

SECOND WEEK
OF LENT

Sunday, March 13

The word “worship” comes from the Old English word “worth-ship,” which meant worthy, valuable, and worth something. You worship whatever you believe will bring value and meaning to your life.

Worship is the first purpose of our lives because it is the foundation of all the other ones. If we are going to live for God and find our meaning and purpose in him, we must decide to worship him. If we don’t worship God, we will find ourselves worshipping something or someone else.

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Pray today that, through the course of this week, you will grow in your worship of God.

Monday, March 14

Filled with the holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

—Luke 4:1–2

The Holy Spirit leads Jesus out into the desert for forty days, where he would be tempted by the devil. Jesus experiences temptation even though he hadn't done anything wrong. In fact, he experiences temptation because he was doing something right.

Sometimes we can put ourselves in an environment that tempts us to do wrong. We choose situations that are not good for us. Whenever possible, we should avoid temptation; other times, we might be doing the right thing and still be tempted. Experiencing temptation doesn't make us bad—it makes us human.

We will be tempted to make something other than God our number one priority over and over again throughout our lives. This is part of the human condition.

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Pray for the grace to overcome the temptation today to put something or someone before God.

Tuesday, March 15

He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

—Luke 4:2–4

Jesus goes out into the desert to fast for forty days and forty nights. This shows Jesus' incredible strength and discipline that he could go without food for so long. Now he is hungry, so the devil tempts him to meet his legitimate need for food in an illegitimate way.

Notice also how the devil starts the temptation, "If you are the Son of God." The devil tempts Jesus to doubt his identity, to doubt his relationship with his heavenly Father. This is how temptation often comes to us. We are tempted to doubt our connection to God and whether we can really trust him to meet our needs.

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Pray for the grace today to place your trust in God to meet your needs.

Wednesday, March 16

Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, "I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'"

—Luke 4:5–8

The devil takes Jesus and shows him all the kingdoms of the world and says that they can be his if Jesus will simply bow down and worship him. Jesus came for the purpose to win back the kingdoms of the world for God. It was the mission he came to achieve. The devil is tempting Jesus not with a bad thing but with something very good. In that moment, Jesus had to determine what was most important: his relationship with his Father or the mission to win back all the kingdoms of the world.

We worship what we view as the most important thing in our lives. And there can only be one number one. We will worship whatever we believe brings the most value and significance to our lives. Jesus reminds us we are to make God the number one priority of our lives—not power, not pleasures, not possessions, not kids, and not sports.

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Pray today for the grace to make God your number one priority.

Thursday, March 17

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

—Romans 12:1

Paul tells us to offer our bodies and lives as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. When we do this, it is worship. Worship of God begins at Mass, but it does not end there. We worship God whenever we offer him our activities and abilities.

Every human activity, except sin, can be done for God's pleasure and glory if you do it with an attitude of praise. You can wash dishes, sell a product, write a computer program, weed your garden, and raise a family for the glory of God. Like a proud parent, God especially enjoys watching you use the talents and abilities he has given you.

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Take a moment to offer your day to God. In your mind, go through your plans and activities for today. Offer every one up to God in this time of prayer.

Friday, March 18

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

—Matthew 6:19–21

Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, our heart will also be. This is just a principle of life. Wherever you spend your money gets a little piece of your heart. You begin to care about it.

This is why we are encouraged to give to our place of worship as an act of worship. If we fail to make an intentional offering to God, we hold back some of our heart from him. Every time we give, we are expressing trust in God and giving him more of our heart and lives.

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Take a moment to reread the verse above. Pray for the grace to give to God in such a way that it grows your love and trust in him.

Saturday, March 19

Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Blessed are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they who observe his decrees,
who seek him with all their heart.

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

You have commanded that your precepts
be diligently kept.

Oh, that I might be firm in the ways
of keeping your statutes!

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

I will give you thanks with an upright heart,
when I have learned your just ordinances.

I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!