MARCH 9, 2014
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WAY OUT
Today’s readings launch us into Lent with the story of salvation. How did we humans get where we are? How do we get out? Genesis—through the Adam and Eve narrative—explains that we got separated from God and happiness through greed, selfishness, arrogance.

But, as Paul explained to the Romans, God has not abandoned us, and never will. We get out through the “new Adam,” Jesus Christ, through whom the death of sin is conquered by the life of “overflowing grace.”

From the start, though, Jesus—like Adam and Eve, like you and me—had to face “the tempter.” Shown fame and wealth, he was tempted to grab for it. But Jesus saw through such foolishness. During Lent we will look at what the tempter spreads before us daily, then try to make choices that put us on the side of the angels.
The First Sunday of Lent

“The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.”

~ Matthew 4:10

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

Psalm — Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned (Psalm 51).

Second Reading — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

Gospel — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corpora-
WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLE

In Loving Memory of
Julian Gadoury
by Wife Muriel

DIOCESE OF VENICE LENTEN REGULATIONS

All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his or her own way, to do penance.

However, so that all may be joined together in a certain common practice of penance, days of penance are prescribed. On these days, the faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, to fulfill their obligations more faithfully, and to deny themselves especially by observing the fast and abstinence according to the laws of the Church.

The following are the Lenten penitential regulations issued for the Diocese of Venice in Florida.

REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, March 5, and Good Friday, April 18, are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 years and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. If possible, the Fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection (USCCB).

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, March 5, and Good Friday, April 18, are days of abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat.

RECONCILIATION

Every Friday Evening
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Every Saturday Morning
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Schedule for this Lenten Season (March 5 - April 20):

March 5, ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES
7:00, 8:00, 9:30 AM, & 5:30 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
8:30AM - Wednesdays of Lent
(begins March 12th)

BENEDICTION & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each Friday of Lent -
(Except Good Friday)
(begins March 7th)
Benediction begins after 8:00 Mass until 10 a.m.

PLEASE DON’T FORGET THE POOR BOXES; THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE POOR!

Please join us for coffee & donuts at the Parish Center after the 10:30 Sunday Mass

Lent is the preparation for the celebration of Easter, the heart of the paschal mystery. It is a time to meditate on the passion and suffering of Christ, and to look forward to His resurrection.
MINISTRY OF THE SICK

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by Blessed Pope John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

A priest is on call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for the above hospitals at the above telephone numbers.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:

To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission. If you wish a visit from one of the Resurrection priests please notify the hospital as well as the parish office, 481-7171 as quickly as possible.

Resurrection priests visit the above hospitals daily upon request.
The Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful just like you who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

**Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis**
Grant funds from the BIMC enables us to support parish-based catechetical programs. We help form and train catechists who will form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world, and get bibles and catechisms in kids’ hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around His altar.

**Empowering Evangelizers**
BIMC grant funds help offices of Black Catholic and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation to encourage the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. Mr. Ansel Augustine, shown here with a friend, coordinates the Office of Black Catholic Ministries in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

**Helping Educators Reach Kids**
With your contribution to the BIMC, you’ll help support good teachers to help African American and Native American kids learn, like Sheryl Ashley at Saint Augustine Indian Mission in Winnebago, Neb. Saint Augustine kids recently made a 60% improvement in reading scores in three years!

**Encouraging Vocations**
We need men and women living the consecrated life to give witness to a radical Christian life. We need priests in order to have the Eucharist! Supporting the BIMC enables us to help diocesan communities encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
TENDING THE GARDENS OF OUR SOULS

THE SEASON OF LENT

Let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and fertilize it. —Luke 13:8

As Spring approaches, our thoughts turn to gardening. We clear away winter debris and till the soil for planting. Lent is the season for tending gardens of the soul. Like Luke's vineyard owner inspecting his fig tree, the Lord will soon come around looking for fruit on his branches. If none is found, the merciful Lord provides another year or Lenten season to make our gardens fruitful.

I am the vine, you are the branches. —John 15:5

Many human gardeners enjoy working alone, but spiritual gardening is a cooperative venture. A garden of the soul cannot thrive if it is not rooted in the Lord. Whether we are sowing wild oats in the Spring of our youth or bearing the losses of Winter aging, we tend to cut ourselves off from the vine. Like Adam and Eve, we fall prey to the lure of forbidden fruit, the seduction of power, affluence and autonomy rather than the fruitful compassion of vulnerability and dependence.

In gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. —Matthew 13:29

The wheat and the weeds—goodness and faults—grow close together in the garden of the soul. If we take too facile an approach to cultivation, we do violence to ourselves and others. Just as a flower may come up with a weed, so may uprooting a vice take a virtue along with it. High standards can be inspiring or snobbish and debilitating envy is but a step away from empowering emulation. Assertiveness is borderline aggression and destructive rage is akin to righteous anger. St. Paul, who boasted of his weakness, realized that a virtue may be our downfall and a fault can be a gift. True spiritual growth prefers careful pruning to indiscriminate weeding.
**SPIRITUAL GARDENING REGIMENS FOR LENT**

**Fasting: Sustainable Growth**

*If the grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it bears much fruit.*

—John 12:24

In our culture of obesity and 24/7 activity, a wise gardener knows the virtue of cutting back to facilitate sustainable growth. Just as crops are rotated and fields are left fallow so the land may regenerate, Lent offers us the spiritual fallowness of fasting so that our souls may be renewed. Those who know the truth that “less is more” soon grow richer in the harvest of the Spirit.

**Almsgiving: Spiritual Share Cropping**

*Listen! A sower went out to sow.* —Mark 4:3

The Master Landowner, whose earth and Spirit we cultivate, invites us to work both fields for their blessings. The selfish farmer hoards the surpluses, but the faithful gardener shares with the less fortunate. Some almsgiving seeds may fall on lifeless or rocky soil, but others will produce a hundredfold as people gratefully receive our gift and “pay it forward.”

**Prayer: Organic Gardening**

*Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.* —John 15:5

We pollute the gardens of body and soul with artificial agents, enticed by promises of beauty, exhilaration, escape, athleticism, or success. The rise of organic food reflects the value of more natural forms of personal cultivation. Prayer is organic gardening for the soul, nurturing us with the supernatural grace of God. As we remain rooted in the True Vine, we indeed bear much fruit.

**Reconciliation: Spiritual Biodiversity**

*Let both of them grow together until the harvest.* —Matthew 13:30

Biodiversity is a commitment to enriching ecosystems with a variety of life. So it is with the ecosystem of Spirit. The gospel insists that even the wheat and the weeds should grow together until harvest time. The psalms contain prayerful fantasies of the wicked being pulled from God’s garden like weeds, but Christ is more invested in the Lenten Theo-diversity of reconciliation.

The Season of Lent: Tending the Gardens of our Souls was written by Jerry Welte. © Copyright 2014 by All Saints Press, PO Box 190825, St. Louis, MO 63119. (800) 923-8618 and AllSaintsPress.com.
RESURRECTION MEN’S CLUB
ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARTY
SUNDAY MARCH 16TH

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM
SERVING AT 5:30PM
TICKETS ON SALE AT THE
PARISH CENTER
$18.00 EACH IN ADVANCE
$20.00 ON DAY OF THE EVENT
LIMITED SEATING

MENU:
Corned Beef and Cabbage
Parsley Potatoes/Carrots
Bread/Rolls
Coffee
Dessert

Music by
Celtic Stew

BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE
(Refreshments may not be brought into the Hall by guests)
A SPIRITUAL LENTEN MORNING WITH FATHER TONER

To all men and women of the parish -
You are invited to a special morning with Father Toner on Wednesday, March 12th at the parish center immediately following the 8 a.m. Mass. Father’s Lenten Talk will include a question and answer period. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Come and join us for this opportunity to reflect on our Lenten season.

Thank you and God Bless!
JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WITH POPE FRANCIS’ LIGHT OF FAITH
LUMEN FIDEI – ENCYCLICAL
To discover the joys in our Catholic Faith
To hear the stories and realize God’s Love for each of us.
Come and See!
CALL TO REGISTER: 481-7171

JOIN US: MONDAYS – starting March 3 thru April 14
Choose time that fits for you:
1:00 – 2:00PM or 6:00PM – 7:00PM
Topics: Faith Lights the Way, We Have Believed in Love, Unless You Believe, You Will Not Understand, God Prepares a City for Them.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

On the First Sunday of Lent we have 6 catechumens and 8 candidates who will be sent to the Bishop for the Rite of Election. We rejoice as a community that God is calling them to full communion in the Catholic Church. Our banner will lead them as they are presented to the Bishop.

Please pray for all our R.C.I.A. candidates as they journey through the period of purification and enlightenment during Lent. We pray that they may fully receive God’s graces through the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

March Offertory Sunday: Rice

** Sun 3/9 — Chapter 17
** Wed 3/12 — Chapter 17
Sun. 3/16 — NO CLASS
Wed. 3/19 — NO CLASS
Sun 3/23 — Chapter 18
Wed. 3/26 — Chapter 18
Sun. 3/30 — Chapter 19
Wed. 4/2 — Chapter 19
Sun 4/6 — Reconciliation Service
Wed. 4/9 — Reconciliation Service
** Sun 4/13 — Seder
** Wed 4/16 — Seder

Sun 4/20 — EASTER: NO CLASS
Wed. 4/23 — NO CLASS
Sun. 4/27 — Chapter 21
** First Holy Communion Retreat @ 1:00
Wed. 4/30 — Last Wed. Religious Ed. Class
Sun. 5/4 — Last Sun. Religious Ed. Class
*Wed. 5/7 — First Holy Communion Rehearsal
**Sat. 5/10 — First Holy Communion

** Students and Parent Sacramental Prep Dates
◆ Student Sacramental Prep Dates

First Week of Lent
CRS Rice Bowl Reflection: Kenya

This week, CRS Rice Bowl invites us to enter into solidarity with the people of Kenya. We are encouraged to reflect on the Catholic social teaching principle, Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person, and reminded that our inherent dignity comes from our creation as children of God and not from any of our own actions. Let us pray this week for our brothers and sisters in Kenya and all around the world, that we may respect and uphold the sacredness of life and dignity of all people.
This is an exciting, fun-filled, scripture-based program! We look forward to enjoying this amazing experience of helping kids explore God’s incredible love for His children.

If you have any questions call Vikki at 481-5144
This month Faith & Ale, a monthly gathering of Catholic men from all parishes in Lee County, welcomes all men \& women to learn more about Mary at our SPOUSE NIGHT on Thursday evening, March 20, 2014, with special guest, Patrick Coffin. A dynamic speaker and host of the top-rated national radio show, Catholic Answers Live, a daily, two-hour program heard around the world, Patrick will help us gain a deeper understanding of Mary with a presentation titled Is Mary Really Contrary? As space for this special event is limited, reservations are required - visit www.faithandale.com/fortmeyers for further details or send an email to faithandalefortmeyers@gmail.com. Hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be provided. A $15 donation is requested; $20 at the door.

For more information please contact Foundation Director Barbara Caldwell
The Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida
Email CCF@dioceseofvenice.org ~ 941-441-1124

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL REGISTRATION
St. Francis Xavier School has been accepting 2014-2015 registrations For more information or to schedule a tour, please call Michele Cheatham at 334-7707 x 223.

SIGN UP FOR N.E.T. RETREAT
The annual NET (National Evangelization Teams) High School weekend retreat will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center from Fri. April 4 - Sun. April 6. All graduating 8th through 12th grade teens are invited to attend. The NET team are a group of Catholic Young Adults who dedicate a year of their lives to hold retreats for High School and Middle School students, invigorating their Catholic faith and inspiring a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Pricing and further information is forthcoming. This retreat does count toward the Confirmation requirement. For questions please contact George Smith at gsmith@dioceseofvenice.org.

CATHOLIC DAYS AT THE CAPITOL
March 25 - 27 bus trip to Tallahasse - Last chance!! Register now - go to www.dioceseofvenice.org or contact Jeanne Berdeaux at 941-441-1101 or Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org

THIRD ANNUAL DIOCESE OF VENICE APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE
DATE: Tues. Mar. 11, 2014
PLACE: St. Patrick Parish, Sarasota
THEME: “Catholic Moral Teaching”
MORE INFO: call 941-484-9543

PATRICK COFFIN AT HARBORSIDE EVENT CENTER
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Faith and Wine
Lois Thome
Thursday, Mar. 13

Please join us on March 13, as we welcome Lois Thome, WINK TV news anchor who will be speaking to us on “The Inside Scoop: Bridging the Gap Between Religion and Journalism”

6:30-8:30 p.m.
St. John the Evangelist PLC Ballroom
(625 111th Avenue North, Naples)

$20 prepay/$30 at the door

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
Over 8,000 babies have been saved by the peaceful, prayerful witness of over 1/2 million people during 40 Days for Life campaigns worldwide. Stand up for Life outside Planned Parenthood in Naples from March 5 to April 13. Go to www.40daysforlife.com/naples for details or contact Jeanne at 941-441-1101 to sign up for open hours.

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March 12  “Biblical foundations of Catholic Social Teaching”  
with guest speaker, Matthew Caes, Director of the 
Office of Peace and Justice, Diocese of Venice

March 19  “Interpretation of Scripture for Catholics”  
Reading the Bible through the Lens of our Tradition

March 26  “Synoptic Summary”  
An Overview of Mark, Matthew and Luke

(April 2   No session due to the Parish Mission on 3/30  4/2)

April 9   “Who is Jesus Christ?”  
Comparing Paul’s Writings & the Synoptic Gospels with the Gospel of John

April 16  “Pope Francis and Scripture”  
Our Holy Father’s Living Example

Presented by Dr. John “Jack” T. Conroy, Jr.

Dr. Conroy received his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame in 2008. The focus of his study was on Hellenistic Judaism and Christian Origins. As a professor for the Rice School, he teaches extensively in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Scriptures. He and his wife, Joan, live in Naples and attend St. Ann Parish.
Las Últimas Siete Palabras De Cristo

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Por los catecúmenos, los enfermos, y todos
que quieren meditar sobre los últimos
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He who has a thing to sell
and goes and whispers in a
well, is not so apt to get the
dollars as he who climbs a tree
and hollers.