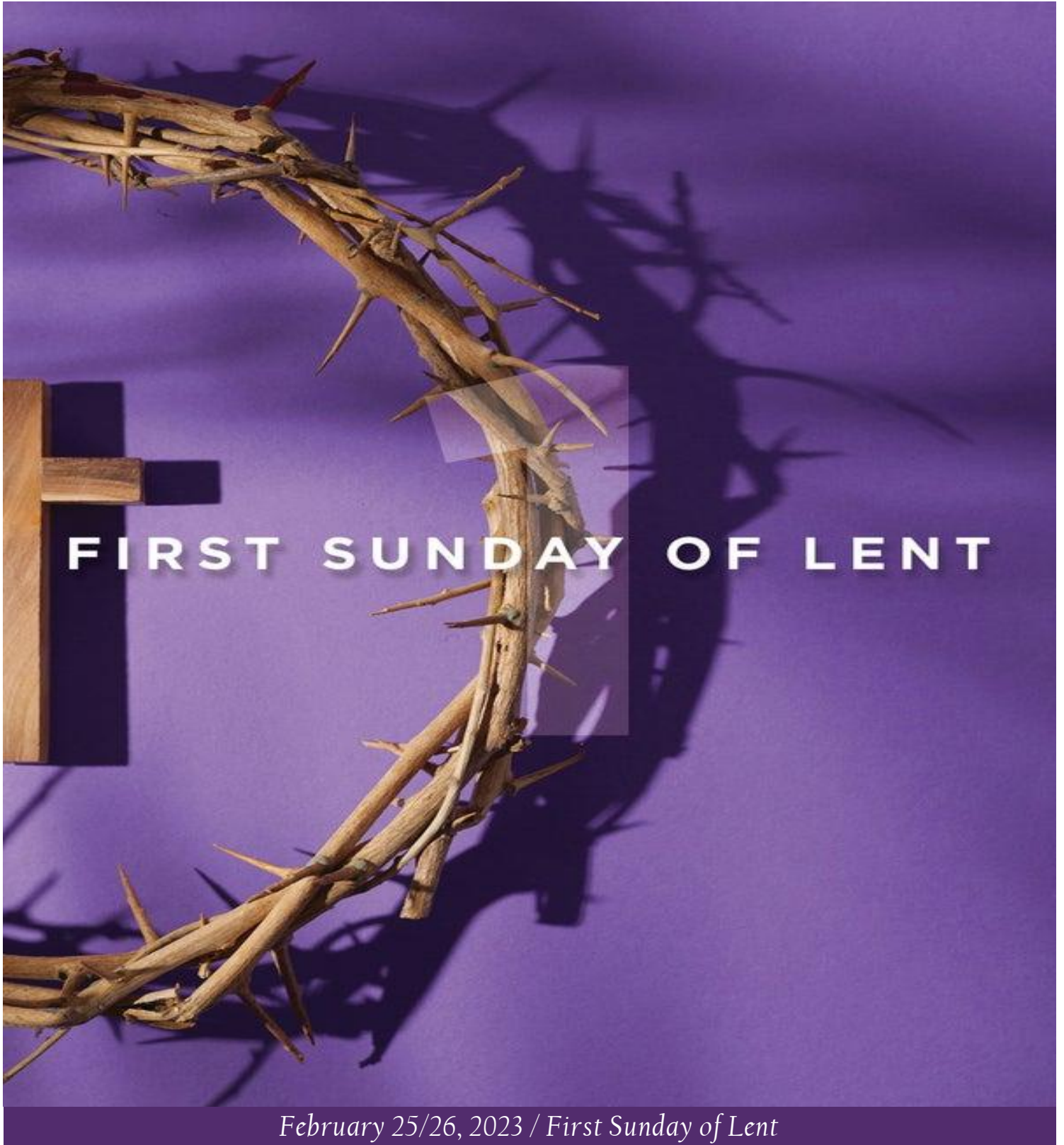


Welcome to the Parish Communities of

ST. MICHAEL & ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



February 25/26, 2023 / First Sunday of Lent

DISCIPLES ON THE WAY

MASS INTENTIONS

For the Week of Feb. 27 - March 5

ST. MICHAEL - CHUTE POND

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

7:30 AM † Jim Baumann

By Theresa Devroy

ST. MICHAEL - SURING

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

8:45 AM † David Reise

By Tammy Reise

ST. JOHN - GILLETT

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

4:00 PM † Open

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

10:00 AM † People of the Parish

MINISTERS OF THE MASS

CHUTE POND

SUNDAY 03/05 7:30 AM

Ministers of the Word Deb Smith

Ministers of Communion Bob Clark

SURING

SUNDAY 03/05 8:45 AM

Ministers of the Word Steve Robillard

Ministers of Communion Floyd Schmidt

Hospitality Ministers Edie & Floyd Schmidt

GILLETT

SATURDAY 03/04 4:00 PM

Ministers of the Word Joe Quade

Hospitality Ministers Colleen Warrichaiet

SUNDAY 03/05 10:00 AM

Ministers of the Word Cliff Gerbers

Hospitality Ministers Emily & Mia Soper

First Sunday of Lent

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Mathew 4:1

Today, therefore, we read about the great combat of Jesus, an urgent invitation for us to enter into our own Lenten combat.

Like Mark and Luke, Mathew stresses the fact that Jesus is led into the desert by the Spirit. The temptation is part of God's plan concerning His Son. We are thus warned that our own baptism will not spare us either from trials. Besides the rather childish meaning of temptation, this same word is used in the Bible and expresses that someone is 'put to the test'. Jesus, therefore, was put to the test by the very Spirit of God in the same way as the people of Israel, in days of old, had been put to the test in the desert.

The first temptation is a temptation against hope. It may also be interpreted as a type of eternal conflict between the flesh and the spirit; our senses are hungry, and we try to satisfy them with earthly foods. The second temptation is the test of faith. In the desert for forty years, Israel had been asking God to work miracles and signs—let God show that He exists! Is the Lord among us or not? Exodus 17/1-7. The third temptation is the test of love. How powerfully meaningful is the language of Matthew; Satan claims all the kingdoms of the earth to be his own property. Jesus un-masks the enemy and calls to Satan by name; he is the Enemy, the anti-God, the one who dares to claim the adoration of men. Yes, it is true; we, too, are tempted to divinize all kinds of things—money, pleasure, power, etc.

What can we learn from temptation? Two things immediately come to mind. First, when we are tempted, we realize we are weak. When things are going along without any problems, when we move from one success to another, it is easy for us to imagine that it is our own strength and our own abilities that guarantee a successful life. But when we experience temptation, we must admit that our abilities and strength are limited. So, temptation shows us the fragility of life. It reminds us that a successful life results not only from our own efforts, but also from God's grace. Temptation shows our weakness and invites us to trust more deeply in God's help. The second good thing that can come from temptation is that it gives us direction. The areas in which we are tempted are the surest sign of what actions are required in our life.

On the first Sunday of lent, let us be consoled by these words from the letter to the Hebrews: "For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted." (Heb 2:18).

Peace be with you!

Rev. Fr. Francis X. Dias

WORSHIP JESUS

Looking Ahead

Tues., Feb. 28	Mass - 8:30 AM at St. John
Wed., March 1	Mass & Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 AM at St. Michael
Tues., March 7	Mass & Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 AM at St. John
Wed., March 8	Mass - 8:30 AM at St. Michael Bible Study 5:30 PM at St. Michael Reconciliation Service 6:00 PM at St. John

Bible Study

St. Michael will host a Bible study that follows season one of *The Chosen*, the groundbreaking television series about the life of Jesus. The study will parallel each episode, connecting readers to the Bible in a brand-new way. The Bible study will begin on Wednesday, March 8 and be at 5:30 PM. If you are interested please contact the parish office at 920-842-2580 or Sheelagh School at 920-344-0180. You may also place your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of church. Anyone and all are welcome to take part!

Bishop's Appeal - Clergy & Parish Leadership Ministries

Clergy and Parish Leadership trains and forms priests, deacons, parish leaders and lay ministers. Their work includes:

- Diaconate Program provides Deacons with the education and resources to share the Gospel with people in their parishes, homeless shelters, hospitals, prisons and schools.
- Discipleship Formation Ministry provides opportunities for parish leaders to deepen their faith and share Jesus with others.

In 2022, the Bishop's Appeal distributed \$724,426 to the Clergy and Parish Leadership Mission Team to support its ministries.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH SUPPORT

Needed Each Week.....	\$2300.00
Received February 18/19	\$1314.00
Building & Repair.....	\$195.00
Heat.....	\$40.00
Bishop's Appeal to Date: \$1650 of \$7775 (21%)	

Visit our Website at <http://stjohnstmichael.com>

St. John & St. Michael Lenten Project

During this Lenten season, we will again be collecting donations to support seminarians in Sri Lanka. Donations will go to fulfill needs of seminarians so they can grow in spiritual, human, pastoral, & psychological formation in Fr. Francis' Diocese of Batticaloa. The Diocese of Batticaloa is a newly formed diocese. After 30 years of brutal civil war and the disasters caused by tsunami, it has been very difficult to uplift the standard of living and find stable funding. The subsidy given by the diocese to run the seminary is insufficient and, at the same time, the contribution from students' parents is comparatively low since their income is very poor. The diocese is committed to forming future priests not only for their diocese, but also to serve as missionaries. Your donations will help with essential needs such as food, education, & medical care. Please bring your donations to Mass during Lent and place in the provided donation box.

Passing of Collection Basket Returns at St. John

St. John has resumed passing the collection basket among parishioners. Anyone who would like to help with ushering and/or bringing up the gifts at Mass is asked to contact the parish office. Thank you!

Faith Formation Classes

Wed., March 1	St. John 6:00-7:15 PM
Wed., March 8	St. John - 6:00 PM Class/Reconciliation Service
Wed., March 15	St. John 6:00-7:15 PM



ST. JOHN PARISH SUPPORT

Needed Each Week.....	\$1615.00
Received February 18/19.....	<i>see next week's bulletin</i>
Bishop's Appeal to Date: \$725 of \$8643 (8%)	