

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MAILING ADDRESS: 7409 W. CLEARWATER AVE, KENNEWICK, WA 99336

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1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Then the devil took Jesus 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." - Mt 4:8-9

Parish Staff:

Secretary Debbie Forgette 735-8558
Bookkeeper Bianca Medina 735-8558

Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator
Presently Unstaffed

Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade Karen Gorham 735-8558
6th to 8th Grades/Edge Danielle May 528-9780
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen Jennifer Moore 492-6209
& Joe Bliss 216-402-3118
email: lifeteenhs@gmail.com

Confirmation Deacon Mike & Carol Gaulke 551-7626
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
Joe & Sherry Schroeder 405-2242

Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass Julianne Barnaby 735-2163
9:30 a.m. Mass Paula Bachelor 375-9019
5:00 p.m. Mass Perry Kelly 735-8558
Children's Choir Presently Unstaffed 735-8558

Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers Trish Feeney 551-0486
Eucharistic Adoration Liz Friedrich 783-6223
Prayer Line Adele Ogryzek 627-0201
Altar Server Training Zack Rinderer 582-2543

Parish Ministries:

Mary Martha Prayer Group Camille Henneberry 735-4858
Welcoming Committee Jan Beardemphl 948-3367
PCC Nursery Wynona Vaz 222-8982
Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins Deacon Eric Shaber
& Charlotte Shaber 208-521-7846
Bible Study Judy Turner 438-7938
Women's Group Linda Rego 221-1130
Weekend Mass Refreshments Judy Urrutia 438-5039

Councils and Committees:

Parish Council Jim Carey 627-0321
Finance Council Bob Baemmert 531-2085
Stewardship Lenice & Pat Nagle 582-6893
Evangelization Rob Privette 438-1222
Voice of the Spirit Dieter Bohrmann 987-3158
Parish Library Ann Stevens 396-2723

Charter Organizations:

Catholic Daughters Linda Garner 627-2748
Knights of Columbus Peter Dreisbach 205-2377
St. Vincent de Paul Message Line 591-0632
American Heritage Girls Erin Leistriz 406-579-1891

Natural Family Planning: Carol Gaulke 619-5464

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.
Thursday: 12:15 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Please visit our Holy Spirit Facebook page to join livestream events:

<https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Babies and young children are usually baptized during Mass on Saturday or Sunday, or on Saturday at 12:00 p.m. Call the parish office for a list of upcoming Baptism dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes. (735-8558)



Holy Matrimony

On Being Married at Holy Spirit ...

Engaged couples who wish to be married at Holy Spirit Parish are asked to contact the parish office at least nine months prior to their desired wedding date. The couple and the priest will then meet to begin the Marriage preparation program. (735-8558)

Deaths

What should I do when there is a death in my family? Please call the parish office and speak with the office staff and the pastor before making arrangements with the funeral home, to ensure that the church is available at the desired date and time. (735-8558)

First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2026
Calendar for the Week: (Note: PCC = Parish Community Center)

Sunday, February 22:
First Sunday of Lent

Mass in the church with the OCIA *Rite of Sending* at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 5 and 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School), PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Monday, February 23:

Lenten Weekday
Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Knotty Ladies, PCC room 3, 10:00 a.m.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC rooms 7, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 24:

Lenten Weekday

Holy Spirit Mommy and Me, PCC nursery, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education, pre-school to fifth grade, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, CHURCH, 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:30 p.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Holy Hour, following Mass in the church.

Wednesday, February 25:

Lenten Weekday

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Bible Study, *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom*, PCC rooms 6/8, 10:00 a.m.

Mary Martha Prayer Group, PCC room 5, 1:30 p.m.

Lenten Soup Supper, PCC Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Amazing Grace Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 26:

Lenten Weekday

Mass in the church at 12:15 p.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC rooms 7, 7:00 p.m.

Celebration Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 27:

Lenten Weekday

Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Rosary for the repose of the soul of Frank Ferreria at 10:00 a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial for Frank Ferreria at 10:30 a.m.

Funeral Luncheon at 1:00 p.m. in PCC hall.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in PCC room 5 from 9:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament will then be moved to the vestibule. Adoration concludes with *Prayers for Priestly Vocations* and *Prayers for Peace* at 5:00 p.m. and the *Rite of Benediction* at 5:15 p.m. in the church.

Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 28:

Lenten Weekday

Sunday Vigil Mass in the church at 4:00 p.m.

Catholic Daughters Chili Supper and Bingo Night, PCC hall, following Mass.

Sunday, March 1:

Second Sunday of Lent

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Prayer Angels for Peace, PCC hall, 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 5 and 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School), PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



NAME TAG SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND

The Stewardship Committee continues to encourage and promote the growth of Holy Spirit Parish. Thank you in advance for participating in our **name tag wearing** at all our Masses next weekend. Let's strive to get to know more of our parishioners and visitors by name!



A big thank you to our Liturgical Ministers for wearing your name tags each weekend during Mass.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative

Monday	February 23	Fr. Michael Brzezowski
Tuesday	February 24, 5:30 p.m.	Fr. John O'Shea
Wednesday	February 25	Mike Johnston RIP
Thursday	February 26, 12:15 p.m.	Marcia Panattoni RIP
Saturday	February 28, 4:00 p.m.	Alphonso Go
Sunday	March 1, 5:00 p.m.	Ron Bliss RIP

The Sunday morning Mass is normally offered for the people of the parish.

To have your need added to our parish prayer phone chain, please call Adele Ogryzek at 627-0201.

To have your need added to the list which is published in the bulletin once each month, please call the parish office.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Present Their

Annual Chili Supper and Bingo Night



Saturday, February 28,
in the PCC hall following
the 4:00 p.m. Mass



SAVE THE DATE

for the annual **Alms Dinner**
sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Saturday, March 14 in the PCC hall following the 4:00 p.m. Mass

Free dinner with the opportunity to give alms to four ministries including Holy Spirit Youth programs, Blue Dragon (ending sex trafficking in Southeast Asia), Mirror Ministries (responding to domestic sex trafficking in the Tri-Cities), and Soul Soup (serving hot meals to the homeless in Kennewick).

STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship involves more than just the gifts we bring to the altar. Today's readings say clearly that it is fidelity to God's law that makes our offering acceptable.

January 4: \$16,307.60 Recorded givers: 119
January 11: \$17,946.25 Recorded givers: 112

Thanks for your giving of time, talent, and treasure.

For online giving, visit:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy7409270>

Thank you for maintaining your financial support of our parish as you are able. If you'd prefer to mail an offering, please send it to **Parish of the Holy Spirit, 7411 W. Clearwater Ave., Ste. E, Kennewick, WA 99336**. If you are currently using offering envelopes and would like to switch to online giving (or bill-payer from your bank), please call the parish office so we can discontinue your envelope mailings with our printing service. Thank you.

A DAY OF LENTEN REFLECTION



St. Serra Club invites you to their annual day of Lenten reflection on Saturday, **March 7, 2026**, at St. Patrick Parish in Pasco from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The speaker will be **Fr. Robert Nyeko**, the hospital chaplain at

Lourdes Health in Pasco. This is a great opportunity to spend a few hours with God this Lent without leaving the Tri-Cities. The \$10.00 registration for each participant will cover food (breakfast and lunch) and supplies. Please invite family and friends. Call Peggy Schouviller at 509-581-7110 to register.

Thank you for your contributions to the **Hope Medical Baby Bottle** fundraiser during the month of January. Our parish raised over \$2,000 to support Hope Medical and the families they serve. If you forgot to bring your bottle back, you can drop it by Hope Medical at 7500 West Arrowhead Avenue in Kennewick. If you haven't had a chance to fill your bottle, please return it anyway, so it can be used in the future. As always, donations can be made at www.hopemedicalwa.com now and throughout the year. Thank you all for your support!



CHILI FEED/BINGO NIGHT MARCH 21ST



The **youth of our parish** will be hosting a **Chili Feed/Bingo Night on Saturday, March 21st**. We will be selling tickets after the February 28th - March 1st and March 7th - 8th Masses. Each year this event has grown, and we encourage you to buy your tickets in advance to make sure you have a seat. It is such a fun-filled event and we wouldn't want anyone to miss out this year. Tickets are only \$5 each.

Bingo cards will be sold after dinner for \$1 per card. The evening will also include a silent auction of delicious desserts.

We have greatly appreciated all your support over these last few months. Our parish's youth are raising funds to attend Life Teen camp this summer. Please keep our teens in your prayers. Thank you.



Lent and Easter books and DVDs available for check out have been placed on the red cart in the church library. Please stop by and take a look.



Thank you for your patience during the ongoing roofing project and repair work in our church. Our roofing contractors are still finishing the trim work outside. This has required some specialized equipment to manufacture the trim for the curved sections of our church building. Regarding the water damage which affected our church interior in December ... once our insurance claim with Catholic Mutual is processed and awarded, our next step will be to work with the diocese on the bidding process for the reconstruction of all the damaged areas.



LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES 2026

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.	Holy Spirit	7409 W. Clearwater Ave, Kennewick
Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.	Sacred Heart Church	1905 Highland Drive, Prosser
Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.	Christ the King	1111 Stevens Drive, Richland
Friday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.	St. Frances Cabrini	1000 Horne Drive, Benton City
Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.	St. Joseph Church	520 S. Garfield Street, Kennewick



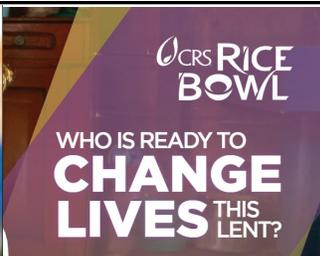
Enrich your Lenten experience by attending Eucharistic Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday, February 24th** after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Readings and prayers during this Holy Hour will focus on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. All parishioners and visitors to Holy Spirit are welcome to attend. These Holy Hours are sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Holy Spirit Parish Stewardship



Did you know that the Parish of the Holy Spirit is a tithing parish? We are; and so are a few other parishes in the Diocese of Yakima. What this means is, we offer 10% of our Sunday income each month to assist worthy charitable causes—both locally and worldwide. The members of the Parish Council advise Fr. Michael regarding the charitable organizations that we choose to help, and these vary from month to month.

Thanks to your generosity to our Sunday collections, we are assisting the following organizations with financial help: **St. Joseph Catholic School, Grace Clinic, Hope Medical, PREPARES, our St. Vincent de Paul Conference, FOCUS** (assisting Jeremiah Nguyen and Jackie Gazewood in their lay missionary work with university students), **Soul Soup** (serving free hot meals in downtown Kennewick to anyone in need), **Tri-Cities Food Bank, Dylan Howard** (supporting his upcoming mission trip to Honduras), **Mirror Ministries** (responding to domestic sex trafficking in the Tri-Cities), and the **Knights of Columbus Ukraine Solidarity Fund**.



Lent: A Time of Preparation

CRS Rice Bowl brings Catholics across the United States together each Lent to respond to global hunger and poverty through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread for life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope. Also, see Bishop Tyson's letter in this bulletin about the Rice Bowl as a Lenten faith-in-action program.

A Note From the St. Serra Club of Tri Cities

“At that time, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil ...” (from Matthew 4:1-11) Lent is a time when we give alms, pray, and fast. We resist temptations that we know are not good for us. As a priest, permanent deacon, brother, monk or nun you could help people determine how to please God, encouraging them to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit.



Lent began on
Ash Wednesday, February 18.

Please note the following changes to the **Weekday Mass** schedule throughout Lent.

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.
- On Tuesdays, Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m.
- **On Thursdays, Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m.**

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5:30 p.m. each Friday during Lent (except on Good Friday, April 3rd at 3:00 p.m.).

Join us for **Soup Suppers** on Wednesdays during Lent, in the PCC hall at 6:00 p.m., **beginning February 25th**. Rolls will be provided, but you are welcome to bring bread, crackers, or saltines to share at your table.

Please contact Suzanne Heaston at 509-987-2779 or heaston76@msn.com if you are able to bring a soup in a crockpot on any given Wednesday. A few more soups are needed most Wednesdays throughout Lent.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE DAILY PRAYER VIGIL

7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from February 18 to March 29, 2026

Participants are asked to spend a few hours each week, peacefully and lawfully praying to defend the innocent lives of the unborn in the public right of way outside of Planned Parenthood at 7426 West Bonnie Place in Kennewick. Participants must not attempt to block access to Planned Parenthood or otherwise obstruct access. Signs are available at Hope Medical, just south of Planned Parenthood.

Alternatively, if you are not able to join the vigil on-site, we would greatly appreciate your prayers from home.

For more information, please visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/>.





**MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIV
FOR LENT 2026**

***Listening and Fasting:
Lent as a Time of Conversion***

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it, and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (*Ex 3:7*). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church." [1]

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity." [2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly." [3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic." [4]

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires—both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

LEO PP. XIV

[1] Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* (4 October 2025), 9.

[2] Augustine *The Usefulness of Fasting*, 1, 1.

[3] Benedict XVI, *Catechesis* (9 March 2011).

[4] Paul VI, *Catechesis* (8 February 1978).



Bishop Joseph Tyson Invites Us All to Participate in the CRS Rice Bowl Program this Lent

Dear Friends in Christ,

During Lent, we're invited to deepen our relationship and unite our hearts more fully with God and with one another. We can do this in an intentional way through the Catholic tradition of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The USCCB has established CRS Rice Bowl as a Lenten faith-in-action program, inviting us to encounter God and our global family by practicing the traditional Lenten pillars and by reflecting on how the Eucharist—the Bread of Life—compels us to share bread *for* life with all members of our human family.

I invite you to make CRS Rice Bowl a part of your community's Lenten journey this year. The program highlights how families around the world and in our own local community are working hard to provide nutritious food for their children, build sustainable livelihoods and create healthy and thriving futures. Through stories, videos and lesson plans, your community will learn about our Gospel call to care for our common home so we can respond to global issues such as hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities while continuing to connect Catholics in our diocese with our global human family. I encourage you to order a CRS Rice Bowl poster to display in your communal space and enough Rice Bowls with Lenten calendars for each family in your community. These **free** materials are available in English and Spanish. You may also visit crsricebowl.org or crsplatodearroz.org to find additional resources, including:

- Devotions, like the Stations of the Cross, and prayers.
- Lesson plans, videos and activity sheets for Catholic school teachers and religious educators.
- Ideas for community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events.

Thank you for inviting families in your faith community to join us for an enriching Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we can respond to Christ's call to help people in need and ensure everyone reaches his or her God-given potential.

With every best wish and blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph J. Tyson".

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima



“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.”

MATTHEW 4:1



Jesus for the Win

MIGUEL DULICK

The account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play. Pope Francis insisted, “Don’t talk to the devil!” Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he’s had plenty to eat—“every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus “test” his Father by jumping off the “parapet of the temple” (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5–7.) You don’t play God, and you don’t play *with* God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We’d do the bread; we’d do the jump; we’d definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It’s a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan “destroys” her! And Adam, too. If they didn’t sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an “overflow” of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that’s what Lent is about—a flood of grace. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

What grace do I pray for this Lent—for myself and for someone who is struggling?

Dear Padre,

I was taught that it is a requirement to fast at least one hour before receiving Communion. However, I've seen donuts out before Mass begins and hear candy wrappers being crumpled around me. This seems disrespectful to me.

It is important to use the correct words when describing a particular action. In this case, “requirement” does not really capture the full meaning and understanding of what the Church teaches. A better understanding is that it is a discipline and a practice of the Church to ordinarily observe the eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving holy Communion. If you are of a certain age, you may remember that there have been changes regarding the eucharistic fast. A “requirement” might suggest that the fast is integral to the sacrament itself. It is not.

The second part of your question seems to be a matter of perception. Based on your perception, you judge something to be not quite right. But, consider that there are many reasons why hospitality may be set up before Mass. The crumpling of wrappers could be something other than what you identify. Regardless, you are not required to assume the burden of policing what is taking place at Mass. It is much better to participate, celebrate, and be grateful for the sacrament that we gather to experience as a community of faith. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



GREGORY SHERITZ

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>					
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18	Is 55:10–11	Jon 3:1–10	Est C:12, 14–16,	Ez 18:21–28	Dt 26:16–19	Gn 2:1–4a
Mt 25:31–46	Mt 6:7–15	Lk 11:29–32	23–25	Mt 5:20–26	Mt 5:43–48	2 Tm 1:8b–10
			Mt 7:7–12			Mt 17:1–9

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



JIM WEST

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025

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