



Living in Fantasy

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

If *I Were a Horse* by Elizabeth Bridgman is a children's story about Jenny, who daydreams about being a horse and then accepts her true reality, as she realizes no one will recognize her as a horse. In the end, she finds that she likes herself as she truly is.

The story may also be a metaphor for our human fantasy about sin, by which we try to redefine the world on our own terms, only to realize that life does not go so well when we do this. It is our stealing by which we pretend that something belongs to us rather than to another. It is our lying that attempts to redefine truth in terms of what we want life to be, rather than in what life really is. It is our addictions that redefine the source of meaning and life not as God, but as ourselves and our wants. Lent brings us face to face with who we are—which is not a horse (real or otherwise), but, by God's design, as a daughter or son of God.

The temptations Jesus experienced in the desert were temptations to define life on his own terms, just as we are often tempted to do. Yet, Jesus was the one who got it right. For him, stones were stones, not bread. Power and glory were God's, not his. He would not put God to the test, thinking he could manipulate God and get God to do what Jesus wanted. Jesus was the faithful one. ●

Reflect

What about my life do I struggle to accept?



Filled with the Holy Spirit,
Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the desert
for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

LUKE 4:1-2A



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES ...

MARCH 8/9th - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM	Lector:	Karen Marsh	EM:	Susan Shreeve
10:15AM	Lector:	Jesse Almeida	EM:	Madelena Almeida
	Collection:	Jesse Almeida		

MARCH 15/16th - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM	Lector:	Laura DeFrias	EM:	Sara Peniston
10:15AM	Lector:	Willie Forbes	EM:	Joyce Lee
	Collection:	Pat Robinson		

MASS INTENTIONS ...

MARCH 8/9th - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM	Josephine & Nyal Clinton +
10:15AM	For the Parishioners of St. Michael's

MARCH 15/16th - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM	For Peace in the Middle East & the Ukraine
10:15AM	For the Parishioners of St. Michael's



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

March 1/2nd COLLECTION: \$978.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100. YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Bishops Corner ...

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In his Message for Lent 2025, Pope Francis invites the faithful to "journey together in hope," and to take the opportunity of the upcoming Lenten Season to ask ourselves whether we are truly willing to heed God's call to change our lives. The central theme of the Message is encapsulated in the phrase "Let us journey together in hope," which ties into the broader theme of the Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope."



The Pope's reflection focuses on conversion and unfolds in three key dimensions: the importance of journeying, journeying together, and journeying with hope.

The Pope reminds us that our lives are a journey, one that should be directed toward God. This journey is not merely a metaphorical one but involves a constant call to conversion, "to leave behind the occasions of sin" and situations that degrade our human dignity.

A fundamental aspect of the Lenten Message is the emphasis on community and synodality, i.e. Christians must walk together rather than in isolation. Pope Francis reminds us, "The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters. Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded."

The third fundamental dimension of the Lenten journey is hope, anchored in God's promise of salvation and eternal life fulfilled in Jesus' Resurrection, the victory over sin and death. Do we concretely experience the hope that inspires in us "a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded."

The Pope concludes by entrusting this journey of hope to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, "Mother of Hope," praying that she may accompany the faithful as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter.

Have a restful weekend and a blessed Lent!

+ Wes Jurewicz
Bishop Wes

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2025

Let us journey together in hope

3 IN HOPE
A Love which cannot be destroyed by death

Do we concretely experience Hope and commit to justice and fraternity?

TOGETHER 2
Being weavers of unity

Are we capable of walking together with others, listening, welcoming?

1 LET US JOURNEY
All of us are pilgrims in this life

Are we really on a journey, or are we standing immobilized by hopelessness?

"Thanks to God's love we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint"

Read the full message on humandevlopment.va or scan the QR code

DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Pastor's Point . . .

SECTION III - THE SAMARITAN'S "HEART THAT SEES": HUMAN LIFE IS A SACRED AND INVIOLENT GIFT

Whatever their physical or psychological condition, human persons always retain their original dignity as created in the image of God. The ultimate foundation of human dignity lies in the reality that God became man to save us and calls us to communion with him. It is proper for the Church to accompany with mercy the weakest in their journey of suffering and guide them to salvation. The Church therefore regards "the service to the sick as an integral part of its mission."

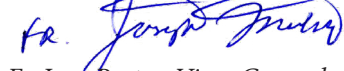
In the example of the Good Samaritan we find "a heart that sees." His example "teaches that it is necessary to convert the gaze of the heart, because many times the beholder does not see. Why? Because compassion is lacking." The heart of the Good Samaritan sees where love is needed and acts accordingly.

Life is a sacred and inviolable gift and every human person, created by God, has a vocation to a unique relationship with the One who gives life. God offers life and its dignity to man as a precious gift to safeguard and nurture, and ultimately to be accountable to Him.

The Church affirms that the dignity of human life is something knowable by right reason. Life is the first and highest good because it is the basis for the enjoyment of every other good.

The unfringeable value of life is a fundamental principle of the natural moral law and an essential foundation of the legal order. Just as we cannot make another person our slave, even if they ask to be, so we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. To end the life of a sick person who requests euthanasia is by no means to respect their autonomy, but, on the contrary, to deny the value of their freedom—now under the influence of illness—and their life by excluding any further possibility of sensing the meaning of their existence. Moreover, it is to take the place of God in deciding the moment of death.

God bless



Fr. Joe, Pastor, Vicar General



WORDS OF LIFE:

"We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life'. We find ourselves not only 'faced with' but necessarily 'in the midst of' this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro- life" (The Gospel of Life 28)

Dear Padre,

Who decided that fish isn't meat? I really dislike fish; also, it bugs me when my friends eat lobster for dinner on Fridays in the name of "sacrifice."

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law, as written in Latin, states that we must abstain from *carne* (meat), a word that refers warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish is allowed.

You make an excellent point about the lobster dinners and the nature of sacrifice. the document "Questions and Answers About Lent and Lenten Practices," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, "While fish, lobster, and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer."

As we enter Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up, like meat. Our fasting isn't just an external discipline—sacrifice for the sake of checking a box. It's supposed to be a sacrifice that leads us closer to God. When we take that deeper step ourselves, then we can invite our friends to go deeper, too. ●



SWEET MARSHMALLOW / SHUTTERSTOCK

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- EMMAUS Bible Study Tuesdays, at 3:00pm in the Pastor's Office
- STATIONS OF THE CROSS Fridays – 7:30pm, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

St. THERESA'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS at 12:10pm.

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday-Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- The Rosary is recited every, WEDNESDAY at 10:00am
- A 6pm PORTUGUESE Mass followed by the Rosary each Wednesday at 7:00pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.
- Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be prayed Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

NEOCATECHUMENAL WAY

- Catechesis for Young Adults & Youth 13+ Come and Listen on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:00pm St. Michaels Church Hall, Free babysitting available.

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP is open, TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm

The Peace and Social Justice Ministry presents:

“ORIGIN” the Movie

Sunday, 9th March 2:00pm - 5:00pm at Mount Saint Agnes Academy
Movie and Discussion – “A journalist explores the many faces of social injustice through a global odyssey that spans multiple histories and cultures. Based on a true story.” This is an opportunity to come together as a community to discuss this timely topic. Refreshments will be provided.

The St. Patrick's Parish Council are pleased to announce the return of Dinner BINGO! Come enjoy an evening of food, fun and fellowship after Mass on **Saturday, March 15th at 7:15 p.m.** in the Church Hall as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Tickets are available for purchasing from any of the St. Patrick's Parish Council members. The cost is \$45.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children aged 12 and under, which includes your meal plus one BINGO card. Dessert donations for this event would be most appreciated!



The next event within our Diocesan Jubilee 2025 Calendar is fast approaching. It is a Jubilee **CELEBRATION FOR MARRIED COUPLES** that will take place on **Saturday, 22nd of March at St. Joseph's Church in Sandys**. We plan to have a special Holy Mass at 11am with a reception following in the parish hall. For those who plan to attend the reception, please RSVP to the Chancery by calling 232-4414



First Holy Communion . . .

Felt Presentation - Sunday, April 13th, at the 10:15 Mass

First Penance - Saturday, June 14th, at 2pm

First Holy Communion - Sunday, June 22nd, time to be determined (after 12pm)



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



If you wish to contribute to the Easter flowers by donating flowers for your loved ones, envelopes can be found on the Altar rails. Please write the names of those to be remembered on the outside of the envelopes. Place your donation inside of envelope. Please drop your envelopes in the collection basket. Deadline for submission is April 13th, Palm Sunday.

Thank you in advance for your support in beautifying our Church.

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus opposes the attractions of evil...by responding to temptations with the word of God, which says not to take advantage...to obtain privileges. Because true happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service.



VATICAN MEDIA

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 6, 2022

Our Sunday Readings

DEUTERONOMY 26:4-10
PSALM 91:1-2,10-15
ROMANS 10:8-13
LUKE 4:1-13

What We Give Back

DEUTERONOMY 26:4-10

Entering the word

1. Imagine that you are carrying the basket.
 - a. What's in the basket?
 - b. What do you do with the basket?
 - c. What do you say?
 - d. Who is with you?
 - e. How do you feel about this ritual?
 - f. What do you do next?

Living the word

2. How is this ritual like our own Eucharistic celebration?
3. What should you bring before God?
4. What should you bring someone else?

THE FIRST READING

Harvesting the gift

Moses is speaking to the Israelites who are about to move into Canaan, the land God had promised to Abraham years ago. Moses says that once they settle in this region, they must always offer to God the first grain and fruit that they harvest.

The *priest* served in a place designated for religious worship until a temple for the LORD

could be built. By offering these *first fruits* to the priest, the Israelites symbolically thank God for the gift of land.

Moses tells the Israelites to bring their produce in *baskets*. They shouldn't sell their produce and make a donation. Monetary gifts often feel less connected to people than gifts they have physically labored over.

Past, present, and future

Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes, became a *wandering Aramean* during a famine that drove him and his twelve sons to Egypt. Years later, God led their descendants to both freedom and a homeland that was fertile and cultivated. Even Israelites who live centuries after these events should speak as if they, too, were part of them.

So should we. Ritual connects us with the work God has done and continues to do. Through liturgy we become part of God's past work and we share in all that God has promised. The events we remember become both a prayer of thanksgiving and an appeal to God to continue working such *signs and wonders*.

LUKE 4:1-13

Reading closely

1. Do you think Jesus wants to go to the desert?
2. What do you think it's like in the desert?
3. How do you imagine the devil approaching Jesus and talking with him?
4. Discuss each temptation.
 - a. What seems acceptable about each one?
 - b. What seems wrong?
5. How does the story end?

Living the word

6. What are the biggest temptations you face?
7. When are you most likely to be tempted?
8. How might Jesus respond to the various things that tempt you?
9. What happens when you yield to whatever tempts you?
10. What happens when you resist such lures?

THE GOSPEL READING

Alone in the desert

Because deserts were dangerous places physically, they came to represent dangerous places spiritually. Jesus enters the desert soon after he hears God calling him his *beloved Son* (3:22). Now he explores the kind of Son he will be.

A human struggle

Although Jesus is God's Son, he is also a human being who experiences temptation. His challenge, dramatically portrayed in this passage, is to choose how he will best fulfill his role as God's Son. The devil makes suggestions that aren't obviously bad, but Jesus discerns the underlying problem with each one.

Turning stones to bread

Jesus' ancestors wandered for forty years in the desert, where God provided them with manna. It seems reasonable that God's Son can provide bread for himself. Besides, no one would know.

Jesus replies that spending time in the desert teaches a person to trust God, a lesson the Israelites never quite learned. Unlike those sons of God, Jesus will trust God in everything.

Bringing about God's reign

If Jesus has come to establish God's reign, now's his chance! An offer's on the table. Instead, Jesus points out that this victory would be a false one because the devil, not God, would really reign.

Moreover, these kingdoms are based on political and military might. God's peaceful reign is based on forgiveness, not force. Jesus will win people over by showing them God's love, not by dominating them.

Taking a leap of faith

Now the devil changes tactics; he quotes scripture, too. He urges Jesus to ask God for a sign of his love. If God is his father, then God will quickly come to his rescue.

Jesus won't make God meet these terms; he won't force God to prove his love. Instead, he'll devote himself to God and his mission, even to the point of death. God will show his love for Jesus then.

Until we meet again

Jesus withstands these tests of faith, but the hardest one is yet to come (v.13). At the final confrontation, when Jesus faces crucifixion, he will again act as God's spirit-filled, obedient Son.

PRAYER

by Mark Link, SJ

Give us your strength, Lord,
because sometimes things get tough,
and we are ready to quit.

Give us your love, Lord,
because sometimes people reject us,
and we are tempted to hate.

Give us your eyes, Lord,
because sometimes life gets dark,
and we lose our way.

Give us your courage, Lord,
because often we are put under pressure,
and it's hard to do what is right.

Give us yourself, Lord,
because our hearts were made for you,
and we will not rest until we rest in you. Amen.