

March 5, 2017 First Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 4

5:00 p.m. +**Members of the Kuharick Family**
By Rachael and Family

Sunday, March 5

8:00 a.m. +**Thecla Supple**
By Bill and Mary Supple
Altar Rosary Society

Monday, March 6

8:45 a.m. +**Theresa Rebinski**
By Henry Rebinski

Tuesday, March 7

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of the Madonna of Health**
By Angela Gross

Wednesday, March 8

8:45 a.m. +**Sergio and Sabina Cappelluti**
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

Thursday, March 9 **NO MASS**

Friday, March 10

8:45 a.m. +**Michael Stembauer**
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier

Saturday, March 11

5:00 p.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

Sunday, March 12

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**
10:30 a.m. +**Corrado and Jennie Tridente**
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

The scene of the temptation, which opens the public life of Jesus, declares in the Gospels in a very forceful manner the great change in our lives that He introduces into the world by His work of redemption. Where Adam fell, Christ, the new Head of humanity, triumphs over the power of Satan: at the time of His passion "the prince of this world" will be cast out. The Gospel of the temptation heralds Christ's victory in advance.

By appointing this Gospel for the beginning of Lent the Church proclaims that this victory should be ours also. In us, as all around us, it is Christ's temptation, Christ's struggle, Christ's victory which is prolonged; our effort is His and so is our strength; His will be our victory at Easter.

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness. As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal ***Ambassadors for Christ***

By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here at St. Theodore Church. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, deacons, youth and young adults. Among other important ministries, your sacrificial giving also allows our hospital chaplains to minister to those experiencing physical and emotional pain and helps to prepare our seminarians for a life in the priesthood.

If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so next weekend, March 11/12, which has been designated as Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop's Annual

Appeal to help our parish reach its goal. If we can exceed our goal, 50% of the amount collected over goal will be returned to us in the form of a parish rebate. Just as important as our financial goal is our goal of reaching 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Stephen, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira Hedges, Maryann Vaughan, Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine, Maryann Vaughan, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Kerry Kraft, Cathy Moncello, Peter S., Helen Dicheck, Mary Supple, Mary Rupell



A special evening has been planned for all women of St. Theodore Church. Ladies, you are cordially invited to the Altar Rosary Society's *Irish Tea Social*, which will be held at the

church. The Holy Rosary will be prayed in the church at 6:30 p.m., followed by the *Irish Tea* in the Parish Center at 7 p.m. Circle **March 8** on your calendars as a reminder to come out and socialize with the Rosary Society members and get to know them and appreciate their mission.

Church & Religious Education Schedule

Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.- Bible Study
 Every Friday during Lent, 7 p.m.- Stations
 March 10, 7 p.m.: Grades 1-4 in church for Stations of the Cross
 March 13, 6:15 p.m.- Grade 3 in church
 March 18-22: Parish Lenten Mission
 March 20, 6:15 p.m.: All Rel. Ed. students with their parents in church
 March 26, 8 a.m.: 2nd Grade to attend Mass (First Penance will follow Mass)
 April 8, 10 am: filling of Easter Eggs for the Hunt.
 April 8, 10:30; Grounds Clean-up
 Confirmation Rehearsal: April 29, 6 p.m.
 Confirmation: May 5, 7 p.m.



Our church will be holding a **Parish Lenten Mission** from March 18 through March 22, conducted by the Superior of the Salvatorians in Florida, Fr. Christopher Bugno. Fr. Bugno is the Pastor of St. Theresa

Church in Titusville, FL. I encourage you to join us in this spiritual journey during the solemn season of Lent. The Schedule is as follows:

- March 18: 4 pm Confession; 5 pm Mass & Conference for Parishioners**
- March 19: 7:30 am & 10 am: Confessions; 8 am & 10:30 am: Mass & Conference for children, youth and parents**
- March 20: 8:15 am, 5:45 pm & 7:15 pm Confession; 8:45 am & 6:15 pm Mass & Conference for children, youth and parents**
- March 21: 8:15 am & 6 pm: Confession; 8:45 am & 6:30 pm: Mass & Conference for Parishioners**
- March 22: 8:15 am & 7:30-8:30 pm: Confession; 8:45 am & 6:30 pm: Mass & Conference for Parishioners**

Our Offering: 2/19 \$2,241; 2/26: \$2,040.
Last Year: \$2,784 : \$2,663.17

At the Easter Vigil, a new Paschal Candle is blessed and lit. It burns at every Mass until Pentecost Sunday when it is extinguished. If anyone would care to donate for the purchase of the Paschal Candle (\$200) in memory or honor of a loved one, please email the Parish Office at sttheodorenj@gmail.com. Thank you.



HELP NEEDED!

Spring Cleaning of the Church Grounds: April 8, 10:30 a.m. Please bring your rake and any other tools that might be useful. Thank you.