

Reflection for the First Sunday in Lent

'Lead us not into temptation.' Most of us say/pray these words daily. As part of the Our Father we pray to not be put into situations where we may be driven to sin, tempted to give into our human impulses, and tested beyond our capacity to endure. By praying, we assume that if the Lord protects us from *'the near occasions of sin'* we will have an easier time of it in staying faithful to our desire to faithfully follow Jesus. Temptation is seen as a vice leading to evil/sin. This, my friends, is the way we view temptation! The Gospel casts a different light on that wily old devil and his obsession with tempting us.

The devil relishes person to person combat; throughout human history, he has won many more battles than he has lost. He is the great deceiver. He has the gift of camouflage. He comes to us as that good thing we just got to have, as that person we know we should avoid but just cannot, and as our tormentor.

The Gospel tells us that the devil met his match and has been defeated gloriously. Jesus is our life's model. He took on the devil; man to man, face to face, hand to hand, and in the end defeated the trickster, the deceiver, and the hell-raiser. The message for us is that through perseverance and God's help we too can beat the devil.

Renewal of hope is the end of Lent's journey. So as we enter into Lent, another possible message is that perhaps temptation is good for us, perhaps it is through temptation that we are tested and found worthy of being true followers of, and believers in, Jesus and His power. The devil's power pales in comparison to the power of Jesus. Our Lord showed us that good must always triumph over evil, right over wrong. Maybe a temporary descent into the hell of temptation is our being purified by fire?

Let us for a moment consider Jesus' situation when the devil appeared. Imagine the physical and mental stress the human Jesus must have been experiencing during those forty days in the wilderness. If we faced similar circumstances, the devil would have over-matched us and we would now be in his power. But Jesus, ever the example of how to live life righteously, overcomes the devil. What love He must have had for us that He would choose to model this perseverance in the face of temptation.

Why is this so? Well the simple answer is that God loves us and that Jesus was accomplishing the mission for which He *'became flesh and dwelt among us.'* To quote an old hymn- *Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.'* This story of the devil tempting Him is filled with faith, hope, and love.

Thanks be to God for the inspiration of the scriptures. Jesus ever sin-free, when humanly weak and vulnerable, shows us, sinful humanity, how to defeat the devil, how to remain faithful to our ultimate destiny, and how to move forward along life's journey to eternal salvation. Perseverance in the face of temptation and humility in the face of the power of Jesus must be our mantra; where *'we hang our hats.'*

Our first reading provides example of how we can praise/glorify God for His goodness towards us and how we can give to God *'the glory due His name.'* We are called/mandated to gather regularly around the altar of thanksgiving and of sacrifice. We need the nourishment and assurance this practice will give us. Buoyed by such riches, may we continue to serve Jesus by defeating temptation that comes our way and continue to fortify ourselves for the many devilish battles to come. We must continue to 'do this in memory of me.'

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship parish in love with Christ.

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Masses this Week:
Wed 7 pm

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of each Month
2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

Marriages:
Six months' notice is required.
A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

February 14, 2016
The First Sunday in Lent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS, Feb. 6 & 7

Collection	\$ 1,562.50
Building Fund	165.00
Mass stipends	40.00
Dues	50.00
Votive Candles	78.50
Catholic Missions	5.00
Bingo	992.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 15 & 16	No Mass
Feb 17, 7 pm.	Deceased members of the Green Family
Feb 18 & 19	No Mass
Feb 20	Ada Myles, Charles Boyde and Thomas Griffin
Feb 21	Parish Community

WELCOME

Fr. Terry Boland has graciously offered to fill-in at our parish while the pastor is away. Fr. Boland will celebrate **the Weekend Masses and a Mass each Wednesday evening at 7 pm.**

BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

The Parish has received the shipment of 20 **NRSV Bibles** (that is the version we use at church). The 20 **Catechisms of the Catholic Church** will arrive soon. Catholic home should have these two books- treat them as coffee-table books- always on display and available to be read. Each will cost \$25. If you are interested in buying one for your home (or your children's home), please let us know. BTW, The Bible is large-print.

MENS GROUP MEETING

All men of the parish are invited to the next men's group meeting which will be held this Wednesday, Feb 17 in the parish house following the 7 pm. evening Mass.

DRAMATIC WAY OF THE CROSS

Once again this year St. Stephen's Parish in Stephenville is offering this presentation. It will take place in their church at 7 pm on Friday Mar. 18. A free-will offering will be taken at the entrance.

2015 TAX RECEIPTS

These receipts are now available. Please check at the back of the church or contact the parish office during business hours.

WEEKLY SESSIONS HONORING MARY

The third in our four-week series of presentations focusing on Holy Mary, Mother of God, and the Rosary will take place on Sunday evening at 7 pm in the parish house. Each session will be an hour or so long. It features Prayer, Hymns, a 15 min. DVD on Mary's role in salvation history, and recitation of the Scriptural Rosary. Of course a tea/coffee social is included

BIBLE STUDY

Since several attendees will be away for the next few weeks it has been decided to stop meeting until Monday afternoon, March 7 at 3 pm. It will be in the parish house. Please consider joining us for a time of

scriptural sharing, in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

DIOCESAN MASS OF CHRISM

This Mass will be celebrated at **St. Stephens Parish in Stephenville on Wednesday Mar 16 at 7pm.** We need parish representation, other than the priest, to be present to receive the Blessed Oils. Let us know if you can do this for the parish.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Great news! Tell your friends! Bring them! Our Parish is offering a **Lenten Mission here each evening from Saturday Mar 12 through to Monday Mar 14.** Fr. Bill Pearce, a friend of Fr. Don, will lead this mission. At this same time, Fr. Don will lead a mission at St. Joseph's in Gander, Fr. Bill's parish. The Mercy of God will be the key-note of both missions. More details will follow.

MISSION IN BENOIT'S COVE THIS WEEK

If you are interested, Bishop Hundt will be leading a Mission in Stella Maris Church on this Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings beginning at 7 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS

Anna House (Hall) recently had an Exhibit of her paintings on display at the Arts and Culture Center. They were beautiful and we appreciate your talent. May God continue to bless you in your artistic endeavours.

THANK YOU K of C

The parish wishes to acknowledge a donation from the Knights of Columbus to pay for the cost of the booklets which we distributed for Lent. We thank them and hope that all who took one of these booklets on Ash Wednesday will use them as a prayer source each day of the Lenten season.

BINGO DONATIONS

Thank you to the following people for your generous donations; Theresa Dobbin, Edna Dwyer, Madonna Elford, Madonna English, Mary Gallant, Sharon Gallant, Janice Galliot, Lori Gardener, Alvina George, Maureen George, Sheila George, Thomas George, Isabel Gillis, Margaret Gillis, Annie Griffin, Brenda Griffin, Tony Griffin, Joanne Hackett, Julia Hackett-Myles, John Hancock, Patsy Hall, Barbara Hayes, Joan Hutchings, Kay Hynes, Janet Jackson, Doreen Jones, Helen Jones, Pat Jones, Clara Joyce, Edward Joyce, Judy Joyce, Patrick Joyce, Edna Kearney, Hedy Dalton-Kenny, Florence King, Edith Leonard, Gail Leggo, Frank Lewis, Vince Lewis, Elaine Lynch, Lori Lynn Lyver, Kathleen Macdonald, Helen McCarthy, Edmund McGrath, Shirley McGrath, Ann McHugh, Linda Mclsaac, Kay Musseau, Bob Musseau, Kim Preston, & Veronica Stone. Together we raised \$992.00. Awesome!

PRAYER FOR YEAR of MERCY

Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

JESUS I TRUST IN YOU.