

## PARISH CALENDAR

First Sunday  
of Lent

February 18, 2024

When he calls on me,  
I will answer him.

We have  
been marked  
with the  
sign  
of  
Repentance



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Saturday, February 17	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, February 18	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass ( <b>Live Stream</b> )
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, February 19	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
		<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - PRESIDENT DAY HOLIDAY</b>
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	<b>Food Pantry Closed</b>
Tuesday, February 20	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, February 21	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, February 22	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, February 23	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	..... 7:00 p.m.	<b>Stations of the Cross - R. E. - Youth Ministry</b>
Saturday, February 24	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	No Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	<b>Confession - Church</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Gn:22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18:** God tested Abraham, asking him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Seeing Abraham's obedience, God relented. Because of Abraham's faith, God blessed him greatly.

**Rom:** We have received the ultimate proof of God's love: Christ Jesus, given up to death for the sake of us all. "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

**Mk:9:2-10:** Jesus went up a mountain with his disciples and was transfigured before their eyes. A voice from a cloud proclaimed, "this is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

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

What an amazing event we reflect upon today. Jesus, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity humbled Himself in two ways in the passage quoted above. First, He allowed Himself to endure the temptations of Satan. Second, He permitted His very own creation, the good angels, to minister to Him in His human form.

First of all, recall that Satan is a fallen angel. He was created by God and was created good. But the Book of Revelation (12:4) indicates that one-third of the created angels were cast out of Heaven to roam the earth. These demons act under the direction of the highest fallen angel, Satan. Thus, according to the passage above, it was Satan himself who tempted Jesus in the desert. Additionally, Jesus permitted the good angels to minister to Him in His human nature. These acts reveal the perfection of the virtue of humility within the humanity of our Lord. According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, angels were created for three primary reasons. The first is for the purpose of worship. Worship of God brings about communion with God and enables perfect love to flow back and forth from God to each angelic being. Second, angels enact the will of God in all things. This includes the implementation of the laws of nature and the imparting of the grace that Christ won on the Cross. Third, God uses angels as messengers. Scripture records various ways that the angels spoke to the prophets, to our Blessed Mother, to Saint Joseph and to others. Saint Thomas Aquinas also believed that each of us is given a particular guardian angel whose role is not only to protect us but also to communicate the will of God to us.

As God, Jesus was the Creator of all angelic beings with the Father and the Holy Spirit. As man, Jesus was the recipient of both the ministry of the good angels and the attacks of the fallen angels. By humbly subjecting Himself to the natural powers of these angelic creatures, Jesus was also teaching us that we must do the same.

One of the primary natural powers of both the good and bad angels is the power of influence and suggestive thought. Angelic beings have the ability to put before your imagination ideas meant to either influence you for the good (the good angels) or to deceive you and lead you into sin (the bad angels). These communications are real, and we should be aware of them. In his book, *The Spiritual Exercises*, Saint Ignatius of Loyola devotes much time and energy to the ministry of angels. He teaches how to distinguish the lies and deceptions of the fallen angels from the consoling direction communicated by the good angels. In many ways, our Gospel passage today, by which Jesus submitted Himself to the temptations and ministry of the angels, lends much support to the importance of trying to understand how these angelic creatures influence us. For more on this, see the book *Probing the Depths: Ignatian Lessons and Meditations Arranged According to the Liturgical Year*.

**Reflect, today, upon the amazing truth that both angels and demons are constantly active in your life, seeking to influence you. As you ponder their spiritual role in your life, consider the various ways you can learn more about them. Speak to your guardian angel. Ask for the intercession of the highest of angels. Try to join them in their divine worship. Pray for their protection. Ask them to communicate to you the highest of truths from God. Seek to be attentive to these holy angels so that as you learn to discern their voices, you will be ready to follow the direction they give to you from God.**

My Lord and Creator of All, You created the angelic order for the glorious purpose of love and worship. You also give them the mission of enacting Your holy will and communicating to us on earth. Please help me to be more aware of the deceptions of the fallen angels and the direction of the good angels. Angels of God, pray for me, protect me and guide me into God's perfect will. Jesus, I trust in You.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE AUGUSTINE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SECOND COLLECTION

### ***Make a Student Smile - Give the Gift of Catholic Education Campaign***

Mahalo nui loa to our parish and parishioners from the Augustine Educational Foundation for your generous and continued support of the ***Make a Student Smile – Give the Gift of Catholic Education Campaign*** 2024 Second Collection. Your support makes a difference in hundreds of students' lives. **MAHALO!**

## **OPERATION RICE BOWL: A SEASON FOR**

**REFLECTION** During this holy time, we are called to pause and pay closer attention to our relationship with God and our neighbors. Reflect on how the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey and how the Eucharist helps us to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. Visit [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) to learn more and read this week's Story of Hope.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "We often assume parenthood happens easily after "I do," but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility. . . .If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you. . . . God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple." **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities** *Seven Consideration While Navigating Infertility*" [www.respectlife.org/navigating-infertility](http://www.respectlife.org/navigating-infertility).

## **THE RAINBOW COVENANT**

People give things up for Lent, but they also do some extra things. They enter into the renewal that God desires for all creation. Renewal often demands both strategies: giving up and doing extra.

Take God, for example. At the end of the story of Noah, God gave something up. You remember the story. People had behaved so badly that God sent a flood to wipe out creation. But God took pity on Noah, his family, and pairs of animals. As the floods receded, God established a new covenant with Noah and set a rainbow in the sky as its sign.

What did God give up? God gave up global floods. "There shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God gave up giving up on people.

The story of our relationship with God did not end there. We know at the beginning of Lent where that story will end at Easter. God did more than give something up. God did something extra. God sent us a redeemer. By ending destruction and offering redemption, God set a perfect example of renewal.

Lent is like a desert. It is also like a flood. But most of all, it is like the balance of sun, water, and soil that yields a bountiful harvest.

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## **NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP**

In today's Gospel Jesus urges his listeners to do two things: to believe in the Good News and to repent. Stewards are called to repent, to be humble enough to open their hearts so they may begin anew, to change existing attitudes and habits, and to act with faith in the Gospel. In this season of Lent, now is the time to ask ourselves whether or not we truly believe in the Gospel; and if we do, to what extent are we willing to change our prevailing habits and be more faithful to the Gospel?

**International Catholic Stewardship Council**

## **WEEKLY READINGS**

### ***Feb 18 Sun: First Sunday of Lent***

Gn:9:8-15; Ps:25; 1 Pt:3:18-22; Mk:1:12-15

### ***Feb 19 Mon: Lenten Weekday***

Lv:19:1-2, 11-18; Ps:123:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt:25:31-46

### ***Feb 20 Tue: Lenten Weekday***

Is:55:10-11; Ps:34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt:6:7-15

### ***Feb 21 Wed: Lenten Wednesday***

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

### ***Feb 22 Thur: The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle***

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

### ***Feb 23 Fri: Lenten Weekday***

Ez:18:21-28; Ps:130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7b-8; Mt:5:20-26

### ***Feb 24 Sat: Lenten Weekday***

Dt:26:16-19; Ps:119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt:5:43-48

## **THE FLOOD OF BAPTISM**

Lent starts with ashes and ends with water. On Ash Wednesday we confessed our sin before God, and on Easter we will witness baptisms and be sprinkled again with the water that recalls our rebirth in Christ.

For those who are already baptized, Lent attempts a thorough scouring. We spend these six weeks mindful of our transgressions, penitent in word and deed, anxious to reform our ways.

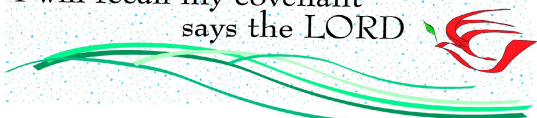
For the unbaptized, these six weeks embrace a serious preparation for the mystery of new life. There is a difference between those who are baptized and those who are not, as the First Letter of Peter makes clear.

That letter compares Baptism to the story of Noah's ark. The flood waters separated the saved from the sinners. The letter even notes that eight persons were saved in the ark—Noah, his three sons, and all of their wives. This is one reason why some baptismal fonts have eight sides. They remind us that within these waters sin is destroyed and the good are saved.

We begin Lent in the ash of sin, and we end it with the promise of water. As we enter this sacred time, we look forward to the saving grace that God alone gives. God freely gives it to all of us who float in an ark of hope above the waters of temptation, until we reach the shore of eternal life.

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I will recall my covenant  
says the LORD



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