Doctor, our constant Helper and Friend, sent by the Father to be always with us. Cooperate! Work the program (as they say) this Lent, and the program will work for you.

Did you see the President's Ash Wednesday message? I was pleasantly surprised to read such a White House missive in today's world. Its tone was dignified and respectful, and the contents were correct, liturgical even. You'd never get *that* from Bergoglio!

Read the anti-anxiety "message from Jesus" (who even beats Trump) in today's bulletin, especially if you're troubled by that Chinese bug, or a falling stock market, or anything else. Not too much good is done in an agitated soul. True growth comes in calm. Jesus Christ and His Mother bestow it.

But don't forget good St. Joseph. Today we open his month. Put March under his patronage. Ask him for

generosity and stability this Lent. He will keep you close to Jesus and Mary.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph assist you!

– **Bishop Dolan**



P.S. Originally, nobody used to eat anything in Lent until Vespers (evening prayer) were said. In time, Vespers would follow the morning Mass, and the people would follow the Vespers. Join our schoolboys who chant the daily Vespers with us. Translations provided. It's the Church's daily Thanksgiving prayer.

All Night Adoration Guard of Honor – March

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Joe Andreotta, Doby Curran

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Ken Gilliam, Kirby Bischel

9:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Justin Soeder, *Volunteer needed*

10:00 PM - 11:00 PM: Andrew Prell, Dean McClorey

11:00 PM - 12:00 AM: James Kolenich, Paul Puglielli

12:00 AM - 1:00 AM: Levi Giese, Hunter Lumbatis

1:00 AM - 2:00 AM: David Marko, *Volunteer needed*

2:00 AM - 3:00 AM: Dan & John Brueggemann

3:00 AM - 4:00 AM: Steve Weigand, *Volunteer needed*

4:00 AM - 5:00 AM: Matthew Giese, *Volunteer needed*

5:00 AM - 6:00 AM: Joseph Simpson, Paddy Omlor

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM: Jim Soli, Sisters of Our Lady of Reparation

Sub: Brendan Lotarski (513-889-9449)

If you cannot make your hour, please contact the church office immediately: (513) 645-4212

THE SEVEN PETITIONS OF LIFE

The greatest prayer of all—the "Our Father"—is a prayer of petition: when Our Lord taught these words to His disciples, He gave them the right to ask from God the things they wanted for themselves. But He also showed them, through this prayer, what things they *ought* to want.

The central petition of the "Our Father" asks, "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" It is a practical plea: we may have our souls in the stars, but our bodies are in the dust of human living, and we need God's help in keeping body and soul together. Thus we ask to have our economic needs filled...but for this day alone; we are not encouraged to pray for security for the next twenty years. And it is only "our" bread for which we pray—bread that we have earned and have the right to eat. The racketeer does not eat his own bread. We pray, "Give us," not "Give me," for our desire for plenty is inseparable from the needs of those around us. We want no plenty while others starve.

The plea for bread divides the "Our Father" into two portions. The earlier half lifts the soul to God and the affairs of God—His honor, His kingdom and His will; the second half frees us from the specific frustrations of this life. (*To be continued*)

– *Bishop Sheen*

MON	3/2/20	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention (RH) (<i>K/V</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Anthony Brueggemann (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers
TUE	3/3/20	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention (AV) (<i>George Kunkel</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Fr. A. Cekada (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski & family</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:00 PM Low Mass In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for a special intention (<i>P.T. & A.M. Omlor</i>)
WED	3/4/20	ST. CASIMIR, C • ST. LUCIUS I, PM EMBER WEDNESDAY <i>FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass †Ruth Sieverding Kieffer (<i>Mike Sieverding</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Aleksi Kojonen (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 3:00 PM Stations & Holy Communion ☞ 5:10 PM Low Mass Conversion of sinners (<i>Cora A.</i>)
THU	3/5/20	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i> FIRST THURSDAY 7:00 AM Low Mass Ann Garrison: God knows – health (<i>Ann Garrison</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention – JG (<i>TRCS</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass For the sanctification of priests (<i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers
FRI	3/6/20	FIRST FRIDAY • SS. PERPETUA & FELICITY, MM EMBER FRIDAY • <i>THE LANCE & NAILS</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass Holy Souls (<i>K. & M. Christensen</i>) 10:55 AM Confessions 11:25 AM Low Mass †Irene Ulanowski & †Jan Groen (3 rd Anniversary of Death) (<i>Colleen Eldracher</i>) Benediction 12:25 PM Vespers 5:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Fr. Eldracher & the Australian Missions (<i>JC Simpson</i>) 6:45 PM Lenten Supper 7:30 PM Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mother Novena V, Blessing of the Sick 8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion <i>All Night Adoration</i>
SAT	3/7/20	FIRST SATURDAY • ST. THOMAS AQUINAS EMBER SATURDAY <i>FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE</i> 7:10 AM Confessions & Rosary 7:30 AM High Mass Special Intention (<i>Jason Murray</i>) 8:15 AM First Saturday Devotions, Benediction 8:40 AM Low Mass Doris Ritze
SUN	3/8/20	LENT II • ST JOHN OF GOD, C DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Fr. Cekada (<i>Dan, Mary & family</i>)

JESUS, YOU TAKE OVER



How many things I can do, be it a material or a spiritual need, when the soul turns to Me, looks at Me and says to Me: Jesus, You take over, and closes its eyes and rests in Me! You do not receive many graces because you insist on getting them by yourself; but instead you will receive numberless graces, when your prayer is in full reliance on Me. When you are in pain, and you pray that I may act, you want Me to act as you believe I should...you do not turn to Me; instead you want Me to submit to your ideas; you are like a sick person who does not ask the doctor for the cure, but tells him what the cure is to be. Don't be like this, but pray as I taught you in the Our Father: *Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come*, which means, everything may work toward Your Kingdom in us and in the world; *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*, which means, You direct it as it seems best to You for the good of our eternal and temporal life.

When you truly tell Me: Thy will be done, which is the same then to say: Jesus, You take over, then do I intervene with all My omnipotence, and I will resolve every situation, even if there is no way out. For example, do you see your sickness becoming worse instead of improving? Don't become anxious, close your eyes and tell Me with trust: Your will be done, Jesus, You take over. I repeat it, I do take care, I intervene like a doctor, and even do a miracle if it is necessary. Does a patient become worse? Don't be frightened, close your eyes and say: Jesus, You take over. I tell you again: I will indeed do it for you, and there is no medicine more powerful than my loving intervention. *I take over only when you close your eyes.* – Don Dolindo

Servers

SUN 3/1 **7:30 AM** **Low**: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM **High**: **CHAPLAINS**: R. VandeRyt, M. Simpson **TH**: P. McClorey **ACs**: N. McClorey, D. Simpson **TORCH**: T. Lawrence, A. McClorey, C. Vander Putten, J. Stewart
11:15 AM **STATIONS**: A.D. Kinnett, J. & N. Kolenich, C. Arlinghaus
11:30 AM **Low**: A.D. Kinnett, J. Kolenich
4:45 PM **VESPERS & BENEDICTION**: G. Miller
5:45 PM **Low**: G. Miller

9:00 AM **High Mass** †John J. Kolb (*Pat Kolb & family*)
10:40 AM **Catechism Classes**
11:15 AM **Short Stations**
11:30 AM **Low Mass** Fr. Cekada (*Puglielli Family*)
4:45 PM **Vespers with Benediction**
5:45 PM **Low Mass** †Jacob Vogel (*Mike Sieverding*)

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Angel Sunday 1 Short Stations, 11:15 AM Vespers 4:45 PM LENT I <i>St DAVID, BpC</i>	FAST 2 8 AM Mass: Start your work week FERIAL DAY	FAST 3 School Mass 11:25 AM FERIAL DAY	FAST 4 First  Wednesday: St. Joseph Children's Stations 3 PM ST CASIMIR, C ST LUCIUS I, PM EMBER WEDNESDAY	FAST 5 Pray for priests FERIAL DAY	FAST 6 Evening of Recollection SS PERPETUA & FELICITY, MM EMBER FRIDAY <i>THE LANCE AND NAILS</i> FIRST FRIDAY	FAST 7 Reparation  to the Immaculate Heart of ST THOMAS AQUINAS, CD EMBER SATURDAY FIRST SATURDAY
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 8 Short Stations, 11:15 AM Vespers 4:45 PM LENT II ST JOHN OF GOD, C	FAST 9 Pray to your Guardian Angel ST FRANCES OF ROME, W ST DOMINIC SAVIO,	FAST 10 Forty is the Lenten number FORTY HOLY MARTYRS	FAST 11 Children's Day of Recollection Stations 3 PM FERIAL DAY	FAST 12 Listen to some Gregorian Chant ST GREGORY THE GREAT, PCD	FAST 13 Honor the Holy Face Evening of Recollection Mass & Stations FERIAL DAY <i>THE HOLY SHROUD</i>	FAST 14 Daily Rosary FERIAL DAY
Short Stations, 15 11:15 AM Vespers 4:45 PM LENT III ST CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER, C	FAST 16 Pray for Poor Souls FERIAL DAY	No Fast! 17 Solemn Mass ST PATRICK, BpC ST JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, C	FAST 18 Study your faith Children's Stations 3 PM ST CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BpCD	FAST 19 Solemn Mass Hot Cross Buns ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF OL	FAST 20 Pardon  and Mercy through the merits of Thy Holy Wounds FERIAL DAY ST PHOTINA & COMP, MM THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS	FAST 21 Pray for our Sisters ST BENEDICT, AB
Short Stations, 22 11:15 AM Vespers 4:45 PM LAETARE SUNDAY ST ISIDORE THE FARMER, C ST CATHERINE OF GENOA, W	FAST 23 Give alms FERIAL DAY	FAST 24 Pray the Angelus daily ST GABRIEL, ARCHANGEL	FAST 25 Come to Mass Prolife Prayer 5:10 Mass every Wed. THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BVM	FAST 26 Make an Act of Spiritual Communion FERIAL DAY	FAST 27 Have your statues in a place of honor ST JOHN DAMASCENE, CD THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD	FAST 28 ALTAR BOY DAY ST JOHN CAPISTRAN, C
Short Stations, 29 11:15 AM Vespers 4:45 PM PASSION SUNDAY	FAST 30 Pray for sinners FERIAL DAY	FAST 31 Litany of St. Joseph FERIAL DAY	THE MONTH OF ST. JOSEPH			

MONDAY IN LENT I

“And lead us not into temptation.” Since God’s Providence directs all, and absolutely no event is outside its scope, we may take this petition quite literally in asking God neither positively to will nor to permit that we be led into such circumstances as He foresees would expose us to the serious danger of falling into sin. He can, supposing our good will to cooperate, at all times so fortify us with His graces, interior and exterior, that what would otherwise have been an occasion of sin to us, becomes an occasion of virtue and merit. That is precisely what God wants. And this petition, frequently and earnestly repeated, can do much to preserve, to foster and strengthen this good disposition, this good will on our part. In this, too, His grace will be as necessary as my own good will—and certainly more powerful.



ask that we should not be tempted, for that is impossible in a life which is a constant warfare; it is not even expedient for us; but we do ask God to help us, by His grace, to resist temptation and not to expose us to any by which He foresees we should be overcome. This demands our fervent prayer, since on it depends our perseverance.

Act of Spiritual Communion

And lead us not into temptation: O Lord, who hast prepared before us a table against all who trouble us, and settest forth thereon the Bread which strengthens man’s heart against all the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, grant me through this heavenly and life giving food strength and courage, that I may never yield in the hour of temptation, but may steadfastly cleave to Thee.



TUESDAY IN LENT I

To refuse to cooperate or even to act counter to the inspirations of grace, I have in my own natural power. To do good, supernaturally, by myself alone, I am helpless. Even to those who fail to pray, God offers sufficient grace that they *could* be saved. What *could have been* is a poor consolation. What we all sorely need is that superabundance of grace which will help us to triumph over our weakness and deficiencies, and by our cooperation actually help God’s grace to accomplish its purpose, or as the theologians say, to become efficacious.



THURSDAY IN LENT I

Our temptations proceed either from the flesh, with its violent inclination to sensual satisfaction; or from the world, with its deceitful promises and threats, to make us neglect our duty; or from the devil, who makes use of our flesh or of the world, in order to ruin us at all seasons, in all places and in all conditions of life. Consequently, since we have to contend with such formidable enemies, we should be on our guard: “*Watch,*” we must pray without ceasing: “*and pray that ye enter not into temptation*” (Matt. xxvi. 41).

Act of Spiritual Communion

May I not seek the friendship of this world, nor be conformed to its spirit, but may I be so transformed by the virtue of this heavenly food that I may desire to please Thee alone, and fear nothing but to

displease Thee. May the earth grow vile in my eyes while I here behold the heavens and embrace within me the Lord of the whole earth.

FRIDAY IN LENT I

THE LANCE AND NAILS

It would be to court our ruin and to set God at naught, were we to expose ourselves to temptation, while we are asking to be delivered from it, and were we to place ourselves in circumstances which excite the evil inclinations of the flesh and give the devil strength of overcome us. Let us not be guilty of conduct so shameful.



Act of Spiritual Communion

May the pleasures of the flesh cease to attract me, seeing that it is given me to feed upon the Flesh of the Lamb without spot and on the Manna of heaven, in which I find pleasures greater far, and all conceivable sweetness of delight.

SATURDAY IN LENT I



“Lead us not.” God never would and never could directly tempt anyone to sin. God does permit temptation for a purpose. What, then, do these words mean? We pray God to restrain the force of temptation. God never permits a temptation above our powers. “God is faithful and will not permit you to be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also give you a way out that you may be able to bear it.” (I Cor., 10:13.) We ask God to deliver us from unusual and extraordinary temptations. We ask God to give us the strength to overcome them. His grace,

WEDNESDAY IN LENT I

After having begged forgiveness of our sins from God, we entreat Him not to let us in future commit fresh sin by yielding to temptation. We do not

won through prayer, is always sufficient. We ask God for special graces: We want Him to send His angels to help us. We ask for the grace to distrust ourselves and place all our trust in Him. We ask God to keep us from the occasions of sin, to help us to avoid them. We ask God particularly to give us the trust that a child in danger will have in its Father. Should we, nonetheless, meet the tempter in any form, we beg for the power to overcome him.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

“Temptation.” To tempt has three meanings: It means to test or try someone in order to find out his character and moral strength. It means subjecting one to trials and difficulties in order to give the tempted one a chance to practice virtue and to give good example. This gives glory to God. To tempt also means to provoke or lead one to moral evil, to induce one to commit sin. God does not tempt us in the third way; He is goodness itself; hence, He cannot cause us to sin. But God does allow temptation in the second sense, namely, by permitting trials which give us an opportunity to practice virtue. Of this type of temptation Sacred Scripture gives us many examples, like Abraham, Job, and Tobias.

In general, temptation means whatever may lead us to sin. It is not in itself sinful. Only when we consent to disobey God do we sin. It is important to bear this in mind always. The most horrible and enticing pictures may fill your mind, as they did with many of the saints, but if you do not purposely cause them or keep them, and if you do not consent to them, there is absolutely no sin.

What, then, causes the temptations which lead us to sin? The principal cause is concupiscence of the flesh, that is, a natural disposition or inclination to evil which we have inherited as a result of original sin. Because it is within us and because it stays with us all through life and

wherever we go, this is our greatest and most dangerous tempter. Sins of the past, even those forgiven, often cause us new temptations. This is especially true regarding sins of the flesh. Bad habits are another fertile source of evil suggestion.

The world is the second greatest cause of temptation. Bad example constantly confronts us—in social life, in our reading, in movies, on billboards, and in the places where we work. Constantly dinning in our ears are the maxims, slogans, and sayings of the world: “There is no sin.” “Live and let live,” in the sense that you can do whatever you want, as long as you let me do just what I want. “Life is short; enjoy it in whatever way you can.” “Anything goes as long as you don’t get caught.” That is the only rule some people follow.

The third and greatest cause of temptation is the devil. Even the Apostle St. Peter warned us about him: “Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, goes about seeking someone to devour.” (I Peter, 5:8.) Satan uses anything and everything to lead us into sin: The duties of our state in life are turned to his purposes. He will cause parents to become violently angry in correcting their children. He will cause servants and workers to waste time and goods. He works in the sacred state of marriage, in all the professions and walks of life. Satan uses the circumstances of life to tempt us: bad health, poverty, misunderstanding, desire for wealth, fame, and power.



St. Gertrude the Great Church
4900 Rialto Rd., West Chester, Ohio 45069
(513) 645-4212
www.sgg.org

LENT 2020

THE OUR FATHER



AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

How to Meditate:

Say a little prayer to the Holy Ghost to start. Read over the text slowly. Pause, reread it prayerfully. Sit quietly with it. Pray in your own words. Conclude with the Our Father.

The Spiritual Communion

By a rescript of November 24, 1992, the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences approved the following formula for a spiritual communion:

“O Jesus, I turn toward the holy tabernacle where You live hidden for love of me. I love You, O my God. I cannot receive You in Holy Communion. Come nevertheless and visit me with Your grace. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto Your own. Amen.”

Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

An indulgence of 500 days, if thrice repeated. (129 The Raccolta 1944)