



First Sunday of Lent

22 February 2026 | Sunday



Tempted...

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

As we gather, let us remember and pray for . . .

Monday, February 23 St. Polycarp
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Tyrell Mendes

Tuesday, February 24
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †deceased members of Mignelli families

Wednesday, February 25
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Marlon Roldan

Thursday, February 26
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Carmela Barbieri

Friday, February 27 St. Gregory of Narek
(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Loocka

7:00 p.m. †Lina Plalmieri



6:30 p.m.
Stations
of the
Cross

Saturday, February 28

4:30 p.m. †Felix DeLuca, Rosetta Merante

◆In Thanksgiving Santana & Zeena Gomes

Sunday, March 1

9:00 a.m. ◆ People of the parish

11:00 a.m. †Angelo Sebastiano

5:00 p.m. †Maria Luce Sebastiano



MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR
FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!

Sunday Collection February 15 - \$6,211

LENT is a time
for penance and repentance,
for almsgiving and prayer,
for changing attitudes,
a change of mind and heart wherever necessary.
May all of us use the Holy Season to put on the
mind of Christ.

Prayer Intention for the Month of February:

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

WHY MAKE SACRIFICES DURING LENT?

Another way of understanding why and how we should unite ourselves with Christ's Paschal Mystery during Lent can be found in the scriptural image of following the Lord into the desert. The story of the Israelites' forty years in the desert reveals how a period of sacrifice can enable us to overcome sin and practice self-control, both of which bring about that which is most important: a restored and deepened relationship with God. Imagine standing in the midst of a vast desert it has a mysterious grandeur that speaks of God, but its utter barrenness also leads you to seek him in your great need. By leading his chosen people out into the desert, God taught them to rely upon him for everything. By making Lenten sacrifices that we find difficult, we too recognize our weakness and utter dependence upon God; thus, we turn back to him with the love and reverence which he is due. Just as deserts are empty places, Lent also provides us the opportunity to empty our lives of things and habits even those which may not be sinful per se which distract us from God and attempt to fill the hole in our hearts, the yearning which only he can satisfy. Separated from these things, we can finally recognize not only how much we need God but also how much we desire him. When we finally return to God with this renewed longing for his love, we can encounter him far more intimately and experience how he alone fully satisfies our desires.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS at St Thomas More-Council 17273 wishes to thank all the parishioners who supported our Annual Shrove Tuesday on Feb 17. The winner of the 50/50 draw was Magie Respicio who took home \$50.

Wishing You a Blessed Lenten Season.

This Lent, let's move forward On Track for Justice "The Church, like a mother, accompanies those who are walking." Pope Leo XIV (Dilexi te, §75) Development and Peace Caritas Canada's 2026 Share Lent campaign, On Track for Justice, has been launched! Together, let's walk hand in hand with communities in the Global South who are working for justice, peace and dignity. How?

1. By donating online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity Sunday collection on March 22, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 59 projects in 34 countries around the world!

2. Get the Mini-magazine and follow the Solidarity Calendar with your family. Discover all the resources at devp.org/lent/resources. For more information visit devp.org or contact Sandy Hall email smhall1977@gmail.com



2025 income tax receipts are available, located in the church foyer!

Tax Receipts Now Available!

LENTEN PROGRAM 2026

Join us for inspiring talks, group discussions and prayer as we explore God's plan for our lives and deepen our relationship with Jesus this Lenten season.

Every Monday, for 6 weeks Time:6:30pm-8:00pm Location: St. Thomas More Church Hall **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Come, be rescued by the Love of Christ

Sponsored by St. Thomas More Pastoral Council

ST. THOMAS MORE PASTORAL COUNCIL, presents "INDIAN NIGHT – INTERNATIONAL DINNER SERIES."

on Saturday March 14th at St. Thomas More Church Hall. Come join for a flavorful Indian dinner and an evening celebrating Indian culture through music, singing, and more.

Doors open at 5:30 PM, and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under, and will be available for purchase at all the weekend Masses.

Our **CHILDREN'S LITURGY TEAM** is inviting the children and youth of our Parish to participate in o



Children's Good Friday Passion Play which will take place during the morning Good Friday Service.



Children ages 4 and up are welcome to participate.

Practices will begin in mid February.

There will be speaking and non speaking acting roles and older children are welcome to participate and receive volunteer hours. We are also looking for adult volunteers.

To register your child please contact Anna Racine at 905-358-3412 or rracine37@cogeco.ca

THE DIOCESAN SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

meets every second and fourth Monday of the month (except holidays) from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre (7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls ON) and virtually via Zoom. To participate via Zoom, pre-registration is required. For more information, and to participate virtually, please call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com. A program schedule for January to June 2026 is available on the diocesan website at www.saintcd.com Please make this information available to your parishioners on a regular basis.



FIRST RECONCILIATION:

children in grade 2

Parents who registered their children in grade 2 for their First Communion are being prepared for their Sacrament of Reconciliation are invited to bring their child to celebrate the sacrament on:

Loretto Thursday, February 26 at 6:30pm

"The goal of fasting is inner unity. This means hearing, but not with the ear; hearing, but not with the understanding; it is hearing with the spirit, with your whole being".- Thomas Merton