

# HOLY SPIRIT SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Celebrating faith, inclusive welcome and service, because it is about relationships, not rules!

01 MARCH 2020 – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

## TODAY'S LITURGY

Mass Intention: For Our Parishioners, living and deceased

Prelude: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" #416

Welcome and "Good News" (Debbie R.)

Gathering Song: "Blest Be the Lord" #485

Introductory Penitential Rite:

℣. We confess

℟. to almighty God, and to one another,

that we have sinned

in our thoughts and in our words,

in what we have done, and in what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. (Matt 22:37-39)

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be:

that we may do justice, love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen. (Micah 6:8)

Kyrie: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #201

Opening Prayer

Reading I: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 (Christine T.)

Psalm Response: Psalm 51, #41

Reading II: Romans 5:12-19 (Carter)

Gospel Acclamation: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #204

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 (Dcn. Jan)

Homily: (Fr. Lionel)

Profession of Faith: Alternative Creed (hymnal inside back cover)

Intercessions: ℣. *Word of life, living Bread, hear us!* (Donna L.)

Kiss of Peace

Preparation of Gifts: "Forty Days and Forty Nights" #411

Eucharistic Prayer: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #205-209

Lord's Prayer: #7

Lamb of God Litany: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #210

Communion Procession: "Remembrance" WN #148

(Mthr. Sharon, Fr. Sam; Dcn. Jan)

All are truly welcomed to reverently receive Holy Communion with us!

Song of Praise: "On Eagle's Wings" #593

Prayer after Communion & Blessing

Sending Song: "The Glory of These Forty Days" #397

## THE ROAD AHEAD

Ministry Team Meetings:

-Stewardship: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

-Finance: 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds, 7pm

-Landscape: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

-Outreach: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

Way of the Cross, Fridays of Lent, 7pm, chapel

Spiritual Practice: Work it!

Wednesdays, March 4<sup>th</sup> thru April 1, 7-8:30pm. Save the dates and gather with your church family.

Daylight Savings Time begins!

Next Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

"Spring ahead one hour!"

"Dig in the Dirt" Lenten Party!

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 8-10:30am.

Parish Council Meeting,

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, conference room.

Annual Pet Fair and Blessing,

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Save the date!



## FROM WHERE I STAND

Blessed Day of the Lord,  
dear Community and Friends!

In the Gospel for this First Sunday of Lent, Jesus is hungry and Satan tempts him. "Turn these stones into bread," he says to Jesus, who rebuffs the temptation by saying to Satan, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from God."

Imagine a host asking one of his guests, "Would you like some ham?" How perplexed the host would be if his guest answered, "Man does not live by ham alone"! The question was not whether the guest would like to eat ham and nothing but ham. It was just whether he would like some ham now. Why not say, "Sure! Thanks!"?

So why doesn't Jesus do the miracle? And why does he reject Satan's urging by pointing out that man does not live by bread alone? *Of course*, we don't live just on bread! But bread is one of the things by which human beings live. In another place Jesus himself explains that no good father will give his son a stone if his son asks for bread. Here is Jesus hungry and having only stones. Why shouldn't he have bread instead?

When a guest says to the host who is offering him ham, "Man does not live by ham alone," it is possible that he is using these words to communicate to his host the thought, completely

perplexing in the circumstances, that human beings live on other stuff besides ham.

But, of course, there is another possibility. The guest might also be telling his host, graciously, that he is full. There are other things to eat besides ham, and a person who has no ham can still fail to be hungry because he has eaten an abundance of those other things.

And that is what Jesus is telling Satan, isn't it? Anyone who has the word of God does not lack what human beings need to live. "No thanks," Jesus is telling Satan, "I'm full. The word that proceeds from the mouth of God fills me!"

This is the message to Satan, and also to us.

Jesus, who is the Word of God, gives to every person who will receive him what she needs to live, even if she has no bread. And, then, for good measure, in the Eucharist Jesus gives bread, too. He, the rock and living cornerstone, gives himself to his own people as the bread of life.

May this First Week of Lent be one of patience and enduring love as we practice our discipleship in order to bear greater fruit for the reign of God. Be and do everything knowing that it does, in fact, make a difference.

With love and prayer for you,  
Bp. Steve

## OUR STEWARDSHIP



*In gratitude for our many blessings and gifts from God, we share our time, talent, and treasures with others at worship and throughout the week. On Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 50 people gathered as the Body of Christ to joyfully celebrate the Holy Eucharist in gratitude to God for our many gifts, the mission and ministry of our parish community.*

*"It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." (Matthew 4:10)*  
*Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things. Ask God how he is calling you to serve.*

For a full monthly update on our finances, visit our parish website:  
[www.holyspiritscc.org/treasure.html](http://www.holyspiritscc.org/treasure.html)

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday to:

Cathy P. 3/2,  
Kathy J. 3/8, Lana W. 3/11,  
Diane P. 3/15, Nicole T. 3/20,  
Dcn. Jan 3/25; Lee W. 3/27.

### Happy Anniversary to:

Katy and Taffy 3/15,  
Paul and Nicole 3/18.

*May the brilliance of  
the light of Christ  
continue to shine brightly  
in you in your living  
and in your loving!*

## WHEN WE GATHER

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
Daylight Savings Time begins!

Genesis 12:1-4  
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22  
II Timothy 1:8-10  
Matthew 17:1-9

Altar Bread Baker: Donna L.  
Greeters: Natalie L. and Christine T.  
Councilor Welcome: Deb S.  
Presider & Homilist: Bp. Steve  
Acolyte: Natalie L.  
Lectors: Joanne D. (1), Sr. Linda (2)  
Intercessions: Walt B.  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Mthr. Sharon, Fr. Lionel; Dcn. Jan  
Social Hall Service: Last Names **D-K**

*Thank you for your faithful and loving  
service at the altar of the Lord.*

## Our Lenten Giving

There are small currency boxes available in the chapel foyer for you to take home and place at your place of personal prayer or your table as a reminder. This year, our parish family will offer these gifts of our Lenten sacrifice and growth for the benefit of **Pinellas Hope**. Pinellas Hope is an inter-faith venture, hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, providing a safe living environment and the necessary support for homeless adults to become self-sufficient. Since its formation in 2007, Pinellas Hope has served over 10,000 people and served over 1.6 million meals. May the Lord renew our hearts in generous compassion for those most in need.



## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

We're never alone in seeking answers and resources for becoming the people we need to be. This daily Lenten devotional help us discover the biblical mentors who guide us on the journey and who "know this road by heart." Each day lists the scripture readings of the day, a reflection, a contemplation statement, and a brief prayer. We encourage to take a copy for yourself and perhaps more to share with those whom you know might benefit. Keep it by your nightstand, on top of the TV remotes, on your favorite reading chair. May we bear fruit this Lent!



- For the intentions of our parish and diocesan communities, for our holiness, growth and generous service.
- For the persecuted Christians of the Middle East.
- Those who are homeless, hungry, helpless, unemployed, underemployed, addicted, imprisoned and hopeless: *that they do not remain invisible to us.*
- For those discerning their life, ministry, and future with our Diocese.
- + The victims of gun violence, *eternal rest and delight in God's arms.*
- Ellen M., *strength and healing from cancer.*
- David S.'s daughter, *mental healing.*
- Deb. S. & Sr. Linda, *healing strength*
- For the youth of our End 68 Hours of Hunger Project.
- Bp. Chuck, *liver cancer challenges*
- Br. Tom W., *healing from follow-up surgeries and restoration*
- Harry, *father of Donna L., hospice care*
- Fr. Joseph, *his strength and healing.*
- Mary S., *healing strength during cancer therapy.*
- Cindy K., *ankle surgery healing*

*Lord, hear our prayer!*





## HOLY SPIRIT

SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
3265 State Road 580  
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Bishop Steven M. Roszczewski  
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The phrase

"do not be afraid"  
is written in the Bible  
365 times. That's a daily  
reminder from God to live  
every day being fearless ♥

Save the Date....

**"DIG in the DIRT" Party**

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

8am-10:30am

Goal: to spruce up the parish  
campus in preparation for  
Easter!

## FASTING:

AN HONORABLE PRACTICE  
OF FAITH

The simplest and best path to peace and happiness leading to a greater sense of wholeness is to keep the traditional Lenten fast. This consists in eating two very light meals each day, plus one really full meal "with all the trimmings." This usually means meat only once a day and no meat on Fridays. Some form of abstinence on all the Fridays of the year is also traditional.

The most common interpretation of the Friday abstinence is abstinence from meat, and it may be extended to include Wednesdays during Lent. Don't eat between meals, and don't eat at all on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, or have little food. Of course, none of this should be observed by persons whose health or regular duties make it inadvisable, and it should be modified for children, but it is applicable to most Christians.

Using the traditional fast is inconspicuous and modest. It tends to keep us from the dubious satisfaction of thinking up our own, individual, ascetic practices. Staying away from large, festive social affairs is a natural accompaniment to this fast and need not give offense in any important way, if explanations are made with sincerity and gentleness.

## Corona Virus and Holy Communion...

The news of the last week has been filled with turmoil created by the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, roiling financial markets, causing increasing concern throughout the world about transmission, and otherwise raising concerns about the spread of infectious disease.

Invariably, the first question asked of the church in moments like this is: What about the common cup at Mass?

The simple answer is this - peer reviewed studies and Centers for Disease Control guidance since the 1980s have consistently shown that "no documented transmission of any infectious disease has ever been traced to the use of a common communion cup" and "the risk for infectious disease transmission by a common communion cup is very low, and appropriate safeguards--that is, wiping the interior and exterior rim between communicants, use of care to rotate the cloth during use, and use of a clean cloth for each service - would further diminish this risk." *American Journal of Infection Control (Vol. 26, No. 5, 1998).*

We do all these things at Holy Spirit! Our clergy and Eucharistic ministers are trained to wipe the rim of the chalice between each communicant, to rotate the purificator (the cloth), and the sacristan ensures a clean purificator is used for each liturgy.