



“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.”

MATTHEW 4:1



Jesus for the Win

MIGUEL DULICK

The account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play. Pope Francis insisted, “Don’t talk to the devil!” Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he’s had plenty to eat—“every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus “test” his Father by jumping off the “parapet of the temple” (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5-7.) You don’t play God, and you don’t play *with* God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We’d do the bread; we’d do the jump; we’d definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It’s a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan “destroys” her! And Adam, too. If they didn’t sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an “overflow” of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that’s what Lent is about—a flood of grace. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

What grace do I pray for this Lent—for myself and for someone who is struggling?



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

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PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



Mass Schedule

Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m.
Filipino Mass – Saturday	21st February 2026: 11:00 a.m.
Kids & Youth Ministry	1st March 2026
Children's/Family Mass	22nd February 2026
Pastoral & Finance Council	9th March 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Coffee Social	22nd February 2026
Second Collection	8th March 2026

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA
Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak
www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker & Justin Tavares Religious Education - Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry



Today's Hymns

Entrance:	Amazing Grace	#680
Offertory:	Into My Heart	(Children)
Communion:	I Love You Lord	(children)
Recessional:	The Glory of These Forty Days	#347

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 1st March 2026

Proclaimer of God's Word
Sacristan
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Server
Music

Stefano Ausenda
Stephen Card
Annette Barclay
Joanne Smith
Liam/Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia and Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTION:

Sunday, 22nd February For the people of St. Josephs

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS – 9:00 a.m.	Attendees	Collection
Sunday 15th February - Regular	55	431.00
Friday, 13th February – Supper/Bingo	48	1782.00
Ash Wednesday Mass 5:45 p.m.	53	-
TOTAL:		\$2213.00

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 –

On Saturday, 21st February, at 11:00 a.m., Fr. Dandy will celebrate Mass at St. Josephs for our Filipino family. All are welcome.

Sa susunod na Sabado, ika-21 ng Pebrero, sa ganap na 11:00 ng umaga, si Fr. Magdiriwang ng Misa si Dandy sa St. Joseph para sa ating pamilyang Pilipino. Lahat ay malugod na tinatanggap.

Welcome Back!

We would like to extend a warm "Welcome Back" to Father Jacob. We trust your vacation was filled with God's blessings and relaxation, and hope that you enjoyed your time away visiting with family and friends. We were most grateful to Fr. Joe and Fr. Dandy for filling in during your absence, and our gratitude was extended to both.



Please join us in welcoming Fr. Jacob back by spending a few minutes with him before he heads off to St. Anthonys, at our **COFFEE SOCIAL to be held in the Parish Centre after Mass.**

Dear Portuguese Family

Please be advised that on the 4th Sunday of Lent, 15th March 2026, there will be a special Lenten Retreat Day for our Portuguese community. We will host Fr. Vando Marques Gomes who is the Parish Priest of St. Helen's Parish in "Little Portugal" in Toronto. Fr. Vando will preside the 10:00 a.m. Mass and then will be available for confessions from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Theresa's.

Querida Família Portuguesa

Informamos que no 4.º Domingo da Quaresma, 15 de Março de 2026, haverá um Dia Especial de Retiro Quaresmal para a nossa comunidade portuguesa. Receberemos o padre Vando Marques Gomes, pároco da Paróquia de Santa Helena, em "Little Portugal," em Toronto. O padre Vando presidirá a Missa das 10h e estará disponível para confissões das 15h30 às 17h30, na Igreja de Santa Teresa.

BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour." Pope Leo XIV made that invitation at the heart of his message for Lent 2026. The Pope sees this liturgical season as an opportunity to place the mystery of God back at the centre of our lives. Every journey of conversion, he said, begins by letting God's word touch our hearts, so that we may renew our commitment to follow Christ in the mystery of his saving passion, death, and resurrection. Christians can cultivate inner openness to listening, as God does, by growing in awareness that the poor challenge our lives and economic systems, as well as the Church.

The Pope then turned to how fasting helps open us to the deep desire for justice, which he said frees us from complacency. Then he pointed to an under-appreciated form of abstinence, which is refraining from hurtful words. He said, *"Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander, and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. If we do so, we will let words of hatred give way to words of hope and peace."*

The Pope concluded his 2026 Lenten Message with a call for Christian communities to become places where those who suffer find welcome. *"Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others."*

For the official text of the Pope's message for Lent go: <https://tinyurl.com/59ja82k6>

Have a restful weekend and a blessed first week of Lent!

Bishop Wes

LED INTO THE WILDERNESS

The 1st Sunday of Lent Year A brings us into the story of Jesus in the desert. He fasts for forty days and is tempted by the devil. But Jesus stays faithful. He trusts God and chooses what is right. This reading reminds us that Lent is a time to turn away from sin and follow Jesus more closely.

The first reading shows how Adam and Eve were tempted and gave in. They ate the fruit God told them not to eat. Their choice brought sin into the world. But the Gospel shows something new. Jesus is also tempted, but He says no. He shows us a better way.

Saint Paul helps us connect these two stories. He says that one man brought sin, but another man, Jesus, brings life. Through Him, we can be made right with God again. This message of hope is at the center of the 1st Sunday of Lent Year A.

Lent is a season for change. It is a time to say no to things that pull us away from God. It is also a time to trust, to pray, and to begin again. As we walk through Lent, we follow Jesus, who shows us the way.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

The story of Jesus' temptation shows that even he faced struggles. But he was not alone—he trusted in God and was strengthened by his faith. The 1st Sunday of Lent Year A reminds us that we, too, are never alone in our trials and temptations. God is always with us, offering his love and mercy.

We all face moments of weakness and times when we fall into temptation. But this Sunday shows us that no matter how far we stray, we can always return to God. Jesus' victory over temptation gives us hope that we can overcome our own struggles. It also reminds us of God's endless mercy.

Lent is a time to turn back to God with trust and humility. It is a time to seek forgiveness and strength. Like Jesus, we can lean on prayer and Scripture to guide us. When we feel alone in our struggles, we can remember that Jesus understands our challenges because he faced them, too.

The 1st Sunday of Lent Year A gives us hope that God's mercy is greater than our failures. It invites us to keep trying, to keep praying, and to keep trusting in God's love. We are never alone, no matter how difficult the journey may be.

REFLECTION

- How do the temptations Jesus faced relate to my own struggles?
- In what ways am I tempted to seek comfort, security, or control?
- How can prayer and Scripture help me resist temptation?
- What false promises do I need to let go of to trust God more?
- How can fasting help me grow in faith and dependence on God?
- In what ways can I practice almsgiving to serve others and trust in God's care?
- Where in my life do I need to rely more on God's mercy and forgiveness?
- How can I remember that I am not alone in my struggles?
- What can I learn from Jesus' obedience and trust in God?
- How can I grow closer to God this Lent through prayer and reflection?

PRAYER

Lord, help us to follow Jesus' example of faith and obedience. Give us strength to resist temptation and trust in your love. Guide us through our struggles and remind us that we are never alone. May we grow closer to you through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Amen.

Source: *Young Catholics 2026*

Dear Padre,

I was taught that it is a requirement to fast at least one hour before receiving Communion. However, I've seen donuts out before Mass begins and hear candy wrappers being crumpled around me. This seems disrespectful to me.

It is important to use the correct words when describing a particular action. In this case, “requirement” does not really capture the full meaning and understanding of what the Church teaches. A better understanding is that it is a discipline and a practice of the Church to ordinarily observe the eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving holy Communion. If you are of a certain age, you may remember that there have been changes regarding the eucharistic fast. A “requirement” might suggest that the fast is integral to the sacrament itself. It is not.

The second part of your question seems to be a matter of perception. Based on your perception, you judge something to be not quite right. But, consider that there are many reasons why hospitality may be set up before Mass. The crumpling of wrappers could be something other than what you identify. Regardless, you are not required to assume the burden of policing what is taking place at Mass. It is much better to participate, celebrate, and be grateful for the sacrament that we gather to experience as a community of faith. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18	Is 55:10–11	Jon 3:1–10	Est C:12, 14–16, 23–25	Ez 18:21–28	Dt 26:16–19	Gn 2:1–4a
Mt 25:31–46	Mt 6:7–15	Lk 11:29–32	Mt 7:7–12	Mt 5:20–26	Mt 5:43–48	2 Tm 1:8b–10 Mt 17:1–9

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025