

## The Work of the People

### *The First Sunday of Lent*

Today is the first Sunday of our Lenten journey for 2020. We know the meaning of Lenten discipleship in terms of three traditional practices: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (doing good). Lenten discipleship is about returning, about making our way back to God. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us on this journey. Just as Jesus' disciples were not free from sin, neither are we. We need the God to call us back. We need the God to remind us of his everlasting mercy, of his covenant with us, of his forgiveness. Without these five Sundays of Lent and their accompanying weekdays, along with Palm Sunday and Holy Week to recalibrate our faith journey, we might fail to recognize those areas in our own lives where we need to be reconciled with our brothers and sisters and with God. We need the God to transfigure us, to help us grow in holiness. Our actions are at times inconsistent with our words, as was the case for the Scribes and Pharisees. Some of them refused to hear the message of God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ. They wanted places of honor. The forty days of Lent gives us the opportunity to accept God's forgiveness, to humble ourselves, to renew our commitment to living God's values, to have God transfigure us.

The first reading for this First Sunday of Lent is from the book of Genesis. This reading has three parts: the creation of man, the placing of the man and the woman in the garden, and the temptation and sin of the woman and the man. The focus of the account is on the last activity. Like all temptations, the one presented by the serpent is subtle. The "reward" for disobedience is supposedly greater than the opposite, namely being obedient to God. And, like all temptations, when one gives in, not only is the consequence unexpected, but it brings about a realization that the wrong choice has been made.

The Gospel text for the First Sunday of Lent is always the story of Jesus' temptations in the desert. Matthew places his account right after Jesus' baptism. The significance of this arrangement is that the tempter mocks Jesus' identity with the words, "if you are the son of God..." All temptations attack our sense of who we are, or who we think we are. Jesus' response to each of the temptations was an affirmation of who he was and a rejection of the identity the tempter offered. It's

The reflection for this Sunday is from St. Gregory of Nazianzus (ca. 330 – ca. 389) who was one of the three Cappadocian Fathers along with Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa.

Let us beware of succumbing to pride, for the tempter will by no means stop at one success. He is never satisfied and is always pursuing us. Often he beguiles us with something good and useful, but its end is always evil. That is simply his method of waging war.

We also know how well-versed the devil is in Scripture. When Christ answered the temptation to turn stones into bread with a rebuke from Scripture beginning, It is written, the devil countered with the same words, tempting Christ to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the temple. For it is written, he quoted, he will give his angels charge of you, and on their hands they will bear you up. O past master of all evil, why suppress the verse that follows? You did not finish the quotation, but I know full well what it means: that we shall tread on you as on an adder or a cobra; protected by the Trinity, we shall trample on you as on serpents or scorpions [Ps 91:13].

If the tempter tries to overthrow us through our greed, showing us at one glance all the kingdoms of the world—as if they belonged to him—and demanding that we fall down and worship him, we should despise him. We will know him to be a penniless impostor. Strong in our baptism, each of us can say: "I too am made in the image of God, but unlike you, I have not yet become an outcast from heaven through my pride. I have put on Christ; by my baptism I have become one with him. It is you that should fall prostrate before me." By these words he can only surrender and retire in shame; as he retreated before Christ, the light of the world, so will he depart from those illumined by that light.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2

Monday: Lv. 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt. 25:31-46  
 Tuesday: Is. 55:10-11/Mt. 6:7-15  
 Wednesday: Jon. 3:1-10/Lk. 11:29-32  
 Thursday: Est. C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt. 7:7-12  
 Friday: Ez. 18:21-28/Mt. 5:20-26  
 Saturday: Dt. 26:16-19/Mt. 5:43-48  
 Sunday: Gn. 12:1-4a/2 Tm. 1:8b-10/Mt. 17:1-9

### BENEDICTION AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Tuesdays through Lent at 6:00 pm

March 3 - St. Bernadette  
 March 10 - St. Anthony  
 March 17 - St. Bernadette  
 March 24 - St. Anthony  
 March 31 - St. Bernadette  
 April 7 - St. Anthony

### CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2020

A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. You have joined together with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Erie to share of your blessings to help advance the mission of the church. I am grateful.

If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late. Just drop your pledge card or envelope marked "CSA" in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. Your generosity is appreciated.

### C.S. MINISTERIUM LENTEN PRAYER AND SOUP LUNCHEONS

March 4	St. Anthony of Padua
March 11	First Baptist Church
March 18	Presbyterian Church
March 25	Methodist Church
April 1	Christian Missionary Alliance Church

All luncheons start at 12:00 Noon

### FAITH AWARD

The Order of Franciscan Secular, Holy Cross Fraternity *Faith Award* is available online at [www.ladypovertyregion.org](http://www.ladypovertyregion.org) for all students and young adults who will be attending university or tech schools beginning in the fall of 2020. There will be three awards (\$500.00 each) given to students who meet the requirements. Students are required to write essays about how they will maintain their Catholic identity in school and beyond, without parental supervision.

*"Lord, strengthen me with our grace this Lent so that I can overcome any temptation."*

### LENTEN RICE BOWLS

The Rice Bowls for "Lent for Live" are available at both entrances to the church. Please be sure to take one so your family can partake in this Lenten observation.

**WORSHIP**

Monday, March 2  
8:00 am + John E. Auer  
Tuesday, March 3  
8:00 am + Michael Tomko (Stacy Mott)  
Wednesday, March 4  
8:00 am + NO MASS  
Thursday, March 5  
8:00 am + Living & Dec. Members of PNA Lodge 1540  
Friday, March 6 - FIRST FRIDAY  
8:00 am + Barry Zack (Joan Rembielak & Phyllis & Bob Wronko)  
Saturday, March 7  
4:30 pm + Richard W. White (Parishioners of St. Anthony)  
Sunday, March 8  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE  
Richard Baker (Shirley A. Knierman)  
9:30 am + Living & Deceased Parishioners

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE  
(Except Holy Days)  
7:00 am - Communion Service  
Tuesday, March 3  
After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena  
6:00 pm - AT ST. BERNADETTE  
Benediction & Stations of the Cross  
Wednesday, March 4  
12:00 Noon - AT ST. ANTHONY  
Ministerium Lenten Service & Soup Luncheon  
Saturday, March 7  
3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions  
Sunday, March 8  
Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE  
After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY  
NOTE: Latin Mass will be the last Sunday of every month  
at 12:30 pm

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 7 - 4:30 PM**

Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Kingston/Shawn Pflieger/Jim Samson  
Lector: Kathleen Lipkovich  
Altar Servers: Robert Moats/Sophia Mott

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - 9:30 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers: Larry Douglas/Christine Krzysiak/  
Don Marteeny/Carol Rasavage  
Lector: Vicki Eckstein  
Altar Servers: Andrea Walker/Sydney Zilhaver

**ST. BERNADETTE**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - 8:00 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Sada/J. Weagraff/K. Weagraff  
Lector: J. Drda  
Ushers: S. Sada, Sr.  
Altar Servers: I. Levis

**STEWARDSHIP**

2/23/20  
Offertory \$264.00  
Votive 6.00  
TOTAL \$270.00

CSA  
Pledged - \$3,075.00  
Paid - \$1,675.00

**LENTEN FISH DINNERS**

Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro: Serving 5pm - 7pm  
Mar. 6, 20, 27, Apr. 3  
All Saints Parish, Waterford: Serving 4:30pm - 7pm  
Mar. 6, 13, 16, 20, 27, Apr 3  
St. Philip, Linesville: Serving 4pm - 7pm  
Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27, Apr. 3

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

The 1:38 Women's Conference will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie on Saturday, March 28, 2020. Check-in begins at 8:00 am and the program runs from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. The day concludes with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Lawrence Persico. Registration materials can be picked up in the gathering space.

**A HUMAN EMERGENCY**  
**LENTEN PARISH MISSION**

Presented by the Catholic Community of Meadville at St. Agatha, Monday - Wednesday, March 16 - 18, 2020. See the notice on the bulletin boards at the church entrances for details.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

In today's gospel Jesus cautions it is not enough to provide food for our children; "one does not live on bread alone." Let Lent 2020 be a time when you are "led by the Spirit" to explore new ways to be a moral guide to your children.

**BINGO** - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, March 2. Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm.

**SAEGERTOWN COMMUNITY**  
**LENTEN LUNCHEONS**

March 4 Twelve Apostles Church  
March 11 Saegertown United Methodist Church  
March 18 Saint Bernadette  
March 25 Twelve Apostles Church  
April 1 Saegertown United Methodist Church  
All luncheons start at 12:00 Noon

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE**

Mon. Mar. 2 - 6:00 pm - Holy Name Society Mtg.  
Tues. Mar. 3 - 6:00 pm - Benediction & Stations of the Cross  
Wed. Mar. 4 - 1:00 pm - Altar Rosary Soc. Mtg.  
Sun. Mar. 8 - Holy Name Society Sunday

**STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$919.00
Maintenance	435.75
Candles	15.00
Reimbursement	2,683.26
Latin Mass	380.65
TOTAL	\$4,433.66
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$14,875.00	Paid: \$5,250.00

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---