



Blessed Trinity

60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

February 21, 2021

WEEKEND MAGAZINE

The First Sunday of Lent

Lent is the perfect time to fast from sin

By Philip Kosloski

Fasting from food during Lent should also include fasting from sinful behaviors.



Lent is a beautiful season in the Church to re-commit our lives to God. While the Church has certain days dedicated to fasting and abstinence from food during Lent, this discipline should not neglect the spiritual aspect of our lives.

Fasting in a bodily way is supposed to remind and strengthen us to “fast” from our own sinful behaviors.

The author of the 19th-century book *The Lenten Manual and Companion for Holy Week* explains how fasting is a means to an end, and that end is the elimination of sin in our lives.

*Fasting, however, is but a means to an end; and that great end is the **destruction of sin**. We should fast as an atonement for sin, and we should fast to prevent the danger of falling into sin, **For unless we fast from sin, all our fasting will be in vain**. Do not, therefore, dearly beloved brethren, fast like hypocrites, with the body only, but **preserve your souls from the contamination of sin**. Otherwise you may be forced to say to the Lord, with the Prophet, “Why have we fasted, and you have not regarded; have we humbled our souls and you have not taken notice?” And he will answer, “Behold, in the day of your fast your own will is found.” (Isai. lviii. 3.)*

One practical way to focus our attention on the sins in our lives that need to be eliminated is to **chose one stubborn sin we want to work on**. It could be a sin that has become a habit in your life and that you want to stop.

Don't try eliminate all sin from your life, as that will set you up for failure. However, focusing on one particular sin is most beneficial and can lead to a very fruitful Lent.

Reprinted with Permission

Highlights of "The True Meaning of Lent"

By Pope Emeritus Benedict the XVI edited by Father Roger Landry

Father Landry brings to light Pope Emeritus Benedict's insights on a catechesis he gave on the real meaning of Lent during his Pontificate that bore all the traits for which his discourses have quickly become renown. As we begin Lent 2021, it would be worthwhile to ponder some of the highlights of what he said.

We are not alone in our Spiritual Journey

Lent is not meant to be primarily an individual journey of self-discipline, sacrifice, and personal prayer. It is an ecclesial pilgrimage. "We are not alone in this spiritual sacrifice, in this spiritual itinerary," Pope Benedict clarified, "because the Church accompanies and sustains us from the start with the Word of God, which encloses a program of spiritual life and penitential commitment, and with the grace of the sacraments." Lent is not a solitary hike from a dark valley up a high spiritual mountain but a journey together with the whole Church in which God's word and very life in the sacraments guide, strengthen and sustain us all. The Pope is calling us all to rediscover this communal dimension of Lent – in families, parishes, dioceses and beyond.

Our Conversion is Radical and Total

The conversion asked of us in Lent is not something small, but radical and total. "To be converted means to change direction along the way of life – not for a slight adjustment, but a true and total change of direction. Conversion is to go against the current where the 'current is a superficial lifestyle, inconsistent and illusory, which often draws us, controls us and make us slaves of evil, or in any case prisoners of moral mediocrity. With conversion, instead, one aims to the lofty measure of the Christian life; we are entrusted to the living and personal Gospel, which is Christ Jesus. His person is the final goal and the profound meaning of conversion; he is the way which we are called to follow in life, allowing ourselves to be illumined by his light and sustained by his strength that moves our steps. And so stressed, conversion is an exodus from the slavery of moral mediocrity to the high Christian standard of sanctity, defined as a faith-filled decision to seek to live wholly in communion with Jesus in all aspects of our life.

The Process of Conversion Is Not a One Time Event of 40 Days

His third insight was that this process of conversion from mediocrity to transforming communion with Christ is not a one-time event, but a continual process and way of life. Every day is a favorable moment of grace, because each day invites us to give ourselves to Jesus, to have confidence in him, to remain in him, to share his style of life, to learn

Continued from previous page

from him true love, to follow him in daily fulfilling of the will of the Father, the only great law of life every day.

The Lenten Journey is Death and Rebirth

The Pope said that this process of continual conversion is meant to lead to nothing less than our death and rebirth within the death and resurrection of Christ himself. The second formula for the imposition of ashes, "Remember, man, that you are dust and unto dust you shall return," the Pope declared, "reminds us of our frailty, including our death, which is the extreme expression of our frailty. In face of the innate fear of the end, The Lenten liturgy on one hand reminds us of death, inviting us to realism and to wisdom, but on the other hand, it drives us above all to accept and live the unexpected novelty that the Christian faith liberates us from the reality of death itself." The way that liberation occurs is in the passage from the "old Adam," who returned to the dust from which he came, to the "new Adam," Christ Jesus. Lent, therefore, is the time for a "more conscious and more intense immersion in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, in his death and resurrection, through participation in the Eucharist and in the life of charity, which stems from the Eucharist and in which it finds its fulfillment. With the imposition of ashes, we renew our commitment to follow Jesus, to allow ourselves to be transformed by his Paschal Mystery, to overcome evil and do good, to have the 'old humanity' in us die, the one linked to sin, and to have the 'new humanity' be born, and transformed by the grace of God."

This is the deepest way of all in which the season of Lent is meant to lead us to experience the full joy of Easter.



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

PASTOR EMERITUS

Msgr. Anton Decherer
Retired

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM
Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, btsp.org.

Confessions can be arranged with Fr. Wayne. Call his private number to make your appointment, 727-401-0487.

PARISH OFFICE

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm
1600 54TH AVE S.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712

PHONE

(727) 867-3663

FAX

(727) 864-2679

WEB SITE

<http://btsp.org>

Like us on FaceBook

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

©LPI

Are You Looking to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Gene-reux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the Baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the Pre-Baptism Class before scheduling a Baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Website Mass

The church is open for our regular schedule of Masses. Recognizing that many will still be unable to attend Mass we will continue to record the Mass and upload it to the website. To view the Mass go to our website: btsp.org and click on the red words to start the video. The recorded Mass is from the Saturday vigil.

We are very grateful to Brent Beauchamp who has been volunteering his services to record the Mass each week. Thank you Brent for your continued support.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 20

4:00 p.m. Merman Family (Dec)

Sunday, February 21, First Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Edward Varville (Dec)

9:30 a.m. For Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Jay Holser (Dec)

Monday, February 22, Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

8:00 a.m. Alice Varville (Dec)

Tuesday, February 23, Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Ann Deakins and Family (Dec)

Wednesday, February 24, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. For Vocations

Thursday, February 25, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Pat Varville (Dec)

Friday, February 26, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Roman Schuessler (Dec)

Saturday, February 27, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Nance Young (Dec)

4:00 p.m. Deacon Lionel Roberts (Liv)

Sunday, February 28, Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Harriet Schuessler (Dec)

9:30 a.m. For Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Malinda Yannock (Dec)



Electronic Giving Information

During our recent Stewardship Campaign, a lot of people requested information on our Electronic Giving Program. Making contributions electronically is really easy, whether you would like to make a one-time gift or make it a recurring gift for a specific or indefinite period of time.

All you have to do is go to the parish website at www.btsp.or and click on the big green box on the home page that says

make a difference
DONATE

Then, click on "sign in" and then, if you're new to online giving, "register for an account". If you need help, our business manager, Alice Coston, will be happy to help in walking you through it. You can reach her at the parish office at 727-867-3663.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Unlikely Suspects

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikeliest suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Winter Residents

The boxed offertory envelopes for 2021 can be picked up in the parish office during regular office hours Monday-Friday or can be picked up after Mass in the church on the weekend.



Weekly Giving

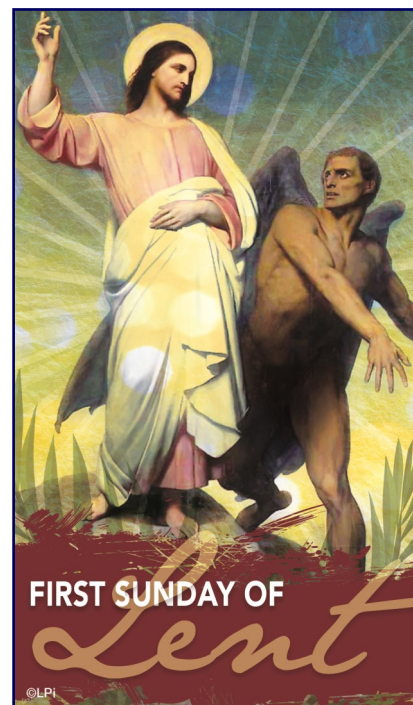
Online Giving February 8-14

Offertory	\$ 300
Building Fund	\$ 1,020

February 14, 2021

Offertory	\$ 9,915
Building Fund	\$ 120
Memorial Donation	\$ 100
Flowers	\$ 250
Other	\$ 108
Gift Shop	\$ 126

Thank you for your generosity!



Magazine Articles

If you wish to put anything in the weekly parish magazine, please email any items to be published to Anne at: bulletinbt@gmail.com.

Regulations on Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting and abstinence have a long history in the Church. The custom of self-denial is meant to simplify one's lifestyle so that freed from all distractions, we may hear and respond to God's continued call to conversion and holiness.

- ♦ ▪ Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 to 59 years (inclusive). On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together should not equal another full meal. Liquids are allowed.
- ♦ ▪ Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age or older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence.
- ♦ ▪ Pastoral Note: Persons unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, may practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.

Daily Mass, and Stations of the Cross During Lent

Masses Monday- Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Rosary Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Friday's Mass 8:00 a.m., Stations of the Cross immediately after Mass.

Weekend Masses

Saturday Evening Vigil 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

Confessions

Confessions are available by appointment. Please call the office at 867-3663.

We make appointments to see our Doctors for Physical Healing. Why would we not make an appointment for Spiritual Healing?



What is CRS Rice Bowl?

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program for families and faith communities in the United States who want to put their faith into action. Through CRS Rice Bowl, participants are invited to hear stories about their sisters and brothers in need around the world and devote their Lenten prayers, fasting and alms to change the lives of those who suffer in poverty.

Participants journey through the 40 days of Lent with a collection of daily reflections and activities included in the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar.

Blessed Trinity will be making Rice Bowls and Lenten reflection calendars available for parishioners to participate. At the end of Lent, please do not bring the Rice Bowls back to the church, but rather, count the money you have collected and write a check payable to Catholic Relief Services and mail to:

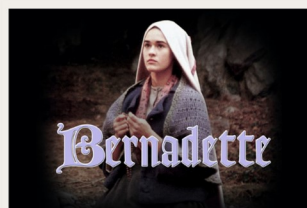
Catholic Relief Services
Rice Bowl
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303

A postage-paid envelope will be included in the materials. You may also make your donation online at: www.crsricebowl.org

FORMED It's What to Watch

Discover all the best Catholic content in one place. Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks and audio dramas, and a great selection of popular e-books—all just a click away!

It's free, it's Catholic, and it's our gift to you!
formed.org TJQ622 access code



Bernadette

This week, continue to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with this beautiful film from Ignatius Press. The story of Saint Bernadette is a promise that we can also be like her if we try to be like our Mother.

Please Pray for Our Sick and Homebound

PAGE 7

Adkins, Chantale
Albertson, Michelle
Antczak, Harriet
Arnold, Barbara
Attard, Stephanie
Banks, Cathy
Barry, Marian
Bennett, Elizabeth
Bestow, Shawn
Blondheim, Carmen
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Brown, Buck
Brown III, George
Brown, Shaquita
Bruce, Phil
Buckwald, Diane
Carfora, Palma
Cary, Joan
Cavalieri, Lois
Ceci, Shirley
Chavez, John
Chris, David
Christ, Kathryn
Cline, Wayne
Congiu, Rita
Coston, Stephen
Dawson, Anthony Peter
Deacon Lionel Roberts
Dechering, Msgr. Anton

DeLucca, Rosemary
Detore, Alice
Deuel, Fred
Devyn & Donna
DeZarn, Vickie
Doiron, Gary
Ditzel, Julie, Mark and Luke
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferro, Antoinette
Fiedler, Meghan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Forbes, Rahim
Forbes, Tina May
Fr. Jim Klima
Fraser, Sue Chapman
Garcia, Jose M.
Gaskin, Douglas
Genereux, Carol
Graeme, Mary
Gregg, Joan
Griffin, Lynda Butler
Grimberg, Carol
Hamilton, Tom
Hawkins, Ashlyn
Hawkins, Barbara
Heylan, Edward H.
Hepp, Loren
Huff, Walt & Carole
Iglesias, Olivia

Infant Ursa
Kantowicz, Jan
Keithly, Claire
Kincaid, Kevin & Tammie
King, Ada
Kleinberger, Donovan
Kline, Irene
Kline, Wayne and Judy
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawrence, Sandy
Leath, Bill
Lee, Donald
LeVan, George
Lindsay, Jane
Lovelace, Jill
Lovelace, Kim
Lowery, Judith
Lucas, Laura
Lyons, Laura
Mack, Jackson
Maharne, Cecile
Mahoney, Colleen
Maitland, Steve
Mark, Jacqueline
Marois, Mary
McGarry, Jean
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Merchant, Geraldine

Merchant, Rhoda
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Meyer, Patricia
Monahan, Sheila
Moore, Richard A.
Murdock, Cheryl & Evan
Nicholson, Maria
Noguez, Armida
Nuñez, Marleny
Oliphant, Brian
Pezzulo, Irene
Phillips, James
Pope, Stoney
Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Quinn, Timothy
Ray, Terry
Reardon, Kevin
Reardon, Kara
Reed, Edward, Jr.
Rivera, Joel
Reyes, Nila
Robinson, Agnes
Romani, Angelo & Marlene
Rosa, Joe & Nina
Rudy, Fr. Richard
Sanders, Kimberly
Sanders, Marilyn

Schaefer, Jake
Schneider, Mary Jo
Sequist, Tim
Sharp, Jennett
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Sheridan, Samantha
Simpson, Rose
Smith, Anita
St. Pierre, Rick
Stankiewicz, Cy
Storey, Barbara
Thompson, Bill
Thompson, Susan
Thore, Isabelle
Thuline, James
Vishnisky, Wayne
Walsh, Thomas
Watson, Amanda
Watson, Claire
Whalen, Dorothy
Wood, Jena
Youngman, Ruth

