



# Blessed Trinity

## Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

March 1, 2026 • The Second Sunday of Lent

## 9 Things Lent is not (and 3 things it kind of is)



Tom Hoopes - published on 02/22/26

*It is easy to make Lenten prayer and fasting about me, myself, and I ...*

Sometimes the best way to describe something is to describe what it's *not*. For instance: Confession is not a time to make excuses, the Eucharist is not just a symbol, and Christmas is not about the gifts.

So I went on a hunt for negative wisdom about Lent.

### I disagreed with some assessments of what Lent is not.

*"Lent is not about our sinfulness,"* said one article. It went on to make a decent point, but, alas, Lent is, in fact, a penitential season, so it is, unavoidably, about our sinfulness.

*"Lent is not a sad time,"* some people like to say. They mean it's not a time to despair or beat up on yourself, which is true enough — but Lent is, in fact, a time when the liturgy omits expressions of rejoicing like the Gloria and the Alleluia. Which makes it kind of sad.

Some I agree with, but only to a point. *"Lent is not about white-knuckling your way through sacrifices,"* is often said — because it's not merely an exercise in personal effort, as we will discuss. But, while Lent shouldn't *only* be about effort, fasting does indeed entail moments where you simply have to just *not* do something you *really* really want to do.

### I think there are several very good "Lent-is-nots," though. Let's start with fasting.

*Lent is not about being perfect* is a great one. No one is asking you to go from zero to great saint this Lent; your sacrifices should be manageable.

But, *Lent is not just about giving up candy* is another common saying that is a necessary corollary. Because while you shouldn't take on too much in Lent, you shouldn't take on too little, either.

*Lent is not about restricting our freedom but becoming more free* helps chart a course between both those extremes. We should choose a fast that helps us become more detached from this world in order to attach ourselves to the next one.

### Which brings us to "Lent-is-nots" about prayer.

*Lent is not about our effort, but God's grace*, hits the nail on the head. We are not trying to be heroes, but to clear the way for our hero, Jesus, to do more with us, starting in prayer.

*Lent is not an angry God demanding we grovel to him*, one Aleteia writer said. Instead, God is madly in love with us, begging us to return to him, and Lent is one big way he tries to get us to talk to him again.

*Continued on page 2*

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Lent is not an end in itself, said another Aleteia writer. Lent isn't a marathon that we run to look back on as a challenge we conquered. It is an exercise whose success can only be judged by how much closer it brings us to friendship with God, starting with prayer.

### Almsgiving is necessary to avoid some key Lent-is-nots.

Pope Francis, who was a pope known for promoting service of the poor, was also the pope most likely to tell us what Lent *isn't*.

*"Lent is not a time for useless sermons, but for recognizing that our lowly ashes are loved by God,"* he said. Then he added: "Let us allow ourselves to be loved, so that we can give love in return." Nice.

*"Lent is not just about the little sacrifices we make, but about discerning where our hearts are directed,"* he also said. Redirecting your heart is the whole point of Lenten almsgiving: It's about putting your money where your mouth is — or, as the Lord says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Lent is not a self-improvement exercise is my last "Lent-is-not," and it is perhaps the most common — for good reason.

It is easy to make Lenten prayer and fasting about *me, myself, and I*; about what is denied *me* to change *myself* so that *I* will be a better person. The only way to break out of that cycle is to do specific things that are about *my family, the Church, and my neighbor*. My Lent should ultimately improve *them*.

Originally published at [Aleteia.org](http://Aleteia.org), reprinted with permission

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, February 28, Vigil for Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. Helene Logue (dec)

### Sunday, March 1, Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Vicki DeZarn (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Mario DeAngelis (dec)

### Monday, March 2, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Emily Rideout (liv)

### Tuesday, March 3, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mary Louise Lazin (dec)

### Wednesday, March 4, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

### Thursday, March 5, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Bernie Young (dec)

### Friday, March 6, Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Sandy Lawrence (dec)

### Saturday, March 7, Vigil for Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. Carrie Edwards (dec)

### Sunday, March 8, Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Yanile Sarmiento (liv)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Violet McKay-Serrano (dec)



**EUCCHARISTIC  
ADORATION  
EVERY  
WEDNESDAY**

5:30 PM- ROSARY  
6:00 PM- ADORATION  
7:00 PM- BENEDICTION



March 1, 2026

## Second Sunday of Lent

Gen 12:1-4a | 2 Tim 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

What struck me when I first read this passage from the Book of Genesis, in which the Lord speaks to Abraham, is God's proclamation that it is through *his will* and *his work* that the blessings and goodness of Abraham's future will come about. It is not a vague statement, in which the subject is omitted. God clearly says, "*I will make your name great.*" Abraham was a faithful servant of God and sought to obey God's will, but that is not what made his name memorable. It is due to God's will and generosity that Abraham's blessings came about. I sometimes struggle with giving up credit for the good things in my life. I want to believe that *my work*, *my talents*, and *my dedication* have brought about these good things. But the reality is that all of who I am and the skills that I have is a gift. I was created by God and formed by others to hone certain dispositions and talents that have led to my accomplishments. When we come to realize that all we have is a gift, we are able to offer our lives back to be transfigured and glorified by God, who creates and gives all things.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Many scholars identify this moment of the Transfiguration as the climax of the narrative arc of the Gospels, after which Christ's actions lead to his suffering and death. In his passion, Christ demonstrates the ultimate submission to the will of God, taking on the weight of human sin in order to redeem us. In this moment of Transfiguration on the mountain, we glimpse the beauty of the glorification that will result from this perfect obedience to God's will. We, too, are called to surrender ourselves fully to God. Following Jesus' model of humble submission to the Father's will does not involve false humility, in which we are self-deprecating or overly critical of ourselves. Instead, we are called to acknowledge and celebrate our gifts and accomplishments, while also recognizing that who we are and the gifts that we have come from our generous and loving God.

### REFLECT

Reflect on the gifts and talents you have been given, as well as the accomplishments that have come about because of these gifts. Take a moment to thank God for all that he has given to you, and ask him to reveal how you can be a witness to his goodness through the prudent use and celebration of these gifts.

Interested? Email Lisa: lss@btsp.org

## Into Heavy Metal ?



Proving that heavy metal isn't just for the young - some of these bells weigh 10 lbs!

## Virtues, Explained!

### Self-Control

Love. Joy. Anger. Desire. Fear.

These are just a few of what are called the "passions" of humankind, and in order to understand self-control, we must first understand the passions. Our passions are neither good nor bad — it's all in how we interact with them.

Enter the virtue of self-control.

Self-control flows from the cardinal virtue of temperance, and it's really all about boundaries. Passions only become problematic when we allow them to control us. Through self-control, a gift of the Holy Spirit, we avoid surrendering too much of ourselves to our passions.

"When regulated by reason, and subjected to the control of the will, the passions may be considered good and used as means of acquiring and exercising virtue," we read in *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. "The sensitive is given to man by God, and therefore its acts have to be employed in His service." ©LPi

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### Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Following 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 to schedule an appointment.

*Easter*  
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### Stations of the Cross

**Fridays at 6:00 pm. in March  
and  
on Good Friday - April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 am.**

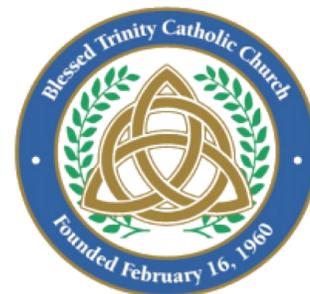


## Upcoming Events

<b>Sunday, March 1</b>	
Coffee & Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses	PC
KOC Tootsie Roll Drive at all Masses	CH
<b>Monday, March 2</b>	
6:30 pm Life in the Spirit	CYH
<b>Tuesday, March 3</b>	
10:00 am Scripture Class	CYH
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting	PC
<b>Wednesday, March 4</b>	
<b>Adoration</b>	
5:30 pm Rosary	CH
6:00 pm—7:00 pm Holy Hour	CH
<b>Thursday, March 5</b>	
4:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	FF
5:00 pm Handbell practice	MR
6:30 pm Choir Practice	MR
<b>Friday, March 6</b>	
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm K of C Fish Fry Dinner	PC
6:00 pm Stations of the Cross	CH
<b>Saturday, March 7</b>	
2:30 pm –3:30 pm Confessions in the Cry Room	CH
<b>Sunday, March 8</b>	
Coffee & Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses	PC
<b>Monday, March 9</b>	
6:30 pm Life in the Spirit	CYH
<b>Tuesday, March 10</b>	
10:00 am Scripture Class	CYH
<b>Wednesday, March 11</b>	
<b>Adoration</b>	
5:30 pm Rosary	CH
6:00 pm—7:00 pm Holy Hour	CH
<b>Thursday, March 12</b>	
5:00 pm Handbell practice	MR
6:30 pm Choir Practice	MR
<b>Friday, March 13</b>	
6:00 pm Stations of the Cross	CH
<b>Saturday, March 14</b>	
2:30 pm –3:30 pm Confessions in the Cry Room	CH
5:00 pm Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Dinner	PC
<b>Sunday, March 15</b>	
Coffee & Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses	PC

### Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church,  
CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1, CR=Choir Room, FF=Faith Formation Room,  
PL=Parking Lot



### Pastor

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

### Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM

Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM

Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM

Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM

Fr. Victor Bartolotta

Fr. Eric Peters

### Mass Schedule

#### Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 8:00 am

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm

#### Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, [btsp.org](http://btsp.org)

### Confessions

Saturdays 2:30-3:30 pm

### Parish Office

Monday—Friday

9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm

1600 54th Ave S

St. Petersburg, FL 33712

**Phone,** (727) 867-3663

**FAX,** (727) 864-2679

**Website,** <http://btsp.org>

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### 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.

### Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office. Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed. For more information call 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.

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