

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

203 VAUGHN RD., BRANSON, MO 65616 | 417.334.2928 | OFFICE@OLLBRANSON.COM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026



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

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Events

SATURDAY Feb. 21

Welcome women meeting

10:00am-1:00pm - Faith Formation Rm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3:00-4:30pm - Confessional

SUNDAY Feb. 22

Coffee & Christ

9:15-10:15am - Faith Formation Room

TUESDAY Feb. 24

Lenten Mission with Bob Schrimpf

10:00am - in the Church

Adult Bible Study

10:00am-Noon - Attending Lenten Mission

Bereavement Group

2:00pm-4:00pm - Heritage Room

Lenten Mission with Bob Schrimpf

6:00pm- in the Church

OCIA

6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY Feb. 25

Stitchers

9:00am-12:00pm - St. Francis Room

Lenten Mission with Bob Schrimpf

10:00am - in the Church

PSR

5:30pm-Mass

6:15-7:00pm Dinner/Class

Lenten Mission with Bob Schrimpf

6:00pm - in the Church

THURSDAY Feb. 26

OLL Game Day

1:00-3:30pm - Faith Formation Room

Spiritual Companionship

6:30-8:30pm - St. Ignatius Room

FRIDAY Feb. 27

Stations & Soup

6:00pm - Stations in the Church

Followed by soup in the Gathering space

Spanish Charismatic Group

6:00-9:00pm - Faith Formation Room

SATURDAY Feb. 28

No Am Events

Page 2

Mass Times

SATURDAY

5:00pm

7:00pm (Spanish)

SUNDAY

8:00am

10:30am

MONDAY

9:00am

TUESDAY

9:00am

WEDNESDAY

5:30pm

THURSDAY

9:00am



Adoration

TUESDAY

9:30am-3:00pm - Chapel

THURSDAY

9:30am-7:00pm - Chapel

Important Links

[Click Here For
PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For
MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For
FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

Mass Intentions

- Sat. 2/21 5:00pm Ron Esker (Birthday Deceased) †*
- Sat. 2/21 7:00pm Taney County Parish Family (Living)*
- Sun. 2/22 8:00am Robert and Dorothy Chapman and family (Living & Deceased) †*
- Sun. 2/22 10:30am Roger Hunt & Family (Living)*
- Mon. 2/23 9:00am Rita Redman (Special Intention-Living)*
- Tue. 2/24 9:00am Bruce Davis †*
- Wed. 2/25 5:30pm Landon Robert Grazick (Special Intention-Living)*
- Thur. 2/26 9:00am Deceased family members of John & Margaret Casey †*



[Click Here to Make a Prayer Request](#)

[Click Here to Donate Online](#)

[Haga clic aquí para el boletín en español](#)

[Click Here to Contact Parish Staff](#)

WORSHIP WITH US



[Click here](#) for Mass Times & Sacrament of Reconciliation

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR

DAILY MASS READINGS



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



We are currently facing some issues with our PayPal and Venmo accounts, but you can still make a contribution online.

Kindly visit our website at

<https://ollbranson.com/online-giving> to donate directly or through ParishSoft, which is also accessible via our website.

Thank you for your generosity and understanding.

Collection through Feb. 15, 2026

Envelopes:		\$14,907.75
Plate:		\$ 4,550.00
Green Envelopes:		\$ 5,202.40
Total:		\$24,660.15



OLL & OLC NEVER ALONE

Call to Community and Mission

SCHEDULE

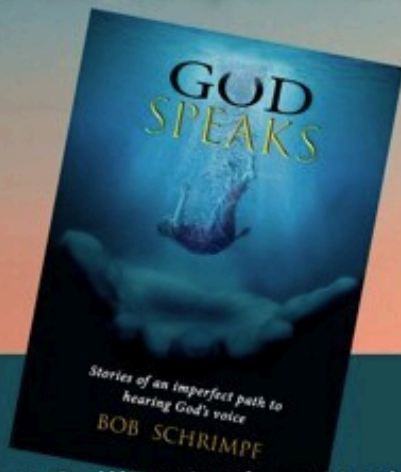
*February 23:
9AM Our Lady of the Cove*

*February 24:
10AM Our Lady of the Lake Part 1
6PM Our Lady of the Lake Part 1*

*February 25:
10AM Our Lady of the Lake Part 2
6PM Our Lady of the Lake Part 2*

GUEST SPEAKER

Bob Schrimpf



Come Be Inspired

#1 Best Selling Author, National Speaker, 45 years in direct ministry, Steubenville Host, and Director of Western Expansion for Evangelical Catholic





Sacred Heart, Springfield:
Adoration & Reconciliation
7-9pm Mondays during Lent

Our Lady of the Lake, Branson
Sunday, March 8 - 3:00pm

St. Francis of Assisi, Nixa
Monday, March 9 - 7:00pm

St. Joseph the Worker, Ozark
Tuesday, March 10 - 7:00pm

Our Lady of the Cove, Kimberling City
Sunday, March 15 - 3:00pm
(Individual Confessions)

Immaculate Conception, Springfield
Sunday, March 15 - 4:00pm

St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield
Tuesday, March 17 - 7:00pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Springfield
Monday, March 23 - 7:00pm

Holy Trinity, Springfield
Tuesday, March 24 - 7:00pm

St. Joseph, Springfield:
Thursday, March 26 - 7:00pm

Stations & Soup



Every Friday during Lent

*Stations start at 6pm
followed by soup in the
gathering space
provided by the following
Parish Ministries*

Feb. 20th
Coffee & Christ

Feb. 27th
Hispanic Ministry &
Community

March 6th
PSR

March 13th
Welcome Women

March 20th
Knights of Columbus

March 27th
Parish Staff



Coffee & Christ Sundays

9:15am to 10:15am
Faith Formation Room



*FORMED Series:
How to Lent*

About this series

Starting Feb. 22nd

Sometimes, it feels like Lent is just about giving up chocolate. But deep down, we all desire to do something more for Lent—we just don't know how to do it.

How to Lent is a new series from the Augustine Institute that aims to equip Catholics with the tools to understand and practice the pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Guided by Solenne Santiago and with the help of priests and religious, this series will challenge our preconceived notions about Lent, laying out a roadmap for entering the season with a purpose. Don't let Lent sneak up on you like it did last year. Instead, heed the call of St. John the Baptist by preparing for the Lord, using How to Lent to transform your spiritual life this Lenten season.



Adult Bible Study Tuesdays 10:00am-Noon Faith Formation Room



**Join us on Tuesdays
to watch & discuss
Season 5 of The Chosen
followed by that episode's
Biblical Roundtable discussion**

There's a lot to talk about, and our Messianic Jewish rabbi, Catholic priest, and Evangelical scholar are back to discuss it all.

Feb. 24th

March 3rd

March 10th

**We will be
attending the
Lenten Mission
NEVER ALONE**

**Call to Community & Mission
featuring
Bob Schimpf**

**Bob Schimpf is a #1 Best
Selling Author, National
Speaker, 45 years in direct
ministry, Steubenville Host,
and Director of
Western Expansion for
Evangelical Catholic**

Season 5 Episode 7: The Upper Room Part 1

*Jesus arrives at the Last Supper.
The disciples fear for their safety as Jesus'
enemies close ranks around them.*

Bible Roundtable:

Matthew, Luke, and John—the three Gospel writers we all know. Oh, wait! There's a fourth. Episode 7 introduced us to Mark, but it also left us with several questions about him. Was he really so young? And was the Upper Room really part of his house? Our consultants dig into the history of Mark and that upstairs room where so many important events happened. But first, Dallas has some questions about footwashing, and the insights from Rabbi Sobel just might knock your socks off.

Season 5 Episode 8: The Upper Room Part 2

*Pilate summons Atticus to read him the riot act. The Sanhedrin boils over.
The Last Supper ends.*

Bible Roundtable:

Did Abraham, Ezekiel, and Joseph visit Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane? No, probably not. So does that make Episode 8 unbiblical? Hardly. As all of redemptive history is culminating in Jesus, it makes perfect sense to weave in these Old Testament stories that prefigure Him—at least, that's what our Bible consultants say. Listen as they unpack the deep and meaningful ways Jesus is fulfilling scriptural prophecies and patterns as He begins his sufferings in Gethsemane.

OCIA

Lent is upon us, and in OCIA- for many, it will be the first time experiencing Lent.

This period is referred to as Purification and Enlightenment.

On Sunday, February 22, (on the western side of our Diocese) will be celebrating the Rite of Sending here at OLL (10:30 Mass) & the Rite of Election at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Church in Springfield at 3:00.

During the Rite of Election, our Catechumen (unbaptized) will then be referred to as Elect after Bishop Rice receives the Book of Life signed by the Catechumen during the Rite of Sending.

They, and our Candidates will receive special Blessings from our Bishop, for their journey into the Church at the Easter Vigil (or another time soon after)

This is a very special time for our Elect and Candidates as they have been actively studying about our faith for many months. They, and their sponsors, have been on their Faith Journey and are still in need of your prayers!

For Elect:

Caleb Newman

Garry Hunt

Candidates:

Nate Akley

Tommy Head

Daniella Lingner

Alyson Sparks

Gabriel Vuyckankiat

Bonnie Grace Day

Vanessa Parks

Elijah Bumgarner

Hector Buentello

Debbie Philpott

James Roach

Janet Johnson

Kimberly Huen

For Confirmation:

Carl Northcutt



If you would be so kind as to write them a note, letting them know of all your prayers for them, and to welcome them into our Church family. You can drop them off in the basket in the Gathering Space or at the office.

Thank you!

*The experience is personal,
inspirational, and fulfilling.*

Welcome.
There is **More** to Life

Women's Welcome Retreat
Our Lady of the Lake in Branson, MO
March 7 & 8, 2026

Welcome is a two-day renewal weekend unlike any you have attended. Parishioners share with one another ways they have found meaning, hope, peace, and love in their lives through Christ.

SCAN TO
REGISTER



OR GO TO:

[OLLBRANSON.COM/
WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT](https://ollbranson.com/womens-welcome-retreat)

 **Dynamic Catholic**
Be Bold. Be Catholic.



Register for the March Give 5 classes at www.OLLBranson.com/Give5 and spend your Tuesdays learning more about your community and discovering where your unique skills, talent, interests, and extra time can make a difference.

***This session is being hosted by the
Stone County Health Department in Reeds Spring.
Bring a friend and make some new ones too!***



***To register -
Please use our QR Code
or use the website address below.***

<https://ollbranson.com/give5signup2026>

OLL Games

Join us February 26th OLL Game Day
1:00pm Faith Formation Room

OLL Train - The 4-Leaf Clovers
BIG Winner Julie -144
Congrats, Julie went our 7 times!
Rose Marie -265
Helen & Father J -336
Lil' Winner Kevin -369



OLL Train - Windy
BIG Winner Ed -128
Judy E -132 Eva -281
Remy -292
Lil' Winner Joe -298

Swoop Crazy Eights "8"
Big Winner Judy H -141
Sharon S -199 Dan -211 Margaret -261
Butch -291 Julie W -343 Sharron -389
Lil' Winner Sharon A -452

Mahjong
Brenda 25 Harry 25
Sue 0 Susan 0
Spectators:
Fr J Judy O Joyce



Join us FOR ALL THE FUN!





THE LORD'S TABLE IS SET... & YOU'RE INVITED

This invitation is for everyone.

This guide lays out monthly themes & practical suggestions to help you build lasting habits & to focus on placing God back at the center of your life.

FEBRUARY

GET TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH*

Click on the link:
[Get to Know Your Church](#)
Or pick up a copy of this sheet at the Help Desk & see if you can find these items in your parish

ATTEND MASS ON ASH WEDNESDAY

Wed. Feb. 18th

Our Lady of the Cove - 9:00am & 6:00pm
Our Lady of the Ozarks - 9:00am
Our Lady of the Lake - Noon & 7:00pm

TURN OFF PHONES DURING DINNER

Spend the time talking about the "highs & lows" from the day or week



Lenten Opportunities

Soup & Stations

Stations start at 6pm followed by soup in the gathering space



LENTEN MISSION WITH BOB SCHRIMPF

He has shared his heartfelt message as a national speaker and workshop leader, leaving a lasting impact on audiences across the nation.

Monday, Feb 23rd

Our Lady of the Cove - 9:00AM

Tuesday, Feb 24th

Our Lady of the Lake (Part 1) -10:00AM
Our Lady of the Lake (Part 1) -6:00PM

Wednesday, Feb 25th

Our Lady of the Lake (Part 2) -10:00AM
Our Lady of the Lake (Part 2) -6:00PM
(after 5:30 Mass)



LENTEN MISSION WITH STEVE ANGRISANO

Thursday
March 26th
Time: TBA

Steve Angrisano is undoubtedly one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today.

Young and old alike embrace the passionate message of faith, hope and love woven throughout his music and storytelling.

WHY NOT DRAW CLOSER

TO JESUS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST?

Learn from the Catechism

#1328 - 1332

Get to know St. John Paul II's Mind

EE Ch. 1 The Mystery of Faith

Give Praise to God

through the "Salutaris Hostia" hymn

Reclaim Sunday for God & the Family

Get to Know Your Church

Watch an uplifting movie

For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristiada

Buy/rent from your favorite streaming services

Contemplate Sacred Art

The Last Supper by Juan de Juanes



FEBRUARY PSR CALENDAR



SAINT OF THE MONTH

Wednesday PSR K-12th

Feb 25th 5:30-7pm

**Mass
Food/Class**



St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

His feast day is Feb. 27th



Many young people look up to Gabriel today. He shows that you do not need to be famous or powerful to please God. You only need to love and trust Him. Gabriel lived this lesson with all his strength.

MENU

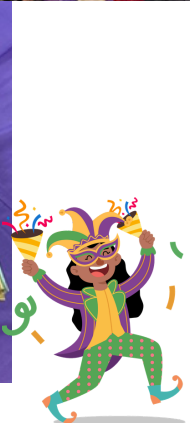
2/25 - Pasta & salad



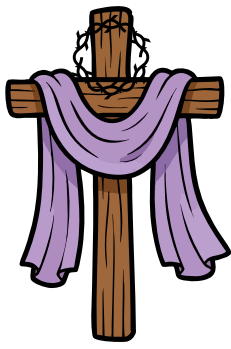
**SAINT GABRIEL OF OUR LADY OF
SORROWS IS A PATRON SAINT OF:
CLERGY, STUDENTS & YOUNG PEOPLE**

Mardi Gras 2026

Thank you to everyone who attended



**PSR Float
Center Pieces**



MARCH PSR CALENDAR



SAINT OF THE MONTH

Wednesday PSR K-12th

March 4th 5:30-7pm
Mass/Adoration/Food/Class

March 11th 5:30-7pm
Mass
Stations of the Cross/Food

March 18th
Spring Break - No Class

March 25th 5:30-7pm
Mass/Food/Class

Katharine Drexel

Feast Day - March 3rd



The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament were founded by St. Katharine Drexel in 1891 and have devoted themselves to share the Gospel message with the poor

PATRON SAINT OF:
RACIAL JUSTICE AND
PHILANTHROPISTS

SPECIAL EVENT

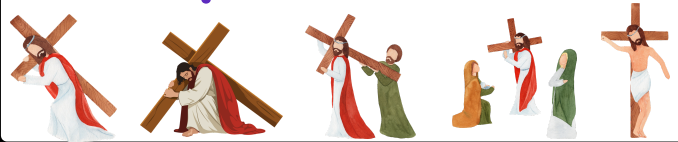
Friday, March 6th



PSR



Soup & Stations



MENU

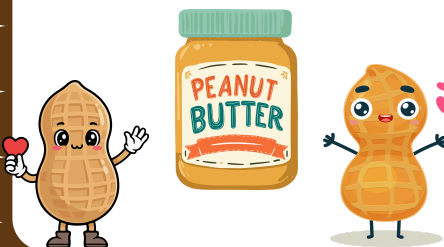
3/4- Hot dogs, chips, and salads

3/11 - Soup and grilled cheese

3/25 - Pasta and salad

SERVICE PROJECT

Salvation Army
peanut butter drive



Questions about Lent: the obvious and not so obvious – Part 1 of 2

I was on the Catholic Answers website the other day, one of my go-to resources regarding questions about the faith, and I came across an article “Top 20 Questions about Lent: Traditions, fasting, and Biblical Insights.” I found some of the Q&A entertaining and others more insightful. As we begin our Lenten journey, I thought I would share a few that grabbed my attention over the next couple of Hey Deacon articles.

What is Lent?

Per the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, mirroring Jesus’ forty days in the desert and also anticipating His passion, death, and triumphant resurrection:

“By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.”
(CCC 540)

Additionally, CCC 1438 describes Lent as a penitential season:

The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church’s penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works).

Thus, Lent is a season of spiritual preparation, one that not only looks forward to the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection (beginning with the Easter Octave), but also provides the faithful—both Catholics and those joining the Church—an annual opportunity to fortify their faith and grow in holiness for the sake of Christ’s kingdom (John 13:34-35; Matt. 6:10; 24:14).

What is the official beginning of Lent? At what hour?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Canon law considers a day to run from midnight to midnight (can. 202 §1). That would mean that Lent begins at 12 a.m. on Ash Wednesday.

Do Sundays “count” during Lent for fasting?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) says:

Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole Time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.

Is it a mortal sin to break a personal Lenten sacrifice?

Assuming that the action itself is not intrinsically a grave matter, then no, breaking one’s Lenten penance is not a mortal sin.

Can you eat turkey on a Friday in Lent?

No. Birds are considered meat according to the abstinence guidelines.

As we begin this sacred season, may our hearts be quiet from the noise of the world and may our spirits be open to the gentle voice of God. Until next week. Happy Lent.

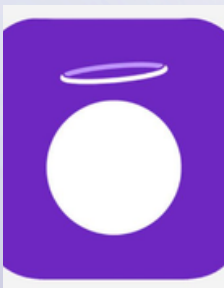


“May the Season of Lent be a time of reflection and spiritual renewal throughout the diocese.”

Bishop Edward M. Rice



February
PRAYER INTENTION

Hallow

PRAY EVERY DAY THIS

LENT

#1 App for Christian & Catholic Prayer, Meditation, Bible + Sleep | Hallow

SCAN THE QR CODE OR
CLICK ON THE LINK

<https://hallow.com>



Find Peace

Let God bring you His peace with the Calm Praylist, Daily Meditation, Rosary, and Sleep Bible Stories.

Transform Your Prayer Life

Choose from 10,000+ sessions, guides, and music options to lead you into relationship with Christ.

Build a Habit

Build a real habit of prayer every day by setting a routine that works for your schedule.



The Cursillo® Movement pursues two purposes or objectives. The immediate purpose is to provide a conduit for living what is fundamental for being a Christian, namely, the on-going and total conversion of the person.

The end purpose is to vertebrae Christianity in society by means of these persons who live what is fundamental for being Christian (the love of God and neighbor) in their daily lives.

Simply explained, the purpose of the Cursillo Movement is that we become the Good News, and that our actions naturally turn out to be evangelical in our daily lives.

For more information and to Register Online:

<https://dioscg.org/cursillo/>

Men's Weekends

Date: February 26-March 1, 2026

Location: Fredericktown, MO

Women's Weekends

Date: March 19-22, 2026

Location: Fredericktown, MO

Date: April 23-26, 2026

Location: Carthage, MO



Knights of Columbus®

Knights' Corner ~ Council 6470

K of C Parish Breakfast

Mark your calendars for March 15th!
Serving a delicious breakfast for St. Patrick's Day!

After both the 8am and 10:30am Masses,
the Knights of Columbus will be serving up
breakfast in the St. Joseph Hall
at the Parish Center.

Come hungry and enjoy some
food and fellowship!



Save the DATES!

More Events Coming...

Our Council has reserved the following dates for more
food and fellowship opportunities to come:

Breakfast Talent Show Breakfast
June 21st - August 2nd - November 8th

Plan ahead to come and support our charitable endeavors!
Knights! Check to see how YOU can be involved and help out!

K of C Scholarships Available - Deadline Feb 20th!



The Missouri State Council awards a total of eleven, \$1,500 scholarships each year, and some of our own parishioners have been past recipients!

If you are interested in learning more, we strongly urge you to check out the scholarship descriptions, criteria, and application process at:

<https://mokofc.org/Programs/Family-Program/Scholarships>

The next blood drive is scheduled for

March 20, 2026

from 12 noon to 5:00pm at

Our Lady of the Lake Parish Center,
202 Vaughn Drive Branson MO. 65616.

40 - units collected at the January 16th, 2026 drive.

62 - drives successfully completed since Nov. 2015.

3057 - units of blood have been collected since Nov. 2015.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW OR GO TO –

www.redcrossblood.org

and enter: OURLADYBranson to schedule an appointment.

**Red Cross
Blood Drive**

Food Drive Update



As of 1/31/26, Our Lady of the Lake has donated over 3,131 lbs of food and \$745 to the Salvation Army Food Pantry for the Fraternal year 7/1/25 - 6/30/26.

Did you know the Salvation Army can buy food at just \$0.18 per pound? Obviously this makes monetary contributions more effective.

Just a reminder that for every 1000 lbs of food **AND** for every \$500 donated, K of C donates \$100 to the pantry, up to \$500 each from the K of C annually.

Want to make a monetary contribution to the Salvation Army Food Panty through the Knights of Columbus to help reach the bonus gift from the K of C?

Make checks payable to:
K of C Council 6470
Memo: S. A. Food Pantry

Send checks to:
Our Lady of the Lake, Attn: Knights of Columbus
203 Vaughn Dr. Branson, MO. 65616

"Lent is a time of grace, a time for conversion, a time to come home to God." - St. Maximilian Kolbe

www.catholic365.com

"What was papal infallibility called when St. Peter was the pope?"



"Simon says!"



Papal infallibility is the charism given by Christ to the pope, as the shepherd and teacher of all the faithful, to proclaim doctrines of faith without error when he speaks *ex Cathedra*—that is, in his official capacity defining a doctrine to be held by the whole Church.

©LPI

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA
- JUST FOR FUN**

Question: According to the Acts of the Apostles, who was selected to replace the Apostle Judas?

Answer: St. Matthias.

©LPI

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



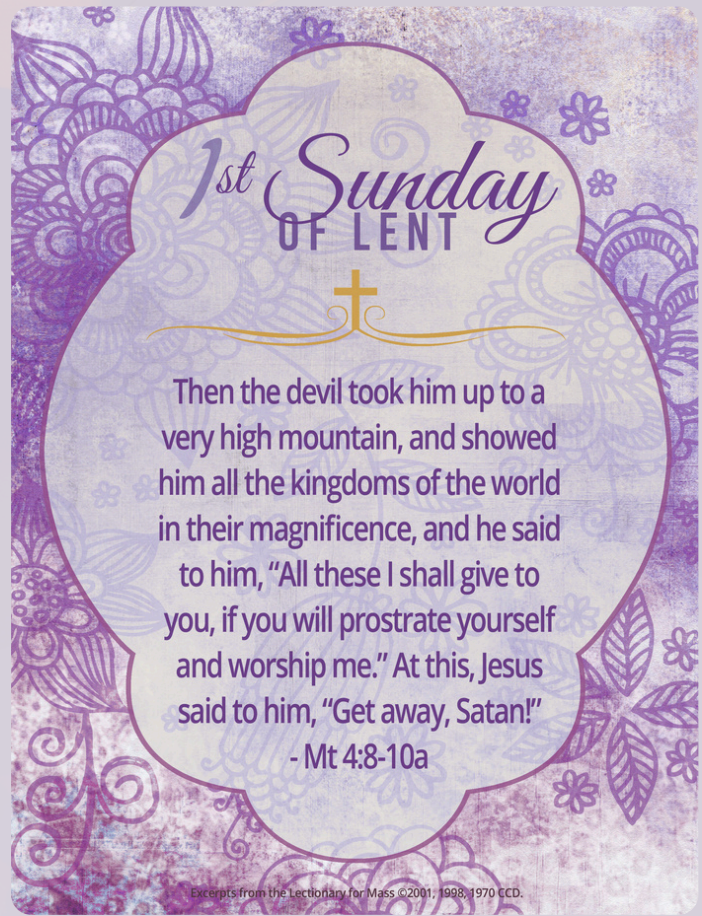
LENT



Do you want to fast this Lent?

Suggestions from Pope Francis:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.



1st Sunday OF LENT



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!"

- Mt 4:8-10a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

What are you doing for Lent?

10 IDEAS FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL LENTEN SEASON

1. Give up sin

Show your love for God by keeping his commandments. Turn away from sins.

2. Fast

An empty stomach can lead to more attentive prayer. Give the money you saved on food to others in alms.



3. Pray

Be in constant prayer. Pray for your family and friends, for those who suffer, and for the Church and the world.

4. Do good works

Help those in need. Pray for them and be ready to serve them in their time of need.



5. Give alms

Help the poor and support the good works of the Church. Give cheerfully to God who has given us everything we have.



6. Abstain

Give up meat or other desirable foods during Lent, especially on Friday, the day of Christ's saving death on the cross.



7. Do meditative reading

Nourish your faith by spending time in quiet reading and reflection. Prayerful reading of God's word each day will open your heart to the Spirit, and let God's thoughts and ways influence yours.

8. Control desire for possessions

Build up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. Cut down on material possessions, eliminate frills, lessen wants, share yourself – your time and your talents – with others.

9. Control desire for entertainment

Too much entertainment and other distractions can lead to less or no time for the works of the Lord.

10. Carry out duties in life

Serve God by living out your vocation in love each day. God is calling each of us to be a living sacrifice. Offer your daily life through Christ!



www.archtoronto.org
f archtoronto

Text from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Living Lent"

Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday:

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: **“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1).** The word “led” denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one “desert” into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus' interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: "Get away, Satan."

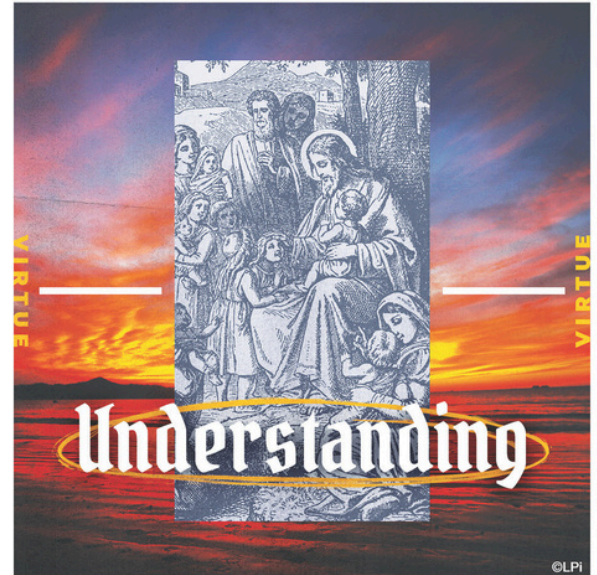
Observances for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Friday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Virtues, Explained!

Understanding is the "food" of faith. "I believe, in order to understand," said St. Augustine. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit for greater and more profound understanding, for though understanding proceeds from faith, it in turn nourishes that faith.

Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.

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MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm (Spanish)
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Live-Streamed)

WEEKDAY

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9:00 am
Wednesday 5:30 pm
1st Friday 10:00 am

Holy Day of Obligation

Noon and 7pm (Bilingual)

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00 - 4:30 pm
or by Appointment (417-334-2928)

ADORATION

Tuesday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

1st Wednesday of the month. After Mass -

Adoration, Exposition, and Benediction until 7:30pm

Thursday 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

- We will not have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the week before, the week of, and the week after a holiday.
- All Adorers, please sign in when you come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Please get in touch with the office if you need a door code or are having trouble with your own.

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