

**Sunday, February 26, 2023**

**The First Sunday of Lent**

- 1) Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
- 2) Romans 5:12-19
- 3) Matthew 4:1-11

**FOCUS:** The season of Lent calls us to humility, to an honest understanding of who we are.

Humility is not false modesty, but the awareness of who we are: Sons and daughters of God, created by God. Yet we, like Adam and Eve, are often tempted to think of ourselves as more than creatures, as in control of the world. May God give us the grace to allow him to be God.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, the woman and her husband eat fruit from the tree of life, and realize they are naked. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul reassures us that God's grace surpasses any of our sins. In the Gospel, the devil tempts Jesus while he is in the desert, but Jesus says to him, *Get away, Satan!* and the devil leaves him.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** As we begin our Lenten journey, let us turn to God for help in this season of grace.

- 1) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that the Lord would look graciously upon his every need and continue to inspire him in holiness, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For politicians and government leaders, may the Lord provide them with wisdom for the sake of truth and the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For people in need of the basic necessities for life, and all who struggle to survive in the midst of desperate circumstances, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For the elect as they begin the season of deepening their relationship with God before receiving the sacraments of initiation, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have gone before us in the light of faith, may they find their ultimate fulfillment and rest in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Loving Father, we turn to you with humble hearts. We ask that you hear these prayers we have offered, in the name of Jesus, your Son.