



Online Lenten Retreat

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>

First Sunday of Lent (*Luke 4:1-13*)

Modern Christians usually have no trouble acknowledging that Jesus is God, but they find accepting his humanity much more difficult. Hebrews 4:15 tells us we have a high priest (Jesus) who knows what it is to be weak because he, like us, experienced temptation. This means at one time or another Jesus must have had the temptation to lie, to cheat, and to steal. As a man, his head must have turned and his heart must have pounded faster when an attractive woman walked down the street. These are all natural experiences that humans, including Jesus, have encountered since the beginning of time. The only difference is that Jesus never sinned.

Today's Gospel reading tells us about Jesus' struggle with temptation, a story that contains thirteen verses in Luke's Gospel but only two in Mark's. It seems that Luke fills in many of the details while Mark is satisfied with simply saying the devil tempted Jesus. Being much more colorful, Luke's account is the one we are most familiar with.

In the first two of the three temptations, the devil tempts a hungry Jesus to turn stones into bread (a symbol of this world's goods) and he then promises more power and authority if Jesus would only worship him. It would have been easy for Jesus to use his divine powers to fulfill his own desires but he didn't. Instead, throughout the Gospels, we find him using his abilities to serve the poor and the needy.

In the third temptation, the devil takes Jesus to the parapet of the Temple and challenges him to jump. A stairway inside the Temple led to the roof where a seven foot wall (the parapet) ran along the roof's edge. Some biblical scholars think the bricks of the top layer of this wall were pyramid-shaped with sharp spikes sticking out of them to prevent birds of prey (attracted by the smell of the slaughtered animals the priests offered inside to God) from perching there and messing the Temple wall with their droppings.

The story concludes with the devil leaving Jesus until he finds another opportunity to tempt him, indicating Jesus had to struggle with more temptations throughout his life. Temptation, it seems, was just as much a part of Jesus' life as it is part of ours.

For Reflection: All three times when the devil tempted him, Jesus responded by quoting Scripture. What are you doing to become more familiar with Scripture so, like Jesus, you too will be able to fight temptation with God's Word?

A Lenten Journey: Parishioners are invited to a six week Lenten series, '*Chocolate for Lent*', which begins on Monday, February 22nd. in the Parish Room from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. This Lenten program will use themes from the movie '*Chocolat*' to create the space for deeper insights into service, community, prayer, love, and what it means to be a follower of Christ.

From the Faith First Office

PENNIES FOR PEACE

At the February 20th gathering of Faith First the students will begin a service-learning program called 'Pennies for Peace'. This program is designed to broaden our children's cultural horizons while teaching them the value of philanthropy – one penny at a time.

Pennies for Peace is a program of Central Asia Institute (CAI), founded by Greg Mortensen – author of *Three Cups of Tea*, the #1 New York Times best seller. CAI is a registered non-profit organization that promotes and provides community based education and literacy programs especially for girls in remote mountain regions of Central Asia. Founded in 1996, CAI has built, to date, nearly 100 schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which serve more than 28,000 students – over 14,000 of whom are girls.

How can a penny bring peace? It doesn't buy much in our community. However, in the villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan, a penny can buy a pencil, start an education, and transform a life. In a region where terrorist organizations recruit uneducated, illiterate children, that pencil can empower a child to read, write and learn.

We are called to take a stand against injustice and to be a force for justice and peace in the world. As our children journey in faith we can offer them the opportunity to be of service and to learn that they can effect change.

Our students will join thousands of students around the world who are participating in the Pennies for Peace program and who are working together to become members of a global family dedicated to peace.

Please see presentation boards at the back of the church.

Share Lent Campaign

Each Lent, Development and Peace, the Canadian Catholic Church's international development agency, invites Canadian Catholics to give, with love, to those with the least in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. The popular *Lifestyle Awareness Calendar* helps families reflect on the gifts they enjoy, and collect alms so that others may share in the feast of life. This year the calendar has more activities for families with young children, including growing a Lenten plant that can be used as a Symbol of Solidarity. Please pick up a calendar for your family today. Tell others about it. Development and Peace's annual collection will take place in this parish on Sunday, March 21st, Solidarity Sunday.

Parish Support

We encourage all parishioners to use the regular Sunday envelopes. These are mailed to parishioners four times a year. To obtain envelopes please call the parish office (932-3131) or fill in the form below and place it in the collection plate. We extend a warm welcome to new parishioners. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Msgr. Harty & Fr. Donnelly after Mass.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2010

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010

(Isaiah58.9b-14, Luke5.27-32)

5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010

(Deut26.4-10, Romans10.8-13, Luke4.1-13)

10:30 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

Elizabeth Gagnier-Wickham by Dorothy Wickham

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010 - NO MASS

FEAST - CHAIR OF ST. PETER

(1Peter5.1-4, Matt16.13-19)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010

(Isaiah55.10-11, Matt6.7-15)

5:00 Philip Griffin by his wife, Margaret

Lorraine West & family (Estate)

Regina von Hapsburg, Archduchess of Austria

by Andrew Cook-Joliceur

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010

(Jon3.1-10, Luke11.29-32)

9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010

(Esther14.1, 3-5, 12-14, Matt7.7-12)

9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

(Ezek18.21-28, Matt5.20-26)

9:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010

(Deut26.16-19, Matt5.43-48)

5:00 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

Eileen Crosby by Evelyn Crosby

Douglas Weston by Jean Weston

Daniel Lopez by his family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

(Gen15.5-12, 17-18, Phillipians3.17-4.1, Luke9.28b-36)

10:30 Lorraine West & family (Estate)

This Week at Ascension

Monday: Lenten series ***Chocolate for Lent*** in the Parish Room of the rectory from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Christian Meditation at 7 p.m. in the East Sacristy for information call 931-5536.

Wednesday: **Sunday Scripture Reflection** with Fr. Pat in the Parish Room of the Rectory have been **cancelled** for February 24 & March 3. **Sessions will resume on March 10.**

Thursday: **Choir Practice** at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.