

February 29 – March 1, 2020

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Romans 5:12, 17-19

Matthew 4:1-11

The metal from which gun triggers and barrels are made could also be used to make the hinges that hold our doors to their frames. The glass of a pornographer's film lens could also be the glass through which a child sees their first rainbow. We are surrounded by countless THINGS and the raw materials used to create them. In the same way we would not taste or eat something offered us by a stranger, so, during the season of LENT, we are encouraged to consider the consequences of all the things we have gathered to ourselves and upon which we...and our egos... rely. Do our clothes, homes, cars or vacation destinations make the world a better place? We say we believe in Jesus, but how willingly do we accept HIS CROSS? Have we deluded ourselves into thinking that ETERNAL LIFE is something we can purchase or gain just by wanting it? There are many things for which we, like Jesus, HUNGER. Wisdom teaches us that everything that is digestible is not real food nor good for us. Just because we CAN....does not mean we SHOULD. Writing this for a wide cross section of people of varying ages...when have been the times we have been offered opportunities to BE JUST LIKE JESUS...but we have turned away because it would be troublesome or bothersome? Are there things in our life we wish we had never tried, tasted, experienced because we cannot forget what we now know? What have been the things we might have thought were FOOD or GOOD FOR US...but we now know they were dark and evil? Who have been the people we wish we had never met or with whom we wish we had never spoken? Life is filled with choices and not all of them lead us to God. LENT is the opportunity to discern what we have chosen that is KILLING us...and with God's help, start to disassociate from it and make better choices.

Thank you for joining with our Santa Clara community during these weeks of Lenten purgation and renewal. You are reminded that our Santa Clara Penance/Reconciliation Service is approaching on Thursday, March 12th at 7pm. Plenty of priests will be present to receive your sins and exchange them for grace and forgiveness from God. Our High School Confirmation candidates are on Retreat this weekend, please keep them in your hearts. The Bulletin has information and Registration Forms for our Good Friday Prayer Breakfast, our GUEST SPEAKERS being the parents of Blaze Bernstein, the young Irvine student brutally murdered last year. Please come and hear how his parents want to CONTINUE Blaze's desire to HEAL & FIX the WORLD by doing unexpected acts of kindness. Lent has just begun, it will consume all of March and the first weeks of April... as the days go by, please remember that you are loved. FKB