

Live as children of *light*.

Ephesians 5:8

The Gospel reading for this Sunday, Matthew 4:1-11, focuses on a part of Jesus' life that emphasizes his humanity and, therefore, is very relatable to each of us. The passage tells us that Jesus was "led by the Spirit into the desert", where he fasted for 40 days. Imagine how hungry he must have been; how weak physically, but also mentally and emotionally. He was alone, after all.

All of us can think of a time in our lives when we were similarly low. Perhaps you've been literally hungry because of financial need. Perhaps you've experienced physical or mental illness. Or maybe you've experienced the hunger for relationships because of extreme loneliness. This is the part of the narrative we relate to, for it is when we are most low that the enemy of our souls enters the picture. In Jesus' case, Satan tempted him with food, physical safety and power by means of distorting Scripture and appealing to his immediate needs. "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*" "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." Satan does the same with us. When we are already weak, the enemy reminds us that we are sinners or tempts us with things that will draw us away from God's best for our lives.

How did Jesus respond? He put the enemy, who was twisting God's words, in his place by speaking the *truth* of Scripture right back. He said in reply, "It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*" "Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" Finally, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.*" He knew Scripture and applied it. That did not happen overnight. It would have been a regular part of his childhood and from spending time in the synagogue, "according to his custom" (Luke 4:16).

Are we ready to respond similarly? I was raised in a Christian faith tradition that encouraged not only reading the Bible, but memorizing verses and passages. One that has always been meaningful to me is Psalm 119:11, which says, "In my heart I treasure your word, that I might not sin against you." Another from that same chapter (vs. 105) says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path." Knowing God's word helps keep me from sin and keep me on the right path. While I don't necessarily remember everything I've read or memorized, and certainly don't apply it all perfectly, I do feel comfortable finding familiar passages when I need them most. What a blessing when I am tempted, when life throws difficulties my way or when God leads me into spiritual deserts.

-Lee Ann Blackmer, Office Administrator, Three Holy Women and Our Lady of Divine Providence

As we begin our Lenten journey to the cross and resurrection, let's prayerfully ask ourselves the following:

- 1) How can I incorporate more Scripture into my daily prayers?
- 2) Is there a Bible passage that is particularly meaningful to me that I could try to memorize during Lent?
- 3) How can I follow the example of Jesus in allowing the Bible to be a lamp and a light that prepares me to face my own challenges and temptations?

Live as children of *light*.

Lent 2017 Family of Four Parishes

Lenten Almsgiving

Our family of four parishes is entering into an intentional relationship with the family of four central city parishes of All Saints, St. Martin de Porres, St. Michael and St. Rose. As a first step in this relationship, our Lenten almsgiving will help support the All Saints Meal Program. Many of our parishioners are already involved in this important program, and we have an opportunity to help sustain this ministry by raising money that will allow All Saints to fund a Dining Room Coordinator who will oversee the three-dinners-per-week ministry (volunteer management, guest support, inventory, food safety, etc.).

Lenten Retreat with *Arise*

Sunday, March 5th 4:00-7:00pm
SS Peter & Paul (2490 N Cramer St)
Music, Message, and Meal, Personal Reflection Time, Small Group Discussion & Children's Activity
Register at arisemissions.org/retreat.

Lenten Small Group Book Study

America's Original Sin by Jim Wallis
Starts Thursday, March 2nd
5:30-6:45pm in the SS Peter & Paul Church Center (2490 N Cramer St)
To register or for more information contact Andrew Musgrave (414-271-6577 or musgravea@archmil.org) or visit tinyurl.com/LentenBookStudy2017.

Taizé Prayer

Wednesday, March 8th 6:30pm
Three Holy Women-Holy Rosary Church
(2011 N Oakland Ave)

Milwaukee Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 18th 1:30-4:00pm
Starts at Three Holy Women-Holy Rosary Church (2011 N Oakland Ave)
Travel by bus to several locations around the city that embody the spirit of each of the stations. To register or for more information contact Andrew Musgrave or visit tinyurl.com/MilwaukeeStations2017.

Lenten Day of Service

Saturday, April 1st 9:00am-2:00pm
Starts at Three Holy Women-Holy Rosary Church (2011 N Oakland Ave)
A light breakfast will be provided along with a commissioning prayer service. Meet new people, learn about new organizations and serve our brothers and sisters in the community. To register or for more information contact Andrew Musgrave or visit tinyurl.com/LentenDayofService2017.

Communal Reconciliation

Saturday, April 8th 10:00am
Three Holy Women-Holy Rosary Church
(2011 N Oakland Ave)
Celebrate God's unending mercy in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Communal prayer and individual confessions will be available.

Weekly

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays at Old St. Mary (844 N Broadway) before the 12:05pm Mass (11:45am) and at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig (1702 N Humboldt Ave) after the 5:30pm Mass (6:00pm)

Fridays at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig (1702 N Humboldt Ave) after the 8:15am Mass (8:45am) and at Old St. Mary (844 N Broadway) before the 12:05pm Mass (11:45am)

Reconciliation (Confession)

Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 11:30am at Old St. Mary (844 N Broadway)

Saturday: 3:30pm at Our Lady of Divine Providence-St. Casimir (2600 N Bremen St); 3:30pm at Three Holy Women-Holy Rosary (2011 N Oakland Ave); 4:00pm at SS Peter & Paul (2490 N Cramer)

Lenten Group for Dads

Thursdays, 7:30-9:00pm, SS Peter & Paul Office, contact Mike at mlarson@urbanecologycenter.org for information

Catholic East Fish Fry

Lenten Fridays March 10th – April 7th
SS Peter & Paul Campus Cafeteria
(2480 N Cramer St)
Adults \$10; Seniors/Takeout \$9; Kids \$6

Check the parish website and bulletin for weekly updates.