

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

We are now into the great season of Lent. It is important for us to realize that our life is a journey, a movement towards God and to prepare ourselves to receive him fully. That we are pilgrims on the journey is what Lent is all about. During the season of Lent, the church invites us to examine our lives, to repent of our sins and do penance. By means of fasting, penance and prayers, the faithful obtain strength they need to overcome the sinful tendencies. The purpose of Lent is to provide that purification by weaning human persons from sin and selfishness through self-denial and prayer, by creating in them the desire to do God's will and to make his kingdom alive by making it first come into their hearts. The real aim of Lent above all else, is to prepare Christians for the celebration of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The better the preparation for this day, the more effective the celebration will be. One can effectively relive the mystery only with purified mind and heart. The Church invites all to repent from evil ways and return to the Lord who is eagerly waiting for each one to come to him.

In today's Gospel Reading, we heard how Satan tempted Jesus in the desert just before he began his public ministry. The temptations of Jesus in the desert reveal to us the way in which the Son of God as the Messiah responded to the devious methods of the evil one. What the Satan proposes to Jesus is contrary to the will of the Father and indicates the way in which human beings are generally tempted. The purpose of the temptations indicates that all those who are called by God, be it an individual or a nation must be tempted in the desert. This was true of the Israelites and is true of Jesus the Messiah who spent forty days in the desert. In the case of Jesus however he is fortified by the Holy Spirit who guarantees his success in the battle with deception. Jesus has just completed his forty days of preparation in the desert and he now faces one more test before he begins his mission. During his stay in the desert he had fasted and prayed and now he was hungry and certainly he needed strength before he started his ministry. Here Jesus shows how a person can conquer the evil one and remain triumphant and be at the service of God. Christ vanquished the tempter in order to show us the new path. Today's message from the Gospel indicates the triumph of Jesus in the desert.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Jesus' response to the temptations of the devil teach us how we can respond to temptation. As we start our journey through Lent, this Sunday's Gospel calls us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus has in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice, God's promise of protection can be trusted, and God alone is God. This advise leads us to reading the Word of God, to read the Books of the Bible this Lent so that the Word of God is our refuge, our rock and our strength against temptation. **Blessings ~ Sr. Marianna**

Classes: Wednesday - March 13th

Gilman: Grades K - 5: 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.
 Grades 6 - 11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.
 Sheldon: Grades K-11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,413.00
Loose	103.00
Total	1,516.00
Total from March 4, 2018	1,501.00
Building Fund	628.00
Ash Wednesday	106.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 625.00
Loose	51.00
Total	676.00
Total from March 4, 2018	466.00
Building Fund	422.00
Ash Wednesday	77.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 992.00
Loose	129.50
Total	1,121.50
Total from March 4, 2018	1,635.50
Building Fund	322.00
Votives	24.30
Ash Wednesday	168.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 265.00
Loose	32.00
Total	297.00
Total from March 4, 2018	224.00
Building Fund	98.00
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>	

Called to Become Saints

Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

The Annual Catholic Services Appeal is underway throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility is listed below. As of **March 1st**, we have collected:

	Payments		
	Assessment	& Pledges	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$ 6,690.00	\$ 4,703.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$ 5,360.00	\$ 3,798.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$ 5,234.00	PAID IN FULL
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$ 2,789.00	PAID IN FULL

+ Wednesday, **March 20th** from 6:30-8:30 p.m., **Aly Aleigha**, Christian singer / songwriter, will present a concert with her band to our young people at Ss. Peter & Paul. All parents, parishioners, youth and the community are invited.

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

Plombon Funeral Service

Dan Plombon

Stanley Chapel	Gilman Chapel
502 N. Broadway St.	135 W. Riverside Dr.
(715) 644-5537	(715) 447-8235
www.director@plombonfh.com	