

On the Hard Fight

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Last Sunday, St Paul stated three essential virtues of God's worker i.e., faith, hope & charity. Of these, charity is the greatest for it is the key to heaven & it alone *endures forever*; faith & hope bring us to heaven's door & aid our rescue should *our key* be lost by grave sin. Again, a soul in sin may, by faith, believe in the Sacrament of Confession &, by hope, be confident that a good confession will restore friendship with God. But, as one willfully committed grave sin destroys charity, so does the habit of sin, a willful abandonment to sin, destroy faith & hope! Alas, the poor soul who gives up the fight and sinks his rescue boats!

Today, we accompany our Leader into the desert to learn how to fight for heaven!

Thou shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God. Temperance is the virtue which moderates use of created things; and, of all pleasurable things, food, is most frequently encountered. Again, as eating is a daily occurrence, accompanied by no small delight (else we would starve), so food easily becomes a battleground for temperance: Do I eat to live, or live to eat? Do I eat because I'm bored, because it's time to eat, or because I am *really* hungry? Do I sneak food, am I picky about my food, do I complain my food is too cold? Like things could be examined regarding pleasures associated with sleep, recreations, watching TV, playing computer games, social media; we speak not now of sinful occupations, but wholesome things that may be used immoderately. Like sins of commission above, sins of omission, like running away or hiding when it is time for chores or homework, regard the virtue of temperance, too. Our Lord shows us how to fight: We abstain from time to time from food, or from whatever tempts us beyond a proper use, & heed the Gospel precepts, to train ourselves to live more for heaven than earth; **here, we fight the flesh.**

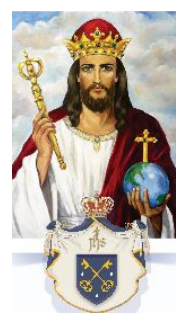
Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God.

Curbing wayward desires of the flesh, we must also quit near occasions of sin & pray for God's help not to sin. Again, God requires of us that we do what we can to stay in His grace & avoid sin. To willfully throw ourselves into the occasions of sin, or be lazy at prayer, while presuming God will somehow save us without our help, is *to put him to the test*. Like a boy who, thinking God will not let him hurt his toe (because he read it in the Bible), kicks every stone he sees as if to test the truth. Near occasions of sin include every person, place or thing which leads me to sin. Bad games & media must be destroyed, if in our power; otherwise, they are given back to the owner with the stern command, "Never show that to me again!" Prayer too is needed; indeed, as I might sin every day, so is prayer warranted every day. Frequent use of the Sacraments are included here; Catholics who "check-in" at Mass every Christmas & Easter, *put God to the test*; Catholics who don't receive the Holy Eucharist "at least once a year" (& in the state of Grace), or who avoid the Sacrament of Confession, pretending God will forgive their grave sin without it, also *put God to the test*. Commonly, near occasions of sin & lack of prayer arise from overmuch pursuit of worldly cares; just so, **here, we fight the world.**

Thou shall adore the Lord thy God and Him alone serve.

In the end, all men, from Adam to the last, are either agents of the devil or of God; choosing not to serve God, Who created the heavens & earth, by default, is to chose the devil: *He who is not with me, is against me*. Christ instructs us to fight with a right intention, namely, having God's purpose in all we do: *in all that you do either in work or in word, do all in the Name of the Lord*. Practicing this intention is a sure way to avoid serving the devil. What is my motivation in all that I do, *really*? Pleasing myself (serving my fallen nature) & pleasing the world (serving its false gods: fashions, money, power,...) both, indirectly, make us the devil's agent; and, while directly adoring him is worse, in fighting all these, **we fight the devil.**

To end, this is the *HARD FIGHT* of every man, woman & child, with eternal consequences. Knowing this: Be kind to everyone you meet, for we are all in a great battle!



CHRIST THE KING Catholic Church

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls
according to the liturgical books of 1962.

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023, A.D.

Pastor: Fr. Chris Hathaway, FssP

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Assistant: Fr. Vince Huber, FssP

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Secretary: Susan Hemeryck

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Church Office Hours: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Christ the King Catholic Church.

Office: 941-924-2777

1900 Meadowood Street

Sarasota, FL 34231

christthekingsarasota.weebly.com

The Daily Mass Schedule is:

Monday at 12 noon.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00 am and 9:00 am.

Friday at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm. (On Friday, a 5:30 pm Holy Hour & confession time, precedes the 6:30 pm Mass.)

Saturday at 9:00 am.

Sacramental Emergency: 941-400-5415

The Sunday Mass Schedule is:

7:00 am low; 8:30 am low; & 10:30 am sung & a seasonal 12:30 pm low Mass.

Items on the "Blessing Table" in the hall are blessed after the last Sunday Mass.

Confessions are heard in the confessional box ½ hour before Mass.

Sarasota "Lost & Found" now located in the office

In Ocala:

Sunday Mass at 4:30 pm

Monday Mass at 7 am.

1st Saturday Mass at 10:30 am.

Scan to give



Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 02-26	1 st Sunday of Lent	1/V	
Mon 02-27	Feria of Lent	3/V	St Gabriel of O.L. of Sorrows
Tues 02-28	Feria of Lent	3/V	
Wed 03-01	Ember Wed. in Lent	2/V	
Thu 03-02	Feria of Lent	3/V	
Fri 03-03	Ember Fri. in Lent	2/V	
Sat 03-04	Ember Sat. in Lent	2/V	St Casimir
Sun 03-05	2 nd Sunday of Lent	1/V	



Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 02-26	(7 am) FssP & preservation of TLM	
	(8:30 am) Mary Beggy	rb Walker family
	(10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i>	
	(12:30 pm) Chacho & Otilia Alvarez	rb B Rodriguez
Mon 02-27	(12 pm) Dominic Truong+	rb K.D.
Tues 02-28	(7 am) Susan Hemeryck	rb T&M VanGeldereren
	(9 am) Lisa King	rb C Schiffgens
Wed 03-01	(7 am) Millie Shumard+	rb Altar servers
	(9 am) Lucy Burns & family, living & deceased	rb Walker family
Thu 03-02	(7 am) Althea Bain	rb A Young
	(9 am) Brother Goretti Zilli MM	rb K Zilli
Fri 03-03	(9 am) Mary Therese Beggy	rb Angley family
	(6:30 pm) Poor Souls in Purgatory	rb L de Saizieu
Sat 03-04	(7 am) Fr Huber	rb B Rodriguez
	(9 am) Blessed Virgin Mary	rb a friend
Sun 03-05	(7 am) CtK Volunteers	
	(8:30 am) Josephine Moore	rb Beggy family
	(10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i>	
	(12:30 pm)	NO MASS

Today's 10:30 am Mass: Entr: *Parce Domine*, #953; Mass XVII, #762 & Credo III, #776; Exit: Throughout These 40 Days, #828.

Next Sunday, there is no 12:30 pm Mass as Fr Huber will overnight in Ocala.

Last Sunday's Collection: cash \$6,733.22; on-line \$1,625.90; CFA \$1,720.00.

Attendance: 7 am-66; 8:30 am-194; 10:30 am-167; 12:30 pm 86: total 513 souls; Ocala, 274.

2023 CFA status at CtK as of Feb. 22, 2023 : \$123,000.00 assessed by the diocese; \$27,720.00 pledged (22.54% of goal); from 11.86% of 194 households; payments being \$5,565.45. (from dioceseofvenice.org) **Thank you for your support!**

Please pray for: Ah Chun, Aurora Chu (2/19); Alyssa McNamara, Rick Greenwood, Marie Meza, Shehwen family, Jeremiah Washington, R Gabriel family, Mary (friend of M/M Priest) (2/12) & Robert Anstead (2/5).

This week, Monday, staff meeting (3:30 pm), Vespers (4:30 pm), Adult Cat. (5-6 pm, frh); **Tuesday,** Holy Face devotions (10:15 am), Book Club (6:30-8 pm); **Thursday,** Vespers (4:30 pm), Eucharistic Adoration (5-8 pm); **Friday,** Vespers (4:30 pm), **Stations,** (5:30 pm) followed by Mass followed by a pot-luck non-meat soup dinner, Young Adults (7:30 pm, frh); **Saturday,** Mass/devotions (7 am), Pregnancy Solutions Walk-for-Life, Mass/devotions (9 am), Vespers (4:30 pm), [Ocala, 10:30 Mass/devotions (frv)].

Monday's Adult Catechism class will review the Vatican Council II documents: "Dignitatis Humanae", "Ad Gentes" & "Presbyterorum Ordinis". Handouts will not be given. You are asked to download these yourselves from the web. Simply google search the name and click on the Vatican website in which the document is featured. That is the easiest way to obtain the document.

Your 2022 Tax Statements have been mailed to you; some are being returned to us.

Please let us know if your address has changed.

Every day, when your heart especially feels the loneliness of life, pray. St Padre Pio

THINGS TO KNOW at CHRIST THE KING (CtK)

Sunday Best: Sunday is a day given especially to almighty God. In part, we show this by how we dress at the holy Sacrifice of the Mass on this day.

When sitting, a woman's dress should reach below her knees, cover her shoulders, and rest near the pit of the throat; a man should wear a suit & tie, or, at least, a collared shirt & clean slacks.

Baptism: we ask that all families be active, registered parishioners 6 months prior to receiving this Sacrament.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation: your child's regular attendance at our catechism classes is anticipated of them before receiving these sacraments.

Matrimony: arrangements with the parish should be made at least 6 months in advance of a wedding date; participation in a priest conducted marriage preparation program is required.

Regarding Confession, as often time is limited to deal with situations in Confession, please know that the priests at CtK are available to meet with you outside confession times to help you with your spiritual dilemmas; simply call the office to arrange an appointment with either priest.

Thinking of joining the Catholic Church? Please contact the office; individual instruction will be arranged with our priests.