

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.



GREGORY SHEINIZ

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

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

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 / Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 / Matthew 4:1-11



“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?



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

First Sunday of Lent
February 21 & 22, 2026



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Parish Announcements

Thank You

A big thank you to all who helped make our Mardi Gras party such a wonderful event! Your generosity and hard work made the celebration truly special for our parish family.

Knights Fish Fry

The knights of Columbus will host a Fish Fry each Friday night during Lent from 5:30PM to 7PM. Dine in or carry out available.

Anointing Mass

The Anointing Mass will be Tuesday, March 3 at 12PM.

Lunch & Scripture

February 25 at 12PM.
Speaker: Fr. Rusty
Topic: The Lenten Season
Location: Billy's; Pizza & Salad lunch paid for by St. Paul; Donations are greatly appreciated. RSVP to the office, 601-636-0140 or reply on our Facebook post.

Lenten Penance Service

Our Penance Service for Lent will be Thursday, March 5 at 5:30PM

Hallow

If you have not downloaded the Hallow App, please do so. Our subscription becomes active at the start of Lent with the Lent Pray40 reflection. This is great way for us all to dive deeper into Lent and begin building community within our parish.
<https://hallow.app.link/L3FslwWPOb>

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will begin Friday, February 20th at 5:30 PM and will continue each Friday during Lent.

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget.....\$7,700

Online Giving

Feb 9 - Feb 15 \$1,585

Weekend Offertory

Jan 31 & Feb 1.....\$5,283

Feb 7 & Feb 8..... \$4,585

Feb 14 & 15 \$7,055

Feb 21 & 22\$, ____

Feb 28 & Mar 1\$, ____

Special Collections

February 22: Black and Indian Missions\$, ____



Sign up for automatic online giving at www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

#Confession 3:15-3:45 PM
Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

#Confession 9:45-10:15 AM
Mass 10:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM

Tuesday 12:00 PM

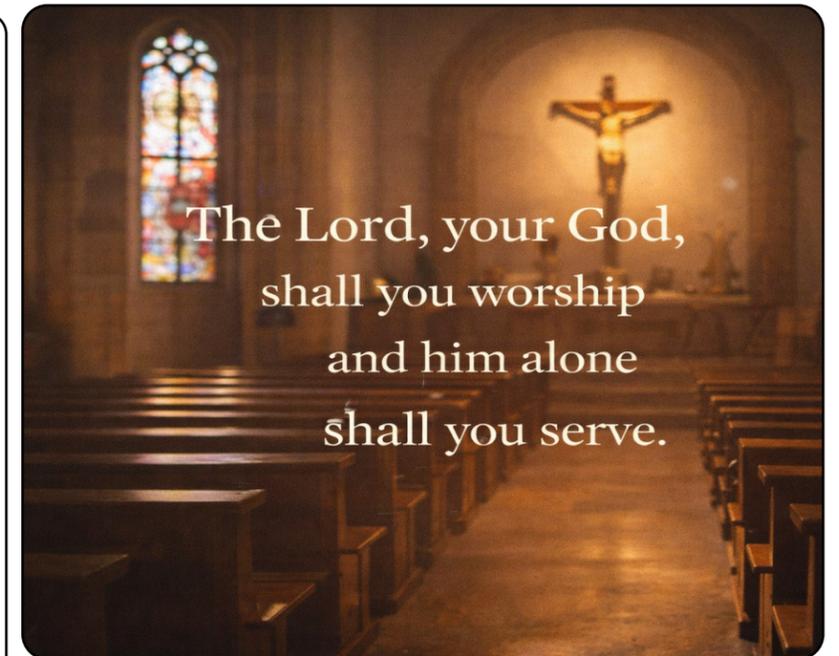
Wednesday 7:00 AM

Thursday 12:00 PM

Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.



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

Today's Readings

Visit bible.usccb.org or scan this QR code to find the readings



Check out our Social Media!



St. Paul
Catholic Church

Sanctuary Flowers

In observance of the Lenten season, no flowers are placed at the Ambo

Pastoral Care

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in urgent need of anointing, please call the church office Emergency Ext 106

Parish Calendar

FEB 22, SUN Children's Church led by: Natalie Kneipp.

FEB 23, MON Offertory Counters: Paul Banchetti & Jan Jackson

FEB 25, WED Lunch & Scripture 12PM @ Billy's. RCIA will meet at 6 PM in Glynn Hall.

FEB 27, FRI Stations of the Cross 5:30PM

MAR 3, TUES Anointing Mass 12PM

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

www.ms-kofc.com/898

Become a KNIGHT. Scan this QR code to join the Knights today!



FEB 24 Rosary 6:30PM followed by Recruitment & Retention Social.

FEB 25 K of C Bible study after 5:30 PM Mass @ St. Michael's

FEB 27 K of C Fish Fry @ 5:30 PM

Mass Intentions

FEB 23, MON Nancy Dolan, Deceased

FEB 24, TUES Special Intentions

FEB 25, WED Doris Davidson, Deceased

FEB 26, THUR Special Intentions

FEB 27, FRI

FEB 28, SAT Special Intentions

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. Each Mass with no intention is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.

St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Rusty Vincent Office Manager Ashley Roesch Office Assistant Janis Koestler

Bookkeeper Beverly Connelly Maintenance Charles Hahn Organist Karen Harrison

Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President Travis Thornell Finance Council Chair Bill Fulcher

Bereavement Story Ebersole RCIA Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole Meals On Wheels Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry

Altar Flowers Cynthia Montalbano Homebound Janis Koestler Children's Church Ashley Lawrence

Baptism Prep Barbara Hill

Confirmation Jordan Amborn