

March 9-10, 2019
First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

Having evolved from the ancient concept of BARTERING in exchange for what we need, MONEY is now a necessity in order to purchase our food, clothing, shelter and all the amenities by which we live. The SHADOW side is that the pursuit of money for money's sake can quickly become a deadening trap. Food is an absolute necessity in order to live, yet, the SHADOW side is the OVER consumption of it leads to obesity, illness and premature death. Within our CONSUMER culture, everything imaginable is available for purchase: medicines to ease our pain – the SHADOW side being narcotics to deaden our soul and steal our loved ones; clothing shields us from the cold and UV rays – the SHADOW side being the extravagant frills costing tens of thousands of dollars that simply show off our ability to purchase the extravagant; if we have the money....what I WANT is WHAT I GET.....with the next level of SHADOW being....I DESERVE WHATEVER I WANT. The traditional Scriptural beginnings of Lent have Jesus encountering the TEMPTATIONS of Satan: to satisfy HUMAN HUNGERS, the cravings for PERSONAL POWER and the seductive allure of EGO (it is all about ME!) Calling to mind the imagery of the FIRST TEMPTATION (You must be hungry? Turn these stones into bread...) what have been the STONES we have mistakenly coveted....of which we have convinced ourselves that they are good for us? Smoking? Vaping? Narcotics? Steroids? Pornography? The BEST car? The BEST home? The BEST vacation? If cancer visits your family, will the nice car offer solace? If your company goes broke, will the HUGE mortgage still be so pleasant? Will last year's vacation make the deadly overdose of a friend easier to understand? Are there choices we have made that are getting harder and harder to carry? These first days of LENT are hours of honesty and reckoning, of truthfully comparing our life-choices to the teachings of Jesus. What are the stones on which our souls have been broken, what are the lies we must continually feed to keep a personal charade from being exposed, how tired have we become with trying to be something other than the person God is calling us to be? LENT is an invitation to see the world as God sees it...to understand our role in creation....to come home and draw strength from being GOD'S child...and not the shadow side, a child of darkness.

Welcome to the lengthy season of LENT, thank you for sharing these penitential days with our Santa Clara Community. Our CONGRATULATIONS to St. Francis School on the occasion this weekend of their 21st Annual Auction/Gala – may it be a successful evening of fun and gain. Please keep our High School Youth preparing for Confirmation in your prayers as they have their Confirmation retreat beginning this coming Friday. You are reminded as well, with St. Patrick's Day occurring next Sunday, please allow some extra time in your schedule to linger after Mass for some wee sips of Irish Holy Water. **Our Santa Clara LENTEN Penance Service will be on THURSDAY, MARCH 21st**...please mark that as the perfect opportunity to unload whatever STONES are clogging your soul. *If you have NOT YET MADE A PLEDGE to our DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN... 'WE MISS YOU' letters are going out this week, to be followed by a team of volunteers making personal phone calls to inquire about your participation and dreams for Santa Clara....please...our success is not one or two people doing a lot...but ALL of our parishioners each doing what they can.* Lastly, as LENT settles in, please remember, you are loved. FKB