



"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. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

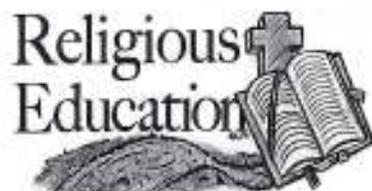
Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

STM Rav Group: The Rav/Tort Fundraiser will be ending for the year at the end of March. Please place your order by March 23rd to be filled by March 31st.

CCD Classes

Sunday, February 22th— K- 5th Grade CCD Class

**Sunday, March 1st —Children's Mass 9am at HT site
6th-8th Grade CCD Class**



St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of February 23, 2026

Monday	02/23			† No Mass
Tuesday	02/24	9:00 am	STM Site	† Bernard Schwamberger
Wednesday	02/25	9:00 am	*HT Site (see announcement)	† Ron & Joyce Hoscheid
Thursday	02/26	5:30 pm	*HT Site (see announcement)	† Ivan & Gladys Hassler
Friday	02/27	9:00 am	STM Site	† Joe Allen Kurtz
		6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross / HT	

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of February 28 – March 1, 2026

Saturday	02/28	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Kathy Riva
Sunday	03/01	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

JESUS TEMPTED IN THE DESERT

Our gospel this Sunday sees Jesus being led into the desert. The gospel puts it rather more seriously than Jesus being led into the desert! It opens with the words, "The Spirit drove Jesus into the desert," and remained with him for forty days. Why was Jesus led or driven in to the desert?

The desert in Jewish history is very important. When God freed and saved the People of Israel from slavery in Egypt, they spent forty years in the desert. They wandered and sometimes got lost as they tried to find their way to the Promised Land. This was not an easy journey for them. At times they lost faith in each other and in God. They forgot the promise that God made with them; 'I will be your God and you will be my people.' Famously, when they were at their lowest, they made a statue of a golden calf and began to worship it. They had forgotten where they had come from, what God had done for them and lost sight of where God was leading them.



It is no surprise that we begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. Like his ancestors, he too is tried, tested and tempted. However, Jesus refuses to give up or give in so quickly or so easily. Jesus knows who he is, where he comes from and where he is going on his own journey. He leaves the desert with these powerful words which he offers us today; 'The time has come; the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' What is this Good News that Jesus asks us to hear and believe? It is the good news that each of us is created, loved and forgiven by God.

As we begin our own Lenten journey today, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side every step of the way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. We need to realize that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance, and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us alone.

(By Michael Moore OMI)

Church Announcements

Regulations For Lent And The Easter Triduum

Below please find Church requirements for Lent 2026:

Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, and all the Fridays of Lent.

Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, April 3, 2026.

On these two days of fast and abstinence, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is a serious matter. May our Lenten journey bring us closer to the cross and our Resurrected Savior.

From The Pastor's Desk:

There will be a Holy Hour and Lenten confession on Thursday, March 19th at 6pm, which will take place at Holy Trinity Church site in Cherry. All the Parishioners are strongly urged to attend this special Holy Hour to worship the Eucharistic Christ and to be reconciled with God.

Latest Offering's

February 15th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,698.20

Mass Time Changes:

**Please note that the Mass time for
Wednesday, March 25th is changed to 9am,
and Thursday, March 26th is changed to
5:30pm for this coming week only.**

Next Confessions

Confessions on

Sat. February 28th

10:30am-11:15am

HT in the Confessional

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



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*.



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