



## Spring Cleaning Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**hen Jesus cleansed the temple, he cleared it of all the sacrificial animals and foreign coins that cluttered that holy place. He also shifted the focus of where we find God made present—from a building to himself. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Saint Paul tells us that we, too, are God’s temple because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. So it makes sense that Jesus also wants to clear our lives of all that clutters them so that we might grow in his image.

Such decluttering happens when youthful freedom and partying are left behind because we hear some inner call to settle down and contribute to life. It happens when young couples begin to raise a family and trade in sporty cars and fashionable lifestyles for baby furniture and SUVs. It happens in middle age when in the midst of building a life we change the blueprint. The weight of illness will shift our perspectives as well, when worries about life’s details turn dispensable because what we once thought was important becomes clutter in need of being cleared out.

None of this comes about because of some user manual for daily living, but rather because we sense an invitation from Jesus to reassess our lives—to join him in clearing out the clutter in order to take care of what is essential. It is a strange sort of wisdom that flows from a source deeper than ourselves. If not for that powerful force of God’s Spirit clearing the temples of our lives, we would never become the people God created us to be. ●

### Reflect

*What might be cluttering  
your life right now?*



While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of  
Passover, many began to believe in his name  
when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23

# Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

**Rev. William Pifher**

419-446-9288



## Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.  
Fayette, OH 43521

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel  
Pat Eisel  
Ray Hollstein  
Mike Burkholder  
Traci Maginn  
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



## OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429  
Fayette, OH 43521

**Phone:** 419-237-2441

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday

### PARISH STAFF

**Secretary:** Sherry Renner

[OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

**Bookkeeper**

Tami Baker

[OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

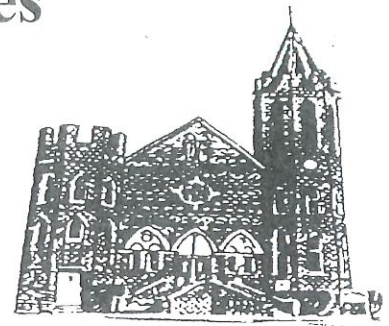
**Youth Leader/CRE**

Anita Van Zile

[OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

**Website (bulletin online)**

[stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy](http://stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy)



## St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.  
Archbold, OH 43502

### MASS SCHEDULE

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m.

### Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150  
[email-stpeter@rtccexpress.net](mailto:email-stpeter@rtccexpress.net)

**Religious Ed**

Deb Herring

**Parish Council President**

Stephen Bernath

### SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions **starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.**
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA :** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon.** Please either call, email at [OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com) or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

# SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

### BFF BREAKFAST

Please join us today after Mass Breakfast in the church basement.

### ADULT LENTEN STUDY

The Adult Lenten Study on Bishop Robert Baron's program "The Mass" will begin today, Sunday, March 3, 2024, after Mass in the basement.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. it will be led by Deacon Larry Zachrich

### SPRING AHEAD

That wonderful time of the year is here. Time "Springs" forward 1 hour on March 10, 2024. Don't forget to change your clocks, watches, microwaves, stove, anything that has a clock.



### PREVIOUS WEEKS BULLETINS

For your convenience, the previous weeks bulletin will be on the back table.

### THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"I have my room, some books, and a nearby chapel. That is complete happiness."  
St. Miguel of Ecuador

### Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska – Notebook 1

82 (35) I will not allow myself to be so absorbed in the whirlwind of work s to forget about God. I will spend all my free moments at the feet of the Master hidden in the Blessed Sacrament. He has been tutoring me from my most tender years.

83 Write this: before I come as the Just Judge, I am coming first as King of Mercy. Before the day of justice arrives, there will be given to people a sign in the heavens of this sort:

All light in the heavens will be extinguished, and there will be great darkness over the whole earth. Then the sign of the cross will be seen in the sky, and from the openings where the hands and feet of the Savior were nailed will come forth great lights which will light up the earth for a period of time. This will take place shortly before the last day.

84 O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

### ST. PETER NEWS

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Tuesday during Lent at 6:30 p.m.

#### PENANCE SERVICE

Penance Service will be held on March 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### FISH FRY-DAYS

January 12, 2024 – March 29, 2024

*Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.*

### FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---March 5 - Night of Healing, Defiance – St. John Parish – 7 p.m.  
---March 7 – Fayette Opera House 7 pm  
Bean Creek Coffee House – Free  
---March 10 – Fayette Opera House – 2pm Glasgow Reed Organ Series Concert  
---March 20 – Community Dinner 5-6 pm Fayette Methodist Community Center  
---March 23 – Fayette Opera House 7pm – BLISS 60's – 90's music  
---April 16 – CPC Women's Health Spring Benefit - register at [cpcnwo.org/events/benefit](http://cpcnwo.org/events/benefit) (more info on OLOM bulleting)

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to [OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at [vanzilejn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanzilejn@hotmail.com) or call Pat Eisel at 419-737-2163. **Privacy Issues for Parish Office:** IMMEDIATE FAMILY – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.

# FASTING DURING LENT

(from Catholic Fasting and Abstinence Guide 2024 | Dynamic Catholic – [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com))

## Why do Catholics fast during Lent?

Fasting, along with prayer and helping the poor, is one of the three spiritual disciplines of Lent. These work as a three-fold conversion practice as we prepare for the joys of the Easter season. Fasting adds a serious edge to your prayer life. It is a prayer practice that involves denying yourself something in order to increase your spiritual awareness, strengthen a commitment, or petition God for something you or another person really needs. Fasting is also about detachment - separating yourself from something that you have become overly attached to. It's a way of reclaiming your spiritual strength and regaining some balance in your life. Practicing some denial of our wants and needs in small ways can help us grow in self-discipline and the ability to put off momentary comfort for a larger, more important goal. Fasting should not be misused to gain praise or sympathy, to manipulate, or to harmfully affect the body. Done correctly, it can be a spiritual practice that can take your prayer to a new and different level!

## Catholic Fasting Rules for Ash Wednesday and Lenten Fridays

Catholics age 14 and older do not eat meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. Instead of meat many Catholics choose to eat fish - which is why many parishes around the country have fish fries on Fridays during Lent. These are a great opportunity for a parish community to come together to pray and fast. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics age 18 to 59 also limit the amount of food they eat. Only one full meal, and two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal, are eaten. The best rule of thumb is to make sure your meals are smaller than what you would eat on a normal day - and to avoid snacks. Exemption is allowed for pregnant women and those who need regular meals for medical reasons. You may have heard the words "fasting" and "abstinence" used when talking about Lent. "Fasting" is the word used when the amount of food eaten is limited. "Abstinence" is when you completely give something up, like meat, for a set period of time. Both "fasting" and "abstinence" play a role during Lent.

# March

2024

## Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Adult Lenten Study BFF	4	5 Rel. Ed 6:45 p.m. Elem. & HS	6	7	8	9
10 Adult Lenten Study BFF  "Spring" ahead Time Change	11	12	13 Stations of the Cross 7 p.m. Rel. Ed. 6:45 pm Elem	14 St. Therese Book Discussion 7 p.m.	15	16
17 Adult Lenten Study Youth Breakfast	18	19 Penance Service 7:00 p.m. Rel Ed. 6:45 pm Elem & HS	20	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday NO BFF	25 Office Open	26 Office Closed Chrism Mass	27 NO Rel. Ed Holy Week	28 Holy Thursday Mass 6 p.m.	29 Good Friday Service 3 p.m.	30 Easter Vigil 8:30 pm At St. Peter
31 Easter NO BFF						

# Parents of Priests *Prayers for Priests*

Prayers for Clergy, Religious, and/or Groups of Individuals for each day of the month.



Dear Lord,  
 we pray that the Blessed Mother  
 wrap her mantle around your priests  
 and through her intercession  
 strengthen them for their ministry.  
 We pray that Mary will guide your priests  
 to follow her own words,  
 "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).  
 May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,  
 Mary's most chaste spouse.  
 May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart  
 inspire them to embrace  
 all who suffer at the foot of the cross.  
 May your priests be holy,  
 filled with the fire of your love  
 seeking nothing but your greater glory  
 and the salvation of souls.  
 Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>March 2024</b>					1 Pope Francis	2 Increase of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
3 Bishop Daniel E. Thomas	4 Your Parish Priests	5 Parents of Priests	6 Rev. Thomas Hunyor, Jr.	7 Rev. John Jesudhasan	8 Rev. Joseph Joseph	14 Deacons and Missionary Priests
10 Rev. Jason Kahle	11 Seminarian Travis Kahle	12 Rev. Krzysztof Kardzis	13 Very Rev. Kent Kaufman	14 Seminarian Eric Kaufman	15 Rev. Franklin Kehres	21 Religious Brothers and Sisters
17 Rev. David Kidd	18 Rev. Robert Kill	19 Rev. John Kingsbury	20 Rev. David Kirk	21 Rev. Frank Kosem	22 Rev. Mark Kotlarczyk	28 Deceased Priests of our Diocese
24 Rev. Kishore Kottana	25 Rev. Scott Kramer	26 Rev. Monsignor William	27 Rev. Timothy Kummerer	28 Rev. Paul Kuzhimannil	29 Rev. Valerian Larawl	30 Rev. John Laudick
31 Rev. Brian Lehane						

# Saints of the Day ([www.morningoffering.com](http://www.morningoffering.com))

## Week of March 3– March 9

**Sunday, Mar. 3– St. Katharine of Drexel** - St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) was a wealthy heiress from a prominent family in Philadelphia. From a young age she felt called to serve the spiritual and temporal needs of the underprivileged, particularly the African American and Native American communities. She learned the virtue of charity from her parents, who often opened their home to the poor. She began by donating money, but quickly realized this would not bring the lasting change these communities desperately needed. During an audience with Pope Leo XIII she requested that a religious order be sent to manage the institutions she was funding. In response, the Pope suggested that she herself enter the religious life for this purpose. St. Katharine then founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. From the age of 33 until her death in 1955, Katharine invested her personal fortune of 20 million dollars in this cause. She helped build the first missions school for Native Americans in Santa Fe, and founded Xavier University in New Orleans. At the time of her death, more than 500 sisters of her order taught in over 60 schools which had been founded throughout the country. Katharine Drexel was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in the year 2000, making her the second American-born saint. Her feast day is March 3rd.

**Monday, Mar. 4 –St. Casimir of Poland** - St. Casimir of Poland (1458-1484) was the second son of King Casimir IV and Queen Elizabeth of Austria, one of thirteen children born to them in the royal palace at Cracow. Casimir committed his life to God from an early age, thanks in part to a brilliant and pious priest who served as the royal tutor. He turned away from the privileges of his station in life and instead exercised extreme asceticism and self-denial. He wore a hairshirt under his clothes, slept on the cold ground, and knelt in prayer for long hours outside of locked churches. At the age of thirteen the Hungarians requested Prince Casimir to rule their country as king, which he accepted in the hope of defending the Christian nation against the Turks. However, the plan did not come to fruition and he returned home to continue his life of prayer, penance, and generosity to the poor. He later ruled Poland for a few short years while his father attended royal business in Lithuania. Casimir took a vow of celibacy which he upheld despite immense political pressure to marry. He suffered from a chronic lung condition, which he succumbed to in 1484 at the age of 25. Many miracles were attributed to his intercession after his death. St. Casimir is the patron saint of Poland, Lithuania, and young people. His feast day is March 4th.

**Tuesday, Mar. 5 – St. John-Joseph of the Cross** - St. John-Joseph of the Cross (1654-1739) was born on the island of Ischia, near Naples. He joined the Franciscan Order of the Strict Observance (the reform of St. Peter of Alcantara) at age sixteen. His influence was great despite his young age, and after three years he was sent to help found a new order of friars in Piedmont, where he was ordained to the priesthood. He codified a set of guidelines for spiritual and daily life that were approved by the Holy See and became a lasting model for religious communities. In 1702 he was appointed Vicar Provincial of the Alcantarine Reform in Italy. During his time as Vicar he implemented a rule that no beggar would be turned away without assistance, and in times of extreme scarcity he would offer his own portion to the poor. He was known as a deeply holy man who served Christ and the monastic community through daily acts of mortification and humility. Despite his high ranking position, he continued to lead a life of service and took on menial tasks whenever possible, from working in the kitchen to chopping firewood. He was said to have performed numerous miracles as well as the gift of prophecy. St. John-Joseph of the Cross is the patron saint of Ischia and his feast day is March 5th.

**Wednesday, Mar. 6– St. Colette** - St. Colette (1381-1447) was born in Picardy, France, the daughter of a poor carpenter who served the local Benedictine abbey. Her parents conceived her in their old age after praying to St. Nicholas for a child, naming Colette after him. She became well known for her faith and spiritual wisdom from a young age. After the death of her parents she joined the Third Order of St. Francis and became a hermit. She led a life of asceticism and solitude until a dream revealed that God willed her to reform the Poor Clares. She obeyed and joined the Poor Clares in 1406. Her mission of reformation was sanctioned by Benedict XIII of Avignon (the anti-pope) who appointed her superior of each of the convents she reformed. Despite resistance from within the Poor Clares, she successfully reformed several existing convents and founded 17 new ones dedicated to a stricter observance of the Poor Clares, known as the Colettines. She experienced visions and ecstasies of Christ's Passion, and even prophesied her own death. Through her life's work, St. Colette's reformation breathed new life into the Poor Clares and created a lasting model of spirituality. St. Colette's feast day is March 6th.

**Thursday, Mar. 7– St. Perpetua & St. Felicity** – St. Perpetua and St. Felicity (d. 203 A.D.) were friends who lived in Carthage, North Africa. They were both catechumens preparing to receive the Church's sacraments: Perpetua was a married noblewoman nursing her first child, and Felicity was a pregnant Christian slave who worked as a household servant. Because Christianity was forbidden, they were seized along with two companions, one of them being their catechist. Perpetua's baptism was hastened after her arrest, and God told her to pray for strength to withstand her coming trials. While in prison she kept a detailed diary of her sufferings and mystical visions, one of the oldest and most treasured of early Christian writings. Her father, a pagan, pleaded with her to deny her faith, even bringing her infant, for whom she was anxious, to the prison in order to persuade her to apostatize. She refused. Felicity also remained steadfast in her faith, giving birth to a daughter while in prison a few days before her execution. Perpetua, Felicity, and their companions were condemned to be torn by wild animals in the arena. Perpetua understood that their contest was not with animals, but with the devil. She walked into the arena and met her fate with a joy and bravery that astonished many onlookers. Perpetua, Felicity, and their companions were mauled and then beheaded on March 7, 203. St. Perpetua and St. Felicity share a feast day on March 7th.

**Friday, Mar. 8– St. John of God** - St. John of God (1495-1550) was born in Portugal to poor and devout Christian parents. How he came to be separated from them and homeless at the age of 8 is uncertain, but he eventually found work as a shepherd until the age of 22. At that time he enlisted as a soldier in the Roman Emperor's army to escape an offer of marriage to the shepherd's daughter. There he led a wild and dissolute life; fond memories of his parents is all that kept the spark of faith alive in his heart. At the age of 40 he left the army and reformed himself, beginning with a penitential pilgrimage to St. James of Compostella (The Way of St. James) in Spain. Appalled at his sinful and wasted life, he was determined to spend his remaining days in good works. He was affirmed in this direction by a vision of the Infant Jesus and a sermon of St. John of Avila, who was to become his spiritual director. He later dedicated his life in service to the poor, homeless, and sick, especially the mentally ill, by starting a hospital and homeless shelter. Many people were attracted to him and his work, and he organized his followers into the Order of Hospitallers. They were approved by the Holy See as the Brothers of Hospitallers of St. John of God, which still exists to this day. St. John of God is the patron saint of many causes, especially hospitals, hospital workers, nurses, the sick, and the dying. His feast day is March 8th.

**Saturday, Mar. 9 – St. Frances of Rome** - St. Frances of Rome (1384-1440) was born to a noble family in Rome. As a young girl her desire to become a nun was refused by her father, who instead arranged her marriage at the age of 12. St. Frances accepted this as God's will for her life. She was married for 40 years and had children, two of whom died from the plague. In her time Rome was at war and the city was in chaos from political disarray and widespread disease. St. Frances responded by converting her home into a hospital. She drove with a wagon into the streets and collected the sick and stranded in order to care for them. She miraculously cured many people, and also began the city's first orphanage. She inspired many women to join her in this life of prayer and good works, and eventually founded a congregation of lay oblates attached to the Benedictine monastery known as the Oblates of St. Frances of Rome. After her husband's death she entered religious life as the group's superior. One of the great mystics of her time, she dictated 97 visions and was visibly guided by her guardian angel throughout her life. St. Frances of Rome is the patron saint of many causes, including motorists, pilots, women, widows, and against plague and the death of children. On her feast day may priests bless cars due to her patronage of cars and drivers. Her feast day is March 9th.





# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



MARCH 3, 2024

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. Mar. 3	8:00a.m.	OLM	Giovannie Stella
	10:30a.m.	SP	Cathy Warner
Tues. Mar. 5	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Mar. 6	6:45a.m.	SP	Rosary
	7:10a.m.		Mass
Thurs. Mar. 7	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. Mar. 8	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. Mar. 9	8:00a.m.	SP	NO MASS
	4:30p.m.	SP	Gina Dammon John Michael Kennedy
Sun. Mar. 10	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Muriel Pennington
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Mar. 3 – BFF breakfast after Mass
- Mar. 6 –Rel. Ed 6:45 pm Elem. & HS
- Mar. 3, 10, 17 – Adult Lenten Study After Mass
- Mar. 13 – Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
- Mar. 14 – St. Therese Book reflection 7 p.m.
- Mar. 20 – Penance Service 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 28 – Holy Thursday – 6:00 p.m.
- Mar. 29 – Good Friday – 3:00 p.m.

### SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for February 25, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (10 envelopes)	\$ 496.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 290.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 1,747.00</b>
Over/(Under)	(\$ 961.00)
<b>OTHER COLLECTIONS</b>	
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 5.00
CPC Jar	\$ 20.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$ 811.00</b>
<b>YOUTH BREAKFAST</b>	<b>\$ 679.00</b>

### NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

March 10, 2024

Greeters/Gifts	Mike Maginn Family
Reader	Mary Bird
Servers	Maeve & Will Maginn
Ushers	Jerry & Anita Van Zile
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Phil & Tami Baker Terry Kovar

### Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

**HUMAN NATURE**—of, pertaining to, or characteristic of man

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well. **John 2:23-25**

# Dear Padre,

*My thoughts are my worst enemy. Sometimes they turn to lust and anger. When I recognize what I am thinking, I pray to Jesus and Mary, but I still struggle. What else can I do?*

When angry and lustful thoughts enter our consciousness, we should say a prayer and turn our mind to something else. Such thoughts become sins only when we deliberately encourage them or when we make plans to commit the sin. The thoughts themselves are temptations, not sins.

Continue to put your trust in Jesus and Mary, and try to focus on what is good and peaceful. You might also consider what you are letting into your thoughts or imagination: What are you watching on TV or the internet? What music are you listening to? What are you reading? Are those helping to shape your thoughts and imagination in a new direction, or are they contributing to the problem?

A good thing to turn your attention to is God's word in Scripture. You might want to memorize all or part of the following New Testament verse: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). Peacefully reflect on these words when troubled by temptation. ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab	Dn 3:25, 34-43	Dt 4:1, 5-9	Jer 7:23-28	Hos 14:2-10	Hos 6:1-6	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Lk 4:24-30	Mt 18:21-35	Mt 5:17-19	Lk 11:14-23	Mk 12:28-34	Lk 18:9-14	Eph 2:4-10 Jn 3:14-21



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*The Father sent [his Son] to cleanse the temple: not only the Temple of stone, but above all the temple of our heart. Jesus could not tolerate his Father's house becoming a marketplace (see John 2:16); neither does he want our hearts to be places of turmoil, disorder, and confusion.*

HOMILY, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021