



Established
July 5, 1840

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / Confessions: Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church

WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 12noon

Gift Shop Hours: Sun 7:30am - 11:00am

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org February 22, 2026 | 22 de febrero de 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Reading I - Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Psalm - 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17 | Reading II - Romans 5:12-19 | Gospel - Matthew 4:1-11
Primera Lectura - Génesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Salmo - 50:3-4,5-6,12-13,17 | Segunda Lectura - Romanos 5:12-19 | Evangelio - Mateo 4:1-11

STRENGTH AGAINST TEMPTATION

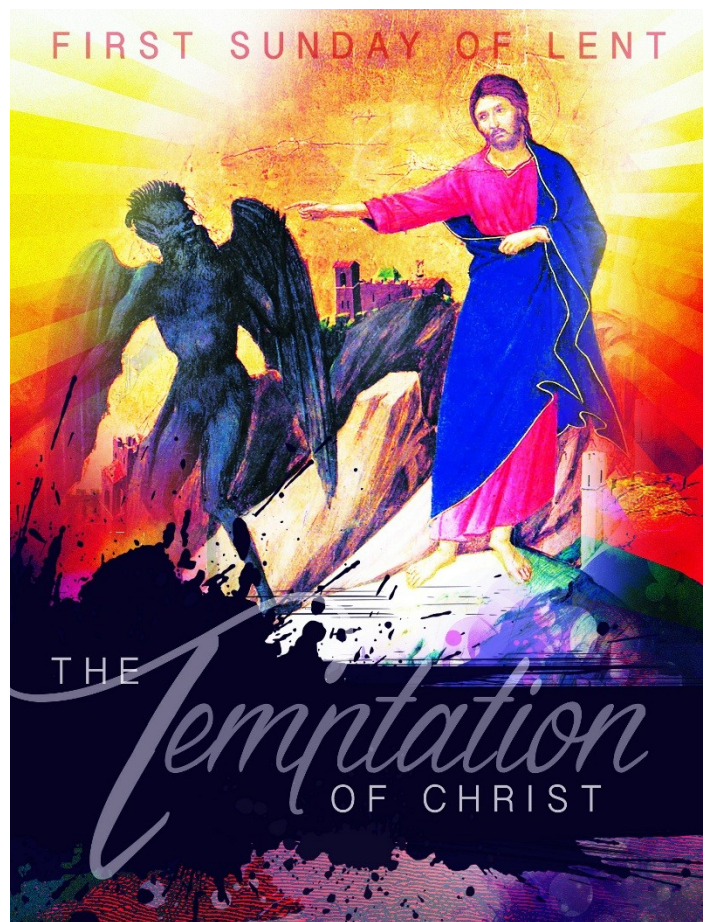
The first Sunday of the season of Lent always includes a Gospel account of the temptation of the Lord Jesus in the desert by the devil. This year, the story is set against the backdrop of the first reading from Genesis, which recounts the very first temptation by the devil. That story is set in a garden of delight. The Gospel story is set in the desert. As believers, we know that temptation comes our way in our own gardens of delight as well as the deserts of our lives. As Lent begins, our attention is drawn to that temptation within each of us to become like God - we want control, power, and answers to all of life's difficult questions. As communities of faith, we are given this season of repentance so that we can join our hearts with others on the difficult journey of conversion. We look to God and to one another for strength against temptation.

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PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Primera Lectura: Génesis 12:1-4

Psalm/Salmo: 33 (32):4-5,18-19,20,22

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Segunda Lectura: 2 Timoteo 1:8-10

Gospel/Evangelio: Matthew (Mateo) 17:1-9

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at saintmichaelparishkona.org. To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.

February 22, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

First Sunday of Lent

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Rom 5:12-19 | Mt 4:1-11

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Although we're at the very beginning of Lent, today's first reading from Genesis prepares us for words we will hear on the night of the Easter Vigil: "O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!" (Exsultet) *O truly necessary sin?! O happy fault?!* What could these words actually *mean*? I think the Exsultet is drawing us to see that sin is not the end of the story. In the mysterious working of grace, being in a state of needing God's forgiveness (sin) opens us up to the possibility of experiencing and receiving his endless love and mercy. As we take on practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent, may we not grow discouraged when we inevitably fall short, but may we recognize that our very weakness presents us with an opportunity to rejoice in his merciful love.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

At the heart of evangelization is announcing the good news that our sin doesn't have the last word. St. Paul puts it this way: While death came through Adam's sin, "the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many." While sin certainly wreaks havoc by bringing suffering and death into our world, the conviction of the Church is that the restoration God brings about through the death and resurrection of Jesus elevates humanity to a state far better than what we lost in the fall. What might it look like to witness to this great hope we have in Jesus in our own lives? How can we offer encouragement to those who feel they have fallen too far from grace that God's mercy is far more powerful than any transgression they may have committed?

REFLECT

Throughout the Gospels, we hear story after story of sinners ending up closer to God than those who think themselves to be perfectly obedient (The Prodigal Son [Lk 15:11-32]; the Pharisee and the Tax Collector [Lk 18:9-14]). As you contemplate which Lenten practices to adopt in these next few weeks, keep in mind that holiness isn't found in perfect adherence to these practices, but by humbling yourself to recognize the God who loves you even when you fall.



Life of Stewardship

As we begin the season of Lent, the Church invites us into 40 days of renewal and refocusing. Lent is not only about giving something up, but about making room for God. For Christian stewards, this season invites us to reflect on how we are using the time entrusted to us.

In the first reading, Adam and Eve turn their attention away from God and allow doubt to take root. Trust is replaced by self-reliance, and the harmony of the Garden is broken. These same temptations remain familiar when our days become crowded with distractions that pull us away from God.

In the Gospel, Jesus shows us a different path. In the desert, He gives time to prayer and fasting, remains grounded in Scripture, and places His complete trust in the Father. By intentionally giving time to God, Jesus resists temptation and remains faithful.

Lent invites us to do the same. By making space in our schedules for prayer, Scripture, and quiet reflection, we grow in trust and gratitude. When we place God at the center of our time, stewardship becomes a way of life, and our hearts are prepared to celebrate the joy of Easter.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Parish News

Hawaii Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

Our **Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal** is an exciting opportunity for our parish community to come together and *Share God's Gifts* in support of the vital ministries that strengthen our Church across the islands. Make your gift online using the QR code. Envelopes will be provided as soon as we receive them. Your generosity supports Catholic schools and faith formation programs, out-reach to individuals and families in need, evangelization efforts, and the formation of seminarians preparing for the priesthood. Together, we can make a lasting difference!



40 Cans for Lent

The Knights of Columbus started their "40 Cans for Lent" campaign on Ash Wednesday. **Please consider donating one can for each day of our Lenten season.** Donations can be left in the carts inside the front entrance of the Church.

Healing Mass

We will have a Healing Mass on Tuesday, February 24 at St. Michael's. Everyone is welcome! Confession and Praise & Worship at 6pm. Healing Mass at 6:30pm followed by healing prayers for emotional, physical, spiritual healing and healing in relationships. Come and experience the healing touch from God's love! **Contact Monica (720) 341-3752 for more info.**

Lenten Soup Supper-Wednesdays after Benediction

Every Wednesday during Lent, our various ministries will provide a simple soup and bread supper after Benediction. Come and spend an hour of adoration between 7:30 and 5pm in the Church. Join us for Benediction at 5pm and then our Soup Supper in the Grace Parish center. We look forward to seeing you as we come together to embrace the Lenten season.

Lenten Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent, the **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed **at 5pm at St. Michael's in English** and at **6pm at Immaculate Conception in Spanish.**

Lenten Fish Fry Fridays

Please join us each Friday after Stations of the Cross from 5:45pm to 7:15pm, for Lenten Fish Fry Fridays in the Grace Parish Center. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Eat-In or Take-Out dinner is only \$15 per person. See posters on the church kiosks for more information.

St. Michael's 16th Annual Golf Tournament

Please stop by our tent after Mass to bid on our silent auction items and/or to sign up as a volunteer. St. Michael's 16th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, March 7th at Kona Country Club. We still have room for more golfers! Call Don at 808-756-6912 for more information.

40DaysForLife

The Respect Life Committee began the 40DaysForLife Campaign, on **Ash Wednesday and will continue until Sunday, March 29.** This is an international event of 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're invited to join us in peaceful prayer during the 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside St. Michael's church on Ali'i Drive.

If you'd like to volunteer as a prayer disciple, or stand up for life and participate in our community outreach, please sign up at **www.40daysforlife.com/en/kona**. Signs are provided. For more information, contact Lori through our parish office.

Kona Hospital Volunteer Chaplain Program

St. Michael's, St. Benedict's, and St. John the Baptist have all participated in taking communion to Catholic patients at Kona Community Hospital for many years. The hospital calls it their Hospital Chaplain Program. We are currently in need of several volunteers to visit our Catholic patients and offer them communion and/or prayer once or twice a month. The nice part of this ministry is that you pick the date(s) you are available and go anytime during visiting hours. To volunteer, you must be a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion at your parish. Kona Hospital asks that you complete their volunteer paperwork and orientation. Volunteers go at times that are convenient for them, and visits generally require an hour or less of your time. To volunteer, please call Frances Vasquez at 505-328-1727.

Men of Faith Retreat - February 28

Deacon Jerome Bettencourt will lead the Men in Faith retreat on Saturday, February 28th, 2026, starting with daily Mass at 7am and retreat to follow in the Grace Parish Center.

Deacon Jerome Bettencourt was ordained in 2011 and served the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for 14 years as a deacon. He has worked as a catechist, retreat leader, and spiritual director. He recently retired from his career as a professional educator after 40 years of service. He moved to our island last August and is assigned to Sacred Heart

Stewardship of Treasure

February 9th - 15th, 2026

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 3,835.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 11,681.00
BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$ 5,609.00

We are grateful that our construction debt for the Grace Parish Center has been paid off.

Our weekly second collection will now go toward our Building Repairs & Maintenance.

Mahalo for your continued generosity!

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2026 MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: \$14,082.75

The Diocesan Assessment covers shared staff and administrative resources from the Diocese supporting every parish.

The new "Annual Appeal" assessment starting in January provides funds for collaborative Catholic ministries and services that extend beyond the capacity of any single parish.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit saintmichaelparishkona.org and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

Parish in Pahoehoe. He also serves as a Byzantine (Eastern Rite) Deacon for the Byzantine Outreach in Honomu.

All Men of Faith of our Parish and Beyond are invited. We will have a continental breakfast to start and lunch will be provided. To sign up, please see Deacon Craig Camello or John Czajkowski.

St. Michael the Archangel Scholarship Program

Our St. Michael the Archangel Scholarship aims to empower young adults to become active witnesses of the Catholic faith, supporting students in developing and participating in a faith-based environment at their campus or local church. The scholarship is available to incoming or current students at an accredited university, college, community college, or technical school.

Visit St. Michael's website saintmichaelparishkona.org for eligibility criteria and application. Scholarship amounts can vary and will be determined based on availability of funds. Deadline to apply is March 15. Top candidates will be notified by May 1. If you wish to donate to the scholarship fund, envelopes are available in the kiosks.

St. Michael Statue Brick Garden

We are accepting orders for Phase 2, scheduled for installation in the Spring 2026. Order forms and information are available after Mass at the coffee station, at the kiosk, or at the Parish Office during the week. Three brick sizes are offered, each with your choice of engraving. Let your legacy become part of our parish grounds. Together, let's build something beautiful for generations to come. Everyone is welcome to participate.

AARP Offering Free Tax Help

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is available free to taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those ages 50 and older. West Hawaii has two sites offering service from **February 4 until April 10**. Hale Halawai, located at 75-5600 Ali'i Drive is open on a walk-in basis on **Thursdays from 8am until 12 noon**.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

Classes continue every Sunday from 10:15 to 11:50am in the Grace Parish Center. Students preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion this year will celebrate their First Reconciliation at 9:00am on Saturday, February 28. Please plan to meet in the Church at 8:30am for instructions.

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

This Sunday, February 22, we will be going over the Sacrament of Reconciliation for our Youth ready to receive Confirmation and 1st Eucharist. We will meet at the same time 5:15 pm, parents can stay, it should take about one hour. The rest of Youth ministry will meet again on Sunday, March 1st 5:15-7:15 pm. 1st Reconciliation will be on Saturday, February 28th at 8:30 am until they are done.

First Sunday of Lent

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow did not destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads. - *Father John Muir, ©LPi*

YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:00-7:30pm

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Hula Ministry Practice 5:30-6:30pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm
- Neocatechumenal Way 6:00-7:00pm
(Last Wed. of each month) 7:00-8:00pm

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm
(3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm
(First Thursday - Grace Parish Center)
(Third Thursday - Ola Brew)

FRIDAY

- Women of the Word 12:00-1:00pm

SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

SUNDAY

- Gift Shop Open 7:30am-11am
- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

Baptism

Baptism Classes are held monthly as needed. Parents and Godparents must attend class. The next class will be held at 8:30am on Saturday, March 14 in the Office Conference Room.

To register, please email baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation.

Everyday Stewardship - A Lenten Challenge

Can you believe Lent is here already? It seems like not that long ago I was decorating a Christmas tree! Time waits for no one and that is why it is important to make a mindful commitment now to not let this Lenten season pass you by. It is a great time to focus on growing as an everyday steward. The temptations are always there to procrastinate or to give in to spiritual laziness, but the Church's observation of Lent offers us so many tools to help us get on track. Increased devotions such as Stations of the Cross, various parish missions, or Lenten focused literature are all gifts that your parish may be offering to assist you in this season.

With the Passion being the focus of Lent, it is easy to contemplate the value of true generosity. How could someone give more than Jesus? He gave until his life was spent on a cross. When contemplating how we can increase our generosity in all aspects of our life, we only need to look to the cross. Of course, this also brings home to us that more may be asked of us than we bargained. The temptation is to not give too much, out of fear that we might face persecution or worse.

But we take solace in the fact that we are disciples of One who had the same temptations. He overcame those temptations. He rejected the easy way out. His love and generosity could not be contained. He gave it all so that you and I have the chance to do the same. This Lent, look to the greatest example of stewardship that ever lived. Jesus will show us the way to observe a Lent that will soon bring forth great Easter fruit.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Into the Desert

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so hard to be good? Why do we go to the desert? Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted. We see him. We recognize him. We are him. And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!" Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman © LPI

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

- 4pm - Zola Ingram, Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

- 7am - Zachary Kanuha, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Roland Fornataro, Death Anniversary, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Joe Reynolds, Rest in Peace

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

- 7am - Jack Derzay, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Chris Eastridge, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

- 7am - Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
- 5pm - MISSA PRO POPULO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

- 7am - Seangdara Bunrasi, Surang Bunrasi, Robert Dowling, Roy Peloquin, Gary Lewis, Surin Kailuanam, Rose Lewis, Dr. Arthur Bourgeois, Rest in Peace

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

- 7am - Sean, Lorraine and David Wilkinson, May they Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Chris Eastridge, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

- 7am - Louise Ogg, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Frances Acol, 41st Anniversary of Death, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

- 7am - Robert Keohoula Kimitete, Birthday Blessings

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."

—Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry
The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.**



SCAN ME

Use this QR Code for our Amazon Wishlist. Items purchased can be mailed directly to the Parish Office. Mahalo for your support!

Accepting Limitations

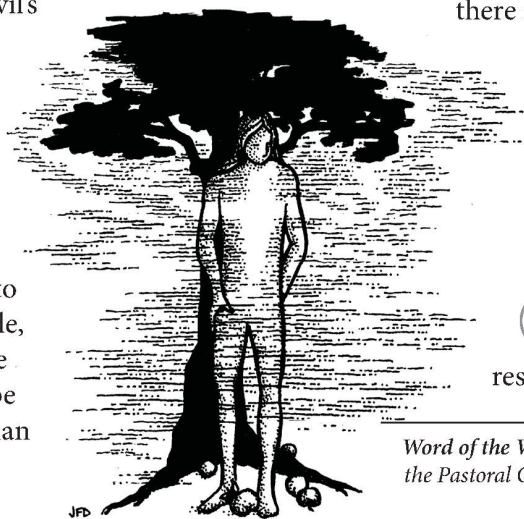
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 • The fall of humankind
- ▶ Romans 5:12-19 • Humanity's sin through Adam
- ▶ Matthew 4:1-11 • The temptation of Jesus

As we move into this Lenten season of penitence, the readings for this first Sunday revolve around the themes of temptation and sin. The first reading recounts the story of the “Fall” of the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden. The second reading reflects back on that story. The Gospel reading, on the other hand, gives a glimpse of how we might be tempted yet remain faithful to God as Jesus was. It is as if Jesus’ obedience brings the first story full circle, giving us hope that we aren’t all doomed to give in to temptations to do what is wrong.

Between the first reading from Genesis when Adam and Eve eat the fruit they aren’t supposed to eat, and the Gospel reading of Jesus resisting extreme temptations in his hunger and exhaustion, we are given two examples of how to deal with our own temptations. Adam and Eve were seemingly set up for an easy, blissful life with all they needed and more at their disposal. Yet the slightest suggestion from the serpent that they shouldn’t be limited in what they had or in their power and knowledge was all it took for them to decide they knew better than God. How often we give in so easily when presented with options for more things even though we already have enough!

On the other hand, Jesus was in extreme physical need when he resisted the devil’s temptations to feed himself and claim power. He had more reasons to give in, and most of us would be understanding if he did. But rather than grasp at physical comfort, reassurance, and strength, he chose to remain vulnerable and humble, even frail. When God became human in Jesus, he chose to be fully human and endure human



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“The woman answered the serpent: ‘God said, You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.’”

Sheepish Question:
But seriously, about temptation: How am I like Adam or Eve?

limitations, from his 40 days in the desert all the way through to his agonizing death.

What is the lesson here then? Perhaps it is about not grasping for more things, more power, or more security, but trusting we will be cared for, even in our vulnerabilities and need. Jesus accepted and lived with his human limitations. Certainly, it’s uncomfortable and oftentimes outright painful to have physical, emotional, and intellectual limits as we live out our lives in imperfect bodies in an imperfect world. God isn’t a masochist who wants us to be in pain and need, any more than God wanted that for Jesus, but Jesus shows us there is dignity in being limited, and there is strength in needing God.

Questions of the Week

- 1 In what areas of your life are you most vulnerable to being tempted into choosing something that is not good for you?
- 2 How might you call upon the support of God and others to resist temptations this Lent?

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Pastor and Vicar Forane of the
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Stewardship Committee Chair
& Safe Environment

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**MEETS ON THE 2ND MONDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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grant me this favor - - -
Brother Joseph Dutton, please pray for me.
I will be forever thankful if you present my
request to God through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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