

Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God

(adapted from St Alphonsus Liguori's sermon for the 1st Sunday of Lent)

Today, Jesus replies to the devil, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." He who sins without resistance, without, at least, asking for God's help, while hoping God save him, tempts God to work miracles or demands a mercy not extended to the generality of Christians. Indeed, God "desires all men to be saved," (1 Tm 2:4); but he also desires we work-out our salvation by using the means of salvation & by obeying his calls to repent. Sinners hear God's calls but forget & continue sinning. But God does not forget; he numbers his graces & our sins. I intend to show you that when sins reach a certain number, God pardons no more. **Be attentive.**

1. St. Basil, St. Jerome, St. John Chrysostom, St. Augustine, and other fathers, teach: as God has fixed for each person the days of his life & the hairs on his head, so he has fixed the number of sins he will pardon; when this number is reached, he pardons no more.

2. "The Lord hath sent me to heal the contrite of heart." (Is 51:1) Indeed, God is ready to heal sinners, but not the obstinate sinner. Again, the Lord pardons sins, but not those bent on sinning. Should God pardon one a hundred sins and send another to hell for three or four sins beyond our telling: "For three crimes of Damascus, and for four, I will not convert it." (Amos 1:3) On this, we must say: "How incomprehensible are his judgments." (Rm 11:33.) How many has God sent to hell for the first offence? St. Gregory says a child of five years, having the use of reason, spoke blasphemy, was seized by the devil & carried to hell. The divine mother revealed to Benedicta of Florence that a boy of twelve years was damned after his first sin. Thus, say not, "I am young & many sinned more than I." Is God obliged, on that account, to wait for your repentance? At first glance, he cursed the fruitless fig tree & it instantly died. (Mt 21:19)

5. If God punished sinners the moment they sinned, he would not be so much despised. As he does not punish sins instantly, but mercifully restrains his anger & waits for a conversion, so sinners are urged to continue in sin: "As wrath is delayed against evil, so the children of men do evil without fear." (Eccles. 8:11)

6. St. Chrysostom says God is more to be feared, however, when he bears with sinners than when he instantly punishes their sins. Why? Because they who receive more mercy, yet persist in sin, warrant more vengeance. Often, such sinners die with no time to repent.

7. **Dear sinner**, Hear the Lord's admonition: "My son, hast thou sinned? Stop & pray your past sins be forgiven. Add not sin to sin; otherwise, if you commit another mortal sin, the gates of the mercy may shut & your soul be lost forever." When the devil tempts you to return to your sin, think: "If God pardons me no more, what shall become of me for all eternity?" Should the Devil respond, "Fear not, God is merciful." Answer, "If I return again to sin, is it certain God will forgive me? For he warns those who despise his calls: 'Behold I called & you refused; so I also will laugh in your destruction & mock your fear.'" (Pr 1:24) By "I also" he means: "as I was mocked, so shall I mock you at the hour of your death."

8. O folly of sinners! If you buy a house, you unsparingly secure it against burglary & decay; if you take medicine, you ensure it will not injure you; yet, for a passing joy, to gratify revenge or a beastly pleasure, you risk your eternal salvation, saying: "I will go to confession afterwards." "When?," I ask. You say, "Tomorrow." But who promises you tomorrow? How do you know you have a tomorrow? St. Gregory says, "God promises pardon, but not tomorrow."

9. Would you, for a sinful passing joy, risk your money, honor, possessions, liberty & life? No. Why then, for this vanity, lose your soul, heaven & God? Tell me: Do you believe in heaven & hell?. Do you believe if you die in sin, you are lost for ever? How foolish to take poison hoping, afterwards, to recover: "Thou trusted in thy wickedness & evil shall befall thee & thou shalt not know from where." (Is 47:10) You sinned, trusting rashly in divine mercy: the punishment of your guilt shall be sudden; nor shall you know whence it comes. What say you? What resolution do you make? If, after this sermon, you do not firmly resolve to give yourself to God, I weep over you. and regard you as lost. *(Numberina & pronouns correspond to the original.)*



CHRIST THE KING Catholic Church

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls
according to the liturgical books of 1962.

First Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2020

Pastor: Fr. Stephane Dupre, FSSP

Assistant: Fr. Chris Hathaway, FSSP

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Church Office Hours: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday

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Mass and Confession Schedule @ Sarasota

Sunday ~ 8:30 am (Confessions begin at 7:45 am)

~ 10:30 am (Confessions begin at 9:45 am)

Monday ~ 12 noon

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday ~ 7:00 am & 9:00 am

Friday ~ 9:00 am & 6:30 pm followed by Holy Hour

Saturday ~ 9:00 am

(Confessions ~ 30 minutes before weekday Mass & after, if needed.)

Mass and Confession Schedule @ Queen of Peace Catholic Church

6455 SW State Road 200

Ocala, FL 34476

Sunday ~ 4:30 pm (Confessions begin at 3:30 pm)

Monday ~ 7:00 am (Confessions begin at 6:30 am)

First Saturday ~10:30 am (Confessions begin at 10:00 am)

Today's Mass: Sunday 3/1 (1st Sunday of Lent)

Missa XVII (SEC 762) & Credo IV (SEC 780)

Entr: Throughout These 40 Days - SEC 828

Hymn: *Ave Regina Caelorum* - SEC 951

Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 03-01	First Sunday in Lent	2/V	
Mon 03-02	Feria of Lent	3/V	
Tues 03-03	Feria of Lent	3/V	
Wed 03-04	Ember Wednesday	2/V	St Casimir
Thu 03-05	Feria of Lent	3/V	
Fri 03-06	Ember Friday	2/V	Ss Perpetua et Felicity
Sat 03-07	Ember Saturday	2/W	St Thomas Aquinas
Sun 03-08	Second Sunday of Lent	1/V	



Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 03-01	(8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) Angelina Bock+	rb B & B Wis
Mon 03-02	(12 noon) John Rogalin+	rb M Gariepy
Tues 03-03	(7 am) Joan Tufford+ (9 am) Bernadette Okely+	rb T & A Wade rb C Plowman
Wed 03-04	(7 am) Blessed Virgin Mary (9 am) Holy Souls in Purgatory	rb a friend rb anon
Thu 03-05	(7 am) Rita Wallace+ (9 am) Linda Greene+	rb E & P DeVerna rb K Kirsch
Fri 03-06	(9 am) Fr Dupre (6:30 pm) In Thanksgiving to St Michael the Archangel	rb M/M L Truong rb Burns family
Sat 03-07	(9 am) Poor Souls	rb K Dinh
Sun 03-08	(8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) Fr Michael Irwin, FssP	rb J & F Kitko

Today, after the 10:30 am Mass, Benediction.

This week, First Friday, 6:30 pm evening Mass followed by Stations of the Cross (replacing the Holy Hour); First Saturday, Altar Guild meets (9 am Ember Saturday Mass, First Saturday devotions, breakfast, Rosary & practice – done by 1 pm).

Collection Team this week: Team Dinh.

Fr Hathaway apologizes to those who showed up expecting Adult Catechism class on Tuesday, Feb., 25. This was an error on the calendar e.g., it says, “class 8 of 16” which we did Jan. 28. The next class is Tuesday, March 10 (class 11 of 16).

The 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign (Feb. 26 – April 5) has assigned Christ the King Parish to cover Saturday, March 7th to pray outside of Planned Parenthood from 9 am to 5 pm. John & Missy Funderburk have a sign-up table by the walkway into the church TODAY so parishioners can sign up to help. Thank you.

“End of Life Decisions a Catholic Perspective” – talk on March 16 at St Charles Borromeo Parish Center, 2500 Easy Street, Port Charlotte, 9:30 to 11 am by Dr Alfred Mauriello II, MD. Register at 941-374-1068. See outside posting for more.

In your charity, please pray for Sarah Sturm (2/23), Claire Verdini (2/21), Pat Wermuth (2/9), Cindy Lane (1/30), Robert Sniadecki (1/30), Barbara Wis (1/30), Maureen & Bob McNamara (1/23). (Prayer requests posted for a month; renewable.)

Parishioner assistance needed for our annual March 19th St. Joseph's Altar Devotion. Contact: Joan Mikluscak at 941-218-7943 (cell) or joanpatmik@gmail.com

Parce Domine, parce populo tuo, ne in aeternum irascaris nobis. (Spare O Lord, spare thy people, do not be angry with them forever.) Frs daily Mass Lenten hymn.

Recommended reading for Lent, *In Sinu Jesus*. Raymond Card. Burke writes of this book, “*In Sinu Jesu* recounts the graces experienced in the life of one priest through the healing & strengthening power of Eucharistic adoration. At the same time, it issues an urgent call to all priests – **and, indeed, to all Christians** – to be renewed in holiness through adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament & consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces.”

As said earlier, from Oct. 3, 2007 to June 2, 2016, our Lord & our Lady spoke to a Benedictine monk who had need of their aid. He recorded these messages down for his benefit and, after, to benefit others. Each communique is dated & no more than a page or two in length; Father recommends selecting parts, especially those concerning friendship with Jesus & confidence in His merciful love, as reading material for the family, to be read & discussed around the dinner table, thus, helping all, in ways adapted to their specific ages, to relate to Jesus as our great Friend, Whom, with all confidence, we can go to anytime for anything.

Here is an excerpt from January 17, 2008 (p. 29; underlining by Father):

The monk writes, “I asked Our Lord about my daily routine. So often I am tired & need to rest. I feel guilty about not being able to keep up what I would see as a more normal daily round of prayer & activities. Sometimes I cannot say all the office. This weighs on me...”
Jesus replies, “For now, your daily routine is what you can do. I will help you & My Mother will help you, gently and little by little, to make changes that are necessary. Do not give in to feelings of guilt that assail you because you are not living up to the ideal you have set for yourself. I do not ask you to be faithful to an ideal. I ask you only to be My friend and to live at every moment in the grace of My divine friendship. All the rest follows. Perfection is the fruit of friendship with Me, not a precondition for it. You, and many souls like you, are confused about this. My friendship is pure gift. It is the gift of My Sacred Heart and I offer it freely. So few souls understand this. You are sanctified by living in My friendship. All else is secondary. Love Me & believe in My unconditional love for you. Trust Me. Show Me that you have confidence in My merciful goodness, especially when you experience weakness, or shame, or fear, and I will renew that grace of My love in your heart. I will uphold you with the gift of My unfailing presence. I am the Friend who will never forsake you. Let that be enough.”

Mass attendance & collection for last Sunday

Sarasota: 8:30 am ~ 175 souls & 10:30 am ~ 151 souls; offertory \$3,578.36
Ocala attendance ~206 souls.