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Sharing God's Blessings

Date	Collection
Mar 1&2	\$ 2162
Flood Disaster collection \$240	

Thanks for your contribution

**Altar Society will held the meeting
 March 16, after Mass.**

CCD Class will be held on March 9 and 23
 Parents, please bring your kids to the class

• **OCIA Class will be held
 on Mar 14 at 6:00 p.m**

All are welcome to join us to share your faith
 with Catechumens and Candidates.

Please contact Fr. Thien Nguyen for:

- **Anointing of the sick; Holy Communion to the sick or homebound.**
- **Baptism of infants and Children under 7. RCIA/RCIC is for adults and children older than 7. Mee**

+ Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should be made with the pastor at least Six months before a wedding. Please, do not set a wedding date before contacting your pastor. Preparation classes with the pastor are required.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 5:00 p.m
 SUNDAY 11:00 a.m
WEEKDAY: Tue, Wed, Thu at 5:00 p.m.
Friday Mass During Lent at 5:00 p.m
STATION OF THE CROSS 5:30 P.M

Holy Day of Obligation at 6:00 p.m
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
 Every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m prior to Mass
RECONCILIATION: Any time 30 minutes before or after daily Mass, After Sunday Mass
Other days by appointment

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 8 for
 Peter Khang Nguyen & Anna Ho Le
SUNDAY MARCH 9
FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS
 Tue, Mar 11 Peter Khang Nguyen & Anna Ho Le
 Wed, Mar 12 - Peter Khang Nguyen & Anna Ho Le
 Thus, Mar 13—For benefactors of parish

Friday, Mar 14— Mass at 5:00 p.m
 for Anh Nguyen's family/children
 —Rq Chi Anh Nguyen

**ALL FRIDAY MASSES DURING LENT WILL
 BE AT 5:00 PM. THE STATIONS OF THE
 CROSS WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY
 AFTER THE MASS AT 5:30 PM.**

Food Pantry-Help Wanted!
**Please sign up your name on sign up list if
 you want to**

March 12: Unload + Prepacked
 1:00 p.m.

Distribute on March 13
 from 8:00 a.m. —noon

**Important Guidelines
 For All Catholics For Lent (USCCB)**
 Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Greetings on the First Sunday of Lent
Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent as we begin our journey through the holy season of Lent—a time of prayer, penance, and reflection. I would like to ask for your special prayers for OCIA/OCIA candidates as their faith journey is about to culminate with joining our church at Easter Vigil. We have 4 candidates (already baptized in non-Catholic Community) who will become the fully members of our church at Easter Vigil and 10 catechumens (to be baptized). Please keep their sponsors in your prayers as well.

The readings for this First Sunday of Lent bring us face to face with the powerful and deeply spiritual reality of temptation and the strength we need to resist it. In today's Gospel, we see Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, retreating into the desert. For forty days, He fasts and prays, preparing for the great mission ahead of Him. But, at the end of these forty days, He is faced with the devil's temptations. This passage is not just a story from the past but a message for each of us as we confront our own challenges, trials, and temptations in life.

We can give these three temptations that Jesus faced different names, but perhaps we could call them by three names that begin with 'P' to make them easier to remember: Pleasure, Pride, and Power.

The first temptation of Jesus is to turn stones into bread: *"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."* This temptation is the temptation of **PLEASURE**—the desire to satisfy our immediate needs and desires, often at the expense of spiritual growth or relationships.

The second temptation strikes at the heart of humanity's **PRIDE**. Satan wants Jesus to do something spectacular to show off and test God: *"The devil led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the Temple, and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,'* claiming that God will not allow Jesus to be hurt." It is the temptation to use God, to manipulate Him, instead of becoming His servant. The desire to manipulate or control God, testing His faithfulness rather than trusting Him completely.

The third temptation is the temptation of **POWER**. Here *Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor, promising that if Jesus worshiped him, he would give Him the power to rule the world.* In this temptation, Satan urged Jesus to establish the kingdom of God through earthly power, instead of choosing the path of Love, which involves suffering and death. It was a temptation to do the right thing using the wrong means—to use power to rule instead of Love.

These three temptations are symbolic of the major ways in which we too can be tempted in our own lives. In facing each of these temptations, Jesus does not respond by relying on His own strength. Instead, He turns to Scripture. Each time He is tempted, He responds with a powerful word from God's Word: **"It is written..."**

In our own struggles with temptation, we often feel overwhelmed, weak, or discouraged. We might think that our temptations are too great or that we will never be able to overcome them. But the key to resisting temptation lies in the same tool that Jesus used: **the Word of God and prayer.**

Jesus did not meet the devil with strength, wealth, or cleverness, but with God's truth. He knew the Scriptures well and used them to guide His thoughts and actions. The Word of God is not just a collection of ancient writings, but a living and active force that can transform our lives. In moments of temptation, we can turn to Scripture and find the strength to resist. When we are faced with difficult choices, we should seek God's Word to give us wisdom and clarity.

Additionally, prayer is essential. Jesus spent time in prayer before facing His temptations. Our relationship with God must be nourished in prayer, especially during this time of Lent. Prayer strengthens our resolve, renews our spirit, and reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles. God is with us.

LENTEN SEASON OPPORTUNITIES

Daily Mass: Join us for daily Mass throughout Lent to nourish your soul and deepen your relationship with Christ.

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday at 5:00 PM, we will gather for Mass and the Stations of the Cross. This is a powerful opportunity to meditate on Christ's Passion and grow in your spiritual life during this season.

Lenten Almsgiving: Please consider donating to our parish's Lenten almsgiving initiative to support our ministry, *Walking with Moms in Need*. Donations can be placed in the designated box at the entrance of the church, or you can bring non-perishable food and place it in the collection box in the Hall.

Give a hand to help our Food Pantry: Please sign up on the list to help our Food Pantry.

Lenten Penance Service: Mark your calendars for our Lenten Penance Service on April 6th, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, after Mass.

THANK YOU!

On Friday, Feb 28, parishioners of Risen Lord and St. Thomas delivered a truckload of food, furniture, hygiene products, and clothes to the people in McDowell County who were affected by the flood earlier this month. They were all so grateful for our donations. Thanks to those who helped us and for your generous donations.

IT'S IN GIVING WE RECEIVE!



Feb 26 & 27, parishioners and volunteers of Risen Lord Food Pantry distributed more than 14,000 lb of food for 244 family of the needy in Clay County. Thank you all Benefactors and Volunteers.

