

February 21st - First Sunday of Lent



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 20

9:00am † *Dusten Lee Honken*
4:30pm † *Henry & Teresa Thran*

Sunday, February 21

8:00am
10:00am † *Juanita Aguilera*
12:00pm † *Joseph Martinez*

Monday, February 22

9:00am † *William E. LceCroy*

Tuesday, February 23

9:00am *Jerry De La Torre (nlng)*

Wednesday, February 24

9:00am † *Lezmond C. Mitchell*

Thursday, February 25

9:00am † *Keith Dwayne Nelson*

Friday, February 26

9:00am † *Eddie Duran*

Saturday, February 27

9:00am † *Christopher A. Vialva*
4:30pm

From the Desk of the Pastor

God loves each one of us personally. In his inaugural address, Pope Benedict XVI said: "We are not some casual meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a loving thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, and each of us is necessary."

God's love is so great that within each of us is a yearning to pursue and know the meaning of our lives and to understand the mysteries of life. When we take time to enter into these mysteries, we are striving to know God.

During these Lenten forty days, Jesus invites us as a people of the new covenant, to spend some time with him. Will we accept the invitation to go to the desert with Jesus? Now is the acceptable time!

Lenten Sunday's first readings from the Old Testament help us know God through his covenants with the Israelites. In today's covenant story of Noah and the flood, the bow in the sky is a divine sign that God will never use the waters to destroy mortal life again.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunday masses are celebrated at 10am in English and 12noon en espanol

Additionally, the Sunday Mass is video streamed and made available on YouTube. It is posted on the Parish website every weekend. You may access and pray the mass at <https://www.saintjohnvangelist.org/>

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615, who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church.

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

"Individual Contribution acknowledgement letters" for the year 2020 will be issued by the Parish Office **upon request only**.

You must be a registered parishioner using Parish envelopes in order to receive this letter. The Parish envelope number identifies your contribution records. The Parish Office is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm

Please call the Parish office (415-334-4646) a week ahead before dropping by to collect this letter. Thank you.

The Season of Lent

First Sunday

The Temptations Of Jesus



"Stations of the Cross and Via Crucis"

will be live video streamed and linked to the parish website: www.stjohnvangelist.org

A schedule of events will be posted on this website. More information will follow as we come closer to the events.

STATIONS CROSS



The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter is celebrated on February 22, 2021. We are celebrating the role and office of Peter within the Church. And that office, presently held by Pope Francis, has been around for over 2,000 years and is both a source of authority and unity. We are also celebrating the authority of the universal bishop. It's the authority given by Jesus to Peter to lead and guide the Church in Jesus' place.

Usually, the first reading has something in common with the gospel. Today's however, has more in common with the second reading from St. Peter. They both talk about Noah and the ark, where the few good people were saved by going through the water. Peter compares that to the waters of Baptism, in which we are saved by God. He also has an interesting image of Jesus "preaching to the spirits in prison." It refers to the fallen angels whose disobedience led the rest of the population to turn away from God. Just as God washed away the evil of the world in the waters of the flood, so the waters of Baptism made us into a new people who have clear consciences, both because God has forgiven our sins and because we promise to follow only Him.

That leads to the Gospel, where Jesus is tempted by Satan. But unlike the people of Noah's time, Jesus does not fall to the temptations. Instead, he comes out of the desert, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is near. He tells us to repent and believe in the good news.

That means we have a choice to make: Do we accept this kingdom and repent, or do we ignore our baptism and do what we want? We may say that we are willing to repent, but do we do anything about it? Do we still have a clear conscience when we think of how much time we spend getting to know Jesus? Ever pray or read the bible outside of church? Do we spend near as much on the poor, as we do for movies, hobbies, video games, or drinks? Do we ever tell anyone about the kingdom and what Jesus has done for us?

Next time you see a rainbow, think about the covenant that God made with Noah. Just as God's promises get better and better till the coming of Jesus, we are challenged to be more and more like Him. Are you satisfied with just a promise that God won't destroy us all in a flood? Or are you ready to live the New Covenant that Jesus promises to those who will follow him?

Jesus went to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil. Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture. The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted. Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness. As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.