

From The Pastor's Desk

A poster from the 1960s offered an excellent commentary on human nature: two babies in diapers, each about the same age, sat facing each other. One was reaching out to the other as though to establish contact. The caption underneath said: "At last I have found someone exactly like me." One of the babies was black; the other was white. That strikes me as an interesting comment on the similarity and the dissimilarity in human beings. Sometimes we think that our needs and problems are unique to us, that no one else in all the world has ever felt this way or faced this kind of situation.

Perhaps, it was this kind of feeling on the part of his disciples that prompted Jesus to tell of the experience recorded in our Gospel reading for today. Surely, he must have reported it, or how else could it have been known? He alone was there, far from the crowds, when the tempter came. Some have real difficulty grasping the thought that our Lord was truly tempted. Perhaps, the disciples had wondered about this themselves. Maybe, they thought of him as being beyond temptation, above the struggles of ordinary people. I can imagine a scene in which the disciples were engaged with Jesus in intimate conversation. At some point, one of them opened up his heart and told of a personal battle he had been fighting; then another did the same thing. Probably, they were uneasy, baring their hearts, admitting their struggles and risking the ridicule of their peers. So finally, Jesus put them all at ease by telling the story of his own temptations.

Personally, I find great comfort in what the New Testament tells us about the humanity of our Lord. The mystery that he is both genuinely human and genuinely divine remains and, in this life, will never be resolved. But, the fact that he had to win over temptation in order to live as he lived furnishes great encouragement to me in my own daily struggles. Several key thoughts suggest themselves to me: **1.** Everyone must face and deal with temptation; **2.** We are assured that temptations, in and of itself, are not a sin; **3.** We can also draw strength by realizing that the temptation of Jesus was desperately real; **4.** We can also be strengthened by recognizing that temptation is often deceptively subtle; **5.** We can find strength by sharing each other's struggles.

The more I read the Gospels, the more I am convinced that Jesus lived his life in the same strength which is available to me. When Jesus says to the tempter: "*It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve,*" he is speaking of the foundational strength of his life. He is saying: I get my power from God the Father. He is the basic value in my life. I draw my worth from Him. I receive my power for living from Him. I will not compromise that relationship.

The question is not, "*Will I be tempted?*" But rather, the question is, "*Will I draw from the deep wells of my relationship with God - as Jesus did - to face the temptation?*"

Fr. Joe

Weekly Readings

Sunday, Feb. 14	<i>Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13</i>
Monday, Feb. 15	<i>Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46</i>
Tuesday, Feb. 16	<i>Is 55: 10-11; Mt 6:7-15</i>
Wednesday, Feb. 17	<i>Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32</i>
Thursday, Feb. 18	<i>Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12</i>
Friday, Feb. 19	<i>Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26</i>
Saturday, Feb. 20	<i>Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48</i>
Sunday, Feb. 21	<i>Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36</i>

Liturgy, Reconciliation & Activities

Sunday, Feb. 14 First Sunday of Lent & World Marriage Day

8:00 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Zeb Baird
8:30 a.m.	Food & Fellowship/CFF Valentine's Day Fundraiser
9:15/11:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation/Adult Clusters 1, 2
9:15/11:15 a.m.	First Grade Family Session
9:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Edward Steiniger
11:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Leoncia Salvador
1:30 p.m.	Confirmation Preparation—Parents & Students
5:30 p.m.	Holy Mass—Intentions of Francis X. Ries

Monday, Feb. 15

8:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Deceased Timms & Bond Family Members
9:15 a.m.	Monday Morning Scripture Study
7:00 p.m.	Young Adults/Liturgy Comm. Mtg.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

8:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Ralph Thorpe
7:00 p.m.	"The One Thing is Three" Class
7:30 p.m.	K of C Officer Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 17

8:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Virginia Sikorski
9:30 a.m.	Legion of Mary
6:00 p.m.	Confessions / Family Prayer Group
7:00 p.m.	Wednesday Evening Scripture Study
7:00 p.m.	RCIA Catechetical Session

Thursday, Feb. 18

8:30 a.m.	Holy Mass & Anointing — †Juan Jose Flores
6:30 p.m.	Catholic Daughters of the Americas General Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Community Life Commission Meeting
7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Friday, Feb. 19

8:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Bob Rombach
9:15 a.m.	1st Friday Expo/Adoration/Benediction
5:00 p.m.	K of C Fish Fry
6:00 p.m.	Confessions
7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross

Saturday, Feb. 20

8:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Cresenera B. Joven
3:30 p.m.	Confessions until 5:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	Choir Practice/Mendoza Quinceñera Party
5:30 p.m.	Holy Mass—†Jim Rourke

Sunday, Feb. 21 Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m.	Holy Mass—People of Holy Spirit
8:00 a.m.	K of C Parish Blood Drive
8:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Food & Fellowship
9:15/11:15 a.m.	Kindergarten Family Session
9:15/11:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation/Adult Clusters 1, 2
9:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†John & Joyce McCain
11:30 a.m.	Holy Mass—†Aldin & Imelda Barton
5:30 p.m.	Holy Mass—People of Holy Spirit

Youth Ministry

Happy Valentines Day! How do you show your love for your family and for God? Look up the true meaning of Valentine's Day and find resources for Lent at www.bustedhalo.com!

Our Youth Stations of the Cross presentation will be the evening of **Friday, Feb. 26**. After the Fish Fry, jo the sanctuary for our shadow stations. You won't want to miss them!

Mark your calendars for our next day of service! **Saturday, Mar. 5** we will be helping at the North Texas Food Bank!

Holy Spirit Catholic Church's Friday Lenten schedule is:

Holy Hour: 9:00—10:00 a.m.

Fish Fry: 5:00—7:30 p.m.
sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Confessions: 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross: 7:00 p.m.
(Mar. 4: 6:30 p.m.)

Fasting: In addition to Ash Wednesday, fasting Should be observed on Good Friday by all who are 18-59 years-old. Abstinence from meat on Fridays of Lent should be observed by all who have reached their 14th birthday. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat **one** full meal. Two smaller meals be also be taken, but should not be equal to a full meal.



As part of the Year of Mercy, the Southwest Deanery will have a pilgrimage to Cathedral Guadalupe in downtown Dallas **THIS THURSDAY, Feb. 18**. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. followed by Holy Hour with Confessions. Please join us!

Fun, Fellowship & Books! Join the Cistercian community for **Book Fair PLUS!**, a wonderful spring celebration of literacy and sharing, **Sunday, Feb. 28**, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (**3550 Cistercian Rd, Irving, TX**) in the West Gym. Mass will be held in the Abbey Church at 10:30 a.m. Books are being collected to benefit local schools and community agencies. In addition, the Austin Street Center, St. Vincent de Paul, The Birth Weight Development Center, Dallas Dog RRR, and Carter BloodCare will be on hand. Book Fair activities will include: a children's books section, face painting, balloons, bake sale, and food!



Flowers for our Lord's Altar this week were donated by Michael & Belinda Sikorski in memory of †**Virginia Sikorski**

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in memory of †**Virginia Sikorski**.

Sacramental Preparation

The next Confirmation parent & student session is THIS Sunday, Feb. 14 from 1:30-3:45 p.m. in the Gym. Since it's Valentine's Day, show some love for your fellow parents and arrive on time so we can leave on time! Be sure to get those At Home Family Activity Sheets completed, and all baptismal certificates and sponsor forms are needed, as well. If you know you are not going to be able to attend this meeting, you must contact **Devyn Buschow** x16, as soon as possible to discuss continued sacrament preparation eligibility.

The first Parent & Student session for the Sacrament of Eucharist is Sunday, Feb. 28 from 1:30-3:45 p.m. in the Gym. Since we have a very large group of children preparing for their First Communion, please arrive on time so that we can cover all the necessary material and still leave on time. **Those who have not yet completed the required make-up Parent Meeting, must do so before this date in order for your child to continue in the sacramental preparation process.** Please contact **Lisa Estrada** x12.

Information and paperwork regarding infant Baptism (ages 6 and under) may be directed to **Lisa Estrada**. Our next baptismal preparation class for parents and godparents is **Saturday, Mar, 5**, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All required completed paperwork needs to be turned in **two weeks prior** to the class date. There will be no baptisms during the Season of Lent.

Congratulations to our newest members of the Catholic Church who received the Sacrament of Baptism:

Cristian Eli Estrada (6 months-old)
Parent: Stephanie Marie Estrada

Lila Victoria Esquivel-Rubio (5 months-old)
Parent: Esperansa Padilla

Meilani Hope Scott-Rubio (7 months-old)
Parent: Marissa Padilla

Jameson Anthony Nardelli (9 months-old)
Parents: Andrew & Jacqueline Nardelli

Finance

Weekend of February 6-7

Contributions <i>(Online, Mail & Collections)</i>	\$26,008.55
Average Weekly Expenses	(\$24,038.00)
Surplus	<u>\$ 1,970.55</u>

Balance in Future Fund \$35,210.71

Thank you for your generous support of the parish, our Diocese and the global Catholic Church. May God bless you!

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



Don't forget to check out our very special Valentine's Day fundraiser **THIS Sunday, Feb. 14 in the Community Center lobby!**

You'll be able to purchase a special baked treat (with all the fancy wrappings) for that special person (mom, dad, son, daughter, etc.) 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **(or until we run out)** in the Community Center lobby. **Cost is \$2.50 per valentine treat.** Just look for the special **"kissing booth" located in the corner by the front desk. We'll even have some special photo props so you can take photos with your sweetie.** Again, all donations are going to our ever growing die-cut fund. If you don't know what the die-cut machine is or used for, we'll be happy to show you what a great piece of equipment it is and we use it every Sunday in our Faith Formation classes!

1st Grade Family Sessions are THIS Sunday, Feb. 14 in the dining room at your child's regularly scheduled Faith Formation time. Parents, join your child for another faith-filled session! *Remember, these are NOT part of the sacramental preparation process.*

Kindergarten Family Sessions are NEXT Sunday, Feb. 21.

Our new three-week Theology of the Body mini-series for Grades 4-6 begins THIS Sunday, Feb. 14 and will continue through Sunday, Mar. 6 on a staggered schedule. **Monica Ashour**, President of TOBET, will be here on the 14th to kick off our new Theology of the Body mini-series with a presentation to our 4th Graders at both class time sessions.

This will be followed by a presentation to 5th Grade on **NEXT Sunday, Feb. 21** and completed with the 6th Grade on **Sunday, Feb. 28.** Each grade will have two follow-up sessions conducted by their child's respective catechists. Visitors are not allowed during the mini-series without parental consent. If you choose to opt your child out of the mini-series, we must have that in writing and on file with the Faith Formation Office by the 14th. You will be given alternative work to do at home with your child.

Children's Faith Formation will also be participating in our annual Lenten DOVE Pantry Project, set to begin THIS Sunday, Feb. 14.

Because of the parish's generous outpouring during the holidays, and all the soup cans donated last weekend, we are proud to say the pantry is full! So, Outreach would like CFF to try something different this year. We have been asked to bring a variety of paper and toiletry items, which are requested through Outreach but aren't often available. And, these items aren't covered by food stamps. In order to help Outreach meet this increasing demand, here is the breakdown, by grade, of items we will be collecting throughout Lent: **PK3&4**—Clorox/Lysol sanitizing wipes; **Kinder**—toothpaste/toothbrushes; **1st**—paper towels; **2nd**—bars of soap; **3rd**—toilet paper; **4th**—dish soap; **5th**—deodorant; and **6th**—shampoo/conditioner. All these items can be brought in on a **voluntary basis** but the grade donating the most will receive a "Just Desserts" ice cream social at the end of the year! If anyone from the parish would like to participate, you can drop your donations off in the Outreach box located in the Narthex and mark them **DOVE Project. Thanking everyone in advance!**



Scoring Big for Outreach

A tremendous thank you to everyone who participated in our "Souper" Bowl Outreach event last Sunday!

What a beautiful day for an outdoors event! Thanks to everyone's generosity, we collected 140 cans of soup in favor of Carolina, 333 for the Broncos (YES!!) and a basketful of miscellaneous canned goods and food items that will be used to fill Holy Spirit's food pantry. An extra "high five" to the Garza Family for "manning" (no pun intended!) the coffee & donut table, to the merry band of KC's who cooked & served hot dogs, Mary Gruhke who played NFL Hostess and guided the Confirmation/First Communion families completing their service projects at the afternoon tailgate party and to the other sacramental preparation families who volunteered with other aspects of this event, many of them for the full four hours. Nella McCain & Family, thanks for staying to tear everything down and cart off all those soup cans! **You all take home the trophy for being #1!**

ATTENTION VBS VOLUNTEERS

If you have served as a coordinator at any of our past Vacation Bible Schools, I need your input! I am considering a big change to this year's VBS and would like to hear what you think. Join me **Sunday, Mar. 6** at 10:45 a.m. in Room 101 to hear my proposal. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated!



Adult & Family Ministry

For information about any of our Adult & Family Ministry programs, please E-mail:
Richard Johnson: richardjohnson@holyspiritcc.org
Veronica Houston: veronicahouston@holyspiritcc.org



Lenten Renewal!
with Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

Friday & Saturday, Mar. 4 & 5
 7:00 P.M.

A limited number of his book, **40 Days, Forty Ways: A New Look at Lent** are available for purchase in the Community Center!

Thérèse
 The Story of a Soul



Thérèse: The Story of a Soul, the moving, live production performed by actress Audrey Ahern and directed by Patti Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented live at **Holy Spirit Catholic Church** on **Monday, Mar. 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

In this one-woman performance, Thérèse speaks directly to you, the audience, with humor, grace and humility. Her honest, direct spirituality speaks powerfully to our busy culture, with the encouraging message that anyone can become a saint. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 75 minutes. **Suitable for all ages!**

Admission: \$10 each, or \$30 for families of 4 or more.

For tickets and additional information, contact Holy Spirit Church Office at 972-298-4971. Buy tickets in advance at **www.holyspiritcatholic.com** or at the church office. (Cash only at the door.)

Watch the trailer & learn more at **www.ThereseDrama.com**



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped make our Valentine Celebration a huge success this weekend, especially: Fr. Eugene, Juanita & Jack Ramsden, Davida & Billy Callender, Anne & John Owen and Ed & Herlinda Torres and the many volunteers who helped with the set-up, serving and clean-up of this beautiful event.

Community Life Ministry

SUNDAY MORNING FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Today: Breakfast Tacos

Join us in the Gym for Breakfast Tacos brought to you by our Catholic Daughters of the Americas organization.

Next Sunday, Feb. 21: Coffee & Donuts

K of C Parish Blood Drive Sunday, Feb. 21

Please sign up this weekend and schedule your donation in the Narthex for next week's Knights of Columbus Parish Blood Drive. This helps ensure Carter BloodCare will schedule appropriate staff to process donations and also gives you preference over walk-ins. Eligible donors are 17 years-old, weigh at least 110 lbs. and in general good health (16 years-old w/signed parental permission). There will also be free donuts and fruit for all donors and their family members. For questions regarding medications, call 1-800-Bloodcare. Oftentimes, persons with Type 2 Diabetes are eligible depending on medication taken.

Lenten Fish Fry Friday, Feb. 19

It's time for our annual Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry. **Each Friday in Lent from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.** There are some new items on the menu and a couple of door prizes to be given away on the final Friday, Mar. 18. Each Adult meal purchased every Friday gives you a chance to win a Flat Screen TV, a Boy's Easter Basket or a Girl's Easter Basket. Join us!

Outreach Ministry

Discover how our diocese celebrates Black History Month. Please visit the Diocese of Dallas website at **www.cathdal.org/blackcatholics**.

What a Souper Bowl Sunday we had! Thank you for the hundreds of cans of soup and other canned goods that the children in Faith Formation and their families donated for our food pantry last Sunday. We can feed many hungry families with your help! In this competition, everyone was a winner!

Operation Rice Bowl is a Catholic Relief Services Lenten program. Your prayers, sacrifices, and generous donations help people in countries around the world. If you haven't done so yet, please pick up a Rice Bowl from the Narthex table, put it together and use the Home Calendar Guide for ideas for your family's prayer, fasting and for sharing what you have with the needy.

A Year of Mercy: We are called to show the love and mercy of Jesus to the world every day in thought, word and action. Let us reflect on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Each day, try to find opportunities to make God's mercy visible in the world, just as Jesus did.

Raffle Tickets for the Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner: on April 16 will be on sale in the Narthex from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. on Fridays during Lent.