

First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish
Archdiocesan Center for Chinese Apostolate

St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church 聖德力華人天主教堂

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Mandarin RCIA: Mrs. Joyce Hsieh

Spiritual Formation:

Sr. Mary Caritas Wehrman

Parish Pastoral Council Co-Chairs

Mr. George Lee & Mrs. Sharon Wong

Sacraments

Baptisms: Parents and Godparents must attend a baptismal preparation session before a baptism will be scheduled.

Weddings: Church arrangements must be made at least six months in advance, before booking a reception hall.

Confessions: Saturdays, 4:15-4:45 pm at St. Barbara Church or by appointment.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** and **Communion Calls** are available to those who are homebound or hospitalized.

Please contact the church office for additional information.

Mass Intentions

February 21, 2021 First Sunday of Lent

8:00 A.M. In Honor of the Blessed Mother by Dominic Barbaro
+ Phyllis Centofanti by Jing & Mimi

10:30 A.M. + Sr. Ruth Karritz, SSND by Sr. Caritas
+ Bernadette Zito by Joe & Rena
+ Shirley Hartwig by Sr. Caritas
+ Sehnaz Oguducu by Budi & Katharina Kusnoto

MON. Feb. 22nd *The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle*
**(Mass at St. Therese Church)*

8:00 A.M. +

TUE. Feb. 23rd *Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr*
**(Mass at St. Barbara Church)*

8:00 A.M.

WED. Feb. 24th *Lenten Weekday *(Mass at St. Therese Church)*

8:00 A.M. Special Intention by Dominic Barbaro
+ Phyllis Centofanti, Anniversary Remembrance, by Rosemarie
+ Rocco Roti, Anniversary Remembrance, by Marion
+ Cookie Jarzyna by Marion

THU. Feb. 25th *Saint Louis Versiglia, Bishop; Saint Callistu Caravario, Priest*
**(Mass at St. Barbara Chapel)*

8:00 A.M.

FRI. Feb. 26th *Lenten Weekday *(Mass at St Therese Church)*

8:00 A.M. + Bernadette Zito, Birthday Remembrance, by Briglio

SAT. Feb. 27th *Lenten Weekday *(Mass at St. Barbara Chapel)*

8:00 A.M.

5:00 P.M. **(Mass at St. Barbara Church)*



From the Desk of Fr. Francis

Greetings of Christ's Peace and Joy! Hope you all had a blessed week.

Thanks

Thanks to **Sharon Wong** for leading our Lunar New Year planning and celebration and to all who helped with decoration and liturgical ministries. It was wonderful to see many families who participated with presentation of the gifts and prayer of the faithful. Even with all COVID regulations, our celebration brought our community together in unity, faith and hope.



Thanks to all who helped with decorating our two Worship Sites for Lent.



A Journey of Conversion

Once again we find ourselves in this Lenten season of penance and hope. The ashes we received on Ash Wednesday remind us of our call to “repent and believe in the Good News.” We do so especially by prayers, fasting and alms giving.

Pope Francis in his 2021 Lenten message invites all Christians to *renew our faith, hope and charity during the Lent amid this pandemic*. **Faith** calls us to believe that Jesus is the truth, and we are the bearers of the truth. **Hope** invites us to be reconciled with our God and to be hope for others. Pope Francis explained that in order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be “willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 224). **Charity** refocuses us to the needs of others.

Our faith, hope and love can be stronger through our Lenten spiritual exercises, namely prayer, fasting and charitable work. The following insights from Pope Francis on each of these three dimensions can be helpful to us.

Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. Mt 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.

Fasting helps us to love God and our neighbor, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outwards that focuses our attention on others and considers them as one with ourselves (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 93).

Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.

Lent is a journey of conversion and it leads us to renewed life, hope and love. Let's take this season seriously for the good of our spiritual life as well of our brothers and sisters.

Peace, Fr. Francis

Lenten Prayer

God of mercy,

You call us to recognize you in our sisters and brothers and to care for those most in need—for whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.

This Lent, ignite your love in us so that through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving we may support all who experience hunger in body, heart and spirit.

AMEN

CRS RICE BOWL
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

FOR
LENT
FOR LIFE

Photo by Amy Dahnova/CRS

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all.

Our parish will once again participate in the CRS Rice Bowl this Lent. Rice Bowls will be available for you to pick it up on the weekend of the First Sunday of Lent after all masses. You may return the rice bowls on the weekends of March 20th and 21st and March 27th and 28th. You may donate online at : [CRS Rice Bowl | A Catholic Program for Lent](#)

Regulations for Lenten Sacrifice

- ◇ All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat for Catholics over 14.
- ◇ Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and Good Friday (April 2) are days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. Fasting means taking only one full meal and two smaller meals that, taken together, do not equal one full meal.
- ◇ Throughout Lent, Catholics are especially encouraged to perform voluntary acts of penance.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7pm during Lent

Due to COVID-19, no Living Stations of the Cross is permitted this year. Also due to projected low attendance and lack of volunteers to disinfect our Churches during week days, we will rotate the Stations of the Cross between our two Worship Sites this Lent. Please make a note of the schedule below and consider joining us for this powerful devotion:

Feb. 19th, March 5th, and March 19th at St. Therese Church
Feb. 26, March 12th, and March 26th at St. Barbara Church



ST. THERESE SCHOOL NEWS

Please help support our school and our community!
Purchase \$100 in gift cards for \$90. See details below!



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One Having Authority (3) — Fr. John Cuff

Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel speaks of Christ's being tempted by the Devil. It happens immediately after his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan. No sooner has Jesus received a mission at His Baptism than He's stumbling around in the desert alone, with the Devil as His wily companion. So no one of us is immune, not even Jesus. As the poet said: "First heaven opened up and God smiled, then hell opened up and Satan laughed." It's strangely fascinating, and somewhat comforting, to see that this happens to the Son of God. He is truly divinity in the flesh – yet He wasn't isolated and immunized from the real world. Which means that His being tempted gives us real hope and strength, that He is truly one of us.

In today's Gospel there is nothing accidental in Jesus' encounter with the Devil. The Spirit of God led the Son of God into the desert. This was an event that had to happen. As it unfolds we need to understand two things. Firstly, the desert was a place away from people. The Son of God was alone in His temptations. He had no help, no support, no encouragement from family or friends. Satan had Him one on one. Secondly, the terrible hunger which resulted from a forty-day fast left the Son of God at His weakest point. Famished and alone, the Son of God faced his greatest trial. It was all part of God's plan. This test of Jesus' will had to take place at His weakest moment. If He withstood the test, He would be able to withstand all other tests. It had to be this way and God could not protect His Son from these trials.

As we see Jesus being tempted in this way, we're shocked by the brazenness of the devil. If Satan is brazen enough to tempt even the Son of God, then we can be sure that he will have no hesitation in tempting us. Every follower of Christ will face temptation – and Satan will make sure that the temptation arises when we are at our greatest vulnerability. Like the story of the young man who became a Christian on Sunday and lost his job the following week; which resulted in the statement that he was not coming back to church because God had let him down. That's an example of Satan catching us when we are most vulnerable.

To think Satan will spare us is a mistake. We're all in a war between good and evil. Satan knows no mercy; but beware, sadly he does take prisoners. But every soldier has the duty to escape capture and return to the battle. The Devil will attack us when we're alone and vulnerable and tempt us. So this Lent let's outsmart him. Let's plan a Lenten strategy to remain on our guard, by knowing well our weak points, strengthening our defenses, and being ready for action. Only when we can finally say with Jesus "Begone, Satan!" will we be victorious and the enemy vanquished.

耶稣说：“我就是道路，真理，生命。”
Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

- 生命的意义何在？
-What is the meaning of life?
- 哪些是生命中重要的问题？
-what are the important questions in life?
- 我从哪里来？
-Where am I from?
- 人生目标是什么？
-what is the purpose of life?
- 我又往哪里去？
-Where am I going?

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耶稣是谁
Who is Jesus



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划向深处使徒们等您一起来探索

Lunar New Year Celebration



Weekly Offering

Collection for February 14, 2021

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 885	
GiveCentral	550	July 1-To-Present (Actual): \$ 62,970
Sunday Loose	80	July 1-To -Present (Budget): \$ 71,600
Total Collection	\$ 1,515	

2021 Lunar New Year Collection \$ 1,702

Weekly Budget: \$2,200 % of Budget Attained: 87%

Please consider giving one hour of **your weekly salary as your contribution.**

May God bless your generosity! Thank YOU!



Please remember in your prayers those who are ill, hospitalized, and homebound...

Cita Orendain
Lois Payton
Shiu Wah Leung
Lan Ying Yee
Amelia Lorraine Schroeder
Karl Schroeder
Phil Maraldi
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Ramona Zavala
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Barbara Metzinger
Ali Powers
Florence Yu
Brian Cook
Lucy Wong
Luke Williamson
David Leung
Luz Whitehead
James Longo III
Rose Perez
June Moy

Lifetime Promises by Sr. Caritas

Family life is based on the promise between husband and wife. As children grow they also make childlike promises which they do not keep. When they are more mature, they make serious promises which they keep unless they respond to peer pressure. When we are baptized, our parents and sponsors make promises in our name. They promise to help us live out God's promise to us, making us we are children of God.

The First reading today we hear the story of God making a promise symbolized by the rainbow, that the world would never again be destroyed by floods. It is the sign of His Covenant with His people. In the Gospel, Jesus comes into Galilee after John is imprisoned. He reminds those who are listening that now is the "time of fulfillment." It is the time of the fulfillment of God's promise of a Savior.

This is the First Sunday of Lent. Jesus tells us the basic underneath them of this season. "Repent and believe the good news." Ultimately it is the way of living up to our baptismal promises. Repentance calls us to reflect on how we live our lives. "What do we need to change in our lives to be more faithful to our Baptismal promises?" The changes in our lives are made so we can fulfill the second part of what Jesus said, "Believe in the Good News." We have about forty days to do these two things, "Repent and Believe in the Good News." Each of us is responsible to live up to our promises at Baptism. How will you fulfill those promises? How will you live out your gift of being made in the image and likeness of God? Listen today. "Repent and believe in the Good News."



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“To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life...
 In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ”
 (The Gospel of Life).



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News and Events

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Asian Seniors:

Oak Street Health, located at 4318 S. State St, is working with Asian seniors to schedule appointments for the Covid-19 vaccination. Contact Shang Cao at 773-285-9304 or Shangrong.Cao@oakstreethealth.com for more information.

“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to HIS voice in the depth of our hearts.”

“Prayer in action is love, love in action is service.”

~Saint Mother Teresa



Please pray for all Mercy Hospital Patients.

2020 Tax Letter

If you would like to receive a tax letter for 2020, please call or email the parish office.

Our Parish's Live-Streamed 10:30am Sunday Mass Catholics are still absolved from Sunday obligations. Those who can't yet participate in person can still join us online; our 10:30am Sunday mass is live-streamed via Facebook and YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzAqZ6h3s85o_fB3QSYO2VQ)

Our Parish has a new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMotherTeresaParish>. **Please like us and follow us for parish events!**

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Barbara Church:

Weekends:

Saturday: Anticipated Mass: 5:00PM
Sunday: 6:00AM & 9:30AM

Weekdays:

8:00AM Mass: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

St. Therese Church:

Weekends:

Sunday: 8:00AM & 10:30AM, and Mandarin Mass on 2nd Saturday at 4pm; and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:30PM

Cantonese Mass 粵語:

1st Sunday of each month at 10:30am
每月第一主日 上午十時三十分

Indonesian Mass 印尼語:

2nd Sunday of each month at
St. Barbara Chapel at 11:00am

Mandarin Mass 國語:

2nd Saturday of each month at 4pm
4th Sunday of each month at 12:30pm
每月第二周六下午四点和第四主日中午十二点半

Weekdays:

8:00AM Mass: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

REMINDER:

If you are considered as “vulnerable population;” or if you are having pre-existing health conditions; or if you are experiencing any health issues, out of abundant caution and pure love for yourself and others, we strongly encourage you not to join our mass in-person for now and we kindly invite you to join our online masses.