

MARCH 10, 2019
1st SUNDAY OF LENT

FROM THE PASTOR

A JOURNEY INTO THE DESERT

On the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel is always that of Jesus going into the desert for 40 days to fast and to pray and to be tempted by the Evil One. Our Lenten season of 40 days is modeled on these 40 days of Jesus. Whether it is 40 days or 40 years, the number 40 is significant in the Bible. It signifies a sacred time, a sacred journey. This is how we want to understand our own Lenten season.

We are on a journey. Where are we going? We are going to the empty tomb, which we will celebrate at Easter. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation for our commemoration of the Resurrection of our Lord. We are getting ready for that event.

At all of the Easter Masses throughout the world, Catholics will stand and renew our Baptismal Promises. We will reject Satan (as does Jesus when tempted in the desert), and we will profess our faith in God and in Christ and in the Spirit by recitation of the Creed. In this, we recommit our lives to Christ, promising to follow him as his disciples.

In order that this renewal of our relationship with Christ takes place on as deep and fundamental level as possible, we take these 40 days to pray, to fast, and to carry out acts of charity. The more we utilize these Lenten disciplines, the better prepared we will be to make this declaration of faith.

As we move into the desert with Jesus, let us ask him to help us grow in our love for God and for one another.

POWER, PLEASURE AND PRAISE

Jesus faces three temptations in the desert, and we face the same three temptations. Saint Thomas Aquinas has summarized these as power, pleasure and praise. There is nothing inherently evil about any of these three things, but when any or all of them become our reason for living, then we have fallen into the lying trap of the Devil. Each is an echo of the Original Sin of our first parents Adam and Eve. They sought to become their own gods, and we do the same when we allow these goods to rule our lives.

After each of the temptations, Jesus rebukes Satan and embraces the one true path in life—the following of God's will. This is what we want to do as well. Power, pleasure and praise may be legitimate goods, but only if we make God, and his will, first and foremost in our lives. We surrender to the power of God, we learn to accept and use suffering as a spiritual tool for growth, and we accept (but do not seek) the praise of others while giving the true glory to God.

THANK YOU

I want to express my gratitude to all who offered prayers for my father and my family over the past few weeks and especially since he passed away. This has been a difficult week, as most of you can imagine, having gone through this same process within your own family. Your words of kindness and consolation have been greatly appreciated, and have been truly helpful.

It is never easy to lose a parent or any family member. But we are grateful to God that we were able to have my dad (Ed Comer) for almost 89 years, and that up to just a few weeks ago, when he went into the hospital, he was able to stay at home, caring for himself. The last five years or more before my mother passed away were difficult for him. She had dementia and slowly but relentlessly was taken away from us. But Daddy was able and more than willing to take care of her up to about three weeks before her death when she needed full-time medical attention.

My dad began as a tenant farmer, raising a large family (eventually 10 kids), until, when I was 20, he was able to get his own farm. A full-time farmer, he worked very hard to provide for his many children. He and my mom instilled in us the importance of our Catholic faith and the morals and strengths that would guide us into a good and worthy life.

Please continue to pray for my dad and for all of my family, as we make our way in this world without him.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Next Sunday we celebrate one of the Most Holy Days of the Church—the Feast of Saint Patrick. As it falls on Sunday this year, we will have a Saint Patrick's Day party, after the 11:30 am Mass. We will have food, song and friendship—a good time will be had by all. I hope that many of you will join us for this great day.

DIOCESAN PARISH ANNUAL APPEAL

The 2019 DPAA officially begins next Sunday—Announcement Sunday. We will have a video from Bishop Foy that will be played during Mass. The following Sunday, March 23, is Commitment Sunday. Please be generous in supporting the DPAA.

CONFESSIONS

Lent is a penitential season, and one of the most important acts we can do during Lent is to take part in the Sacrament of Penance. We have confessions every Tuesday and Saturday at 11 am. In addition, we will have confessions after the Masses on Sunday, March 24, and Sunday, March 31. Please make plans to receive the Sacrament sometime during this Lent,

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

We will resume our Thursday Bible Study this week. This Thursday we will go over chapters 12, 13 and 14.

Even if you have not been to any of the previous sessions, you are more than welcome. The earlier sessions can be found on the website.

PARISH NEWS

We the parishioners of Mother of God Church extend our sincere sympathy to Father Comer on the loss of his father, Edward Comer. We hold you in our prayers and ask the Lord to grant your father eternal rest and peace.

We extend our sincere sympathy to David and Ann Carlisle on the recent loss of Ann's son, Brennan, and to Bob and Peggy Beckman and Greg Scanlon on the loss of their nephew. Our hearts go out to you, and we hold you in prayer. May Brennan rest in peace.

We extend our sincere sympathy to David Huhn and his family on the loss of his wife Patricia. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May Patricia rest in peace.

RCIA: This, the 1st Sunday of Lent, our parish will be calling those who will soon be completing their final preparation toward receiving the Sacraments of Initiation and entry in the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Today at the 11:30 am Mass, they will participate in the Rite of Election and Sending to Bishop Foys this afternoon at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Please welcome and continue your prayers for Audrey Wilson, Benjamin Smith, and Jesse Onate. May God continue His blessings upon them, their sponsors, and their families.

ANNULMENTS: Deacon Tom will be offering a presentation on Catholic annulments and its process on Wednesday evening, March 13, in the parish office meeting room beginning at 6:30 pm. A Catholic annulment is required for any divorced Catholic who may be contemplating remarriage, any Catholic who has remarried without obtaining an annulment from their previous marriage, or any Catholic who has entered into a marriage with someone who has been previously married and had not received an annulment from their marriage. If any of these situations apply to you, please consider attending this presentation. Any Catholic who has remarried without receiving an annulment cannot lawfully receive the Sacraments. If you plan on attending, please call Judy in the parish office at 859-291-2288 or email motherofgod@mother-of-god.org to register for the presentation.

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY! We invite you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us on Sunday, March 17. Please join us for corned beef and cabbage in the parish hall immediately after 11:30 Mass. Fried chicken will also be available for those who prefer! A suggested donation for the meal is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Please be generous if you can.

WANTED: SINGERS FOR THE CHOIR FOR EASTER

We want to make Easter a wonderful celebration this year. We are looking for men and women to sing at the 9:30 am Mass on Easter. We will have three or four rehearsals on Thursday nights in preparation for this. If you are interested, please contact Andrea or Carole Lonneman at 291-8935 for more information. We would love for you to join us.

MOG St. Vincent DePaul Quarterly Collection: The recent quarterly collection of \$2,558 reflects your generosity in ministering to the poor within our parish boundaries. The needs vary but most frequently are for food. Many elderly women either have never worked, worked in low-paying jobs, or have husbands who worked in low-paying jobs so their Social Security annuities are not great. A recent request came from an elderly woman receiving a widow's SS monthly payment of \$804, \$15 in food stamps and a monthly rent bill of \$550. It is easy to see that for the poor it doesn't take much to upset a fragile budget. Members of MOG SVDP are so thankful and grateful for your generosity. During our visits, we extend an invitation for folks to join us or at least come to our beautiful church for a restful visit and acknowledge the help we are providing that day comes from you.

Dear Parishioners: If you have changed your address, phone number or email address, please let us know by calling the office at 291-2288 or email to motherofgod@mother-of-god.org. It is very important that we have updated information. Thank you.

TICKETS FOR THE EMMET CAHILL CONCERT

are on sale after both Sunday Masses in the back of church. The concert is slated for Wednesday, April 24, here at Mother of God. Tickets for the meet-and-greet (starting at 6 pm), plus the concert (7:30 pm), are \$45. Tickets for the concert only are \$30. You can also purchase them online at www.emmetcahill.com. Emmet Cahill is an Irish tenor and internationally known artist who has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, on PBS and *The Today Show*. His repertoire includes beloved Irish folk songs, Broadway tunes, sacred hymns and more. He is also a member of Celtic Thunder, which just completed a 75-city tour this past fall. The Contemporary Ensemble will be performing before the concert, starting at 7:10 pm. Make plans now to attend. You don't want to miss it!

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH: March 19 is the Feast Day of St. Joseph. Novena booklets have been placed at the doors of the church if you would like to begin praying the Novena to St. Joseph for nine days starting Sunday, March 10. Additional novena booklets are available upon request. Please contact Deacon Tom at tdushney@fuse.net. The novena is also available for reprinting on the EWTN website or type in your Google search "Novena to St. Joseph" and click on the EWTN website.

FIFTH FRIDAY DRUG SUPPORT

PRESENTATIONS: Carol Wagner, a parishioner, and her husband Cliff lost their son, Chad, to the disease of addiction in 2005. After his death, they started the non-profit FOXFIRE FOUNDATION in his honor. THE FOXFIRE FOUNDATION is located at 3414 Decoursey Avenue, Latonia, KY, second floor and will be holding fifth Friday presentations at their office. These presentations are meant to give information and support to families and loved ones of struggling addicts. The first presentation is March 29, from 7 to 8:30 pm, and each fifth Friday thereafter. Please email contact@foxfirefoundation.org or call (859) 638-2827 to assure they can prepare adequately.

SUNDAY COLLECTION	3-3-19
Envelopes	\$5,449.00
Loose	\$ 449.00
Online Giving	\$ 277.98
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$6,175.98

NOTICE: NO DONUTS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 17, DUE TO ST. PATRICK PARTY AFTER 11:30 MASS

HOMEBOUND? Do you have someone who needs to see a priest or needs communion brought to them at home or in a nursing home? If so, please call the office at 291-2288 so Father can arrange a visit to them.

THE MESSENGER: If you are a registered parishioner at Mother of God Church and are NOT receiving the free Catholic newspaper, *The Messenger*, please call the office at 859-291-2288.

ARE YOU A PARISHIONER? Interested in becoming a parishioner of Mother of God? We're interested in you! We will have registration available after all Masses in the back of church. Please stop by our table to fill out a registration form and have any questions answered. We're glad you're here!

SCRIPTURE FOR MARCH 10, 2019: Deuteronomy 26: 4-10; Psalm 91; Romans 10: 8-13; Luke 4: 1-13

HYMNS FOR 9:30 A.M. MASS

- 137 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
- Response Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.
- 462 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- 323 Gift of Finest Wheat
- 419 The Church's One Foundation

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 10	Daylight Saving Time begins 2 pm Rite of Election at Cathedral
Monday, March 11	7:30 pm Knights of St. John Mtg. (Hall)
Tuesday, March 12	6:30 pm RCIA (SAC)
Thursday, March 14	11 am and 6 pm Bible Study (Church) 1 pm Parish on the Same Page (Hall)
Sunday, March 17	Parish St. Patrick Celebration after 11:30 am Mass (NO DONUTS)

MASS INTENTIONS

- March 10 9:30 am Jenny Wong Wiehoff
- 11:30 am Betty Ann Kelly and Paul Grollmus
- March 11 12:05 pm Marge Maschmeyer
- March 12 12:05 pm Louis Wiedeman
- March 13 No Mass
- March 14 12:05 pm Dorothy McNeil
- March 15 12:05 pm Special Intention
- March 16 12:05 pm The Santel Family
- March 17 9:30 am Tom Heidrich
- 11:30 am Cindy Kelly

LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

- Les Miley Hannah Donoghue
- Ralph Kunkemoeller Margie Huesman
- Shirley Hensley Tom Donoghue
- Fr. Ray Hartman Jill Felix
- Fr. Ralph Hartman Greg Scanlon
- Kelly Bowman Nancy Salzer
- Robert Shircliff Connie Gillum
- Ed Salzer Christy Egan
- Rachel Hub Jack Kearns
- Pat Wiedemann Richard Kearns
- Marie Braun Mary Lou Wilson
- Joy Rolfsen Jim White
- Trudy Koehling William Freddie
- Carolyn James Special Intention
- Paula Schwarte Bessie Plymesser
- Baby Gunther Alice Heath
- Vicki Brunner Rita and Ron Hopper
- Rose Manning Debbie Bartlett
- Joyce Mesler Marcie Arnett
- Special Intention (2) Regina Wesley