



Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

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February 22, 2026 - First Sunday of Lent (A)

~ The Temptation of Jesus: Test of Identity and Vocation ~

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17; Roman 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

The Temptation of Jesus in the desert is a test of his Messianic vocation and identity. Just as ancient Israel was tested for 40 years, Jesus was tempted for forty days and forty nights (Matt. 4:2; Num. 32:13). Will he follow the path of Messianic salvation according to God's plan, or will he accept the one offered by the devil? Israel failed its wilderness testing, but Jesus triumphed through obedience and self-abasement (Matt. 4:1; Josh. 5:6).

During the temptation of Jesus, the devil tries to sow doubt about Jesus' identity and obedience to the Father through attractive offers and promises. These are practical, shortcut, and easy ways out.

Bread. "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread" (Matt. 4:3). Bread is a blessing and a symbol of what sustains our physical life. Yet Satan tries to make material things the ultimate focus, distracting us from a deeper hunger and more enduring food. Who would not be tempted to use power for an instant solution? If you are the Messiah, imagine feeding so many people and saving the hungry by turning stones into bread.

Religious. "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down" (Matt. 4:6). Imagine if Jesus threw himself down and the angels saved him. Would that not show the world that God is on your side and that you can do anything? It is tempting to put the burden of life on God rather than on ourselves. If things do not work out, we blame God. God is not a puppet master controlling our lives. We have free will to follow God's word and make our lives full and meaningful.

Power. "All these I shall give to you if you will prostrate yourself and worship me" (Matt. 4:9). Who would not accept riches and become number one? Imagine owning a vast hacienda; you could be a benevolent messiah to everyone, gain control, and divide it as you wish. But God intends power in leadership to serve the common good, while Satan twists it to make leaders self-seeking, oppressive tyrants like himself. Ironically, the lust for power leads to slavery on the dark side.

The devil's schemes are always appealing and clever, yet they often hide behind fleeting promises, sow doubt about our identity, and obscure God's vision for our eternal destiny.

Jesus knows who he is and where to draw his strength. The Word of God is his strength. He confronts every temptation through the Word of God and triumphs over the tempter by clinging to it. This stands in stark contrast to what Adam and Eve did in our first reading. They listened to the devil and disobeyed God. Because of their disobedience, St. Paul says in our second reading that death entered the world (cf. Rom 5:12). Jesus' familiarity with the Word of God came from his intimate union with the Father – a relationship he could always fall back on whenever he was tested. So, amid the desert's nothingness, Jesus lived totally in God. Even in nothingness, he had everything. He found his determination, perseverance, patience, commitment, and fighting spirit not from any magical powers but from his intimate union with the Father.

The triumph of Jesus over the tempter sets an example of Christian obedience. Clearly, earthly life is a wilderness trial for God's people on their way to the land of heaven.

Through this probationary period of our existence, God wills that we overcome



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temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Triumph is possible through prayer, penance, obedience to God's Word, and fasting, which helps break undue attachments to material blessings and stimulates our spiritual appetite. Rather than earthly bread and power, we, the faithful, must desire the food of God's will and the humility of Christ (cf. Matt. 11:29; Jn 4:34). The battle, when won, merits heavenly comfort in the company of angels (cf. Matt. 4:11). The Church annually reminds us of this lifelong vocation during the 40 days of Lent (CCC 540, 2849).

Let us prayerfully walk with Jesus, listening to and learning from him. Jesus was tempted in every way, as we are. We are confident that he will sympathize with our weaknesses and provide us with the strength to resist temptation, especially as we seek to do the will of God in our lives (cf. Heb. 4:15-16).

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor

A Journey of Joyful Witness to Doing all things with Love.



We worship what we believe; we live what we worship. PRAYER: ENTERING LENT

Dear Lord, in this Holy Season of Lent, we realize anew that these are the days of salvation, the acceptable days.

We know we are all sinners. In many ways, we have offended Your infinite majesty. Sin destroys Your life in us, as drought withers leaves and chokes life from the land, leaving an arid, dusty desert.

Help us, Lord, in our feeble attempts to make up for past sins. Bless our efforts with Your grace. Make us more aware of our need for penance and mortification.

Help us see, in our ordinary difficulties and duties, in the trials and temptations of each day, the best opportunity to make up for past infidelities. Each day, we are reminded, in field and wood, in sky and stream, of Your boundless generosity to us.

Help us realize that You are never outdone in generosity, and that the least thing we do for You will be rewarded, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and flowing over.

Then we shall see, in our own souls, how the desert can blossom and how the dry and waste land can bring forth the rich, useful fruit that was expected of it from the beginning. Amen.



OHANA PRODUCE PLUS Food Distribution

Saturday, February 28
9:00 to 10:45 a.m.

ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY
(3 days before distribution)
<https://www.cocathedral.org>



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

We will resume this Tuesday,
with our topic being

“God Calls Us to Pray”

Tuesday evening,
February 24th at 6:30 PM
(school's faculty workroom)

For more information, please contact the parish office @ (808)521-1700.

Weekly Offering Report

For February 9, 2026 - February 15, 2026



SAINT THERESA SCHOOL
CONTACT INFORMATION
 Office Phone: 808-536-4703

St.TheresaSchool@Beavers808
 Sttheresaschool808
Website: www.stshi.org

Weekly Collections Online Giving

SUNDAY Mass Offering	\$ 9,878.00	\$ 834.34
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*** Looking for convenient, safe and secure way of giving to our church? We have online giving feature in our website, just click on the link and go through the easy-to-follow steps to go about it. We also have a Giving Kiosk beside the statue of St. Damien. Please have a look at these methods for your church contributions. We thank you for your continued support in fulfilling the mission of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. ***

We will provide a complete report on the donations and updated expenses for the church fence and security project as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we would like to encourage you to reflect and pray to consider donating more towards the church fence and security project the construction of which is in progress. Please continue to pray with us for the completion of this important project for the safety and security of our church and school.

Parish Savings with the Diocese as of January 30, 2026 **\$ 275,204.63**
Outstanding PV Loan with the Diocese as of January 30, 2026 **\$ 273,148.94**

Second Collections:

March 7-8 for the Facilities Improvement
 March 14-15 for the Catholic Relief Services

Mahalo for your generosity.

Come, join us!

STATION I



Jesus is condemned to death

STATION II



Jesus takes up his cross

STATION III



Jesus falls the first time

STATION IV



Jesus meets his mother

STATION V



Simon helps Jesus carry the cross

STATION VI



Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

STATION XIV



Jesus is buried in the tomb

Stations of the Cross

every Friday @ 6:30 PM

Feb. 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27

at the Church



STATION VII



Jesus falls the second time

STATION XIII



Jesus is taken down from the cross

STATION XII



Jesus dies on the cross

STATION XI



Jesus is nailed to the cross

STATION X



Jesus is stripped of his clothing

STATION IX



Jesus falls the third time

STATION VIII



Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem

- Principal/Music 1-8 - Conception (Bernie) Gora
- Vice Principal/Math 8 & Discovery - Lauren Ramirez-Asaeda
- Executive Administrative Assistant/LA 6 - Faith Leasiolagi
- Admission Clerk/Office Assistant - Stephanie Lou Ondayog
- Dean of Discipline/Athletic Director/4 & 5 Health/Art - Francine Caetano-Fontanilla
- Preschool Director/Teacher - Magdalena Collins
- PK-8 PE & MS Health - Jayven Bumanglag
- Preschool Aide - Elaine Jane Gonzalez
- Kindergarten Aide & Resource Teacher - Lenie Macadangdang
- Kindergarten Teacher - Taiena Finau
- PK, Kindergarten Religion & Liturgy Coordinator - Sr. Ana Fua Dela Cruz, SPC
- 1st Grade - Marvin Macadangdang
- 2nd Grade/Sacramental Prep - Faith Afu
- Creative Music K-3 - Johnelle Silva
- 3rd Grade Teacher - Sibel Mestanova
- 4th Grade Teacher - Laura Gabriel
- 5th Grade Homeroom/Math 5 & Middle School/MS Science - Dr. Peter Park
- Middle School Social Studies & Math 6 - Alyssa Yabes
- 7 & 8 Language Arts/7 & 8 Home Economics - Dr. Frances Wong
- Middle School Religion - Shaun Agtarap
- Math 7 - Christian Raquipo
- Middle School Japanese/7 & 8 Arts/ Marketing - Tiani Quon
- Permanent Sub - Laura Gomes
- Maintenance - Edwin Kaaihue
- Custodian - Romeo John Cabarrubias

CONTRIBUTION/TAX LETTER FOR 2025



Please pick up your tax letter at the church lanai after mass.

Thank you for your continued support to our church.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
(Closed during Lunch break from 12:00 - 1:00 pm)

Saturdays
from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Sundays
from 7:30 am - 11:30 am

MASS SCHEDULES

Sunday Mass

6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm

Daily Mass

Mon – Thurs: 6:30 am

Fri – Sat: 8:00 am

Vietnamese Mass (VHM)

Daily Mass:

Mon. Tues. & Thur. at 5:30 pm

Saturday Vigil at 7:00 pm

Sundays at 3:30 pm

Holy Hour/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession

Wednesdays

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at 6:00 pm
Holy Hour/Benediction & Confessions at 6:15 pm
(First Wednesdays of the month with Bishop)

PASTORAL TEAM & PARISH STAFF

Fr. Manuel Hewe

Pastor

Sr. Mercedes Estrella, SPC

Dir. of R.E. & Pastoral Associate

Tyra Lamb

Safe Environment Liaison

Pinky Mendoza

Office Coordinator

Jennifer Asuncion

Office Secretary

Francis Leasiolagi

Deacon

Jonathan Lam

VHM Deacon

Bernie Gora

Director of Music

Ray Lamb

Deacon

Roy Matsuo

Retired Deacon

Marlowe Sabater

Deacon

Fr. Anthony Tran

VHM Chaplain

Ryan and Ashley Agcaoil

Coordinators of Youth Ministry

Grace Young

Communications Coordinator

Earl Morita

Church Grounds Maintenance

Samy Ratum

Facilities Custodian

Noraliza Tapecc

On-Call Church Custodian

Felipe Tan

Accountant

Joan Mabag

Custodian

"How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord God of Hosts."
Psalm 84:1



Daily Mass Readings

www.usccb.org

February 23, 2026

Monday of the First Week of Lent

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18;

Matthew 25:31-46

February 24, 2026

Tuesday of the First Week of Lent

Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

February 25, 2026

Wednesday of the First Week in Lent

Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

February 26, 2026

Thursday of the First Week in Lent

Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25;

Matthew 7:7-12

February 27, 2026

Friday of the First Week of Lent

Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

February 28, 2026

Saturday of the First Week of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:16-19;

Matthew 5:43-48

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10;

Matthew 17:1-9

A Journey of Joyful Witness to Doing all things with Love.



We worship what we believe; we live what we worship.

SEASON OF LENT:

Here are some bullet points to ponder regarding the season of Lent.

1. Understanding LENT

a. Lent is a time of “lengthening” of daylight hours – the day is longer than the night – marking progress from the darkness of winter to the new light of spring. Since daylight is longer, we should have more time.

b. Cuaresma – it means 40 days.

- Noah in the Ark watched the rain fall for 40 days and 40 nights
- Moses went to Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments for 40 days and 40 nights
- The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years
- Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness
- 40 days from the resurrection to ascension (Acts 1:3)

2. Understanding 40 days of Lent

a. It is a prelude to something profoundly new.

- A period of probation, trial, chastisement
- To designate an important time period
- A shorthand for “a long time.”

b. It ushers us into something beautiful and holy

- Noah – rebirth of a sinful world by raging flood
- Moses – birth of new people of the covenant
- Wandering Israelites – start of new life – promise land
- Jesus – the birth of a new Israelite, liberated from sin, reconciled to God, and now governed by the Law of the Spirit.

3. Novelty of Lent

a. Fasting and Abstinence

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – obligatory fasting and abstinence, for those 18 to 59 years old
- All Fridays of Lent – Abstinence from meat – from 14 years old and above

These spiritual disciplines help us break free from undue attachments to material blessings. Sometimes we see only the gifts, not the giver. Such spiritual disciplines stimulate our spiritual appetites. They are not meant to punish us but to make us more loving, more prayerful, and more detached from whatever keeps us from God.

b. These Lenten practices will become more effective when sustained by other practices, such as **prayer, charity, and almsgiving.**

c. **Deeper Listening to the Word of God**

d. **Corporal Works of Mercy**

Please share these thoughts with everyone. Fr. MAH



“The Lord, your God,
shall you worship, and him
alone shall you serve.”

– Matthew 4:10

If we think the devil is a make-believe “boogie man,” a comical cartoon villain who whispers into our left ear while angels whisper into our right, then the Gospel dispels this notion. The devil exists. He is crafty (he quotes Scripture to Jesus). He is persistent (he tries three times to get Jesus to bow to him). He can subtly lead us down seemingly harmless paths with small sins – the white lie here, the flash of anger there. He can also launch aggressive assaults when we are weak and vulnerable.

He tries this with Jesus, who was susceptible after 40 days of isolation, prayer, and fasting. Fully human, Jesus understands our weakness. He was born and baptized as we were born and baptized. He grew up, like all of us do. He learned a trade from Joseph, just as our parents have taught us important lessons. And like us, he is tested by Satan. But he is not tempted. That is the difference. Our Lord never strays from the Father’s plan for him, not with the devil in the desert and not with his crucifixion at Calvary.

This Lent, let us remain ever vigilant to the devil’s attempts to draw us away from God. Let us explore different ways to pray, perhaps saying the rosary on our evening walk. In addition to observing Friday’s abstention from meat, we can fast from criticizing others. And supporting the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal – almsgiving – is a powerful way to share our blessings with those in need.