

enter into the holy season of Lent



FEBRUARY 26, 2012



First Sunday of Lent

Today, the First Sunday of Lent, we focus our attention on Jesus who, immediately after his baptism, is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. There he spends forty days and forty nights, fasting, reflecting, praying and battling the devil victoriously. Then he begins his mission, inviting all to conversion. His invitation to take the Gospel seriously and change for the better is addressed also to us. The fruitfulness of this Lenten season depends to a great extent on our response to his invitation.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS



Jesus is tempted and so are we today.

We are confronted with Satan, the Hinderer in all the areas of our lives: income, security, daily needs, and the use of the world's resources.

We must resist the powers and the glory of the kingdoms of the world: military might, prestige, selfishness, wealth, greed/avarice of resources and people, economic and political injustices, lies, lack of responsibility for choices.

And we must refuse to be mastered by any sin; selfrighteousness, thinking we're okay, we're trying and it is others who are the problem; or that if we do outward religious works we will be protected from harm. It is time to face the reality that we must live on the Word, adore the Trinity alone, and not test God, but bow in submission to God's will.



THE DEVIL'S TRAPS

Search for pictures of the devil or Satan and you will see images of a snarling face, long gnarled horns, hooves dripping with blood, red skin, and a tail. But those who tempt us to do evil are not at all like these pictures; many of them smile sweetly and have excellent social skills. The snake in the Garden of Eden was not frightening or threatening; he just talked very persuasively, and once Adam and Eve listened to him and ate the forbidden fruit they knew their world was turned upside down. After Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, the same smooth talker who brought catastrophe on Adam and Eve tried his wiles on Jesus. He tried three powerful tests. Jesus rejected them all and the Tempter left, unable to turn Jesus' heart away from God. The invitation to do evil is perpetually present, so that all of us face versions of each temptation faced by Jesus. And it's never a matter of simply breaking the rules. Where the Evil One gets a real foothold is when something becomes a sinful habit, a persistent thread in our lives, especially if we fail to recognize the harm it is doing to us and others. The harsh words shouted once in anger and regretted are less damaging than a persistent habit of belittling people.

Breaking one's marriage vow and being deeply repentant is not like a pattern of cheating over many years. The Church, with the wisdom of generations of experience, provides Lent, this annual season of spiritual "spring cleaning." If it has been a while since you went to confession, consider it now. If you go to the sacrament and confess the same sins over and over, ask yourself why.

God forgives not just once, but for always.



ALL FRIDAYS OF LENT are Days of Abstinence

from meat. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and shellfish are permitted, as are animal derived products such as margarine and gelatin which do not have any meat taste.

ABSTINENCE is to be observed by all Catholic Christians aged 14 years old and older. In addition, by special permission from the Holy Father, Catholics are to either abstain from meat or in place of abstinence or fasting, can substitute, in whole or in part, other forms of penance, especially works of charity and exercises of piety (1983 Canon 1253).



PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There is something in us that moves us to visit the scene where an important event occurred. Visitors flock to the Ford Theater to stand where President Lincoln was assassinated; mourners visit the site of the Oklahoma City bombing and the site of the Twin Towers in New York City. So it was for the early Christians who greatly desired to journey to Jerusalem and to see with their own

eyes the places where Jesus lived, suffered and died. The traditional sites of the Lord's passion soon became popular stopping places; even today the Via Dolorosa is included in most pilgrims' itineraries. Because not everyone was able to visit Jerusalem, pilgrims brought back stories and images of what they had seen for those who remained at home. Eventually shrines that focused on the passion and death of the Lord appeared all over Europe. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, increased emphasis on the suffering of the Messiah, coupled with the fervor of the Franciscan friars, led to widespread acceptance of a devotion that traced the footsteps of Jesus from his trial to his tomb. But it was more than curiosity that caused this devotion to flourish. Prayers that emphasized Jesus' obedience unto death, sorrow for sin, and God's abiding love and mercy were at the heart of it. The Stations of the Cross are still a valuable resource for prayer, especially during Lent, with its twofold emphasis on baptismal renewal and penitential acts. Essential to this devotion, whether prayed by an individual or a group, is meditation on the passion of the Lord in spoken and sung prayer, and movement from one station to the next. Ideally, everyone walks in procession to each station, uniting ourselves in our bodies to the Lord's passion and death.

COME, JOIN US each FRIDAY during LENT at 6:00 p.m. to pray the Stations of the Cross, recalling and meditating on Jesus' journey from His condemnation to his burial in the tomb. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will follow after the devotion.



YEAR 2011 TAX RECEIPTS are available for pick-up. For inquiries, please call the FCMM Office during regular working hours (514 -3875292)

SUPPORT :: THE SEARCH for the 2012 FCMM KING and QUEEN OF ANGELS



The children/candidates will participate in various celebrations in our Mission Community while their parents and supporters dispose of their \$2.00 ballots. Please remember that supporting them means supporting the Filipino Church in Montreal.



The SANCTUARY LAMP this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and as **THANKSGIVING** offered by **TONY & NORMA FOZ.**



JOIN A TRIP TO A CABANE A SUCRE !!!

*(Erabliere au Sous-Bois, Mont St. Gregoire)
A Fund-raising organized by
the Knights of Columbus Council 13585 and
The FCMM Catechetical Ministry*

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.

- Meeting Place: FCMM

Cost: 14 yrs. old and younger = 23\$ / 15 yrs. old and above = 30\$

Please confirm by February 26, 2012 For more inf., call Ray Foz @ 514 945 1245



"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...."

- Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

Your Offerings for the week ending February 19, 2012 totaled \$ 1, 590. 50

Thank you for your continuing generosity !

God bless you always!!!



PLEASE USE YOUR CHURCH ENVELOPE
The use of Church envelopes is the responsible way to support our parish faith community. Therefore, we strongly encourage our parishioners to use the WEEKLY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES for the success of the operation of the Parish.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD AROUND ! HELP CAMPAIGN TO USE THE ENVELOPES !



elcome!

- ❖ To the New Arrivals from the Philippines
- ❖ To the Visitors from other places;
- ❖ To those who have been away and are back;



❖ We join in the Thanksgiving Intentions of:
THE ANTONIO FAMILY, NORMA FOZ and FAMILY.

❖ Your prayers are humbly requested for all the Sick and



Suffering members of our Mission community and their loved ones especially: **FR. ROGER BEGIN pme, JESS ALCAIDE, SR. ELIZABETH RELACION mic, ELECITA ARACENA, ALFREDO PADERANGA SR., FE PADERANGA, ANNIE**

MOJADO, WILFREDO QUIRAPAS, BALDOMERA AMBAYEC, JULIA PERLAS-TAN, JOSEFINA BANGALAN, JOSIE LIMLENGCO, DAWN DELA PAZ, CARMENCITA TRIVINIO, WILFREDO DARIO, TRANQUILINO BIGCAS, BERNARDINO FERNANDO, ADRIANA BACQUIAL, JOSEFINA CALDITO RAQUIZA, NIDA VIERNES.

May God bring them healing and peace.

❖ Remember also all of our Deceased Relatives and Friends, especially **LEONILA DELA COSTA, AGUEDA OLIARTE, FLORA RODENAS, ANTONINA, WINNIFRED and LETICIA GONZALES, JULIUS and ARSENIO VIERNES, ROSARIO, CARLITO ASIS, ENRIQUE TABLANDA, MANUEL REYES, ROSTIA CALDITO, ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY** and those dying everyday in battles and calamities around the world. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS

Stop by or call the FCMM office (514 387 – 5292) during normal business hours and have a Mass offered for your intention.