

**REMAINING TRUE, IN SPIE OF TEMPTATION**

We all know it can be difficult at times to resist temptation. So many things require our time and attention. And so many more things call to us with the voice of persuasion: promising to make life less painful, less onerous or less costly. The struggle to make the right choices can be difficult.

There is a wonderful quote, attributed to many different people over the years, that wisely staes: "Never sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate."

Never sacrifice the permanent.... On the altar of the immediate.

Ten words – so simple, so seemingly easy to follow, and yet we still falter.

Adam and Eve faltered. Given everything in the Garden of Eden, they were tempted with the possibility of more, and so they committed the first sin of pride, which ws disobedience.

They gave in to the temptation before them and set the course of Creation on a new trajectory. They sacrificed the permanent and eternal unity with god on the altar of the immediate possibility – false as it was – of being and having more.

But Paul tells us today that though sin entered the world and death came to all, God did not withhold his grace from us and sent his only son into the world to redeem us. Jesus countered that first sin of disobedience with an act of perfect obedience – an obedience that would resist every temptation throughout the whole of his earthly life.

This Son, though divine, was also human – and the devil knew it. We are given three examples today of the devil trying to tempt him away from his mission with things that – in their immediacy – perhaps seemed far more enticing than his intended path. But Jesus never gave in. He refused to let his perfect love be clouded by the empty promises of the devil. He refused to sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate.

We all face our own deserts with their unique temptations. We find it difficult to obey our conscience and our own moral compasses. But here’s the thing: we are not fated to disobedience. We have a choice, and we have a model in Jesus and an advocate in the Holy spirit. In as much as we share in the life of Christ – through the sacrament of baptism – we can refuse to let our love be clouded by the empty promises of the devil.

But we cannot do it alone. We need to rely on prayer; on the sacraments; on the charitable interactions and shared faith of friends and family; on our relationship with a triune God who loves us; and, ultimately, on the grace of our God.

In the desert, Jesus prayed. He drew on his faith, and on the Scriptures. And he sent the devil away.

So, let us look to Jesus and ask him for help. And be confident that he’ll show us the way.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	Mar 6	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18, Mt 25:31-46
Tues	Mar 7	Is 55:10-11, Mt 6:7-15
Wed	Mar 8	Jon 3:1-10, Lk 11:29-32
Thur	Mar 9	Est12:14-16, 23-25, Mt 7:7-12
Fri	Mar 10	Ez 18:21-28, Mt 5:20-26
Sat	Mar 11	Dt 26:16-19, Mt 5:43-48
Sun	Mar 12	Gn 12:1-4a, 2 Tim 1:8b-10, Mt 17:1-9



**YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Regular Collections	\$	9,995.00
Nativity Maintenance	\$	585.18
Nativity Elem.	\$	30.00
Capital Improvement	\$	195.00
Miscellaneous	\$	514.66
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,319.84</b>
<b>CASH NEEDED</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,400.00</b>

**SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUND**

<b>TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$173,502</b>
<b>PAYMENTS TO DATE</b>	<b>\$167,167</b>
<b>BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES</b>	<b>\$ 6,335</b>

**BINGO MANIA**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for March 7th. Kelly (George & Tanya), Landolt (John & Barbara), Lechner (Jeffrey & Lindsay), leon (Miguel & Amy), McCaleb (Shanel), Mellgren (Schott & Sonia) and Mitchel-Malone (Anjanette). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

**R.C.I.A.**

This weekend the RCIA Candidates are celebrating their Rite of Sending Forth. This is an important step towards their Sacraments of Initiation and full participation in the Catholic faith community at the Easter Vigil. Please remember that we are called to accept them into our Community of Faith and we are to pray for each of them as they continue their faith journey. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

**NATIVITY’S ‘HEARING LOOP’**

Through the effort of several hearing-impaired parishioners, we have installed a “Hearing Loop” in our Cathedral Church. This new device automatically connects to individual hearing aids equipped with blue-tooth capabilities. Individuals with hearing aids may switch their devices to the telecoil position to connect to the ‘hearing loop’ transmission. Should you be unable to connect while in the Cathedral Church, you may ask your hearing care provider of your personal device to activate or retrofit your hearing aid with the necessary circuitry. If you do not have a T-coil enabled hearing aid, kindly request a headset received from the user.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Friday in Lent at 6:00 p.m., in the Cathedral Church.

## SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
<b>Mar 11 4:00 pm</b> <b>1. Deacon Ben</b> 2. Mary Wimberly 3. Kathleen Coskey 4. Jim Coskey 5. Ann Kavanagh	<b>Mar 11 4:00 pm</b> Rose Anne Kimbell	<b>Mar 11 4:00 pm</b> Carlo Ashton Brinden Butterfield
<b>Mar 12 7:00 am</b> <b>1. Deacon Ben</b> 2. Dale Dorcik 3. Vicki Howard	<b>Mar 12 7:00 am</b> Joe Powell	<b>Mar 12 7:00 am</b> Makayla Pfarrer Weyth Stewart
<b>9:00 am</b> <b>1. Deacon Ben</b> 2. Maggie Landry 3. Linda Bourgeois 4. John Brauchle 5. Barry Gilmore	<b>9:00 am</b> Steve Theobald <b>11:00 am</b> Don Marie	<b>9:00 am</b> Sofia Carreon McKinzy Mathis Terrene McDonnell Cameron McDonnell
<b>11:00 am</b> <b>1. Deacon Ben</b> 2. Sondra Williams 3. Johnny Williams 4. Rhonda Clark 5. Edward Warner	<b>CANTORS</b> <b>Mar 11 4:00 pm</b> Billy Endicott	<b>11:00 am</b> Michael Pfarrer Clayton Stoddard Simon Randall Aidan Tarrant
<b>5:30 pm</b> <b>1. Deacon Ben</b> 2. Angela Cannon 3. Teresa Ballinger	<b>Mar 12 9:00 am</b> Nate Hettinger <b>11:00 am</b> Choir	<b>5:30 pm</b> Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Jacob Arguelles

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 6 - Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.  
 Mar 7 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC  
 Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.  
 Mar 8 - **Cleaning Team "A"**  
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.  
 Mar 9 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

### COMMUNION VISITATION

Jesus says of you and me, "You are the salt of the earth". No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be "salt of the earth". Sister can be reached at 228-223-8129 or the rectory at 228-374-1717.

### NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY

\*Youth from our parish are preparing for the 2017 Diocesan Youth Celebration, which takes place at the MS Coast Coliseum March 17-19. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare and spend a faith-filled weekend with youth from across our Diocese.

\*Youth meetings will take place March 5, & March 12, following 5:30 p.m. Mass. The next \*Youth Mass will be held Sunday, March 5, at 5:30 p.m. Please join us! Show your Support!!! Youth will be present after Masses March 4-5 & 11-12 to collect baby diapers (all sizes). They will prepare baby items as a service project on Saturday afternoon, March 18, at the Youth Celebration. There will be no meeting on Sunday, March 19 or March 26. If you have a youth, grades 6-12, that is interested in joining Youth Ministry, please email [nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com](mailto:nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com) or contact Kristy Arguelles 228-324-9934 or Kim Audo 228-365-3248.

### Mass Intentions

	<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
Mon Mar 6	Dan Williams	Collins-Sims Fly.
Tue Mar 7	Betty Lou Callegari	Thomas Edward Connell
Wed Mar 8	Clare Sekul Hornsby	Chester Balias Fly.
Thur Mar 9	Otilio Aristizabal	Flor Aristizabal
Fri Mar 10	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	Gary Michiels
Sat Mar 11	<b>8</b> – Ray Yenewine	<b>4</b> Thomas Andrews
Sun Mar 12	<b>7</b> – Claire Gannon	<b>9</b> - For the Parishioners
	<b>11</b> – Rose Marie Thornton.	<b>5:30</b> - Richard White (S.I.)

### PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Joe Powell, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte and Greg Hotaling and Richard "Red" White.

### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in memory of Helen Ross from the faculty, staff and students of Nativity Elementary School.

### NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\*Registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for families with children currently enrolled in Nativity School. Registration for new families registered at Nativity, Blessed Seelos, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Michael and Church of the Vietnamese Martyrs parishes will take place on **March 6<sup>th</sup> through March 8<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30-5:00. Open registration for all other new families begins on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> until all openings are filled. Nativity School provides a well rounded, Catholic education for children in prek 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

\*Our Nativity Basketball Teams had a great season. The children played with much enthusiasm and showed great heart and soul! Our thanks to Sam Burke and Ryan Canon, as well as many others, who encouraged and worked with these boys and girls in grades three through six.. Our Nativity Cheer Squad provided much support for many of the games. Thank you to Summer Canon and Kendra Mabary for working with these girls in grades kindergarten through six.

### CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

### WOMEN'S ACT RETREAT

Thursday-Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017 and sponsored by Our Lady of Fatima Parrish. Cost is \$125.00 and includes all food and lodging. Held at Paul B. Johnson State Park in Hattiesburg Ms. Please contact director Lisa Jones-228-806-0778/ljwhitnuts3@aol.com or Lisa Ladner 228-297-2204/lladner239@yahoo.com, or Renee Klein 228-990-6983. Hope to see you there!