

**Gathered Together: A Lenten Journey of
Love and Belonging**

First Sunday of Lent | March 9, 2025 | Luke 4:1-13
Theme for the week: Seeing Beyond Ourselves
Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar story of the Temptation of Jesus. Notice when the devil came to test Jesus: after 40 days of solitude and fasting in the desert, when he was physically weak and hungry. Get him while he's weak, or so the devil thought. Armed with the Word of God, Jesus was ready to face these temptations. After all, he himself is the Word made flesh.

It can be tempting to think of this episode as a "feats of strength" test: Jesus vs. Satan in the ultimate matchup. But rather than being determined to win this battle for pride, he vanquishes his enemy and then returns to Galilee to begin his ministry.

He does it for us.

What does this moment teach us about our own trials? When we face temptations or challenges, we often tend to turn inward, letting those "tests" consume us entirely. But what if we looked to Jesus as our model in those moments? He faced temptation not for his own sake but for ours, showing us how to resist and move forward. Could we follow his example—claim the victory that is already ours through him—and return to serving others with renewed strength?

Daily Challenges

- 3/9/25—If you are dealing with a personal struggle, decide to put it on hold just for today and pray: Jesus, I trust in you.
- 3/10/25—Turn off your phone for one hour (or more!) and contemplate Christ's solitude in the desert.
- 3/11/25—Check in on someone who lives alone.
- 3/12/25—Smile at a stranger today (even if it feels uncomfortable).
- 3/13/25—Spend time in Eucharistic Adoration (or virtual Adoration). Even 15 minutes will be a blessing.
- 3/14/25—Offer a prayer for the Church and the unity of believers. Don't forget: today is a day to abstain from meat!
- 3/15/25—Prepare for the Second Sunday of Lent by reading the Gospel, Luke 9:28b-36.

Lenten Challenge

Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert. Pick one day this week and fast from something (i.e., TV, social media, a particular food or drink, etc.) as a family. Offer the fast for a particular prayer intention (i.e., the health of a grandparent, a neighbor going through a rough time, for someone to come to know Jesus, etc.).



Simply put, blood is needed to save human life. It is such an easy way to give back. We currently have 5 donors signed-up. Our hope is to collect a minimum of 15 units. We must come together to ensure these life-saving products are available. Come to Sacred Heart of Jesus on March 13 from 2:45—6 pm if you are able to help. Thank you!

Saint Mary's Village Church
P.O. Box 155
St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876
(812) 535—1261
www.saintmaryvillagechurch.org

March 9, 2025
1st Sunday of Lent



Weekend Worship Sunday 9 am

Parish Life Coordinator
Elizabeth Davis
elizabeth@shjth.org
(812) 240—5234
Hours: TH, F 9—4

Secretary
Connie Fitch
secretary@shjth.org
(502) 821—1022
Hours: W, F 8:30—2:30

We welcome new members. To enroll, call the Parish Office or contact Connie Fitch.

Coordinator of Religious Education
Jena Robertson
jenaleerobertson@gmail.com
(812) 243—5070

Sacramental Minister
Fr. Darvin Winters

Fr. Darvin is available to hear confessions on Saturdays from 4—4:20 pm at Sacred Heart or by appointment.

The sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony are arranged by calling the Parish Office to schedule preparation.

Ministries

Date	Mar 9	Mar 16
Lector	Reagan Taylor	Easton Robertson
Server	Lane Norton	Owen Ramsey
Gift Bearers	Terri Acton Mark Arnold	Bennett Family or Volunteer
Ushers	Matt Breneman Bob Curley	Steve Norris Waylon Robertson
EMs	Kelly Stafford Pam Norris	Marylou Thralls Lana Thralls
Counters	Bob & Patricia Kane	Tom McKinney Need Volunteer
Cleaners	Eric & Tammy Cegielski	

BIRTHDAYS

Jayden Vest	9
Joe Vest	10
Sally Rice	15

Please Pray For Our Loved Ones

David Auterson	Gary Garzolini
Jon Auterson	John Heck
Ray Edwards	Dan Kane
Jane Frazier	

Gift Card Bingo

Be sure to purchase your tickets from Robin or Kelly to attend the Gift Card Bingo on **March 16** at 1 pm at West Vigo High School. Doors open at Noon. Food will be available for purchase.

SAVE THE DATE

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Parish Council & Finance Meeting on March 23 at 10 am in Galvin Hall.

Job Opportunity

Do you have some hidden talents that you are dying to share? We would love to have you. Sacred Heart of Jesus is looking to hire a pianist for both weekend masses. Anyone interested in applying please see Elizabeth.



Special Collection Envelope

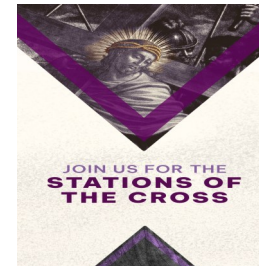
Today, our parish will take up the 141st annual Black & Indian Mission Collection. Our support helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Your contribution helps spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters within the United States.

Finance Report

Description	March 2	Budgeted
Sunday Collection	\$ 2,767	\$ 2,308
Galvin Fund	\$ 410	\$ 115
Church in Europe	\$245	

Mass Intentions

- 3/9 Maureen & Gary Davis
By Roseann Richey
- 3/9 In Honor of Greg & Marylu Thralls
By Frances Faulkner



Fridays
During Lent
6 pm
Sacred Heart
of Jesus

Fish Frys Near Me

Date: March 14
When: 4—7 pm
Where: Sacred Heart, Clinton
\$12 /Adults
\$ 6 /Kids 12 & under
Jonah Fish Fry

Prayer for Pope Francis

Loving God:

As Francis, our beloved pope, suffers from grave illnesses, we come before you in prayer.

We ask you to look with mercy on your servant Francis, who has served you devotedly and tirelessly as a Jesuit, a priest, an archbishop, a cardinal and as pope.

Most of all, he has served you as a faithful Christian sharing the love, mercy and compassion that your Son showed to all he encountered in his public ministry, especially those who were poor or in any way struggling.

During his papacy, Francis has striven to imitate your Son by reaching out to all who were feeling abandoned, ignored or neglected, making it his special task to care for those who were in any way sick.

As Francis himself now faces serious and complex illnesses, help the doctors, nurses and medical team who care for him, help him bear any pain with grace and help him to heal quickly.

Send your Holy Spirit, your own breath, into his weakened lungs to heal him, inspire him and raise him up again so that he may live out his vocation as the Vicar of Christ.

But if it is your will, loving God, to take him to yourself, let his passing into new life be painless and peaceful. We ask all this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Written by Fr. James Martin