



Living in Fantasy

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Filled with the Holy Spirit,
Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the desert
for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

LUKE 4:1-2A



I *f I Were a Horse* by Elizabeth Bridgman is a children's story about Jenny, who daydreams about being a horse and then accepts her true reality, as she realizes no one will recognize her as a horse. In the end, she finds that she likes herself as she truly is.

The story may also be a metaphor for our human fantasy about sin, by which we try to redefine the world on our own terms, only to realize that life does not go so well when we do this. It is our stealing by which we pretend that something belongs to us rather than to another. It is our lying that attempts to redefine truth in terms of what we want life to be, rather than in what life really is. It is our addictions that redefine the source of meaning and life not as God, but as ourselves and our wants. Lent brings us face to face with who we are—which is not a horse (real or otherwise), but, by God's design, is a daughter or son of God.

The temptations Jesus experienced in the desert were temptations to define life on his own terms, just as we are often tempted to do. Yet, Jesus was the one who got it right. For him, stones were stones, not bread. Power and glory were God's, not his. He would not put God to the test, thinking he could manipulate God and get God to do what Jesus wanted. Jesus was the faithful one. ●

Reflect

What about my life do I struggle to accept?



St. Thomas More

302 Chestnut Street

Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-663-6201

Email: thomasmore32@gmail.com

Adoration Room at STM

Open Daily from 9 am - 6 pm

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

212 S Main Street

PO Box 159

Cherry IL 61317

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com



Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

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

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Confession Info

Confessions: Saturday morning, alternating between STM & HT 10:30 am-11:15

Upcoming/Ongoing Church Events

Fundraiser: STM Rav/Tort | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone number/order) | \$9.00/bag

CCD Classes

Sunday, March 9th - K-5th Grade

Sunday, March 16th - 6 & 7th Grade



Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of March 10, 2025

Monday	3/10			† No Mass
Tuesday	3/11	9:00 am	STM	† Denise Mini
Wednesday	3/12	5:30 pm	HT	† Gladys & Ivan Hassler
Thursday	3/13	9:00 am	HT	† Lucille & Leroy Pinter
Friday	3/14	9:00 am	STM	† Phil Maggio
		6:00 pm	HT	Stations of the Cross

Mass Intentions for the weekend of March 15-16, 2025

Saturday	3/15	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Julie Taliani
Sunday	3/16	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† For the Parishioners

Reflection for the 1st. Sunday of Lent

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

The Faithful will be able to obtain the 150th Anniversary indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they partake a pious pilgrimage to any sacred pilgrimage site.

15th
Diocese of Peoria

What is Indulgence?

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the actions of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority and treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the Saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. The faithful can gain indulgence for themselves or apply them to the dead.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates the passion and death of Jesus for sinful humanity. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day.

Last Chance to Order Rav's

STM Rav/Tort Fundraiser will be ending soon. Please place your orders to support our church's fundraiser as your Lenten almsgiving. We would like to thank all who have shown their support. Please place orders **By March 15th**

Latest Offering's

March 2nd Weekend

HT - \$1044

STM - \$1106

SP- \$221

Stations will alternate between churches on Lenten Fridays.

Friday March 14th- HT at 6pm

Friday March 21st-STM at 6pm

Friday March 28th- HT at 6pm

Friday April 4th- STM at 6pm

Friday April 11th-HT at 6pm



Confessions

Sat. March 15th

10:30 am-11:15 am

St. Thomas More
in the confessional

Dear Padre,

Who decided that fish isn't meat? I really dislike fish; also, it bugs me when my friends eat lobster for dinner on Fridays in the name of "sacrifice."

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law, as written in Latin, states that we must abstain from *carne* (meat), a word that refers to warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish is allowed.

You make an excellent point about the lobster dinners and the nature of sacrifice. In the document "Questions and Answers About Lent and Lenten Practices," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, "While fish, lobster, and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer."

As we enter Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up, like meat. Our fasting isn't just an external discipline—sacrifice for the sake of checking a box. It's supposed to be a sacrifice that leads us closer to God. When we take that deeper step ourselves, then we can invite our friends to go deeper, too. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK / SWEET MASHINALOV

Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus opposes the attractions of evil...by responding to temptations with the word of God, which says not to take advantage...to obtain privileges. Because true happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service.



VATICAN MEDIA

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 6, 2022

Monday March 10 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt 25:31-46	Thursday March 13 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12	Saturday March 15 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48
Tuesday March 11 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15	Friday March 14 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26	Sunday March 16 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36
Wednesday March 12 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32		

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.