



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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ONE DOES NOT ARGUE WITH THE DEVIL

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 22, 2026

The Gospel of this first Sunday of Lent presents to us Jesus in the desert, tempted by the devil (*cf. Mt 4:1-11*). "Devil" means "divider". The devil always wants to create division, and it is what he sets out to do by tempting Jesus. Let us see, then, from whom he wants to divide him, and how he tempts him. From whom does the devil want to divide Jesus? After receiving Baptism from John in the Jordan, Jesus was called by the Father "my beloved Son" (*Mt 3:17*), and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove (*cf. v. 16*). The Gospel thus presents us the three divine Persons joined in love. Then Jesus himself will say that he came into the world to make us, too, partake in the unity between him and the Father (*cf. Jn 17:11*). The devil, instead, does the opposite: he enters the scene to divide Jesus from the Father and to distract him from his mission of unity for us. He always divides.

Let us now see how he tries to do this. The devil wants to take advantage of the human condition of Jesus, who is weak as he has fasted for forty days and is hungry (*cf. Mt 4:2*). The evil one then tries to instil in him three powerful "poisons", to paralyse his mission of unity. These poisons are attachment, mistrust, and power. First and foremost, the poison of attachment to things, to needs; with persuasive arguments the devil tries to convince Jesus: "You are hungry, why must you fast? Listen to your need and satisfy it, you have the right and the power: transform the stones into bread". Then the second poison, mistrust: "Are you sure the Father wants what is good for you? Test him, blackmail him! Throw yourself down from the highest point of the temple and make him do what you want". Finally, power: "You have no need for your Father! Why wait for his gifts? Follow the criteria of the world, take everything for yourself, and you will be powerful!". The three temptations of Jesus. And we too live among these temptations, always. It is terrible, but it is precisely like this, for us too: attachment to things, mistrust and the thirst for power are three widespread and dangerous temptations, which the devil uses to divide us from the Father and to make us no longer feel like brothers and sisters among ourselves, to lead us to loneliness and desperation. He wanted to do this to Jesus, he wants to do it to us: to lead us to desperation.

But Jesus defeats the temptations. And how does he defeat them? By avoiding discussion with the devil and answering with the Word of God. This is important: one does not argue with the devil, one does not converse with the devil! Jesus confronts him with the Word of God. He quotes three phrases from the Scripture that speak of freedom from things (*cf. Dt 8:3*), trust (*cf. Dt 6:16*), and service to God (*cf. Dt 6:13*), three phrases that are opposed to temptation. He never enters into dialogue with the devil, he never negotiates with him, but he repels his insinuations with the beneficent Words of the Scripture. It is an invitation to us too; one does not argue with the devil. One does not negotiate, one does not enter into dialogue, one does not defeat him by dealing with him. He is stronger than us. We defeat the devil by countering him in faith with the divine Word. In this way, Jesus teaches us to defend unity with God and among ourselves from the attacks of the divider. The divine Word that is Jesus' answer to the temptation of the devil.

And we ask ourselves: what place does the Word of God have in my life? Do I turn to it in my spiritual struggles? If I have a vice or a recurrent temptation, why do I not obtain help by seeking out a verse of the Word of God that responds to that vice? Then, when temptation comes, I recite it, I pray it, trusting in the grace of Christ. Let us try, it will help us in temptation, it will help us a great deal, because amid the voices that stir within us, the beneficent one of the Word of God will resound. May Mary, who welcomed the Word of God and with her humility defeated the pride of the divider, accompany us in the spiritual struggle of Lent.

What is Lent? Lent is the yearly celebration of the Church in preparation for Easter. Lent has two major purposes: It recalls or prepares for Baptism, and emphasizes a spirit of penance. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and of more fervent prayer, believers are prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery.

During Lent, the reminder of baptism already received, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery, in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation.

The [Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) presents "Journey through Lent", a video series which provides weekly Lenten spiritual reflections.

Mass & Sacrament of Reconciliation:

from Tuesday February 24th until Wednesday, March 11th inclusive, *there will be no Daily Mass (11am) and Reconciliation (11.30am).*

The weekend Masses will be celebrated as usual, Saturday at 5PM and Sunday at 9AM.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, February 28th and March 7th 3:30-4:30 PM.

Misas diarias & Sacramento de la Reconciliación:

A partir del martes 24 de febrero hasta el miércoles 11 de marzo *no habrá Misa diaria (12pm) ni sacramento de la Reconciliación (11.30am).*

Las Misas del fin de semana se celebrarán en el horario habitual. Sábado 7PM, domingo 11AM & 1PM.

Confesiones: sábado 28 de febrero y 7 de marzo 3:30-4:30 pm.

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 21 **5:00 PM**
+Donna Duquette

Sunday, February 22 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, February 24 **NO MASS**

Wednesday, February 25 **NO MASS**

Thursday, February 26 **NO MASS**

Friday, February 27 **NO MASS**

Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 28 **5:00 PM**
+Dolores Seclmeir +Maria Rebelo +Morabito Family

Sunday, March 1 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

I Domingo de Cuaresma

Sabado 21 de Febrero **7:00PM**
+Amanda Hernández +Violeta De Tovar +Brock Baird

Domingo 22 de Febrero **11:00 AM & 1:00PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 24 de Febrero **NO HAY MISA**

Miercoles 25 de Febrero **NO HAY MISA**

Jueves 26 de Febrero **NO HAY MISA**

Viernes 27 de Febrero **NO HAY MISA**

II Domingo de Cuaresma

Sabado 28 de Febrero **7:00PM**

Domingo 1 de Marzo **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Stations of the Cross

will be at 10:30AM in English each Friday during Lent.

El Viacrucis se rezará todos los viernes del tiempo de Cuaresma a las 11:30AM en Español.

SOUP SOCIAL - St. John's Catholic Women's League invites you to a Soup Social taking place after the 5pm Mass on February 28th and after the 9am Mass on Sunday, March 1st in the parish hall. For a freewill offering, come and enjoy a bowl of delicious homemade soup. Proceeds will go to support Development and Peace.

Preparación Primera Comunión en español para niños comenzará el próximo sábado 28 de febrero a las 5PM. Escribir a oficina@parroquiaguadalupe.ca para registrarse.