

**For The Bulletin Of
March 5, 2017**



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

From Father Robert

Flip Wilson was an African-American comedian-actor, the first to have his own variety show. The Flip Wilson Show, dating to the early 1970's. One of his delightful characters was Geraldine Jones. In a famous routine where Geraldine is dodging responsibility for buying a new dress, she names all the lures of the devil who is tempting her: you would look good in it, it's on sale, it's your size, it has a lot of flowers, no charge to try it on, and the devil shoved me in the door. She summarizes by saying, "The devil made me do it!" It became a catchphrase whenever she did not want to face up to having made an inappropriate choice. Ah, it's so easy to say "The devil made me do it." It's so easy to blame everything and everybody else for choices we make that change us not for the better, that hurt others, that lead us down a destructive path. How easily Jesus could have turned those stones into bread to satisfy His hunger! How easily He could have used His

divine power to command all the heavenly bodies to support and protect Him. How easily He could have been given "all the kingdoms of the world."

These temptations did not fool Jesus. He was not interested in the lures of this world. His kingdom was not of this world. His work was not self-promotion, but the glory of His Father and the salvation of those He came to serve. His mission was to tempt us to let go of ourselves, to come to God with unified hearts, to embrace the self-emptying that brings the greatest wealth: everlasting Life.

The Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil to exercise self-serving power, to preserve His well-being, to seek worldly wealth. That same Spirit leads us into the desert of ourselves to encounter the demons within us, to encounter the Father's mercy and forgiveness, to encounter Jesus calling us to align our lives more closely with His. We are first grafted onto Christ at our baptism. We are plunged into the cleansing waters to be raised up to new Life. We commit ourselves to goodness and profess our relationship to God. The strength of our baptismal commitment to God must be honed in the desert of ourselves where, stripped of all that distracts us, we stand naked and hungry before Truth. Only then can we be transformed. Only then are we transformed by God into beloved daughters and sons, sisters and brothers in Christ.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Lent is not a time for us to withstand temptation alone. Rather, it is a wonderful time to get involved with others spiritually, and help each other to

grow in goodness and the ability to resist temptation and come to a deeper realization of what our baptism entails. We are baptized into a community – the Body of Christ. With our common identity in Christ, helping another resist temptation is, in effect, helping ourselves grow, helping ourselves to be transformed into more perfect members of Christ’s Body.

Most of us tend to keep our spiritual growth and struggles pretty much to ourselves. One marvelous way to help each other is to take some time with those with whom we are in significant relationships to do some in-depth faith-sharing. When we share our own temptations as well as spiritual blessings with others, we are not alone in choosing and serving this God Who gives us life – at creation and through “the one Jesus Christ.”

The challenge of the Liturgy of the Word on the First Sunday of Lent is to hear the readings as personal questions:

- The temptations I need to address this Lent are...The Spirit will help me by...
- I experience God’s mercy and forgiveness for...when...to...
- This Lent, in order to align myself more closely with Jesus, I must...

About Liturgical Music: Less Celebrative Music During Lent

The longstanding practice of making our music during the liturgies of Lent less celebrative is grounded in the penitential simplicity which is meant to mark these celebrations. The directive concerning music during Lent appear in the General Instruction to the Roman Missal; No.

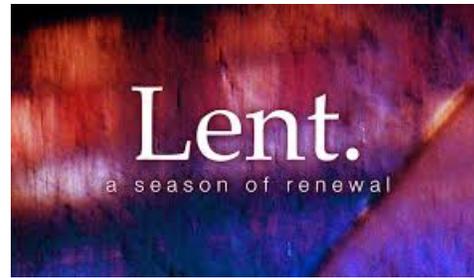
313 states that musical instruments should be used with moderation during the Season of Advent. The directive is an application of the principle of progressive solemnity – the music of Advent is not to overshadow the “full joy” which is to characterize the celebration of Christmas. Applying the same principle further, the General Instruction restricts the use of musical instruments even more during Lent – they are to be used only to the extent that an assembly needs to support their singing. Through these directives, the General Instruction is inviting us to enter the rhythm of the seasons which marks the liturgical year. During Advent and Lent we “hold back,” one time in hope, the other time in penance. By holding back in this way we allow the paschal mystery dynamic of the liturgical year – its built-in rhythm of not yet-already, of anticipation-celebration, of dying-rising-to have its formative effect upon us. This rhythm is no inconsequential thing, for it is the broad year-after-year immersion in the mystery which marks our identity and forms us for mission as the Body of Christ. **It is important to remember, however, that the church’s tradition has been to make less use of instruments, not to sing less. We must always maintain the nature of liturgy as a sung celebration.**

A Journey  Through Lent

The Rite of Sending

A significant part of the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist today is the Rite of Sending of our Catechumens to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election which will be celebrated this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. by The Bishop. They will formally sign The

Book of the Elect which will then be taken with them to the Cathedral and confirmed by The Bishop who “elects” them for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist. Please remember in prayer our newly-elected as they make this journey through Lent to full initiation.



Beginning last Friday, March 3rd, the First Friday of Lent, our **Knights of Columbus** once again are offering their Lenten Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Bingo will also be offered as a part of the evening. Dinners may be eaten in or taken out. Beer and wine are offered when dining in at a nominal cost and delicious desserts are available without charge for those who dine in. The Lenten Fish Fry will continue on all the Fridays of Lent with the last dinner being held on Friday, April 7th. Bring your family and friends! All are welcome and invited. All proceeds benefit the charitable programs of our Knights of Columbus. Thank you for your presence and support!

The Gospels of Lent

Carolyn Krantz, Pastoral Associate, is offering a wonderful Adult Faith Formation Series on “The Gospels of Lent.” The sessions take place on Thursday mornings, immediately following the 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service. This is a wonderful way to prepare for each Sunday of Lent and to reflect on how these gospels are calling us as individuals and as a church to conversion and transformation. Please join us.



St. Joseph's Festival Dinner

Our Eleventh Annual St. Joseph's Festival Dinner will take place on Saturday, March 18th, at 6:30 p.m., immediately following the Vigil Liturgy. Tickets are available following liturgies in the Gathering Plaza at \$30.00 per person. This is always a **SOLD OUT** event so don't wait to get your tickets! We are indebted to our Social Events

Committee headed up by **Marla Plurkowski** who sponsor this wonderful dinner along with our Knights of Columbus.



COMMUNAL PENCE SERVICES

During the Season of Lent, our Deanery offers a series of Communal Penance Services in preparation for Easter. The schedule this year is as follows:

Thursday, March 30, 2017

St. Ignatius of Antioch – 7:00 p.m.
St. Peter Martyr, Pittsburg – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 3, 2017

Most Holy Rosary, Antioch – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

St. Anthony, Oakley – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

St. Anne, Byron – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 10, 2017

Our Lady Queen of the World,
Bay Point – 7:00 p.m.

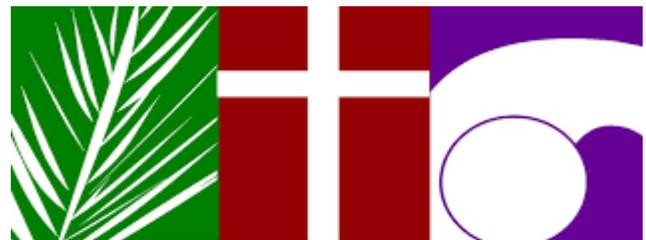
**Tuesday, March 7, 14, 21, 28 and
April 4 & 11 – Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Pittsburg



The Chrism Mass

You are cordially invited by The Bishop to attend the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on Thursday, April 6th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Oils of the Sick and Catechumens will be blessed and the Oil of Chrism will be consecrated. These are the oils that are used in the sacraments throughout the remainder of 2017. The newly-blessed Oils will be returned to the parishes to be formally presented to their respective faith communities at the liturgies of Holy Thursday evening.



Holy Week
The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus

Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017

Saturday Vigil Liturgy, 5:00 p.m.

*Blessing of Palms, Procession, Reading
of the Passion According to St. Matthew*

Sunday Eucharist, 8:00 a.m. and

10:30 a.m. – PLEASE NOTE TIME

CHANGE – *Blessing of Palms,*

Procession, Reading of the Passion

According to St. Matthew

Monday of Holy Week – April 10
Eucharist at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week – April 11
Liturgy of the Word and Holy
Communion

Wednesday of Holy Week – April 12
Eucharist at 8:00 a.m.

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday – April 13
Sung Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.

The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
at 7:30 p.m. *Presentation of the Holy
Oils, Liturgy of the Word, Washing of
Feet, Holy Eucharist, Procession to the
Altar of Repose, Adoration (Incense)*

Good Friday – April 14
Sung Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Service, "The Seven Last
Words of Christ" at 12:00 Noon
Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death
of the Lord at 3:00 p.m. *Liturgy of the
Word, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy
Communion*

Sung Evening Prayer and Veneration of
the Cross at 7:30 p.m. (Incense)

Holy Saturday – April 15
Sung Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.

The Great Paschal Vigil at 7:30 p.m.
*Lighting of the New Fire, Procession,
Liturgy of the Word, The Celebration of
the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism,
Confirmation, Holy Eucharist); Incense*

**Easter Day – The Feast of the
Resurrection – April 16**
8:00 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist
*Procession, Renewal of Baptismal
Promises and Sprinkling Rite, Holy
Eucharist (No Incense)*

10:30 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist
*Procession, Renewal of Baptismal
Promises and Sprinkling Rite, Holy
Eucharist (Incense)*



Thank You

...to all those who helped to change the
environment on Tuesday into our sacred
Lenten space: **Pablo and Norma
Villegas, Harlan Young, Nancy
DiMaggio, Gail Burgarino, Rich
Confetti, Pat Kramer, Dave Simpson,
Don Benson, Tom Catchings, Denise
Moss, Jose Palomino, Theresa Nelms,
Janice Kegler, Lorraine Lohmeier and
Al Cosce (who worked on tiles).**

...to our volunteer church cleaners who
come early every Saturday morning to
prepare the church and parish hall:
**Carole Miller, Steve Rojek, Angela
Bueno, Jun Bajet, Cathy Romeo, and
Mency Osborne and Sofie
Zimmerman.**

...to our volunteer bathroom cleaners
who clean, disinfect, and maintain the
bathrooms in both the church and parish
hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing,
Patricia Britton, Virginia Noack, and
Harlan Young.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl’Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Sofie**

Zimmerman, Harlan Young, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week’s donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller and Dave Costanza**

Get Well Cards for Father George

The office is collecting Get Well cards to be forwarded to Father George. If you would like to send your prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery, please drop your cards in the basket located in the Narthex by Wednesday, March 15th.

Mercy and Preparation

Father of all creation,
even when the serpent tricked our
first parents,
when they disobeyed you and lost
your friendship,
even when we are tricked by the many
serpents of our time,
and commit sin before you and our brothers
and sisters,
you never abandon us.
You have sent us your Son, our Lord
Jesus Christ.
Through his sacrifice, you continue
to offer mercy,
so that all your people may be made
righteous.
In these Forty Days of prayer, fasting,
and almsgiving,
may we walk with our sisters and brothers
who are preparing to enter the baptismal
waters of Easter,
and earnestly prepare ourselves to renew
our own baptismal promises.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.