

Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church



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Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,
Administrador Parroquial

Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial

Confesión el Sábado:
Por cita en (Español y Inglés)

Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María—3:20pm

Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.

Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María— 9:40am

Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.

Liturgia en los Días de la Semana

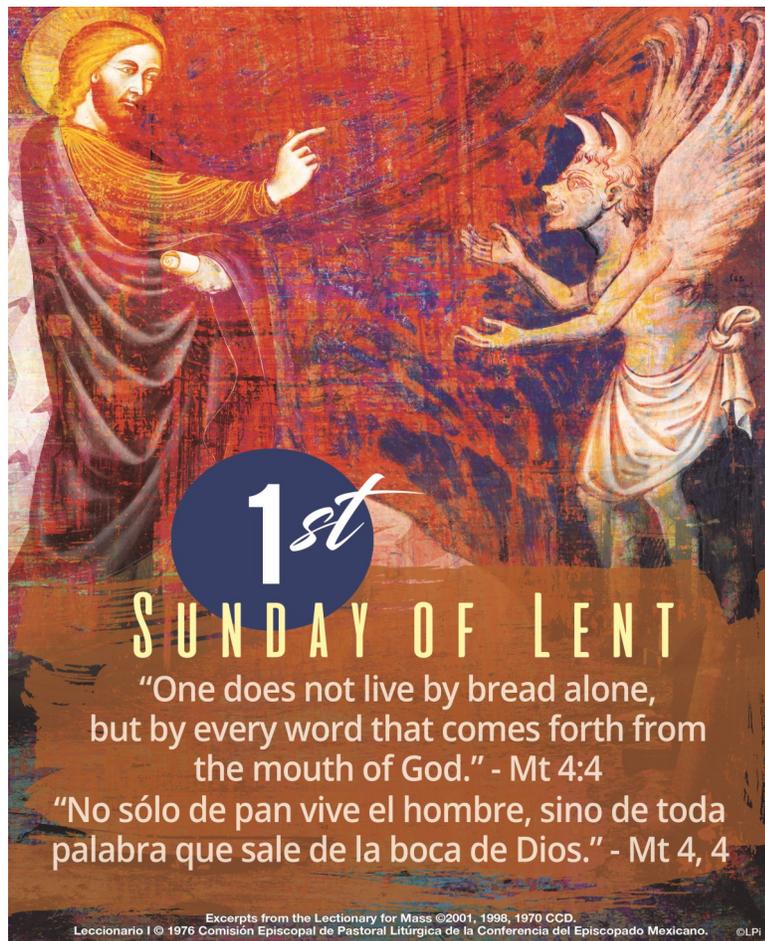
Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Lunes: Adoración 7:00am y Misa a las 7:30am

Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:
Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz con
Adoración

Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am
Misa en Honor de Virgen María



February 26th, 2023

Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator
Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar

Confession on Saturday:

By appointment English/Spanish

Saturday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin
Mary - 3:20pm

Saturday Mass (Vigil): English -4:00 p.m.

Sunday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin
Mary—9:40am

Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am

Liturgy of the Weekdays

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Monday: 7:00am Adoration & Mass 7:30am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am

Friday: At 6:00pm Rosario of Queen of Peace with
Adoration

Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass
In Honor of the Virgin Mary

One of the great Eastern saints of the Church, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, once famously said, “That which is not assumed is not redeemed.” He says this in reference to Jesus, who, when he chose to become incarnate, took to himself every aspect of human nature with the exception of sin. In other words, because Jesus has a human nature in addition to His divine nature, he is like us in every way; he has a human body and soul. He has a will, an intellect, and emotions. And this reality is important, St. Gregory tells us, because if Jesus had not assumed every aspect of human nature (except sin), then those aspects of human nature would not have been redeemed with his passion, death, and resurrection.

I share this, not merely because it is an interesting theological belief that Christians hold about Jesus, but also because it helps to explain our readings for this week. Every first Sunday of Lent, we read an account of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. We may ask ourselves, if Jesus is God and he is without sin, why would he experience temptation? For the same reason that Jesus assumes every aspect of human nature: that he may redeem all of humanity.

Temptation is a part of every human being’s life because, as we heard in the first reading from Genesis, we all suffer from the effects of the sin of our first parents. When we experience temptation, we can be assured that Jesus went before us and experienced the same temptations that we do, yet He was victorious. By allowing himself to experience temptation like the rest of humanity, he is able to redeem it.

That is what St. Paul is talking about in the letter to the Romans that we hear today: “For if, by the transgression of the one [Adam], death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:17).

Truly we have received this grace through faith in Jesus. Lent is a season when we are invited to put that grace into action by examining our lives, and seeing those areas where we still need Christ. Many times we go about this by choosing a Lenten penance — deliberately depriving ourselves of things in our lives that may prevent us from allowing Jesus in more fully. Yet, so often, we can focus so much on trying to live our Lenten penances perfectly that, when we fail, we can become discouraged.

Here is the good news: Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. He is not surprised when we fail or fall short. When you inevitably find yourself struggling with your Lenten penance, the most important thing to do in that moment is to run to Jesus. Ask Him for the grace to start again. He who allowed himself even to experience human temptation will provide us with whatever aid we need.

That is one of the special parts of belonging to a Church that observes liturgical seasons. “Living liturgically” means allowing ourselves to enter into the mysteries of salvation history over the course of an entire liturgical year. Lent, in particular, gives us a chance to open ourselves more fully to Jesus so that we can celebrate the upcoming holy days of his passion, death, and resurrection.

Fr. Brent Bowen

Fr. Victor's Schedule

Fr. Victor is scheduled to be at "Our Lady of the Desert" the 4th Sunday of every month. (Dates are subject to change)

Readings for the week of February 26, 2023

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (see 3a)/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 507a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

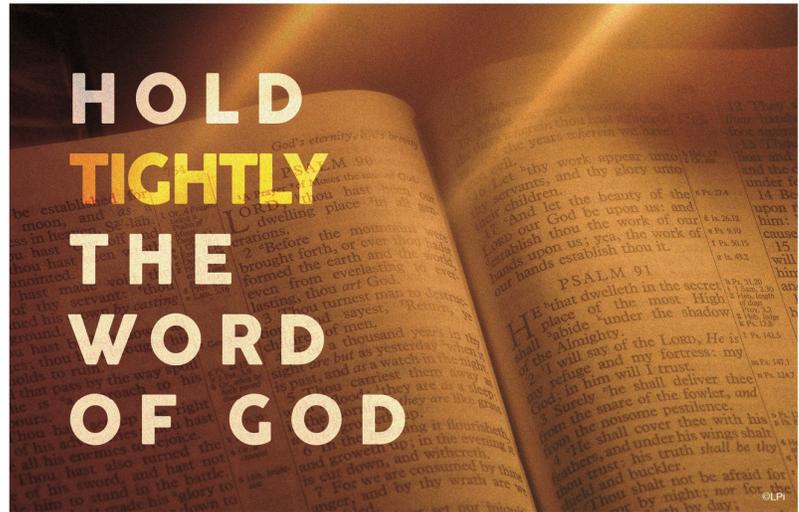
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 (22)/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



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Worship & Meditation



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The Spirit leads Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil, and we hear this: **"He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry."** Seems like a questionable battle preparation plan. When I fast, I usually feel grouchy at best, and at worst, like I might pass out from longing for a hamburger. Isn't it better to be well-fed and fully hydrated, especially to face spiritual struggles? Why fast?

This might help. The origin of the word "fast" means to "hold firmly." We still use it that way when we say, "I held fast to my original decision." We human beings are a bundle of desires which vie for our attention: food, drink, comfort, safety, sex, laughter, beauty, and so on. If we can't manage to have firm grip on them, in short order they'll have a firm grip on us. By fasting from our lower desires, we learn to firmly grip on to what is greater. Fasting leads to us to a firmer hold on our body and mind.

Jesus fasts for us. He's showing us that his grace can help us regain this firm hold of our lives, which makes it more difficult for the devil to tempt us. But take it one more step. Fasting also teaches us to finally hold fast to Jesus, the Word of God in flesh. **"Man does not live by bread alone,"** he says, **"But by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."** Jesus' fasting reveals his fast hold to the Father in everything. May our fasting help us to grasp ourselves more firmly, and then to hold fast to Jesus alone.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

Psalm:

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

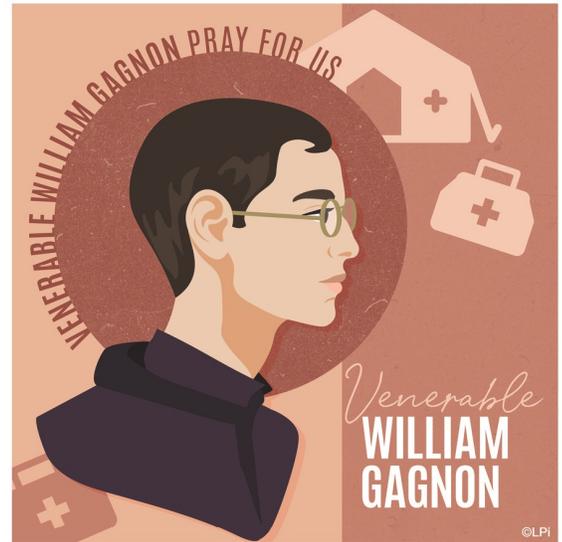
Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

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Saint of the week

Venerable Brother William Gagnon cared for every victim of war who entered his hospital regardless of military affiliation. A missionary to Vietnam between 1952 and 1972, he is remembered as a true servant leader who loved Jesus and his fellow man.

Prayer

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.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We worship a God who understands human limitation. A God who has felt the pangs of fasting and the enticements of the tempter. Our God, hungry and tired and weakened, has stared into the face of the devil and said: "I am stronger than you."

Observances for the week of February 26, 2023

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent
- Monday:** St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
- Friday:** St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
- Saturday:** St. Casimir
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Lent

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Formed and Fallen

There is a version of myself that walks into church on Ash Wednesday and a version of myself that walks into church on Good Friday. Aside from having the same face, these women bear very little resemblance to one another.

Ash Wednesday Me is fired up. She's ready to go. She's got a stomach full of *paczki*, a forehead full of ashes, an oven full of fasting bread and a whole list of Lenten resolutions. She's got a plan for the next 40 days and she's ready to be transformed.

Good Friday Me is tired. She's lumbering into church dragging six weeks of failure and unfulfilled expectations behind her. Nothing went the way it was supposed to (again). She didn't accomplish what she wanted (again) and she doesn't want to dwell on it (again).

If Satan offered both versions of myself the same deal he offered Christ — submit to me, and you will have the whole world — I have to wonder: which one of these creatures, formed and fallen, would be strong enough to defy him? Would either?

I can't say that the chipper, optimistic woman on Ash Wednesday has more strength than the tired woman on Good Friday. To each of these women Satan offers an easy way out. But to each, too, Christ offers an abundance of grace and the gift of justification.

This Lent, I know that I will be tested. I know that I will fail in many ways. I know that my intentions and my best efforts will not be enough.

But I bring them to the altar anyway, and I leave them there as an offering. And I know that Easter morning will dawn, and the tomb will be empty.

*"The gift is not like the transgression."
— Romans 5:15*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Can you recommend some good books for Lenten spiritual reading?

Answer:

On more than one occasion, a coach being interviewed about his team--successful or not--will be asked about the next step. The inevitable response includes something about getting back to basics. Reviewing the fundamentals of the sport strengthens performance and builds confidence.

The best Lenten reading takes us back to the fundamentals. If Lent is the time for the Church to be on retreat, then we should focus on the texts that help us deepen our understanding of our faith. Spend time reading one of the Gospels and use a Scripture commentary to learn all you can about the passion of Jesus. Read about the lives of the saints, especially your patron saint and that of your parish. Perhaps there is some local candidate for sainthood, like Father Walter Cizek, SJ, who wrote several faith-inspiring books. Finally, you can use the Catechism of the Catholic Church to learn more about the church's teachings and beliefs. The sections on prayer and the Mass are really great reflections. Focusing on the basics really helps us take another step forward in our faith. We have not only a better understanding of what we believe and practice, but also why we believe. With that belief comes the confidence we need to be better, more faithful witnesses to Christ.

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