



## 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." - Mt 4:8-9

## Saint Paul's Newman Center

*Heart Speaks to Heart*



### Liturgy Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am, 11:00 am, & 5:00 pm

Evening Prayer and Daily Mass:

Monday-Thursday, 5:00 pm

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesdays and Saturdays: 4:00 pm

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 22, 2026

*Staff*

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### February 21-March 1

#### The First Sunday of Lent

Sat	5:00 pm	The Intention of Donnie Smith and David Gonzales
Sun	8:30 am	Elly Kozlowski and Benjamin Cramer
	11:00 am	Ronnie Sanchez
	5:00 pm	Parisioners of Saint Paul's
Mon	5:00 pm	Blane Enyeart
Tues	5:00 pm	Blane Enyeart
Wed	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer
Thurs	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer

#### The Second Sunday of Lent

Sat	5:00 pm	No Intention
Sun	8:30 am	Parishioners of Saint Paul's
	11:00 am	The Intention of Susana, Ponciano, and Mayra Villaseñor
	5:00 pm	No Intention

*Live the Liturgy - Inspiration for the Week*

Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus' interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: "Get away, Satan." ©LPi



### 2026 Lenten Project

For our Lenten Project this year, we are supporting Ark Regional Services, a Laramie nonprofit that helps people with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries increase their independence and actively participate in their communities. Ark provides residential support services, employment opportunities and support, equestrian services, and educational classes across a variety of subject matters and areas of interest. To donate online, please click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

**Stations of the Cross and Simple Meal**  
Continues Friday, February 27, 5:30 pm  
at St. Paul's Newman Center

**Family Faith Formation Dinner and Prayer**  
Wednesday, February 25, 6:00 pm

**First Eucharist Preparation Begins**  
Monday, March 2, 6:00 pm

**Adoration and Praise**  
Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 pm

**Blood Drive**  
Thursday, March 5, 11:00 am-2:30 pm

**Martha and Mary Lenten Gathering**  
Saturday, March 7, 11:00 am

**Faculty and Staff Evening of Prayer**  
Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm

### Family Faith Formation Dinner and Prayer



Families with children of all ages are invited to our next evening of dinner and prayer in Bishop Newell Hall on Wednesday, February 25 at 6:00 pm. To sign up, please click [here](#) or contact Brenna Fankell: [brenna@newmancenter.org](mailto:brenna@newmancenter.org). Don't miss this chance to share a meal in fellowship and prayer with other families in your faith community.

### Stations of the Cross and Simple Meal

On Fridays during Lent, join the Laramie community as we pray the Stations of the Cross. Stations will begin at 5:30 pm, followed by a simple meal. St. Paul's Newman Center will host on February 27 and March 6, and St. Laurence O'Toole will host the last three Fridays in Lent.



### Blood Donors Needed

Give the gift of life this Lent by participating in our next blood drive on Thursday, March 5, 11:00 am-2:30 pm in Bishop Newell Hall. To make an appointment, please click [here](#) and enter blood drive code "C1723" or contact Sandy Rupp: [rupp@newmancenter.org](mailto:rupp@newmancenter.org).

**THANK YOU**  
for your generosity

February 15 donations: **\$8,016.21**  
Our 10% tithe for charitable outreach: **\$801.62**



Our next evening of adoration and praise will be on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 pm in the Worship Space.

### Martha and Mary Lenten Gathering and Speaker

All women are warmly invited to Martha and Mary's special Lenten gathering on Saturday, March 7 at 11:00 am in the Emmaus House. We are pleased to welcome Sandy Rupp, Coordinator of Service and Outreach at St. Paul's Newman Center, as our guest speaker. Join us for fellowship and light refreshments afterward. Bring a friend!

### Faculty and Staff Evening of Prayer

Current and retired UW faculty, staff, and spouses are invited to our Evening of Prayer on Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm. A reception will follow.



### Parish Mom's Group

St. Paul's Newman Center is starting a mom's group for mothers of all ages to grow in fellowship with one another. The group will meet in the evenings about once a month. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lillie Rodgers at [lillie@newmancenter.org](mailto:lillie@newmancenter.org) or click [here](#) to join our mom's group on Flocknote.

### Scholarship Opportunity for Laramie Catholics

The William Hubel Scholarship Fund was established in 2005 with funds from the William Hubel Foundation. The scholarship is available to students from either St. Paul's Newman Center or St. Laurence O'Toole who are continuing their education after high school. If you are interested in applying, please email Emily Mahood at [emily@newmancenter.org](mailto:emily@newmancenter.org) or pick up an application at the parish office. Please submit your application no later than Monday, April 13 either via email to [office@stlaurenceotoole.org](mailto:office@stlaurenceotoole.org), or by mail to:

Hubel Scholarship  
St. Laurence O'Toole Church  
617 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laramie, WY 82070

Please note that you are eligible for the scholarship each year even if you received money in previous years.



# Bringing Home the Word

First Sunday of Lent (A)  
February 22, 2026

## The Gift of Boredom

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

**B**oredom is not a bad thing. It's a good thing. In fact, boredom is a gift. Lost in boredom, we begin to explore new interests and develop unrealized talents. We daydream and begin to form new hopes for our future. For these reasons, periods of boredom are especially good for children, and computers and mobile phones become distinct drawbacks for children and adults alike. It is also in the reverie of boredom that we find ourselves recognizing our limitations, faults, and weaknesses as human beings—the beginning steps to growth and wholeness.

Being bored can be like living in a desert, and that's not a bad thing to do once in a while. Deserts and their absence of anything to distract us become places where we come to know ourselves. It's what took place in Jesus on his journey into the desert. There, he was confronted by his humanity in the temptations he experienced. There, he came to realize his calling and the beginnings of where it would take him. There, in the desert, he came to know himself.

The season of Lent, then, becomes an opportunity for us to create a desert for ourselves. Putting limits on our television and computer time can create a desert. Snacking between meals can become a mindless distraction; thus, fasting can become another desert. Setting aside time for quiet and prayerful reflection becomes one more such desert experience. A grace of this Lent would be a fuller and more honest knowledge of ourselves—a kind of resurrection. †

*The season of Lent is an opportunity for us to create a desert for ourselves.*

## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025



## Sunday Readings

**Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

The snake said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened."

**Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19**

Through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all.

**Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus answered [the devil], "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do you allow yourself to be bored?
- Has boredom ever led to self-knowledge or creativity?



# Mercy for All

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

**W**hen we look at Church life today, especially within parishes, it is obvious that it is made up of much more than only the core, committed congregation, namely those who

participate regularly in Church life and accept (at least for the main part) the dogmatic and moral teachings of their churches.

The Church also contains a wide variety of the less engaged: people who practice occasionally; people who accept some of its teachings; guests who visit our churches; people who don't explicitly commit but are sympathetic to the Church and offer it various kinds of support; and, not least, people who link themselves to God in more private ways—those who are spiritual but not religious.

This does not mean there are tiers within discipleship, where some are called to a higher holiness and others to a lower one. The Church may never be divided into the perfect and less perfect, the better and the half-baked, full participation and partial participation. The full gospel applies

to everyone, as does Jesus' invitation to intimacy with him. Christian discipleship doesn't ideally admit of levels, notches, layers, and different tiers of participation. Each individual chooses how deep he or she will go. Some go deeper than others, though everyone is meant to go its full depth. We are all around Jesus in our different ways, and we must be careful not to judge each other.

Perhaps when the priest blesses the congregation at the end of a liturgy, instead of saying, "Bow down for the blessing," he might say, "Those of you who think you are not in need of this blessing, please bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. Meanwhile, those of you who feel beaten, broken, and unworthy of this blessing, raise your heads to receive a love and a gift that you have long despaired of ever receiving." †

***We are all around Jesus  
in our different ways,  
and we must not judge  
each other.***

From *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter* by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, Liguori Publications (828201). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Restoring Hope: Healing When You Have Been Hurt by the Church" by Paige Byrne Shortal

If you love someone who has rejected the Church; if you worry about someone who does not know Jesus; if you ache for someone who does not know God, God bless you. You are opening yourself up to love that sacrifices for the other. That being said, let God be God. As much as you love someone—even your own precious child—God loves that someone even more. Every night, Pope St. John XXIII would end his prayers with, "It's your Church, God; I'm going to bed." When we have done our duty and prayed for those about whom we are most concerned, perhaps we might end our prayers like good Pope John: "They are your children, God; I'm going to bed."

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



So that we may observe Lent with fasting, prayer, and sharing with those in need, we pray—Lord, let us be like you.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

February 23–28

**Monday, Lenten Weekday:**

Lv 19:1–2, 11–18 / Mt 25:31–46

**Tuesday, Lenten Weekday:**

Is 55:10–11 / Mt 6:7–15

**Wednesday, Lenten Weekday:**

Jon 3:1–10 / Lk 11:29–32

**Thursday, Lenten Weekday:**

Est C:12,14–16, 23–25 / Mt 7:7–12

**Friday, Lenten Weekday:**

Ez 18:21–28 / Mt 5:20–26

**Saturday, Lenten Weekday:**

Dt 26:16–19 / Mt 5:43–48



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