

**February 26, 2023  
First Sunday of Lent**

**.WHO WE ARE AND WHOSE WE ARE**

The Lenten season is a fresh invitation to explore again who God is, who we are, and what it means to be human. We begin by hearing the tragic story of the first humans in the book of Genesis. As Paul describes in Romans, our struggles started when our ancestors broke the bond of unity with God, sought self-sufficiency, and grew apart from their true purpose and identity. In Matthew’s Gospel, we see how Jesus resists the lure of living outside of unity with God. Jesus rejects false promises of possessions, power, and status. Instead, he puts his life in his Father’s hands. As our model for living as a fully human person, Jesus demonstrates that we are created to live in relationship with and trust in God, and in harmony with and for all of creation.

**OUR FASCINATING FAITH**

**Lent**

One of the liturgical reforms mandated at the Second Vatican Council was that the focus of the season of Lent should be restored as a time of preparation for—or renewal of—baptism. The bishops at the Council were aware of the fact that the origins of Lent as a distinctive liturgical season lay in the early centuries when the Church celebrated the sacraments of Christian initiation only once a year, at the Easter Vigil. In order to prepare those who were to receive those sacraments, a special period of preparation (eventually lasting forty days) gradually developed.

By the time of the Second Vatican Council, the initiatory character of Lent had long been forgotten, and it had become simply a time of penance focused on individual spiritual renewal. The introduction of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and the revision of the Lectionary after the Council have changed all of that. Now the Sunday scripture readings during Lent are very carefully selected with an eye to the journey of those preparing to be initiated at the Easter Vigil. Once again, the entire community is asked to undergo penance in solidarity with the candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Thus, in order to appreciate fully the meaning of the readings during this season, the “filter” through which they must be heard is always the knowledge that we are helping to prepare our sisters and brothers in the catechumenate for their initiation at the Easter Vigil.



Last weekend was our parish commitment weekend for the 2023 annual Catholic Appeal. If you have not completed your card, please make your pledge and return it to the church office. Our goal is 100% participation in our church family that is the Diocese of Memphis.

***St. Regina’s Church Staff***

**Pastor:** Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

**Secretary:** Patricia Humble

**DRE:** Christina Hammond

**Facilities Manager:** Jim Molitor

**Web Page:** [saintreginacatholicchurch.org](http://saintreginacatholicchurch.org)

**Remember In Prayer**

Fr Robert Ponticello , Martha Jo , Judy Hendricks ,Kaylee Bowling , Joy Williams , James Ferebee , Diane Markowski ,Cindy Humble, Michaelle Box .

**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

**Psalm** — Have mercy on us sinners, O Lord (Psalm 51).

**Second Reading** — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: First Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Gregory of Narek;

Julian Calendar Lent begins

Friday: St. Katharine Drexel; Abstinence;

First Friday; World Day of Prayer

Saturday: St. Casimir; First Saturday

**GOOD TIMING**

The best time to do something worthwhile is between yesterday and tomorrow.

**Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 4:30 pm**

**CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**

**Prayer during Lent**

Holy God,  
now is the acceptable time to return to you.  
As we walk the path of these forty days,  
may we turn away from sin  
and embrace a life of goodness and truth.  
Strengthen us on our Lenten journey  
and keep us focused on the cross and resurrection  
of your Son, our Savior and Redeemer.  
He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

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

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; 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 138:1-3, 7c-8;  
Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

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

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22;  
2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

Deacon Moss class will be Tuesday February 28th 10.00 Until 11:30

**Adoration Wednesday March 1st at 4:00 pm before Mass**

**LOVE AND DEEDS**

God doesn’t want our deeds; God wants the love that prompts them.

Scripture Study starts Thursday Feb 23rd at Peggy’s house at 1:30 pm Studying the chapters 5-7 of Matthew . For information call 937-707-0083

MARCH 5TH 2023

Lector Jeff

Servers Calros & Max

Counters Ann & Anita

**Feb 19th,2023**

**Sunday collection**

**\$1962 .00**