



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

February 26, 2023 ▪ 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 recommit 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 **choose 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 to 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 from aleteia.org



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

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 will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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

Apostles' Creed

At Mass today we are using the Apostles' Creed instead of the Nicene Creed. The origins of the Apostles' Creed are believed to predate the Nicene Creed. It is universally recognized by many Christians as a shared statement of our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed may be used at any Sunday Mass, but the church particularly recommends its use during Lent and Easter time. Why? Because the words of this ancient Creed have been used for centuries as the basis of our baptismal promises, and the seasons of Lent and Easter put a strong focus on baptism. During Lent we prepare those who will be baptized at Easter while readying ourselves to renew our own baptismal promises. As we recite the Apostles' Creed, it will stir up in our hearts our commitment to Christ which was first made at our own baptisms and prepare us to renew our promises this Easter.

Catholic Ministry Appeal

In today's Gospel, Jesus claims, "One does not live by bread alone" Matthew 4:4. Jesus forewent food in the wilderness for forty days to prove it was possible. Because he is so abundant, God's spirit can sustain any need. Our fasting shows us that this is possible in a personal, experiential way. Fasting is an act of faith that "No, I don't have to satisfy every urge." Relying on God, we aren't subservient to our urges. Jesus tasked our parish with the mission to reach hungry souls with Jesus' sustaining bread of life.

Through your generosity, you can help our Catholic Ministry Appeal feed those who hunger—physically and spiritually. Jesus' angels ministered to him at the end of his fast and we, too, need your help to minister to the weak. Some souls have been fasting from His love for far too long. This Lent let's work together to end that fast. They need to know His name. May the name of Jesus be glorified through our Catholic Ministry Appeal!





February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Rom 5:12-19 | Mt 4:1-11

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Superbowl Sunday was two weeks ago, and many of us were more likely interested in the commercials than the actual game. After all, companies pay a ton of money to have their products paraded in front of us, and – in theory at least – take the time to make these particular ads memorable and funny. If we can be convinced that we will be better people, or our social outings greater and filled with more laughter, we will buy what they are selling. It's the modern version of the words of the serpent in today's first reading: if you eat this, "you will be like gods"! Today's readings are a reminder that we are all sinners and burdened by being vulnerable to false promises – but also that we are relieved of this burden through one man: Jesus Christ. If we tend to forget that the most important part of our salvation story is that it is full of more grace and forgiveness than we can comprehend, this first Sunday of Lent is a good time to prayerfully ponder this. If God seems far away or distant, let us recall that he loved us so much that he breathed our very life into us, and then gave his only begotten Son to us that we might have life eternally. All he asks in return is for us to accept this gift and follow in his footsteps. Lent is the time to be mindful of grace-filled opportunities that draw us closer to God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Let's think about these 40 days. In addition to allowing us to grow in understanding of God, this time is also an opportunity to grow in our understanding of how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world and help to build the kingdom right here and now. How can we keep God at the center of our lives and resist worldly temptations to push him aside? Perhaps today's psalm can help us here: Ask for God's mercy, acknowledge our offenses, seek a "clean heart," renew a "steadfast spirit" within us, and ask God to grant us a "willing spirit" to give him praise. And remember Christ's words from the Gospel: Depend on "every word that comes forth from the mouth of God," which is love and mercy.

PRAY Pray today's psalm: "Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise."



Are You Hoping 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 Genereux, 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



Messa in Italiano

Our Lady's Chapel,
Cathedral of St. Jude
5815 - 5th Avenue N.

February 26 at 4:00pm

Please come to pray and sing in
ITALIANO

Celebrant:

Fr. Anthony M. Fortunato, OdeM.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 25, Vigil for the First Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. William Biggane (Dec)

Sunday, February 26, The First Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Marie Kerr (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Resurrecion Geronimo (Dec)

Monday, February 27, Monday of the First Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Roberta Pikey (Dec)

Tuesday, February 28, Tuesday of the First Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Lionel Roberts 97th Birthday (Liv)

Wednesday, March 1, Wednesday of the First Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, March 2, Thursday of the First Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Monica, Joy, & Verna Beddoe (Dec)

Friday, March 3, Friday of the First Sunday of Lent

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

Saturday, March 4, Saturday of the First Sunday of Lent

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

Saturday, March 4, Vigil for the Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. James Lawler & Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, March 5, The Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Dennis Dutilly (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Tim Hanlon (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

02/26 • Rev. Randall J. Meissen, LC

02/27 • Rev. Brian Fabiszewski

02/28 • Rev. Vincent A. Laviano, OFM

03/01 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

03/02 • Rev. Michael Smith

03/03 • Rev. Ryan Boyle

03/04 • Rev. John S. Hays

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.



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.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship for Lent – Mindful

What is it that tempts you the most? Is it an action, a person, or a place? It is something that seems innocent enough, like a food, a drink, or an event? When you really start reflecting, you find that there are many temptations all around. Even if you are strong and never succumb to a certain temptation, it is still there waiting for a weak moment in your life.

One difficulty in the life of a disciple trying to live a stewardship way of life lies in the temptations we never actually see. We are too busy thinking about past failures or successes, or we are fixated on what possibilities the future holds that we miss the important things going on in the present. Jesus could be standing directly in front of us, but we miss him because we are looking everywhere except straight ahead.

Being mindful means that we are looking out for how and when God will call us this very day. Our decisions this day will have a huge impact on the future. If we only look to the future, we will miss those important calls to action. We may even find ourselves in a desert of sorts, looking for any way out we can find. However, God may need us to give of ourselves for a reason we cannot yet discern while in that desert. We need to stay awake, be aware, and look for His hand in all things. If we don't, we may even miss the pathway out of that desert when it presents itself.

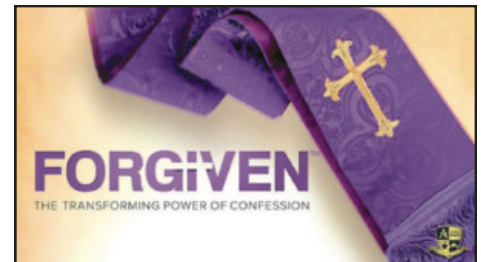
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Everything you wanted to know about your faith

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!**

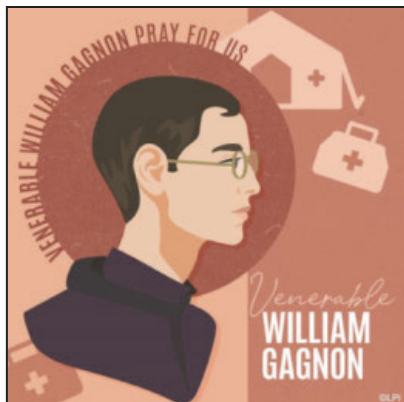
formed.org TJQ622 access code



Record Update Help!

We need your help to update our parish records. Many folks have disconnected their landlines or changed their cell phone number. If you have moved or changed your phone number, please fill out and return an information card as soon as possible. The cards can be found in the entryway of the church and returned to the parish office or dropped in the collection basket.





Ven. William Gagnon

Venerable William Gagnon, O.H. was born on May 16, 1905, in Dover, New Hampshire as the third of twelve children. Intrigued by a newspaper column about St. John of God and the community of brothers he founded to care for the sick all over the world, Gagnon entered the Hospitallers order and took his vows in Montreal in 1935. Brother William then spent the first 20 years of his vocation directing

schools as well as hospitals in Montreal and Quebec City as well as serving as Provincial Superior at the first Chapter of the Canadian Province in Montreal before following the dream that originally drew him to the Hospitallers, to serve overseas as a missionary.

In 1952 Brother William was assigned to be the prior of his order's new foundation and hospital in Vietnam in Bui-Chu (North Vietnam). The Hospital du Sacre-Coeur de Bui-Chu and its dispensary served victims of war, ranging from children suffering malnutrition to adults wounded by the fighting. As refugees of war flocked to the hospital, Brother William relied on his deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as he was a person of deep reflection and prayer. These devotions helped steady him as he and his brothers cared for everyone who came through their doors. On occasion they would have to leave the mission for their own safety since they cared for soldiers on both sides of the conflict and that sometimes put them in harm's way. During his first year in Bui-Chu a bomb fell on the hospital's roof although, fortunately, nobody was injured. Eventually, the Brothers were forced Southward to continue to care for the refugees of the Vietnam conflict.

As the stream of refugees moved from the South out of North Vietnam, the Brothers relocated to Bien-Hoa near Saigon which became the Vietnamese province of the Brothers Hospitallers. Here, Brother William continued his leadership work in the hospital but also became the novice master, training those seeking a vocation with the Brothers in Vietnam. A true servant leader, beside his administrative work and his efforts with the novices, Brother William had a hand in every task of the mission — general contractor, fundraiser, social worker, nurse, and spiritual leader.

Brother Gagnon served his community in Vietnam until dying of heart failure in Saigon in 1972. Pope Francis recognized his heroic virtues and proclaimed him Venerable on December 14, 2015.

Prayer for Venerable Brother William Gagnon's intercession

Lord, Jesus, your mercy inspired the Venerable William Gagnon, O.H., to live hospitality with the ill, the refugees and the poor. Grant that we may always minister to all suffering people with charity, as did this son of St. John of God. Lord, hear the prayer that we address to you [personal intention] by the intercession of the Venerable William Gagnon, in order that we may be affirmed in our faith and that your glory and the joy of the Church be proclaimed. Amen.



CRS Rice Bowls

Blessed Trinity is making Rice Bowls with Lenten reflection calendars available for parishioners to participate. You can pick one up in the vestibule at the back of the church. 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
CRS Rice Bowl
PO Box 5200
Harlan, IA 51593-0700

You may also donate online at
www.crsricebowl.org



Keep in touch with us!

Text BTSP to 84576 or connect with us online at
btsp.flocknote.com

GULF COAST CATHOLIC
www.GulfCoastCatholic.org

SIGN UP TODAY ✓

**Your Stories.
Your Life.
Your Faith.**

Sign Up to Receive our Free Weekly Update - The Wednesday Wave

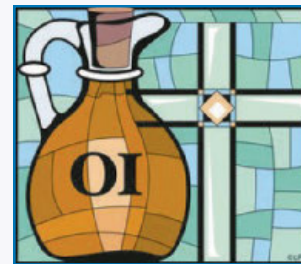
1. Visit www.GulfCoastCatholic.org/Subscribe
2. Text CoastCatholic to 84576 and Follow the Instructions
3. Scan the Code on this ad with your Phone Camera or QR Code Reader App



A Ministry of the Diocese of St. Petersburg

Arnold, Barbara
Barr, Bill
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Christ, Kathryn
Comeau, Teresa
Congui, Mario
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
Feldes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt & Carole
Irvin, John and Marsha
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew

LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
O'Connor, Mary
Parmigiani, George
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Roberts, Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Tarnowski, Lawrence
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



DEBRA ARCAMONTE
Residential Realtor® | Property Specialist

(727)409-0754

debra.arcamonte@floridamoves.com
www.DebraSellsStPeteProperties.com
3637 4th Street N. Suite 100
St. Petersburg, FL 33704



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
Owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group LLC

Parishioner

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Peter Stewart

pstewart@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6123

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Become an advocate for long-term care residents today. To learn more call toll-free:

1-888-831-0404

Ombudsman.ElderAffairs.org

 FloridaOmbudsmanProgram



FLORIDA OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM
ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

REPAIRS REMODELING NEW WORK

JOHNNIE JONES PLUMBING CO.

**Repair Parts • Water Heaters
Electrical Sewer Cleaning Service**

323-2300

2727-23rd Ave. N. Carl H. Jonasson, Sr. • CFC1425970
St. Petersburg, FL 33713-4318 Barbara J. Pace • CFC1427395

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!

Instantly create and purchase an ad with

**AD
CREATOR
STUDIO**



4lpi.com/adcreator



For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

16-0289

Brett Funeral Home & Cremation Services

4810 Central Avenue
Tel. 727-321-3321
www.brettfuneralhome.net
Catholic Owned & Operated Since 1960



BOSS LAW

PROTECT YOUR FUTURE

Buying or Selling
Your Home?

Let Boss Law Handle
Your Closing
*Blessed Trinity
Parishioners Receive
Friends/Family Discount!*

Christopher W. Boss
Parishioner



727-800-4498 | BossLegal.com



3-D-4-3

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

16-0289