The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

Mark 1:12,13

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF

The Temptation of Christ by the Devil by Félix Joseph Barrias, 1860



Diocesan



#### Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17

Sunday, February 18

**7:30PM** MPB Parishioners

Monday, February 19

8:30AM Powell Families by John Powell

†Tommy Burden by Adame Family
 †Concepcion Rhode by Robert Rhode
 †Isabel Montez by Richard Montez
 †Cindy Bernal by Hilda & Tony Sanchez

⊕Rudy Livas by Family

**6:00PM** ⊕David Gorham by Carmen Sanchez

Tuesday, February 20

**8:30AM** Joey Garcia Magana by Grandma **6:00PM** Powell Families By John Powell

Wednesday, February 21

**6:00PM** April Bloodsworth by Joann Carbajal

Thursday, February 22

**8:30AM** Sonia Pierce Birthday by Husband **6:00PM** Powell Families by John Powell

Friday, February 23

8:30AM Powell Families by John Powell

⊕Eva Lopez by Resendez Family Mario Magana by Grandma

⊕ Cindy Bernal by Hilda & Tony Sanchez

⊕ Domingo Mancha by Cardona Family

Saturday, February 24

**4:30PM** ⊕Esteban Menchaca by Liz Hartman





Religious Education Classes
PKD-5th Grade - St. Maria Goretti Youth Center
Middle & High School - Great Hall

PK3 - 5th Grades 8:45 or 11:45am

6th Grade 8:45am 7 - 8th Grade 1:45pm 9 -12th Grade 5:00pm

#### **MPB Youth Ministry Staff:**

Alexis Martinez - Director of Youth Ministry email: mpbccym@gmail.com Tina Villegas - Director of Religious Education email: mpbreled@yahoo.com

#### **Altar Servers**

Altar Servers assist the priest and deacon with the celebration of the Word and the Eucharist at the Mass.

Please consider becoming an altar server if you are a Catholic in good standing, male of 7+ in age and have received Baptism, 1st Communion, and in a sacramental marriage (if married).

Training will be provided. For more information and /or to volunteer, please contact Joseph Hernandez at 361-854-3800.

The Sanctuary Candles are lit in the Church, St. Jude Chapel, and Adoration Chapel. These candles are perpetually lit for two weeks for your special intention in a high place of honor which lets us know that Jesus is physically present in the Eucharist. They can be in memory of a loved one, for a special intention, in thanksgiving, or any intention. The cost is \$15.00.

#### Week of February 18, 2024 - March 2, 2024

The Church Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in loving memory of Adrian Alaniz Jr by Family

The St. Jude Chapel Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for Special Intentions of Powell Families by John Powell

The Adoration Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in loving memory of Fermin Flores by Bobby and Elizabeth Buck

#### Scripture Readings for the Week

**Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15 **Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46 **Tuesday**: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Jl 2:12-13; Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:18; Mt 16:13-19 **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

**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10



### First Sunday of Lent

If you are spring cleaning or plan to soon, we are collecting items for our rummage sale (men, women, and children clothes, household items, furniture, and appliances). Please contact Krystle Martinez for drop off location and information @361-562-1142

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of our deceased sister:

#### Teresa Blakey

Eternal rest grant unto her, Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in Peace. Amen.



Each week. Traveling а Vocations Crucifix will be presented different to а Parishioner. The Family Individual presented with the Crucifix, will pray for an increase in vocations within our diocese and particularly within our Parish. To participate, please visit the Parish Website and sign up.

"I established My covenant with you." If in your listening to the Lord you are sensing the invitation to follow Christ as a priest, sister, or brother, talk to your priest, Fr. Joseph Lopez at 361-854-3800 or via email: jlopez@mpbchurch. org.



Everyone is welcome to join the **31 Club** to pray for an increase in vocations.

Pick any date of the month, then commit to go to Mass or a Holy hour on tht day each month over the following year. Devote that Mass or prayer to an increase in vocations, and for priests and religious already serving the Church.

This is open to everyone, including parishioners who are homebound and wish to offer their sufferings and prayer for that day.

Sign up is available through the Parish Website.

31

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#### Our Parish Activities

Sunday, February 18
8:30AM RCIA FC
Monday, February 19
Tuesday, February 20
6:45 CMSE FC
8:00PM AA C2
Wednesday, February 21
3:00PM Divine Mercy
7:00PM CDA C2
7:00PM KC Assembly C1

Thursday, February 22 7:00PM Real Men's Group **SMG** 

8:00PM AA **C2** Friday, February 23

6:30 Stations of the Cross C

Saturday, February 24 Sunday February 25

8:30AM RCIA GH
8:45 / 11:45 CGS SMG
8:45AM 6th Grade CGS
1:45PM MS RE GH
5:00PM HS RE Classes GH

#### Legend:

C - Church

C1-C2 - Classrooms in Family Center

FC - Family Center

GH - The Great Hall in Family Center

BR - Brides Room

RG - Rose Garden

Sch - MPB School Building

SJC - Saint Jude Chapel

SMG - St. Maria Goretti

#### Please Pray For:

Sidney Cox, Ramirez family, Rudy & Sara, Cynthia and Arnold Villagran, and for all those who have asked us to pray for healing and their special needs.



#### **Eucharistic Adoration**



Come to me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will efresh you..." You are greatly needed! Hours for adoration are available, contact Alice Polansky at 361-737-6360.

We Extend a Warm Welcome to Our New Parishioners:

Amer & Manal Alseefi David & Monica Cardona Juventino & Diana Chapa Gloria Morales Austin Perez Corina Perez Marco & April Rocha James and Catalina Quinata **Derek & corina Rittgers** Chris Rodarte & Asia Ramirez **Gregory & Marlene Taylor** Martin Villegas Jr. Douglas & Mary Sue Walker Sean & Teresa Walker Irma Williams Melinda Yzaguirre

God bless you as you join our community of faith at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church.

#### CMSE Classes

In person CMSE classes for 2024 will be held on:
February 20
April 23
June 18

Classes will be held in the St. Juliana Family Center at 6:45pm.

## Real Men's Group

We would like to invite all men of our parish to our next four-week study titled "Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well".

**Eternal Rest** presents the Church's teaching about death and God's response to it with wisdom and truth, gentleness and compassion, so that participants may think about and prepare for death in the light of Jesus Christ, the Author of life.

Classes begin Thursday, February 15, at 7:00pm in the St. Maria Goretti Youth Center.



# **HOLY FAMILY PRAYER**

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.







The domestic church is the family, the building block of society, and no other institution is under greater attack in modern times. Ministries such as marriage preparation, enrichment programs for families, and Respect Life work to provide mentorship and personal support to those who need it, while revitalizing family life and building a culture of discipleship in families.



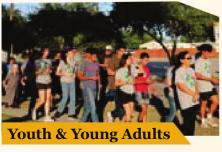
We are one diocesan family. Together, we are able to support large, shared ministries that benefit Catholics throughout the diocese and that no one parish can accomplish alone. Shared services provided at the diocese for parishes are one way that parishes benefit directly from the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal. The Office of Safe Environment and Child & Family Resources is just one example. This office provides direct support to parish leaders through Safe Environment Education as well as referral assistance to parishioners and families regarding social service issues.



We empower leaders at every level for effective ministry, teaching, and formation. This includes Parish Directors of Religious Education, Parish Catechists, Catholic School Teachers and Principals, Youth Ministers, RCIA Coordinators and Team Members and many more parish leaders. We support faith formation programs for all ages, plus the training of faith formation leaders in every parish and school across the diocese.



Catholic Charities and the Mother Teresa Shelter are on the frontlines serving those most vulnerable in our community. Through crisis assistance, emergency aid, food pantries, life enrichment programs, and counseling, Catholic Charities serves those in need every day. Mother Teresa Shelter serves the homeless in our community with meals, a place to wash their clothes and shower. Together their mission is to help with the daily necessities of life and to serve the whole person by seeing Christ in each person they meet.



The Diocese is committed to reaching and engaging youth, young adults, and college-age students through a vibrant experience of the Catholic faith. These ministries promote interest in religious vocations and help form confident Catholics who will one day lead families and businesses.



Our priests have given their lives in service to the Church. In thanksgiving, we are committed to supporting their ongoing formation and training programs and caring for them in retirement. We also support diaconate formation as they fill a vital need in supporting parishes and programs.





Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2024

#### Glad you can join us!

Most Precious Blood Church

Where we strive to be Christ for each other and to lead others to Christ.

# One Minute Meditations

#### St. Josephine Bakhita

Born in Darfur, Sudan around 1869, she was

kidnapped and sold into slavery. Her captors gave her the name Bakhita, meaning "fortunate." After several years of serving under cruel masters, she was bought by Augusto Michieli. The Michielis sent Bakhita with their daughter to Italy, where Balchita encountered Catholicism. Overjoyed, she was baptized and took the name Josephine. In 1893, instead of returning to Africa with the Michielis, she entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa.

#### The moment of truth

Conversion begins when we accept responsibility for our failures. Lent is an opportunity to stop and take a good look at our lives. Identify all the ways that sin keeps you from living the way Jesus taught us to live. Know that it may take courage to face your shortfalls.

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven." St.
Rose of Lima



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# Deepen the connection to Christ during Lent

The key to a fruitful Lent is not to perform miserable penances. A good Lent hinges on encountering Christ in a personal way and letting Him change our hearts and minds. In fact, an effective way to deepen our encounter with Him is through the Eucharist.

Consider these suggestions:

"Here I am, Lord.
Love me!" Mother
Teresa told her sisters
to start their chapel
time with this bold
prayer, "Here I am,
Lord. Love me!" No
matter whether you
are in His Presence for
Mass, a holy hour, or a
quick visit in front of the Blessed
Sacrament, begin with, "Here I am,
Lord. Love me!" It's a prayer of faith
God delights to answer.

Live for the next Communion.

Every Communion deepens our union with God, strengthens our faith, helps us love more

us against future
temptations. Each week,
renew your resolve to do
whatever is needed to
receive lesus well. For
example, avoid activity
or entertainment
that tempts you
away from God, and
if you sin seriously,
immediately go to
Confession and start
anew.

authentically, and immunizes

Invite others to the feast. Invite a friend, neighbor or colleague to Mass or Adoration

with you. Pray for priests to stay close to the Eucharist. Most importantly, pray that more people come to faithfully encounter lesus in the tabernacle.



# Why do Catholics have to fast on Ash Wednesday?

Fasting is a practice with Biblical roots, most notably, when Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert. Those in good health, aged 18-59, are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We're permitted one full meal and two

smaller meals that together don't
equal the full meal. This
includes abstaining from
meat. Fasting expresses our
recognition that we've
sinned and desire to make
amends. It purifies our
hearts and frees them to love
God and others well.

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