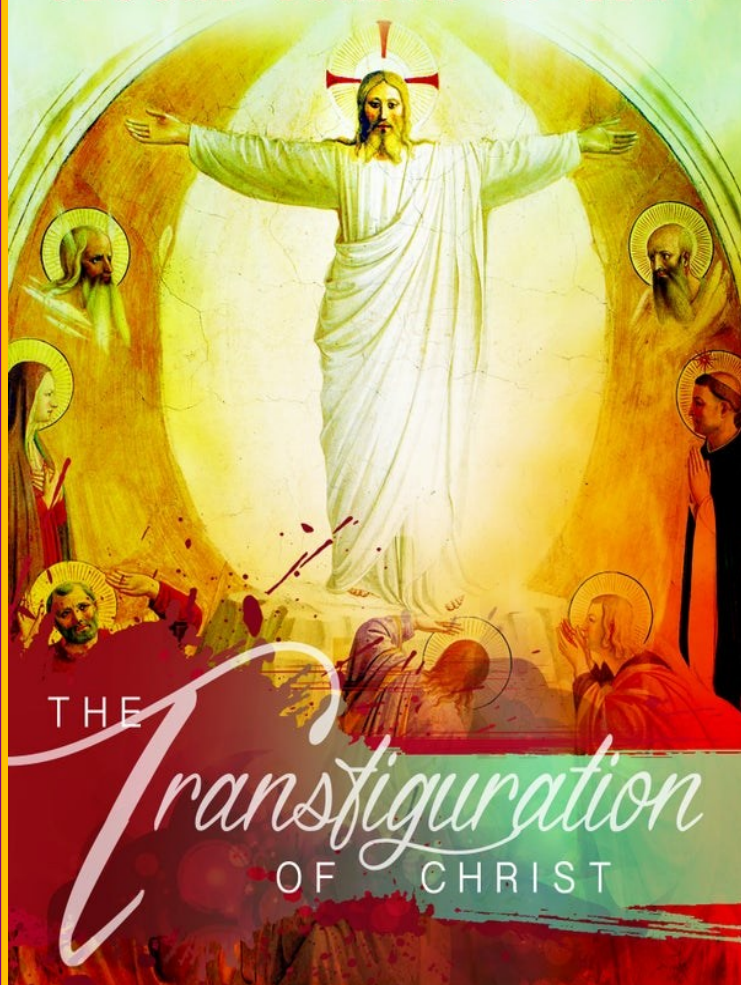


SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

1017 JEFFERSON ST * FOLLANSBEE WV 26037

MARCH 1, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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Readings for the week of March 1, 2026

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sacramental Schedule

Sunday Masses

Saturday4:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30AM

Weekday Masses

MondayNO Mass
Tuesday 6:00PM
Wednesday7:30AM
Thursday 6:00 PM
Friday7:30AM
Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass 6:00PM

Confessions: Saturday 3pm-3:30PM or by appointment

Baptism & Marriage: Please contact the parish office as soon as possible to begin Sacramental Preparation and scheduling.

OCIA: Please contact the parish office for more information.

Parish Prayer Line: Please call
Mary Catherine Croce (304-527-3150)

Pastor..... Rev. Gerald Muoka.... gmuoka@dwc.org.

Parish Secretary:... Cindy McDaniel
stanthonychurch@comcast.net

Music DirectorAttilio Boni - 304-670-2745

Sacramental Prep, Adult Formation, OCIA—Fred & Chris Welshans
- sacdre@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry
Jen Turbanic— jturbanicyouth@st-anthonyfwv.org

St. Francis Centre Manager.....Jim DeMundo - 304-559-7454
Or Nikki 304-527-4577

St. Francis Centre Hall - 304-527-1279

Parish Staff & Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:30am - 3:30
304-527-2286
304-527-2548 (fax)

Holy Orders Any man exploring the possibility of becoming a Priest or Deacon or anyone contemplating Religious Life should contact Fr. Gerald.

Baptism Parents should contact Fred & Chris Welshans to make arrangements.

Holy Eucharist First Communion is celebrated every year in the spring for children in the second grade

Matrimony Engaged couples should contact Father Gerald at least six months before the desired wedding date.

Confirmation Scheduled every two years

Anointing of the Sick Please contact Father Gerald. Catholics are encouraged to receive this sacrament before surgery.

Becoming Catholic (OCIA)

Any non-Catholic interested in becoming a Catholic Christian can contact Fred & Chris Welshans for information regarding The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults.

CCD/PSR Sundays 9:15-10:15 during the school year.

St. Anthony Catholic Church Mission Statement: We as a parish family strive to be a vibrant Catholic Community supporting and nurturing each person on his or her faith journey with Christ.

**Homily for the First Sunday of Lent Year A -
Between Eden And Wilderness**

A man took his young son to a baseball game. While they were sitting there, he asked the boy what he was going to give up for Lent. The boy replied, "I don't know, Dad. Maybe candy. What are you going to give up?" His father said, "I've thought about this a lot and decided to give up liquor." Later in the game, the beer man came by, and the man ordered a beer. His son objected, "Hey, I thought you were giving up liquor!" His dad answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer." To which the boy replied, "Well then, I'm giving up hard candy."

My dear friends, today is the first Sunday of Lent. The readings invite us to reflect on the reality of temptation in our daily living, especially when we make a resolve to reject sin, ditch the devil, and follow Jesus. Temptation is a common experience we face every day. It is the urge and allurements to sin. It is not sin itself but an invitation to sin. It becomes a sin when we accept this invitation. That is why we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." (Matthew 6:13).

Today, we look at two encounters with the devil tempter. First, we have the devil's encounter with Eve/Adam, and second, his encounter with Jesus. The lessons learned from them would be a great guide in advancing our Lenten campaign and living a genuine Christian life as we place both experiences side by side.

i. The temptation of Eve/Adam took place inside the Garden of Eden, a place of bliss, comfort, and abundance. While the temptation of Jesus took place in the wilderness, a place of scarcity, aridity, and lack. This reveals that temptation is respected of no one or in any situation. It comes to us irrespective of our spiritual or social status, the rich and poor, saint and sinner alike. Just be sober, be vigilant (1 Peter 5:8).

ii. Eve/Adam engaged the devil and negotiated with him. But Jesus rebuked and sent him away. Don't negotiate with the devil. He will give you a thousand and one reasons not to obey and follow Jesus, but to believe his lies and follow his directives. The devil is stubborn and is meant to be cast out. Don't be soft with him.

iii. Eve/Adam were tempted and tricked to be like God, and by engaging the devil, they forgot that they were already created in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). It was a question of identity. The devil, too, questioned Jesus' identity, "If you're the son of God..." Jesus knew who he was and never sought to flex muscle with the devil. Eve, on the other hand, believes the devil because she had an identity crisis because she was already like God. Recognizing who you are, "A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession..." (1 Peter 2:9), and whose we are, "Sons and daughters of God" (1 Corinthians 6:18), would enable us to know our worth.

iv. Eve/Adam lacked weapons of self-defense in a spiritual warfare: indwelling of the Holy Spirit and good knowledge of the scripture. Probably, that was why they surrendered easily and went into negotiations. But Jesus knew the best weapon to destroy the enemy: the sacred scripture. Jesus was also led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Engage in reading at least one verse this Lenten season and confess your sins because the presence of mortal sin leaves us without the Holy Spirit.

v. Eve's/Adam's temptation led to a fall, loss of God's friendship, banishment, and death. But Jesus' temptation ended in praise, victory, triumph, and glorification. He experienced the ministrations of the angels. Take Home Messages:

1. Temptation is real. It is respected of no one.

2. To win the battle against temptations, we must be led by the Spirit, have a good knowledge of the Scriptures, and engage in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

God bless you! Fr. Gerald Muoka



Sanctuary Lamp is burning in memory of
CAROL ANN HEADMAN
February 28th - March 6th
Requested by Lou Headman

Why Do We Pray More During Lent?

We pray more during Lent because prayer is what Holy Week is all about. "Christ also died... that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). What do we do in response to being brought to God? We have a conversation with God. That can happen through Church prayers, or very simple words. St. Therese of Lisieux wrote, "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy" (Catechism 2258). Just as we like to tell our friends and loved ones about our day or our concerns, so we can tell God. We can also listen to God by being silent, reading scripture, and listening to Christian songs and podcasts. We can recite Church prayers to help form our thoughts and hearts. We can participate in group prayer through the Mass, stations of the Cross, and Holy Week liturgies. We can look online for today's Catholic morning prayer, evening prayer, or night prayer. We can pray a "morning offering" prayer each day. We can say a decade of the Rosary. We can fast from food or distractions to help us with prayer. We can pray for our loved ones or the needs of the world. Whatever we do, Lent is a great time to increase the time we spend with the Lord in prayer. Jesus died to bring us to God. Let's take advantage of that great gift.

COLLECTION FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Contribution Envelopes	\$2967.00
Loose Contribution	\$614.00
Children's Dues	\$2.00
Debt Reduction	\$10.00
First Offering	\$20.00
Total for Oper. Acct:	\$3613.00.00
Attendance:	216
St. Anthony Bread	\$25.00
Friday Friends	\$230.00
Major Improvements	\$35.00
Missions in United States	\$40.00

Thank you for your stewardship! Your generous donations will help to keep our obligations current. Reminder: please use the contribution envelopes provided to ensure the appropriate credit to your account.

CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

Saint Anthony Parish's final distribution check for the 2025 Catholic Sharing Appeal is \$205.00. Thank you for your dedication and making a difference in the Diocese. Preparations are now being made for the 2026 Kick Off on February 19th.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

MASS INTENTION

Saturday	Feb 28, 2026	4:00pm	Mary Lou Mirasola+	Req by Fred & Joyce Stump
Sunday	Mar 01, 2026	8:00am	Loretta Ceccarelli+	Req by Pauline Thomaselli
Sunday	Mar 01, 2026	10:30am	People of the Parish	
Monday	Mar 02, 2026		No Mass	
Tuesday	Mar 03, 2026	6:00pm	Charles Petrilla+	Req by John & Shirley Cipriani
Wednesday	Mar 04, 2026	7:30am	Arthur Brice (Birthday Blessing)	Req by Elkinton Family
Thursday	Mar 05, 2026	6:00pm	Elizabeth Chiodo+	Req by her Children
Friday	Mar 06, 2026	7:30am	Joe Kurcina+	Req by Dominic & Theresa D'Aurora
		7:30am	First Friday Mass with Anointing Oil	
	Mar 06, 2026	6-6:30pm	"Way of the Cross"	6:30pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday	Mar 07, 2026	4:00pm	Lori Robey+	Req by Joseph & Paulette Jeckering
Sunday	Mar 08, 2026	8:00am	Eleanor Kurcina+	Req by Family
Sunday	Mar 08, 2026	10:30am	People of the Parish	

Liturgical Minister Schedule Mar 7th & Mar 8th

Eucharistic

<u>Mass</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Server</u>
4pm	Mary Kay Olashuk	Kathi Rodgers	Mary Nicolooan
8am	Sophia Turbanic	Penny Withers	J Bayardi/A Turbanic
10:30am	Tina Owen	Anna DiVenanzo	Guy Casinelli

**ADORATION
OF THE EUCHARIST**



TUESDAY: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Tuesdays from 5:30-6pm.

WEDNESDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

O Come let us adore Him! Jesus said to the apostles in the garden on the night before He died for us, "Could you not watch one hour with Me." (Mt 26:40) . He is now asking each of us to open our hearts and come spend 1 hour with Him in Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday here at St Anthony's between 8am and 12pm. Our Lord deserves that we spend time with Him and He is waiting. Worshipping the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a powerful prayer with many blessings. Sign up sheets are available in the entry of the church.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION Friday after 7:30am mass

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 8 Diocesan Priest's Retirement Fund Collection

SAINT ANTHONY PARISH FISH FRY

11am to 6pm

EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

(except Good Friday)

CALL 304-527-7801

MENU: Fish sandwich, Fish dinner, Shrimp dinner
Haluska, Pierogies, cole slaw, macNcheese,
Soup of the Day, drinks & desserts

With the start of Lent, now would be the appropriate time to remove all artificial decorations from the cemetery

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANOINTING WITH OIL SERVICE

Every **First Friday** of the month after the 7:30am Mass

HOME VISITS Fr. Gerald is available every Friday for home visits. Please contact the office to schedule your visit.

MASS INTENTIONS Suggested cost is \$10 for weekday and \$20 for weekend and holidays. The Sanctuary Lamp is also available for a suggested cost of \$10 per week.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS If you are a family member or are requesting a Mass and would like to take the gifts to the Altar, please inform the ushers prior to the Mass.

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY Meetings will be held on the third Sunday of the month following the 8am Mass. All women are welcome. Any questions call Marge Gaudio at (304) 670-7027. Meetings will resume in April 2026

HOLY NAME Meetings will be held every **2nd Sunday of the month after 8am Mass. Meetings will resume in April 2026.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

"WAY OF THE CROSS" 6-6:30PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS 3PM

EASTER CANDELS MAY NOW BE RESERVED FOR THE 8 WINDOWS AND IN FRONT OF MARY AND JOSEPH. AMBER CANDELS ARE \$40 AND WILL BURN FROM DURING THE EASTER SEASON

CALL THE OFFICE 304-527-2286

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Michael Burd, Linda Cipriani, Lorraine Durante, Bill McFadden, Ed Nutter, Carmel Esposito, Ken Norman, Antoinette Perkins, Adynn (Boo) Wood, Jeff & Ruth Ann Yost, Marie Reck, LaVerne Sutak, Leonard Henline, Dave Owens, Sandra Lou Watsonberg, Rudy Kalisz