

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

### SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30pm Adoration  
6:00pm Mass

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30pm – 4:50pm  
Sunday 8:00am – 8:20am  
Also by Appointment

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



### PARISH STAFF

#### PASTOR:

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### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

Donation	\$1,776.00
Donation Online	\$1,387.00
Maintenance Fund	\$125.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Children's Donation	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$3,288.00</b>

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE!\*\*\*** You will receive a new tax donation letter with the correct total. The previous letter contained a system error, please accept our apologies.



#### FEBRUARY 20 & 21, 2021 CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS SPECIAL COLLECTION

Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. This collection will fund essential pastoral work for communities and help faith formation and sacramental needs.

As a result of parishioners' generosity, Catholic Home Missions impacts the lives of nearly 9 million Catholics in the United States for more information visit:  
[www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions)

Support PREPARES by donating to the **OPEN YOUR HEART VALENTINE APPEAL.**  
[www.preparesforlife.org/donate](http://www.preparesforlife.org/donate)



### Sunday Readings 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9: 8-15, 23; 1 Peter 3: 18-22  
Matthew 1: 12-15



**He remained in the desert for forty days,  
tempted by Satan.**

**Mark 1: 13**

## Sin and Salvation Are the Two Focal Points of Lent

Two images from nature dominate this First Sunday of Lent.

In these images we find the key for living the next six weeks deeply and fruitfully, as God is hoping we will live them.

The first image is that of the desert.

- After Jesus was baptized, but before he began his years of public ministry, St Mark tells us in today's Gospel that the Spirit "drove Jesus out into the desert," where he experienced temptation. Throughout the Bible, the desert is often referred to a place of testing, where we experience our weakness and dependence on God.
- Water and food are hard to come by there, and the temperatures and emptiness are oppressive to both the body and the mind. The desert is a place where our illusions of self-sufficiency and comfort fade away. When we are in the desert, either literally or figuratively, we quickly realize that we need God.
- In other words, the desert is the opposite of the Garden of Eden. It is the place of suffering and hardship that sin has led us to. Both original sin and also our own personal sins have interfered with God's plan for our lives and for our world; they have put us in need of salvation.

The second image in today's Readings is the flood, the abundance of water that cleansed the world of sin at the time of Noah. That ancient flood of water foreshadowed Christian baptism, the flood of grace that purifies our souls from sin, bringing new spiritual life into the desert of our sin-damaged hearts. Sin and salvation: our sins, and Christ's loving sacrifice that leads to salvation. These are the most fundamental aspects of our Catholic faith, and these are the themes that should fill our hearts and minds throughout the season of Lent.

Besides the desert and the flood, there is another, third, image from nature in today's Readings: the rainbow.

- Noah probably didn't know the scientific explanation behind rainbows, but he did understand their spiritual meaning. All of creation has a physical nature that science explores and explains.
- But creation also has a spiritual meaning - it is a gift from our God, a gift full of messages, lessons, and inspiration. Science can explain the prismatic refraction of light in a rainbow, but it cannot explain the thrill of wonder that fills our hearts we behold that same rainbow.

A rainbow appears when sunlight and storm clouds come together.

And God chose this as a symbol of his covenant, of his promise that salvation would conquer sin.

- That covenant and that promise still stand; we have to put our hope in them.
- Jesus, as today's Second Reading reminds us so beautifully, has suffered, died, risen from the dead, and ascended into heaven, conquering sin and evil once and for all. The crucifix is our rainbow; the cross of Christ is our Ark.
- No storm can cancel out Christ's victory over evil; no clouds can reverse it; no flood can extinguish it. And so, while we suffer in the storms of hardship and sin that make our lives and world so painful and difficult, we still continue to follow Christ, because the light of his love shines brightly even in the midst of the storm.

Today we have the privilege to renew our hope once again through this Mass and Holy Communion, to be freshly inspired by a glimpse of our rainbow. When we see a rainbow in the sky, the first thing we do is tell those around us, so they will see it too. This Lent, let's do the same with the rainbow that shines in our Christian hearts.

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### FIRST READING:

I will establish my covenant with you,  
that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed  
by the waters of a flood;  
there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.  
(Gn 9:11)

### PSALM:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those  
who keep your covenant. (Ps 25)

### SECOND READING:

Christ suffered for sins once,  
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,  
that he might lead you to God. (1 Pt 3:18)

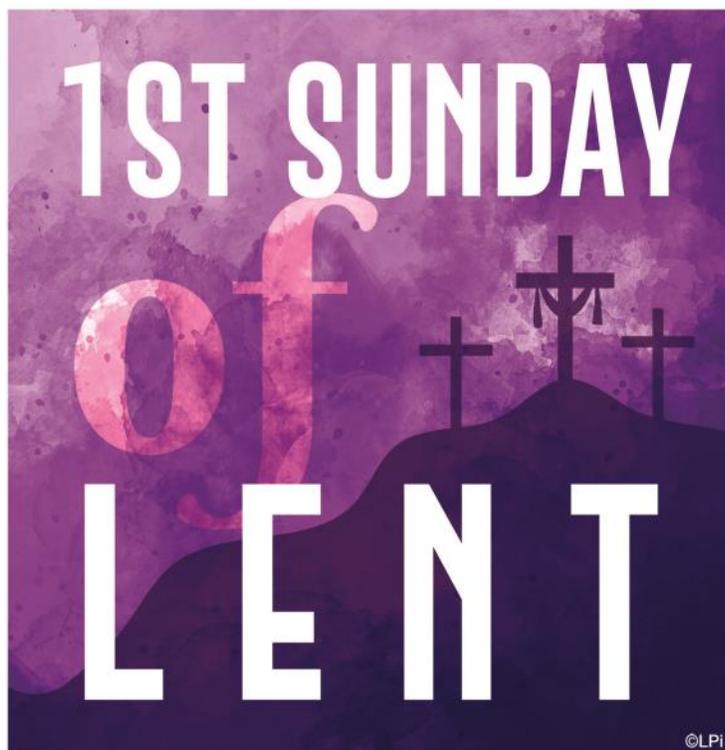
### GOSPEL:

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for 40 days,  
tempted by Satan. (Mk 1:12-13)

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### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent  
Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle  
Tuesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr  
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

God promises Noah to use a “bow in the clouds” (a rainbow) as a sign and symbol of His divine pledge to never again allow a world-wide flood to devastate the earth. This is the Bible’s first recorded covenant between God and humanity. What do you think of when you see a rainbow?

### SECOND READING

Peter teaches that Jesus preached to both the living and the dead — those dead dating back to the days of Noah — and connecting us through baptism. What do you find intriguing about this idea?

### GOSPEL READING

We hear about Jesus’ temptation in the desert and his inaugural gospel message to those living in Galilee. Jesus saw repentance as necessary to believe his good news. As we begin the Lenten journey, what aspects of your life require repentance?