

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

555 S. Main Street, Johnstown, Ohio 43031 • 740-967-7871 • [www.johnstownascension.org](http://www.johnstownascension.org)

**Father Stephen Smith, Pastor**

[frsmith@johnstownascension.org](mailto:frsmith@johnstownascension.org)

**Father Jesse Chick, CFIC**

Parochial Vicar

[jchick@johnstownascension.org](mailto:jchick@johnstownascension.org)

**Deacon Byron Phillips**

[bphillips@johnstownascension.org](mailto:bphillips@johnstownascension.org)

**Secretary**

Kathy Bartolomucci | 614-325-0188

[office@johnstownascension.org](mailto:office@johnstownascension.org)

[kbartolomucci@johnstownascension.org](mailto:kbartolomucci@johnstownascension.org)

**Music Director**

Valerie Tanner | 740-222-4381

[vtanner@johnstownascension.org](mailto:vtanner@johnstownascension.org)

**Parish Youth Catechesis (PYC)**

Kelly Pertee | 740-817-1628

[kpertee@johnstownascension.org](mailto:kpertee@johnstownascension.org)

**Youth Minister**

Mary Nelson | 419-261-3872

[mnelson@johnstownascension.org](mailto:mnelson@johnstownascension.org)

**Cemetery Coordinator**

Jim Stafford | 614-402-3706

**Baptism Preparation Class**

Molly & Bob Orsini | 614-446-5622

**Social Committee**

Rodney Tornes | 740-817-0137

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

24-hour Hotline | 740-349-0989

**Home School Contact**

Christie Thomas | 614-937-9066

[christie311@proton.me](mailto:christie311@proton.me)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Church of the Ascension is a Catholic community in Johnstown, Ohio that keeps Christ at the center of our hearts, families, homes and parish, so we can live the truth and share it with others*

*(John 14:6; 1 Peter 3:15).*

*With the help of sacred scripture, tradition, and the sacraments, we strive to know, love and serve God in this world, while encouraging others to do the same, so we may live eternally in heaven with Christ, the angels, and the saints*

*(Ephesians 2:4-8).*

Ascension of Christ, Gebhard Fugel (c. 1893)

**WEEKEND MASSES**

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

**HOLY DAYS**

Vigil 6:30 p.m.

8:00 a.m. • 7:00 p.m.

**ADORATION**

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**DAILY MASS**

Monday 8:00 am

Tuesday 6:30 pm

Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 am

**CONFESSIONS**

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY AT CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION.

TO REGISTER IN THE PARISH, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT 740-967-7871.



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# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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FEBRUARY 18, 2024 • FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

8:00 a.m. James Munoz  
by Stan &  
Elizabeth Hawbaker

8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions

4:00 p.m. Parish Family

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:30 a.m. Teresa Eichner  
by Denny & Terry Shank

11:00 a.m. Bea Buzenski  
by Mark &  
Joanne Hawkins

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

8:00 a.m. For those suffering  
from cancer

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions

6:30 p.m. Toni Burkart by Danny  
& Kathy Richards

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased  
Members of the Hamilton  
Family by Stan &  
Elizabeth Hawbaker

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased  
Member of the Williams  
Family by Stan &  
Elizabeth Hawbaker

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased  
Members of the McCulloch  
Family by Stan &  
Elizabeth Hawbaker

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased  
Members of the Davolio  
Family by Stan &  
Elizabeth Hawbaker

8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions

4:00 p.m. Jack & Lucy Walsh  
by Stephen &  
Kathryn Eyerman

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:30 a.m. Parish Family

11:00 a.m. Bob Meholick  
by the Cromwell Family

## Pastor's Corner

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

This weekend, we celebrate the First Sunday of the Season of Lent. This season offers each of us an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with the Lord and to consider how our actions have either negatively or positively affected that relationship, while acknowledging our need for God's mercy in our daily lives.

In the Gospel this weekend, we see Jesus experience a very human interaction – He is driven out into the desert and is tempted by Satan. This can seem pretty shocking to us at first glance, because we can understand a bit of Jesus' vulnerability, which doesn't seem to fit with our understanding of the Messiah.

Jesus permits Himself to be tempted in the desert, because He wishes to experience humanity as we do ... the only difference, of course, is that Jesus doesn't allow this temptation to lead Him into sin.

Our human struggle with what the Church calls "concupiscence," or an "inclination to sin," is an effect of original sin. Our eyes are somewhat blinded by the allure of sin and the temptation of the devil can weigh more on our hearts. This is why we call Satan the "Father of Lies." It is through this "lie" of sin that we turn our gaze away from God and on ourselves and other worldly occupations.

Our need for God is clear. This example of Jesus in today's Gospel should give us hope, because through Him and our reliance on Him, we can overcome temptation as He has. Jesus became man to teach us what it truly means to be man; that is, to live as man in true freedom for God.

During this Lenten Season, may we open our hearts to the example of Jesus and turn to our loving God in times of temptation and need, gazing upon His merciful heart, which so desires to lead us to our heavenly home. May we run to Him in our weakness and seek His merciful love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation – so that we may be reconciled to the world, and to God Himself.

*God bless,*

Fr. Smith



### NEW! ONLINE BOOKING

Fr. Smith is using a new, easier online booking system to meet with parishioners. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with Fr. Smith, please scan the QR code or visit his calendar at <https://calendly.com/frstphensmith>.

### MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

We have many open dates for Mass Intentions on our calendar. Please contact us in the office at 740-967-7871, [office@johnstownascension.org](mailto:office@johnstownascension.org), or drop a note in the collection with the Intention and your name. The Mass Stipend is \$10.00. We will do our best to accommodate any special date requests.

### RCIA RITE OF SENDING

Sunday, February 18, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

## *First Sunday of Lent* FEBRUARY 17-18, 2024

|                          | <i>SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.</i> | <i>SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.</i> | <i>SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ALTAR SERVERS:           | Shelli Writesel             | Clair Barb                | CC Zirille                 |
|                          | Mike Keebaugh               | Joey Barb                 | Alex Smithhisler           |
|                          | Ethan Wnek                  | Annie Muntz               | Jack Smithhisler           |
| EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: | Dennis Murnane – Host       | Jerri Burgel – Chalice    | Danielle Wetzel – Host     |
|                          |                             | Rachel Barb – Chalice     |                            |
|                          |                             | Dale Anne Davidson – Host |                            |
| LECTORS:                 | Tom Nann                    | Dale Anne Davidson        | Dave Bogner                |
|                          | Dennis Murnane – Angelus    | Mark Holland – Angelus    | Diana Lewis – Angelus      |
| GREETERS/USHERS:         | Jan Orkis                   | Tommy Botts               | Zirille Family             |
|                          | Maureen Keebaugh            | Andrea Botts              | Mary Ann Shaffer           |
| LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:     |                             |                           | Smithhisler Family         |

## *Second Sunday of Lent* FEBRUARY 24-25, 2024

|                          | <i>SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.</i> | <i>SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.</i> | <i>SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.</i>     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ALTAR SERVERS:           | Ethan Wnek                  | Veronica Botts            | Bode Cherry                    |
|                          | Christian Dorsten           | Clair Barb                | Mathew Cherry                  |
|                          | Mike Keebaugh               | Joey Barb                 | Cole Fox                       |
| EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: | Shelli Writesel – Host      | Michael Robbins – Chalice | <b>Volunteer Needed – Host</b> |
|                          |                             | Karla Fox Somar – Chalice |                                |
|                          |                             | Mary Sheehan – Host       |                                |
| LECTORS:                 | <b>Volunteer Needed</b>     | Adele Robbins             | Mike Dunfee                    |
|                          | Aaron Locker – Angelus      | Rodney Tornes – Angelus   | Sally Blubaugh – Angelus       |
| GREETERS/USHERS:         | Mary Ann Shaffer            | Bubby Eichner             | Lora Dunfee                    |
|                          | Jan Orkis                   | Robbi Eichner             | Mike Dunfee                    |
| LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:     |                             |                           | Jim Stafford                   |

### **WOMAN OF ASCENSION**

The **Woman of Ascension Group** wants to thank all those who helped with and supported our Sub Sale. We appreciate all the help and baked goods donations. A special thanks to Sugar & Spice Market in Utica and Auddino's Bakery in Columbus for working with us on the meats, cheese and rolls for the subs. We hope everyone enjoyed their sandwiches.

## *Your Prayers are Requested*

Your prayers this week are asked for Virginia Ankrom, Maxine Nann, Letha Patton, John Yeagle, the Keasey Family, Wesley Potts, Susan Welch, Joyce Curran, Gabrielle & Shawn, Dana Caswell, Suzanne Kubin, Sharon Freitag, Di Habash, Gordon Cromwell, Joe Lindsay, Ivan Booth, Donna Dellapina, Mark & Cathy Mann, Peggy Hall, Terry Baesmann, John Tomich, Barbara Penhorwood, Margie Easterday, John & Neva Stover, Jared Writesel, Don Vocca, Karen Reitz, Jeff Ankrom, JoAnn Wright, Bob Muench, Ron & Ann Mullins, Ron Gallo, Helen Tomich, and for those who have no one to pray for them.

**Are you or someone in your family on active duty in the military? Please let us know and we will add the names to our Prayer Requests.**

### **MINISTERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL MASSES**

Please consider giving an hour of your time to be ministers to the Lord at Mass. We are in desperate need for all Mass times, especially the 4:00 p.m. Mass. We need Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers (5th grade-Adult) and Greeters. Training provided. Contact Fr. Smith at [frsmith@johnstownascension.org](mailto:frsmith@johnstownascension.org)

## Your Gifts to God

WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00

430 REGISTERED FAMILIES

*FEBRUARY 10/11, 2024*

|                     |    |          |
|---------------------|----|----------|
| Total Offering      | \$ | 5,513.11 |
| 66 Envelopes        | \$ | 2,831.00 |
| Loose Cash          | \$ | 456.11   |
| Online              | \$ | 2,226.00 |
| St. Vincent de Paul | \$ | 987.00   |
| SOLT                | \$ | 40.00    |
| SOS                 | \$ | 20.00    |
| Initial Offering    | \$ | 5.00     |
| The Catholic Times  | \$ | 148.00   |

Do you return a portion of your time/skills/possessions to God in a spirit of gratitude? Looking for an easier way to give? Scan the QR code to open a link to the Church of the Ascension ParishSOFT Giving. Simply hold your phone's camera over the square and touch the link that appears at the top of your camera screen, or visit <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ascensionjohnstown>.



### *BLACK & INDIAN MISSIONS*

Thank you for your donations this weekend to the Black & Indian Missions. Your support is greatly appreciated.

If you would like a *STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023*, please email the church office at [office@johnstownascension.org](mailto:office@johnstownascension.org), drop a note in the collection basket, or call the Parish Office at 740-967-7871. Please let us know if you would like to receive it via email or snail mail.



Please help yourselves to the *LENTEN MATERIALS* that are available on the table in the Gathering Space. There are books for adults and kids to help prepare yourselves for Lent. There are also *OPERATION RICE BOWLS* for you to take home as a reminder to give as Christ gave for us.

### *STATIONS OF THE CROSS*

Commemorate Jesus' Passion and death on the Cross Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. after the Fish Fry.

### *40 CANS FOR LENT*

Donate a can for every day of Lent to benefit the Johnstown-Northridge Food Pantry. Just bring your cans to the church. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

### *BIBLE STUDY*

The character of St. Peter is both inspiring and confounding to many of us. How could a stubborn and impulsive fisherman become the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church? Bringing together biblical accounts, historical evidence, Church teaching, classical art, and personal insights, Dr. Tim Gray gives a fresh perspective on Simon Peter that is immediately informative and relevant to our lives. After all, if Jesus could bring out the very best in someone like Peter, then there is hope for the rest of us. This Bible Study happens every Friday morning, beginning at 8:45 a.m., and runs through Friday, April 12, except for on Good Friday on March 29.

Questions? Please contact Carrie Suess at [carriesuess@yahoo.com](mailto:carriesuess@yahoo.com)

"Let us also love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these, they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve." – St. Francis of Assisi

The Diocese of Columbus has *A GOOD AND GROWING NEED* by virtue of 16 ADDITIONAL young men interested in the priesthood.

In this Lenten season, consider giving to our Seminary support fund second collection on the weekend of February 24 and 25, or donate now at <https://www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/seminarian-support-fund>.

#vocations #seminarians #goodandgrowingneed #priests #ColumbusCatholic



Our **ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY** will take place every Friday in Lent. It began February 16 and will run through March 22, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Dinners include fish, baked potatoes or fries, coleslaw, bun, dessert and drink. Cost: Adults \$12.00; Children 6-12 and Senior Citizens, \$8.00; Children 5 and under eat free! Carry-out is available! If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop it off on Thursday or Friday. Any questions, call Bill Paider at 614-348-4216.

### **THE CATHOLIC TIMES**

It's not too late to sign up for *The Catholic Times* or give the publication as a gift during Catholic Press Month. For a minimum donation of \$26.00 for a one-year subscription, Catholic news from the Diocese will be delivered right to your home. Sign up or renew online at catholictimescolumbus.org under the Subscribe tab. Current subscribers also will receive a paper statement in the mail that can be returned to *The Catholic Times*, Diocese of Columbus, 197 E. Gay Street with a check for \$26.00, or paid online at the website. Another option for new subscribers is to mail your \$26.00 check, payable to Diocese of Columbus – Catholic Times to our office at 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215. You need *The Catholic Times* to keep up on all the news throughout the Diocese and the Catholic world.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL HOUSE HOMESCHOOL CO-OP**

Church of the Ascension is hosting a Catholic School House Homeschool Co-op that focuses on Pre-K through 3rd grade students. Along with the CSH curriculum, the group focuses on Catholic liturgical living. We are currently on a break, but will be meeting on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with the opportunity to attend the 8:00 a.m. Mass. If you would like to join us or would like more details, please contact Jessica Santareilli at 614-330-2903 or Erin Young at 614-329-3107.

### **BECOME A SERRAN!**

Serrans ensure the future of the Catholic Church by creating a culture of vocations in our Columbus Diocese. Serrans affirm and encourage our priests and supporting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Serrans assist and encourage one another to respond to God's call to holiness. Check out our website at [SERRACOLUMBUS.ORG](http://SERRACOLUMBUS.ORG) for more information and scheduled events.



### **SURRENDERING THE SECRET ABORTION RECOVERY**

Led by Catholic women who have themselves experienced abortion, this group endeavors to help others find a path to healing through a weekly interactive Bible Study, meaningful group experiences, and a caring community. Upcoming sessions will meet weekly on Wednesdays, beginning February 21, 6:30-8:45 p.m. Get information and RSVP at [stfrancisparish.net/register](http://stfrancisparish.net/register). If you have questions before registering, place a confidential call or text 740-527-0730, or email us at [STSN Newark@gmail.com](mailto:STSN Newark@gmail.com). Again, please don't hesitate to reach out. **You are not alone and we're here to help you on the journey to healing.**

### **CHECK OUT OUR BACK COVER!**

Please take some time to look at the ads on the back of our bulletin. We have some new ones this year and there are some coupons on there. These advertisers provide us the opportunity to have such a nice bulletin from Dee Printing. Please patronize them as often as possible.

### **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Jones-Schlater Flooring located in Reynoldsburg is looking to hire an Office/Project Administrator. Join a great team! Grab a flyer off the bulletin board in the hallway for further information.

### **HOMESCHOOL GATHERING**

The homeschooling families of the Church of the Ascension will be gathering on Tuesday, March 5 at 2:00 p.m. We will meet in the large classrooms to socialize. If you are currently homeschooling or are considering it, please join us! We will be discussing various topics, including homeschooling special needs/IEP children and liturgical living. This would be a great time to meet other families and ask questions! Contact Christie Thomas at [christie311@proton.me](mailto:christie311@proton.me) with any questions.



The American Red Cross is experiencing an **EMERGENCY BLOOD SHORTAGE** as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Blood products are currently going to hospitals faster than blood donations are coming in, and in recent weeks, the Red Cross has had to limit distributions of Type-O blood products – among the most transfused blood types – to hospitals. Give Monday, February 19, from 1:00-7:00 p.m. at Ascension and you will receive a \$20.00 Amazon gift card by email.

Activities for Children

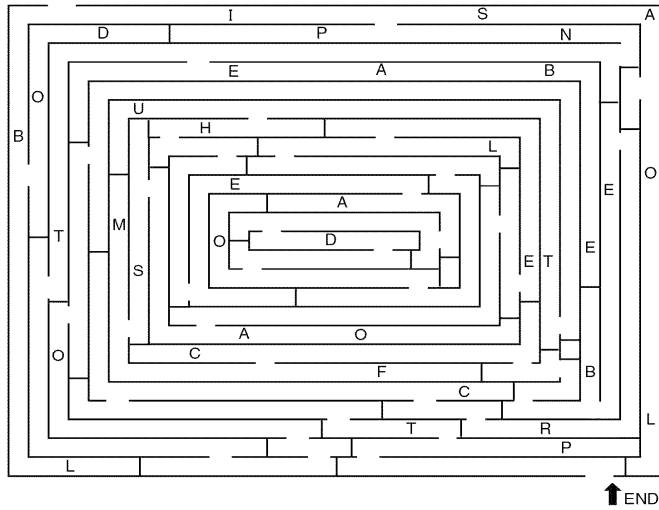
Jesus Is Tempted

After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit sent Him somewhere. Where was it?

Find the correct path through the maze and write the letters on the blanks below.



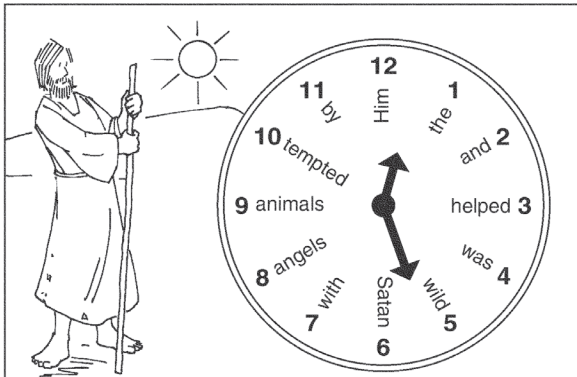
START ↓



↑ END

What happened while Jesus was in the desert?

Use the clock code to fill in the blanks.



He \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_

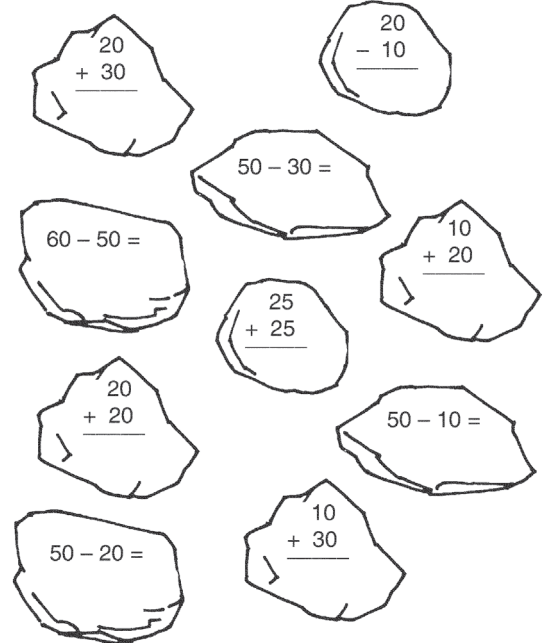
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many days was Jesus in the desert?

Do the math problems.  
Write the most common answer on the line below.



Jesus was in the desert for \_\_\_\_\_ days.



What message did Jesus proclaim in Galilee?

Use the code to fill in the letters on the blanks below

- ☆ = A   ★ = E   ☆ = I   ☐ = N   ☐ = S   ☐ = W
- ★ = B   ☆ = F   ☆ = J   ☐ = O   ☐ = T   ☐ = X
- ☆ = C   ☆ = G   ☆ = K   ☐ = P   ☐ = U   ☐ = Y
- ★ = D   ☆ = H   ☆ = L   ☐ = Q   ☐ = V   ☐ = Z
- ☆ = M   ☐ = R

"The time has come," He said.

“  
 ☐ ☆ ☆   ☆ ☆ ☐   ☆ ☆ ☐ ☆  
 ☐ ☆   ☆ ☐ ☆   ☆ ☐   ☐ ☆ ☆ ☐  
 ☐ ☆ ☐ ☆   ☐ ☐   ☆ ☐ ☆  
 ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☐ ☆  
 ☐ ☆ ☆   ☆ ☐ ☐ ☆  
 \_\_\_\_\_”  
 ☐ ☆ ☐ ☐

## REPENTANCE

*Reflection on Mark 1:12-15*

We heard on Ash Wednesday that Lent is all about repentance. We discover today, in the first reading, that God isn't asking us to do anything God Himself has not considered first. The drama of the story of Noah and the flood – with the ark, the animals, the deluge – can overshadow a more central aspect of the story. It is a story about God's first covenant with His people, and strangely, we find God providing humanity with an example of new resolve, a kind of repentance.

Our covenant with God is fundamental to what we are about in Lent. While God has taken the initiative in forging the covenant with us, it is a mutual pact, with obligations on both sides. Each of us has entered into this covenant in Baptism, pledging our lives in fidelity to God, while God has pledged to use His saving grace always.

We repent in order to return to Baptism, to return to the covenant. We embrace a new resolve to return with boldness to our baptismal obligations. Yes, this repentance must involve admitting that we have failed, have sinned, have not lived up to our side of the covenant. Directly into this sorrow, Jesus will enter with forgiveness and the steadfast, undying love that leads us home to the promised land of Easter.

~ Fr. Jay

# LENT

*"Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant."*

PSALM 25:10

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### Sunday, February 18, 2024

*First Sunday of Lent*

Gn 9:8-15  
Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
1 Pt 3:18-22  
Mk 1:12-15

### Monday, February 19, 2024

*Lenten Weekday*

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18  
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15  
Mt 25:31-46

### Tuesday, February 20, 2024

*Lenten Weekday*

Is 55:10-11  
Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19  
Mt 6:7-15

### Wednesday, February 21, 2024

*Lenten Weekday*

Jon 3:1-10  
Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19  
Lk 11:29-32

### Thursday, February 22, 2024

*The Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle*

1 Pt 5:1-4  
Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6  
Mt 16:13-19

### Friday, February 23, 2024

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 18:21-28  
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8  
Mt 5:20-26

### Saturday, February 24, 2024

*Lenten Weekday*

Dt 26:16-19  
Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8  
Mt 5:43-48

Access Daily Readings from  
the New American Bible,  
Revised Edition (NABRE) online at  
<https://bible.usccb.org>

*Loving God.*

*Sometimes my heart turns  
in every direction except  
toward You.*

*Please help me to turn my  
heart toward You, to gaze  
upon You in trust and to  
seek Your Kingdom with all  
of my heart.*

*Soften my hardened  
heart so that I might love  
others as a way to glorify  
and worship You.*

*Grant me this with the  
ever-present guidance of  
Your Spirit.*

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