

FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 25-26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

Gospel reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
He fasted for forty days and forty nights,
and afterwards he was hungry.
The tempter approached and said to him,
“If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.”
He said in reply, “It is written:
‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.’”
Then the devil took him to the holy city,
and made him stand on the parapet of the temple,
and said to him, “If you are the Son of God,
throw yourself down. For it is written:
‘He will command his angels concerning you’
and ‘with their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.’”
Jesus answered him, “Again it is written,
‘You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.’”
Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain,
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,
and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you,
if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.”
At this, Jesus said to him, “Get away, Satan! It is written:
‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship
and him alone shall you serve.’”
Then the devil left him and, behold,
angels came and ministered to him.

Intercession

May the Holy Spirit empower us to overcome every obstacle we encounter as we come together as a parish community to ensure a thriving *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.

Copy for bulletin announcement

In today's Gospel, Jesus claims, "One does not live by bread alone" (Matthew 4:4). Jesus forewent food in the wilderness for forty days to prove it was possible. Because he is so abundant, God's spirit can sustain any need.

Our fasting shows us that this is possible in a personal, experiential way. Fasting is an act of faith that "No, I don't have to satisfy every urge." Relying on God, we aren't subservient to our urges.

Jesus tasked our parish with the mission to reach hungry souls with Jesus' sustaining bread of life. Through your generosity, you can help our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* feed those who hunger—physically and spiritually. Jesus' angels ministered to him at the end of his fast and we, too, need your help to minister to the weak. Some souls have been fasting from His love for far too long. This Lent let's work together to end that fast. They need to know His name. May the name of Jesus be glorified through our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*!

Copy for pulpit announcement

This Lent don't be afraid to give generously. Our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* needs you. You may feel your resources are too small to make a difference, but thankfully, we have a God who specializes in strengthening the weak and multiplying gifts given generously. Give anyway; He'll take care of the rest. Thank you in advance!

Social media post/content

Photo: A struggling/frustrated/tired looking person

Header: "One does not live by bread alone." – Matthew 4:4

Sub-header: First Sunday in Lent

Copy: Have you ever felt overwhelmed by everything on your plate and you let the challenges compound?

Sometimes Jesus allows us to feel weak to show us how He wishes to be our strength. Fasting during this time helps us experience His strength. This Lent, we ask you to help provide strength to others by supporting our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. Almsgiving is a form of fasting and through it, you can experience Him "filling the gap." Watch and see. God bless you in advance for your generosity.