



**26 FEBRUARY 2023
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**



INTRODUCTION: As we start our journey through Lent, we join our Lord in the desert and are challenged to adopt the same confidence that he had in the face of temptation. May the Eucharist we celebrate strengthen our resolve to maintain a healthy spiritual lifestyle.

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17
Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19
Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT: God is always merciful and compassionate and He listens to the prayers we make with faith. Our response is: **HEAR OUR PRAYER O LORD**

That the Holy Father, the Bishops, Priests, Religious and the lay faithful may rise above their human weaknesses in the face of moral and spiritual challenges that they may experience... we pray to the Lord...**R**

That our political leaders may set aside the temptations for material power and seek the well-being of the vulnerable, the poor, the suffering and those struggling to enjoy the basic necessities of life... we pray to the Lord...**R**

That each one of us may be guided by the word of God during this season as we seek His mercy and compassion... we pray to the Lord...**R**

That our children and youth may value this time of grace in the midst of a variety of temptations and distractions and seek to be ambassadors of Christ in the world... we pray to the Lord...**R**

That God may listen to the prayers we make with faith in His generous love & mercy, especially for those suffering from adverse weather conditions... *(pause for 7 seconds)* ... we pray to the Lord...**R**

CELEBRANT: Compassionate Father, we thank You for listening to the prayers we have made with faith in You and in Your Son Jesus who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.