

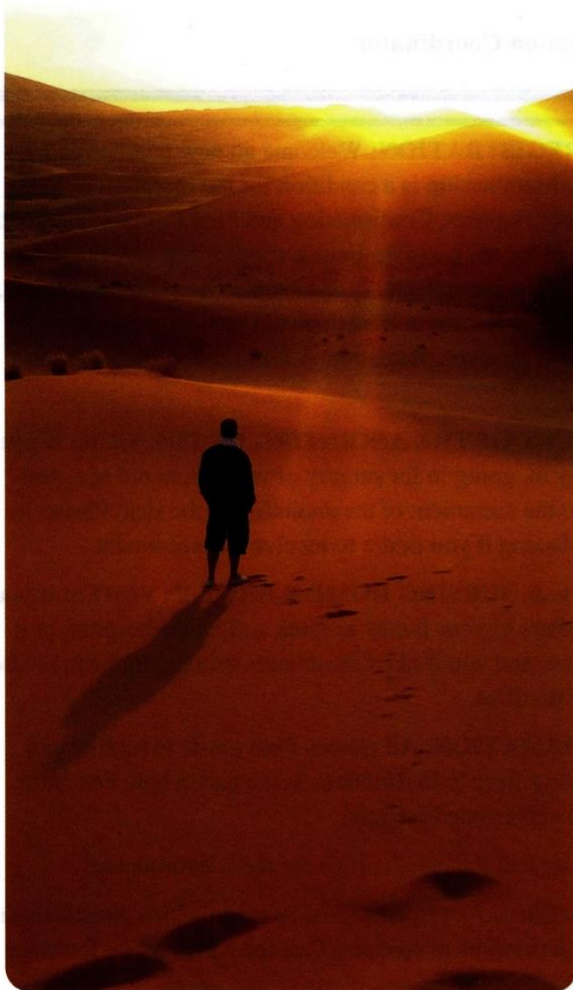


Living in Fantasy

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Filled with the Holy Spirit,
Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the desert
for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

LUKE 4:1-2A



I *f I Were a Horse* by Elizabeth Bridgman is a children's story about Jenny, who daydreams about being a horse and then accepts her true reality, as she realizes no one will recognize her as a horse. In the end, she finds that she likes herself as she truly is.

The story may also be a metaphor for our human fantasy about sin, by which we try to redefine the world on our own terms, only to realize that life does not go so well when we do this. It is our stealing by which we pretend that something belongs to us rather than to another. It is our lying that attempts to redefine truth in terms of what we want life to be, rather than in what life really is. It is our addictions that redefine the source of meaning and life not as God, but as ourselves and our wants. Lent brings us face to face with who we are—which is not a horse (real or otherwise), but, by God's design, is a daughter or son of God.

The temptations Jesus experienced in the desert were temptations to define life on his own terms, just as we are often tempted to do. Yet, Jesus was the one who got it right. For him, stones were stones, not bread. Power and glory were God's, not his. He would not put God to the test, thinking he could manipulate God and get God to do what Jesus wanted. Jesus was the faithful one. ●

Reflect

What about my life do I struggle to accept?

Saint Benedict Catholic Church

336-272-0303

Website: stbenedictgreensboro.net

Email: Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm on Wednesday and Friday

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.

Rev. James Duong, Pastor

Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator

Weekend Mass

Sat. Miraculous Medal

Novena at 4:45pm

Mass at 5:00pm

Sun. Mass at 8am & 11am

Chaplet of Divine

Mercy after 11am

Mass

Confessions

Weekdays before 12:15

Mass

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

Weekday Mass

Rosary at 11:45am

Mass Monday - Friday

12:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

after Mass

NO MASS on Thursday

Bulletin requests must be in the Parish Office by noon Wednesday, ten (10) days in advance of the weekend of publication.

PARISH REGISTRATION: Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS: If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

FAITH FORMATION: All classes from pre-K to high school are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

RCIA: Please call the parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 9, 2025

For expectant mothers placing their children for adoption:

May they receive loving support as they walk this journey.

MASS SCHEDULE

INTENTIONS

3/8	Saturday	5:00pm		Kimberly Oliver - healing
3/9	Sunday	8:00am	+	Victor Bliden
		11:00am		For the Parishioners
3/10	Monday	12:15pm		Room at the Inn
3/11	Tuesday	12:15pm		Eric Hofer & family
3/12	Wednesday	12:15pm	+	Elizabeth D'Amelio
3/13	Thursday	NO MASS		
3/14	Friday	12:15pm		Intention of Father Duc
3/15	Saturday	5:00pm		Roberta VanPelt - healing
3/16	Sunday	8:00am	+	Marjorie Brown
		11:00am		For the Parishioners

+ denotes deceased

Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers

Khiem Villarin
Kharll Skycer Villarin
Sgt. W.R. Williams III
Maj. Russel Henderson
Sgt. Bryanna Spade
Sgt. Kyle Spade
April Ducote
Aaron Gaither
Phillip Kiniery
Christopher Simmons
Kris Guffey
Jennifer Kmiecinski

Sick and Shut-In

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers and at Mass: Lynn Clay, Richard Collings, Virgil Dotson, Lupina Doyle, Janice Drasler, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards, Bonnie McIntyre, Kimberly Oliver, Barbara Parsons, George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny & Laura Rodrigues, Kim Snyder, Vivian Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin Jr., Teresa Thu Tran, Roberta VanPelt, Frank Williams, Wilson, Brian Wilson, Jean Wilson

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory	\$ 5,286.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,425.00

THANK YOU!

MINISTER SCHEDULE: MARCH 15 AND 16

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	Kim Garcia	Brendan Hodges	Emily, Gloria	Lori Hodges
8 am	Mary Ann Garcia	David Kolosieke	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	TBD	Laura Rosic	Ava	Choir

REFLECTION



Cardinal Thomas Collins, in his Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, says that, "Deep stewardship begins with gratitude and ends with accountability ... We recognize gratefully that everything in life is a gift of God."

LEAVE A LEGACY

If you are 70-1/2 or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to St. Benedict's from your IRA. This allows you to avoid paying income taxes on the amount distributed without the need to itemize your taxes. You can give up to \$100,000 in QCDs per individual this year (up to \$200,000 for a married couple).

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, what or who sustains me in hope through periods of trial?



PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL 2025**

Reflecting God's Light

THE DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA) 2025 is underway. This year's theme is "Reflecting God's Light". We are all called to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters both here in our parish and in the diocese. **The target for St. Benedict's is \$31,234.** Thank You!

This week we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Nancy Popik (3/8), Frank Hall, Jr. (3/9), Jim Martin (3/10), Tom Gale (3/10),
Stephen Daughton (3/10), Kimberly Oliver (3/11), Brianna Oliver (3/11),
Kharll Villarin (3/11), Ronald Taylor (3/13)



DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX (DMI) SURVEYS are now available on-line at <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/x43ya6> or in a printed version in the church. Both versions are confidential and should be completed prior to April 8. It is important that St. Benedict's receives input from every parish family. Together we embrace Christ's vision for discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith

FAITH FORMATION

During Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross in the parish hall at the end of classes. All are welcome.

A JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE 2025

Fr. James Duong at St. Benedict Parish in Greensboro,
Fr. Tien Duong at St. Francis Assisi in Franklin,
Fr. Tri Duong at St. John University in New York,
invite you to join them on a 12-day pilgrimage to ITALY...
... to visit PADRE PIO, St. FRANCIS, St. CLARE, St. BENEDICT...
... to have a Papal audience with Pope Francis...
... to visit JUBILEE DOORS at 4 major basilicas...
... and Our Lady of Medjugorje.

For further information, please call Fr. James Duong at 336-272-0303
or djduong@rcdoc.org or check here for details: trip.nativitypilgrimage.com/np4256
Brochures are available in the vestibules of the church.





LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Weekdays of Lent:

There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent)

All who have reached the age of 14 are bound to totally abstain from meat.

LENTEN SCHEDULE AT ST. BENEDICT

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday of Lent at 6 p.m.

Every Sunday in the parish hall following Faith Formation classes

Penance Service:

St. Benedict's TBA

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:



Telling the story of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus was an important part of the early Christian's experience. In the late fourth century, people began making pilgrimages to the Holy Land, where they would follow the path that Jesus took to Calvary. During the Middle Ages, when outbreaks of war made it impossible for people to travel to the Holy Land, people created a Via Dolorosa, or "Sorrowful Way," in their towns and villages. They erected paintings or sculptures depicting the Passion of Christ along a processional route or inside a church. By the mid-18th century, the number of stations was fixed at 14 and the devotion known as the Stations of the Cross, also called the Way of the Cross, became widespread.



March 9, 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26:4-10 | Rom 10:8-13 | Lk 4:1-13

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

We've all seen it: the standard cartoon sketch in which the main character, faced with a decision, imagines the devil coaxing him toward evil on one shoulder while an angel encourages him toward good on the other. Lighthearted though they are, these classic scenes are the product of Biblical wisdom and millennia of human experience. In fact, the Garden of Eden provided the prototype: Eve was the first to listen to Satan in a conversation that was disastrous for her and her descendants. It is no coincidence that, in today's Gospel, Jesus finds himself in a desert - the "opposite" of a garden, so to speak - where he, too, confronts the devil. But note Jesus' response to Satan's advances: the Incarnate Word of God neither barter nor argues from human wisdom. For no amount of time does he turn over Satan's proposals in his heart. Instead, Jesus rejects the temptations immediately and relies on the power of the Word of God to put the devil in his place.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Lenten season is meant to be a "desert" in which we, like Jesus, confront temptation. It is not a self-improvement program; it is an opportunity to reject sins, habits, and attitudes which keep us distant from God so that we can give a wholehearted "yes" to his plan for our lives. But the scene from today's Gospel is offered on the first Sunday of Lent to remind us that we do not go into the desert alone. Jesus entered first to show us that he would be with us every time we are tempted. If, instead of giving Satan airtime, we stay close to Jesus (in prayer and by frequenting the sacraments) and immerse ourselves in the Word of God (by reading Scripture), we, like him, will draw our strength from God. We will emerge victorious because, as St. Paul reminds us, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart," and "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

PLAN

Have you made a Lenten plan yet? If not, the time is now! Don't be afraid to be generous with God. Remember the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Could you add a daily Mass or Rosary to your schedule? Could you incorporate some form of self-denial into your weekly meal plan or media consumption? Once you've worked out a plan, offer it to God and ask him to bless your efforts to grow in virtue out of love for him.

Dear Padre,

Who decided that fish isn't meat? I really dislike fish; also, it bugs me when my friends eat lobster for dinner on Fridays in the name of "sacrifice."

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law, as written in Latin, states that we must abstain from *carne* (meat), a word that refers to warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish is allowed.

You make an excellent point about the lobster dinners and the nature of sacrifice. In the document "Questions and Answers About Lent and Lenten Practices," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, "While fish, lobster, and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer."

As we enter Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up, like meat. Our fasting isn't just an external discipline—sacrifice for the sake of checking a box. It's supposed to be a sacrifice that leads us closer to God. When we take that deeper step ourselves, then we can invite our friends to go deeper, too. ●

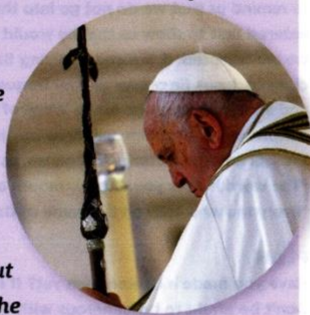


SWEET MARSHMALLOW / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus opposes the attractions of evil...by responding to temptations with the word of God, which says not to take advantage...to obtain privileges. Because true happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service.



VATICAN MEDIA

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 6, 2022

Monday March 10 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt 25:31-46	Thursday March 13 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12	Saturday March 15 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48
Tuesday March 11 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15	Friday March 14 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26	Sunday March 16 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36
Wednesday March 12 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32		

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.