

# CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*One Flock, One Family, Living and Sharing  
the Love of Christ*

3200 Harbor Street ~ Pittsburg, CA 94565

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*First Sunday of*

# LENT

March 10, 2019

Jesus said to the devil,  
“You shall not put the Lord,  
your God, to the test.”

*Luke 4:12*



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**ANOINTING OF THE SICK HOTLINE**  
**510-259-8706**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE LINE**  
**925-432-6404—Ext. 25**

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday**  
**9am-12 pm & 1-4 pm**

### Schedule of Masses

**Sundays:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12 noon & 3 p.m. Spanish  
**Monday through Friday:** 7:30 a.m.

**3rd Fridays (Spanish):** 7:00 p.m.

**1st Fridays:** 7:00 p.m.

**Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours):** 7:00 a.m. (Chapel)

**Saturdays:** 8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. (Vigil)

**Holy Days:** 7:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**Confessions:** Fridays after 7:30 a.m. Mass

Saturdays from 4-5 p.m. or by appointment

**Adoration:** Fridays after 7:30 am Mass until 9 am  
or 24 Hour Adoration in the Chapel (door code required-call parish office)

**Devotions:** Divine Mercy Monday-Friday after 7:30am

Mass

Our Lady of Fatima/Perpetual Help~1st Saturday

Santo Nino~2nd Saturday

Divine Mercy~3rd Saturday

Saint Padre Pio~4th Saturday

Healing Mass~5th Saturday

*(All devotions take place following 8:00 am Mass)*

**Baptisms:** In order to make baptismal arrangements contact [carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org](mailto:carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org)

**Marriages:** In order to make marriage arrangements contact [carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org](mailto:carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org) 6 months prior to marriage day.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Should be arranged by family, church and mortuary. Normal Christian burial consists of Vigil Service, Holy Mass and Burial in a Catholic Cemetery. Any other arrangements should first be discussed with parish priest.



My dear friends in Christ,  
I would like to share with you this reflection from Bishop Robert Barron about Lenten Practice

### Three ways to get into spiritual shape this Lent

I've been spending this past year as a visiting professor at the University of Notre Dame, and I've been living at the seminary on the banks of St. Joseph Lake, just across from the Golden Dome. As I gaze out my window, I can see below me a part of the jogging-path that circles the lake. From the lushness of late summer through the glories of fall and now into the gray of winter, one thing has remained constant: the steady stream of runners—men and women, young and old, professors and students, the sleek and the dumpy—all huffing and puffing their way to some ideal of health or beauty. Because they believe in the goal, they are willing to impose on themselves a very demanding discipline.

And in between the now barren branches of a great tree just outside my window, I can make out the contours of the 13-story Hesburgh Library. Students move in and out of that building from 6 a.m. until 2 a.m. every day, studying, researching, fretting over their notes, looking for books, reading until their eyes burn—all because they passionately believe in the goal of attaining a Notre Dame degree.

Now I suppose there are a few neurotic joggers and unbalanced students who are doing all of this for unhealthy reasons, but the vast majority, I trust, accept these rigors with resolution and even joy.

They are doing it, furthermore, because at some point they woke up. One afternoon, a man looked in the mirror or saw an unflattering photo of himself and said, "Oh my God, I'm fat!" And one fine day, a Notre Dame freshman received a D on her philosophy paper and cried, "High school is over!" In each case, the sufferer, in the light of this awakening, resolved to act.

Lent is the season when we wake up not to something as relatively ephemeral as a grade point average but to our spiritual situation. It is the time when we act not to improve the looks of the body, which will inevitably go into decline, but to improve the quality of our friendship with eternal Love. This awakening will be disquieting, and this action will be painful, but the goal is so sweet that we happily take on the discomfort.

A traditional and very helpful way of understanding Lent is to see it as an apprenticeship to Jesus in the desert. We go with the Lord into the wilderness, and we watch him at close quarters, imitating him, seeing what he saw, enduring what he endured.

Holy people in the biblical tradition—Moses, Elijah, John the Baptizer, Jesus himself spent time in the harshness of the desert before they embarked upon their missions because it is a place of clarification. Stripped down, undistracted, simplified, they are able to ask the hard and simple questions: Who am I? What is the purpose of my life? What does God want of me?

The 17th-century French philosopher Blaise Pascal said that most of us spend our lives seeking diversions (*divertissements*) in a desperate attempt to avoid precisely those questions. So we eat and drink, gamble, gossip, seek out the most banal entertainments, surrender to the pointless stimulation of music videos, attend party after party—all in order to avoid the questioner. To apprentice to Jesus in the desert is to divest yourself of diversions. It is to sacrifice the superficial so that the depth may rise. It is to still the chatter so that God's voice might be heard. And that voice, whether we like it or not, is one that awakens us to action.

*Continued on page 10*



## Good Shepherd Parish 2019 Lenten and Easter Celebrations

<b>March 15, 22, 29 &amp; April 5, 12</b>	5 PM Prayer in the Spiritual Garden (Spanish) 5:30 PM Parish Lenten Dinners 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross in the Church (English)
<b>April 2</b>	7PM Parish Lenten Mission (Spanish)
<b>April 3 &amp; 4</b>	7PM Parish Lenten Mission (English)
<b>April 7</b>	7PM Passion Play-1st Presentation
<b>April 8</b>	7PM Bi-Lingual Reconciliation Service

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES DURING LENT

**Confessions:** Mondays 7-8pm; Fridays 8-9am; Saturdays 4-5pm

**Adorations:** Fridays 8am– 9am; First Friday from 8am to 6:30pm

**Stations of the Cross:** Fridays @ 5pm (Spanish) in the S. Garden and 7pm (English) in the Church

**Parish Lenten Dinners:** Fridays 5:30pm in the Hall.

### HOLY WEEK

<b>April 13-Palm Sunday Vigil</b>	7PM Passion Play Performance (after the 5:30 pm mass)
<b>April 14– Palm Sunday</b>	5PM Passion Play Performance
<b>April 17-Holy Wednesday</b>	6:00PM – Celebration Passion Play (Children Faith Formation)
<b>April 18-Holy Thursday</b>	8AM Morning Prayer/Liturgy of the Hours 7PM Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Mid-Night.
<b>April 19-Good Friday</b>	<b>8AM Morning Prayer/Liturgy of the Hours</b> <b>12PM Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross</b> <b>3:00PM Spanish Stations of the Cross &amp; Veneration of the Cross</b> <b>6:30PM Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross</b> <b>7:30PM Passion Play Presentation</b>

<b>April 20-Holy Saturday</b>	<b>8:00AM—Morning Prayer/ Liturgy of the Hours</b> <b>8:30AM– Rehearsal for Easter Vigil</b> <b>8:00PM Easter Vigil</b>
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### EASTER

<b>April 21-Easter Sunday</b>	<b>7:00AM Mass; 8:30AM Mass</b> <b>10AM Mass &amp; Easter Egg Hunt for children at the Prayer Park</b> <b>12:00PM Mass &amp; Easter Egg Hunt for children at the Prayer Park</b> <b>3:00PM Mass – Spanish Easter Egg Hunt for Children Prayer Park</b>
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### **April 28-Divine Mercy Sunday**

#### Parish Almsgiving Opportunity

**St. Vincent de Paul:** Saturdays from 11am to 1pm and Mondays from 2-4pm

**Senior Brown Bag Program:** 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 9am

**Shepherd's Closet:** 2nd Tuesdays from 9am to 1pm

**DEANERY LENTEN PENA  
NCE SERVICE SCHEDULE  
7pm**

- March 20**   **Immaculate Heart, Brentwood**
- March 25**   **Holy Rosary, Antioch**
- March 27**   **St. Peter Martyr, Pittsburg**
- April 3**   **St. Anthony, Oakley**
- April 4**   **St. Anne, Byron &  
St. Ignatius of Antioch**
- April 8**   **GOOD SHEPHERD**
- April 17**   **Our Lady Queen of the  
World, Bay Point**

You are welcome to go to any one of these local Penance Services for your Lenten Penance. All local priests will preside at each of them so our entire deanery can be served.

**PARISH LENTEN DINNERS & STATIONS  
RETURN TO GOOD SHEPHERD**  
**Every Friday from March 8 to April 12**  
**5 pm Spanish Stations in the Garden**  
**5:30 pm Lenten Dinner (\$15 per person)**  
**7 pm Live Stations of the Cross with FFL/YFL**

**March 15 Menu**  
**Mixed Green Salad, Blackened St. Peter's Fish  
with Aioli, Fresh Mixed Vegetables, Rice Pilaf,  
Bread, Butter & Dessert**

**March 22 Menu**  
**Cream of Tomato Soup, Grilled Salmon with  
Pineapple Relish, Grilled Prawns on a Skewer,  
Season Vegetables, Garlic Mashed Potatoes,  
Bread, Butter & Dessert**

**RSVP to the Parish Office at 925-432-6404 by  
the Monday before each dinner.  
Soft drinks & water sold for \$1.  
Bring your own wine and spirits.**

**Future Lenten Dinner Menus will be published  
soon!**

<b>INCOME FOR FEBRUARY, 2019</b>	
Plate Collections	\$40,786
Unrestricted Donations	4,509
Restricted Donations	3,166
Ministry Income	2,508
Other income	9,961

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$60,930</b>
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<b>EXPENSES FOR FEBRUARY, 2019</b>	
Administration	\$21,085
Parish Property	14,529
Rectory Living	4,069
Priests	4,820
Liturgy & Music	8,616
Youth & Adult Formation/CYO	10,637
Other Ministries	660

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 64,416</b>
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<b>MONTH RECAP</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$60,930</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$64,616</b>

**EXPENSES OVER INCOME AT MONTH END:**

**\$3,486**

**2019  
BISHOP'S APPEAL  
REBUILD MY CHURCH**

**2019 Goal: \$35,600**

**Amount Collected so far:  
\$14,107.59**

**This year's collection  
Is ongoing.**

Please help us meet our goal through prayer and contribution.



**CACHE CREEK CASINO**  
**YLI FUN TRIP**  
 Refreshments, Bingo, Prizes & Raffles

**SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2019**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH**  
 3200 Harbor Street

**ONLY \$35.00**

Free Play\$10 return (or match play \$20.00)

**BUS LEAVING FROM CHURCH PARKING LOT**

**At 8:15 AM**

**Return to parking lot @5:30PM**

**CALL**  
**GERRI @ 925-75-4198**  
**JENNIE @ 925-432-3921**  
**OR EMAIL**  
[goodblair@comcast.net](mailto:goodblair@comcast.net)

All our invited - not necessary to be a member - Join us  
 for a day of fun & treasure and remember all Money  
 raised will be put towards scholarships & for  
 seminarians.

**All passengers must have a valid photo ID (or Players Card).**

## NEXT SHEPHERD'S CLOSET

Reminder, the next Shepherd's Closet will be on March 12th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the ministry building. Those in need of items for babies and young children are urged to come.

TO ALL DONORS OF CLOTHES for Shepherd's Closet: We appreciate all your donations very much, and we have received an overwhelming supply of baby and children's items. In addition, we are receiving a number of bags of adult clothes and household items. We ask you not to include those items with your donation to Shepherd's Closet. We cannot accept them. We have limited space to store them. These items can be donated to Goodwill, Salvation Army, Veterans Thrift Shop, and St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you

## PARISH GENERAL CALENDAR

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday  
 9:00 am to Noon & 1 pm to 4 pm M-Thu

**Mondays**      **Prayer Group for the Sick**-11 am to 12 noon in the Ministry Building  
**RCIA**-7 pm- Ministry Building-1st & 3rd Mondays of the month  
**Confirmation Class**-7pm-Parish Hall  
 Mondays as Scheduled (Sept-May)  
**Grief Ministry**-1st & 3rd Mondays at 7 pm in the Ministry Building

**Wednesdays**    **8 & 10 Choir Rehearsals**-7 pm  
**Stewardship**~Office~7 pm  
**Youth Formation**~Parish Hall  
 3-4,4:30-5:30,6-7,7:30-8:30 Sept-May

**Thursdays**     **Bible Study**~Office~7pm  
**Novena to St. Padre Pio**~  
 Thursdays of the month 6:30-8:30 pm in the Chapel  
**Senior Brown Bag Program**~Hall  
 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month  
 10 am~11 am

**Fridays**       **Adoration** begins after 7:30 am mass until 7 pm

**Saturdays**     **Parish Devotionals** 8 am mass  
 1st Sat~Our Lady of Fatima  
 2nd Sat~Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
 3rd Sat~Divine Mercy  
 4th Sat~St. Padre Pio  
 5th Sat~Santo Nino

**Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Prayer Group**-1st Saturday of the month  
 From 9-10:30 am in the Ministry Building

**Sundays**       **Life Teen**-Parish Hall-11:30am-1 pm  
 (After 10 am Mass) September-May  
**12 Noon Choir Practice**- 1 pm  
**Spanish Choir Practice**-2 pm



**APELACIÓN DEL OBISPO DE RECONSTRUIR MI IGLESIA 2019**

Objetivo del 2019: \$35,600

La colección de este año comienza el próximo fin de semana. Por favor, discienda cómo nos puede ayudar mejor a cumplir con nuestro objetivo a través de la oración y la contribución.

¿Le gustaría recibir el boletín de la parroquia por E-mail?; Sigua los siguientes pasos:

Vaya a [www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com)

Presione en “eServices”

Presione en “Bulletin Subscription”

Busque (search): Pittsburg, CA y presione “Good Shepherd Church”

Coloque sus datos y envíelo (submit)

Eso es todo, disfrútelo e intégrese al ministerio que más le guste.

**Cuaresma tiempo para volver a Dios**

¿Tiene usted algún plan para crecer espiritualmente para esta Cuaresma?

Venga y crezcamos juntos guiados por el Espíritu Santo.

Todos los jueves de 7 a 9 pm en el salón grande de las oficinas.

Por favor inscríbase con Carmen en la oficina al teléfono: 925-432-6404; o a través de Email al:

[Carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org](mailto:Carmen@goodshepherdpittsburg.org)

Misas de Niños, *1er Domingo de cada mes –*  
próxima Misa **Marzo 3 a las 10am**

**EL HORARIO DECANATO DE CONFESIONES**

Horarios de Servicio

**Marzo 20 – 7pm Immaculado Corazón, Brentwood**

**Marzo 25 - 7pm Santo Rosario, Antioch**

**Marzo 27 – 7pm San Pedro Mártir, Pittsburg**

**Abril 3 - San Antonio, Oakley**

**Abril 4 - Santa Ana, Byron & San Ignacio de Antioch**

**Abril 8 - G Pastor de OOD**

**Abril 17 - en nuestra Señora Reina del Mundo, Bay Point**

Usted es Bienvenido a ir a cualquiera de estos servicios de penitencia a los locales indicados para su preparacion de Penitencia Cuaresmal. Todos los Sacerdotes locales presidirán cada uno de ellos para que todo nuestro decanato les puedan servir

CENAS PARROQUIALES DE CUARESMA Y ESTACIONES  
DE LA CRUZ VUELVEN AL BUEN PASTOR

**Todos los Viernes Marzo 8 a Abril 12**

*Las Estaciones en Español 5pm en el Jardín*  
**5:30 pm Cena Cuaresmal (\$15 por persona)**

**7pmEstaciones en Vivo de la Cruz con FFL/YFL**

*El Menú del 8 de Marzo* Sopa Crema de Espárragos , Filete de Calamares con Gambas a la Plancha en Espárrago, Verduras Normandía, Arroz, Pan, Mantequilla y Postre

*El Menú del 15 de Marzo* Ensalada Verde mixta, Pescado de San Pedro ennegrecido con Aioli, frescos Vegetables mezclado de temporada, Arroz Pilaf, Pan, Mantequilla y Postre

*El Menú del 22 de Marzo* Crema de Sopa de Tomate, Salmón Asado con Salsa de Piña, Gambas a la Plancha en Brocheta, Vegetables de temporada, Puré de Papas con Ajo, Pan, Mantequilla y Postre

Por Favor reservar su lugar llamando a la Oficina Parroquial a 925-432-6404 el Lunes antes de cada Cena. Habran Refrescos y Agua de venta por \$1. O traiga su propio vino y licores.

¡Próximamente se publicarán los futuros menús de la cena cuaresmal!

**LOS INVITAMOS A FORMAR PARTE DEL NUEVO GRUPO DE ORACIÓN.:**  Las reuniones son los **Sábados de 11am a 1pm** en la Capilla con el Santísimo y **Viernes 7-9pm** en las oficinas parroquiales. Para mas información favor contactar a Laura y Albino Alvarez.

Mis queridos amigos en Cristo, Me gustaría compartir con ustedes esta reflexión del Obispo Robert Barron sobre la Práctica Cuaresmal.

### Tres maneras de entrar en forma espiritual esta Cuaresma

La Cuaresma es la temporada cuando nos despertamos a profundizar en nuestra situación espiritual. Es el momento en que actuamos para mejorar la calidad de nuestra amistad personal con el amor eterno. Este despertar será inquietante, y esta acción será tal vez dolorosa, pero el objetivo es tan dulce y gratificante.

Una manera tradicional y muy útil de entender la Cuaresma es verla como un estudiante de Jesús en el desierto. Vamos con el Señor en el desierto, y lo contemplamos de cerca, imitándolo, viendo lo que vio, soportando lo que soportó.

La gente Santa en la tradición bíblica — Moisés, Elías, Juan el Bautista, Jesús mismo pasaron tiempo en la dureza del desierto antes de embarcarse en sus misiones porque es un lugar de clarificación. Despojados, sin distracciones, simplificados, son capaces de hacer las preguntas duras y sencillas: ¿Quién soy? ¿Cuál es el propósito de mi vida? ¿Qué quiere Dios de mí?

El filósofo Francés del siglo 17, Blaise Pascal, dijo que la mayoría de nosotros pasamos nuestras vidas buscando distracciones/diversiones (*divertissements*) en un intento desesperado por evitar precisamente esas preguntas. Así que comemos y bebemos, apostamos, chismosiamos, buscamos los entretenimientos más banales, nos rendimos a la estimulación inútil de los videos musicales, vamos a una fiesta después de otra fiesta — todo para evitar al interrogador. El ser estudiante de Jesús en el desierto es despojarse de las diversiones. Es sacrificar lo superficial para que la profundidad de nuestro ser pueda elevarse. Es calmar el ruido para que la voz de Dios pueda ser escuchada. Y esa voz, si nos gusta o no, es aquella que nos despierta a la acción.

¿Puedo sugerir tres prácticas desérticas para esta Cuaresma?

#### 1. Enfoque

Identifica la distracción que más te distrae y toma algunos pasos prácticos para deshacerte de élla o al menos reducirlo. ¿Estás preocupado por comer y beber? Entonces ayuna. ¿Ves demasiada televisión? limitate a verla una hora al día. ¿Te complaces en la charla ociosa del chisme? Entonces resuelve no decir nada malo acerca de nadie, y encontrarás que tus conversaciones son mucho más cortas! ¿Te socializas demasiado? Entonces absténte de las fiestas por los 40 días. Despeja tu espacio. Limpia el sistema.

#### 2. Orar

Lo que quiero decir es esto: de una manera muy consciente, pídele a Dios cada día durante la Cuaresma que te diga lo que él quiere que hagas, quien quieras que seas. Suscita tu deseo con una oración insistente y repetitiva como el Rosario o la oración de Jesús ("Señor Jesucristo, hijo de Dios, ten misericordia de mí, un pecador"). Y luego pregunta y pregunta una y otra vez, "Señor, ¿Cuál es el camino que quieras que camine?". Tal vez podrías aumentar tu asistencia masiva y de vez en cuando cada Domingo, o de cada Domingo al diario vivir, y usar la liturgia como un escenario para las preguntas. También podrías buscar un compañero para la conversación espiritual. Yo estaría dispuesto a apostar que todos conocen a alguien — un amigo, un compañero de trabajo, un sacerdote, una hermana — que está en llamas con el Evangelio. Buscarlo(a), encuentralo(a), y haz un intercambio busca una ocasión para el meditar las preguntas. Podrías sentarte en silencio ante el Santísimo Sacramento, guardando la hora Santa que Pedro, Santiago y Juan no pudieron mantener. Ten en cuenta que, cuando preguntas, espera una respuesta. La otra parte de la oración es cuidadosamente escuchar la voz.

#### 3. Practica la Caridad

Participar en una práctica concreta de la caridad. El místico español San Juan de la Cruz dijo que en el atardecer de la vida seremos juzgados según nuestro amor. En el capítulo 25 de Mateo, se especifica la naturaleza del amor. No es principalmente un sentimiento, una actitud, o una convicción, sino más bien un acto concreto en nombre de los necesitados: los hambrientos, los desamparados, los solitarios, los encarcelados, los olvidados. Es el rodamiento de la carga de otro. Así que durante los 40 días tienes tiempo para realizar un acto de amor. Haz varias visitas a un pariente en el asilo de ancianos. Conversa regularmente con una persona solitaria en tu vecindad. Ayuda y hasta amigo de un niño que podría estar en peligro de perder su camino. Repara una amistad rota. Reúne a las personas que discuten en tu lugar de trabajo. Haz una serie de contribuciones financieras a una organización digna que necesite ayuda. Y así entraras en la disciplina de la Cuaresma la forma en que un seminarista entra en su formación o un profesor en su investigación o un empresario en un proyecto desafiante: con una resolución alegre y enfocada.

Dios no es ni un tirano ni un padre de azúcar (igracias a Dios!). Más bien, El es todo amor . Pasemos estos 40 días sagrados respondiendo a las delicias y exigencias de ese amor.

## Mass Intentions

Mar 11-17

## Mass Intentions For The Week



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- Mon** 7:30 am Edward Zamora †
- Tue** 7:30 am Grace Lopez †  
10:30 am Diamond Ridge
- Wed** 7:30 am Maria Solidad Ortiz Flores †
- Thu** 7:30 am All Souls in Purgatory †
- Fri** 7:30 am In Thanksgiving for All Living Vicentians
- Sat** 8:00 am Vicente & Remedios Alesna  
Joann Gray †  
5:30 pm Pauline Solis †
- Sun** 8:00 am John Thomas Galvan †  
10am Mary Ebright †  
12 pm FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH  
3 pm Mary Padilla †

\*=Fr. Thi, #+Fr. Christopher, ^=Fr. Oscar

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

## Weekly Offering



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

March 3, 2019 \$ 14,738.53

2nd Collection-Bishop's Appeal

\$ 4,301.61

Please help contribute for the smooth operation and good services of our parish. We appreciate your generosity and making Good Shepherd as part of your family. Also, please remember Good Shepherd when planning your last will and testament. Thank you!

Fr. Thi

MDATE	TIME	LECTORS	EM'S	ALTAR SERVERS
Mar 16	5:30 pm	J Florido C Gonzalez	B Abitz, A Abitz, C & B Davi M Duran, L Mangante, A Roldan R Sorci	M & E Hart
Mar 17	8:00 am	E Viloria L Whatford	D Shipe, M & A Discipulo C Mendoza, G Shipe, M Romingquet P Wilson, S Shephard	C Tanyag B Cabading M Romingquet
Mar 17	10 am	C Gallo D Phan	D Lawson, G Camacho, D Viart K Tan, I Pacheco, E Pittman, Y Cardona, J Escajeda, B Gabriel V Contreras	J & J Castro O & A Ross
Mar 17	12 noon	S Bellando F Bartolo	J Lagarejos, L Briones, J Bellando M Cruz, T Freel, N Gavino, C Greely R Lagarejos, S Quejado, J Singco	R Lagarejos B Dador
Mar 17	3:00 pm	L Castaneda L Madrigal	A Alvarez, L Alvarez, A Garcia M Diaz, L Hernandez, B & R Mendieta	A Ramos J & A Hernandez

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

## NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

**GENESIS 15: 5-12, 17-18,  
PHILLIPIANS 3:17-4:1  
LUKE 9:28B-36**

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND**

So may I suggest three desert practices for this Lent?

#### 1. Focus

Identify the diversion that most distracts you and take some practical steps to rid yourself of it or at least reduce it.

Are you preoccupied with eating and drinking? Then fast. Do you watch too much television? Then limit it to an hour a day. Do you indulge in idle chatter? Then resolve not to say anything mean about anybody, and you'll find that your conversations are a lot shorter! Do you socialize too much? Then refrain from parties for the 40 days. **Clear the ground.**

**Clean out the system.**

#### 2. Pray

What I mean is this: In a very conscious way ask God every day during Lent to tell you what he wants you to do, who he wants you to be. Stir up your desire with an insistent and repetitive prayer like the rosary or the Jesus prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner"). And then ask and ask again and again, "Lord, what is the path that you want me to walk?"

Perhaps you could increase your Mass attendance from once in a while to every Sunday, or from every Sunday to every day—and use the liturgy as a setting for the asking of your question. You could also seek out a partner for spiritual conversation. I would be willing to bet that everyone knows someone—a friend, a coworker, a priest, a sister—who is on fire with the gospel. Seek him out, find her, and make your exchange an occasion for the posing of your question. You could sit in pregnant silence before the Blessed Sacrament, keeping the holy hour that Peter, James, and John were unable to keep. Mind you, when you ask, expect an answer. The other side of prayer is the careful listening for the Voice.

#### 3. Practice charity

Engage in a concrete practice of charity. The Spanish mystic Saint John of the Cross said that in the evening of life we shall be judged according to our love. In the 25th chapter of Matthew, the nature of love is specified. It is not primarily a feeling, an attitude, or a conviction but rather a concrete act on behalf of those in need—the hungry, the homeless, the lonely, the imprisoned, the forgotten. It is the bearing of another's burden. So resolve during the 40 days to perform a particular and sustained act of love. Make several visits to your relative in the nursing home. Converse regularly with a lonely person on your block. Tutor and befriend a kid who might be in danger of losing his way. Repair a broken friendship. Bring together bickering factions at your place of work. Make a number of financial contributions to a worthy organization that needs help.

And so enter into the discipline of Lent the way a marathoner enters into her training or a professor into his research or a businessperson into a challenging project: with a joyful and excited resolve.

God is neither a tyrant nor a sugar daddy (thank God!). Rather, he is love right through. Let us spend these 40 holy days responding to the delights and demands of that love.



Last Temptation Bake Sale



10 am Children's Mass