



**Temptations** *Adam and Eve couldn't resist the seduction of the serpent. They were tested and they failed. On the other hand, despite three appealing circumstances (food for the hungry, sensationalism, and power), Jesus resisted Satan's tempting challenges. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, contrasts for us the differences in these two situations. One human's disobedience brought about sin and death. Another human's obedience freed us from sin and death. We are blessed, even in our human condition, with the gift of salvation.*

**COMMENT**

The serpent is clearly used to awaken Eve's desire to eat. Neither she nor Adam could resist tasting the fruit of the forbidden tree. Their disobedience to God's command is considered to be the original source of sin in humankind.

The "Big Guy" came out for Jesus. It was Satan, not just any evil creature, who presented Jesus with three tests. First of all, Jesus had to have been starving. He hadn't eaten for forty days, so the temptation of food probably seemed like a sure bet to Satan. But Jesus resisted. "Okay, if you're not hungry, let's try something spectacular. Throw yourself from the temple roof and show everyone how God will save you." Again, Jesus refused. If all else fails, go for greed. Offer Jesus all the power and wealth of the world. When Jesus obeyed God for the third time, Satan could do no more. He left Jesus.

Paul parallels these two events. In both instances, evil forces try coaxing and tricking the people involved to eat something. Adam and Eve are hungry to become like God. Jesus is coming off a forty-day fast. Adam and Eve get duped. They fall for the con. Jesus doesn't submit. He chooses not to use his power and in his humility sends Satan packing.

A contrast in the human condition is clear between the first reading and the Gospel. Adam initiates sin with disobedience. A certain gloom and darkness permeate the world after the fall of Adam and Eve. God is no longer directly accessible to people, and they fall into sinful ways without God. In the era of the New Adam, a transformation occurs. There is salvation through Christ. Jesus saves us from sin because he obeyed. He brings us new life; once again we have a direct connection with God.

**"The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."**

— *Matthew 4:10*

Why was Jesus out in the wilderness starving himself in the first place? God's plan had been made clear to Jesus. He knew what it was he had to do. He knew it would not be easy. Jesus needed time to prepare for the difficult task that lay ahead, and to do this, he needed some quiet time with God to pray, to listen, and to plan.

When Jesus finished, Satan was waiting for him. Satan, like the serpent with Adam and Eve, made it sound like no big deal. "If you're the son of God, just do it." And the serpent, "Just take a little bite; everybody's doing it." Two thousand years later, we're still being tempted to just do it because everyone else is. We lower our standards, the standards Jesus showed us, for ourselves, our children, our loved ones. Why? For all kinds of reasons. We live in a time when instant gratification and personal pleasure are not only acceptable but expected. If we have the resources, there are few things we say "no" to. If we have enough money we buy it (sometimes we buy it anyway); if we have the figure, we wear it (sometimes we wear it anyway); if we have the energy we do it (sometimes we do it anyway).

We can only serve one God. Jesus knew this and Adam and Eve found out. Do other masters call us?

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**Lenten Regulations on Fasting and Abstinence**

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are obligatory days of both **fast and abstinence from meat**.

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal per day. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may also be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. For members of our Latin Catholic Church, **the norms on fasting are obligatory from the 18th birthday until the 59th birthday**.

**All Fridays of Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat.**

Abstinence means not eating the meat of warm-blooded animals (such as beef, lamb, chicken, and pork). Fish and all cold-blooded animals may be eaten (such as shrimp, frogs, and clams). **All those who have reached their 14th birthday and older are bound by the law of abstinence from meat.**

Abstinence from meat on other Fridays of the year is recommended but not required.

**February 14/ 15, 2026 COLLECTION DATA**

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$ 5,397.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1,421.10
BUILDING FUND.....	<u>1,074.00</u>
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	<u>\$7,892.10</u>

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**Saturday, February 21st -**

**5:00PM-IHM** – +Maria Morales Guerrero, Rodolfo Morales, Carlos C, Carlos Sr. and Maria Guerrero; +Gloria Castro, Delia Sparkman, Rudy Torres, Nellie, Dolores, Francisco, Frank, Jr., Velia, Juana, Tony y Patricia Gomez



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**Sunday, February 22nd -**

**8:00AM** – IHM +Christopher Cardoza; +Richard Ramirez; +Rodrigo De Loera  
**11:00AM** – IHM For the People of Nolan County

**Tuesday, February 24th 9:00AM - HF**

+Ruben, Francisca y Angela Aguilera

**• Wednesday, February 25th 6:00PM - IHM**

In thanksgiving to St. Anthony

**Thursday, February 26th 9:00AM-HF**

+Maria Aguilera

**Friday, February 27th 9:00AM HF**

+Julian Ramos

**Saturday, February 28th -**

**5:00PM-IHM** – For the People of Nolan County

**Sunday, March 1st -**

**8:00AM** – IHM +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira; +Marcelino Rodriguez; In thanksgiving for the birthdays of Arianni Martinez and Nayely Hernandez

**11:00AM** – IHM In thanksgiving for Frs. Josh’s birthday; +Sam Ramirez & +Jaime Montealvo

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
- Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

**HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE**

Feb. 28 Finance March 7 Grupo Misionero

**RELIGION CLASSES ---**

- Sunday Classes 9:30 - 10:40A.M.
- Wednesday Classes 7:00 - 8:30P.M
- OCIA –Thursdays, 6pm at HF Hall, 507 Crane St.

**• HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE – Wednesday -**

Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm and Adoration until 8:30pm at IHM. Holy Hour of Adoration this Wednesday, February 25th, will be offered for **Peace**.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Via Crucis** - all Fridays during Lent, 6:00pm followed by soup/snacks at the Parish Hall @Immaculate Heart. Hosting this week is the Finance Council.

**ULTREYA MEETINGS**

Sunday, February 22nd - 6:00pm (*English*)  
Monday, February 23rd - 7:00pm (*Spanish*)  
Both at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit <http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html>

**PARISH MOVIE GROUP** – meets Sunday, February 22nd, 4:00pm, Holy Family Hall.

**“FISHERS OF MEN” Annual Benefit Dinner**

Saturday, February 28, 7:00-9:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm, Bentwood Country Club, 2111 Club House Lane, San Angelo, Texas. Registration must be received by Tuesday, February 24th. For more information visit [GRNonline.com/FOM](http://GRNonline.com/FOM) or Email [Kimberleigh@GRNonline.com](mailto:Kimberleigh@GRNonline.com)

**LENTEN RETREAT** Young Adult Mini Retreat –for ages 18-39, Silent Retreat – Hosted by St. John Catholic Campus Outreach, Saturday, March 7th, 9:30am - 3:00pm, Mount Carmel Hermitage, 7637 Allen Road, Christoval, Texas.

Catherine Gonzales <[cagonzales831@yahoo.com](mailto:cagonzales831@yahoo.com)>  
Deadline to RSVP – Monday, March 2nd.

**ST. JOSEPH’S YOUTH GOLF TOURNAMENT–**

April 4th, 8AM, Big Spring Comanche Trail Golf Course; Hole Sponsors Needed \$300  
Register Now: [StantonStJosephYouth@gmail.com](mailto:StantonStJosephYouth@gmail.com)  
Text Mark G. (432)312-2757 or Amanda G. (432)212-1000 Register Deadline – March 21.

**FOOD DRIVE**

The parish will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to one of our local food pantries. You can bring your donations to any of the Masses during the month of February. Let us share what we have with those in need.  
**God Bless you – Thank you!**

**COLECTA DE ALIMENTOS**

La parroquia recolectará alimentos no-percederos para donar a una de nuestras despensas de alimentos locales. Puede traer sus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas durante el mes de febrero. Compartamos lo que tenemos con los necesitados. **Dios lo Bendiga- Gracias!**

# PRAYER FOR PEACE

O God, creator of the universe,  
source of all life,  
praised be your name forever.

We ask you to move human hearts  
so that enemies may speak to each other again,  
adversaries join hands,  
and nations seek the way of peace together.

Turn hatred into love,  
complacency into care,  
fear into trust,  
despair into hope,  
revenge into forgiveness,  
and war into peace.

Give us enough love and courage  
to build a world  
that honors the rights of all.

Change the hearts of aggressors,  
so they may respect the dignity of life.

Help us to enter into honest and respectful dialogue  
with those who are different from ourselves.

Keep us from being indifferent.

Soften our hearts.

Open our ears.

Help us to listen with compassion to the other person,  
sharing in the pain caused by their wounds.

We humbly pray to you:

help us to live in solidarity with all people  
and so to honor you,  
forever and ever.

Amen.

*Compiled from a variety of sources by Bishop Michael J. Sis*

