



# ST. MARY'S SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH ORLANDO

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## Today's Gospel (Mathew 4: 1-11)

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'"* Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'" Then the devil took him 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." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: "The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

The public ministry of Jesus starts with his Baptism in the river Jordan and, after an intervening period of 40 days of fasting in the desert, with the temptations by the "Evil One" in the desert, on the mountain top and at the Temple.

Just as at the beginning of his whole public ministry, Jesus was under attack from the Evil One but he proved victorious. In like manner our life will be subject to the onslaught of Devil but we will be victorious through Divine help.

The Devil tempted Jesus to follow his attractive suggestions in order to fulfill his God-given mission of bringing salvation to mankind. The three-fold temptation of Christ is thus a warning to us of how we can be similarly tempted to use God's gifts in a way that are contrary to God's plan, by giving in to the wiles of the Evil One, and an assurance of how we can nevertheless overcome these temptations by imitating the mind and stand of Jesus (Mt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13.

These differ only in the order of the temptations).

Thus we are so easily tempted to lust after the enticing but transitory pleasures of this world, instead of hungering for and being nourished by the eternal life-giving Word of God (cfr Ex 16:2; Deut 8:3; Mt 4:3-4; Lk 4:3-5).

We are so easily tempted to crave for the glittering riches of this world, with even idolatrous and superstitious greed, instead of worshipping their Creator and being concerned for the needs of our brothers (cfr Ex 17:1; Deut 6:13; Mt 4:7-10; Lk 4:6-8).

We are so easily tempted to even desire the more spectacular spiritual gifts and use them to take shortcuts and win instant success even in God's work, instead of taking up the Cross and following the Lord, whatever be the cost (cfr Ex 32, Deut 6:10; Mt 4:5-6; Lk 4:9-12).

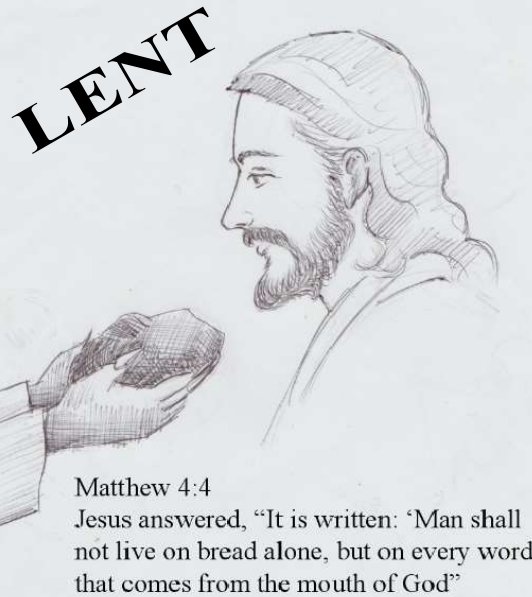
The liturgical season of Lent is therefore meant to

make us aware that the life and ministry of the Body, the Church, will be, like the life and ministry of the Head, Jesus; a real spiritual warfare. It is through the example of Christ and through his teachings that we can be further purified and strengthened through one more period of Lent, (Past tense of Lend = borrow; given to us for temporary use) lent to us by God to enable us to turn away further from the World and the Prince of Darkness and turn closer to the kingdom and the Lord of Light, thus turning over a new life in Christ. In his person, Jesus as head has rejected

and overcome the temptations. As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, we the members have to personally accept the rejections made by the Head (Jesus). This acceptance and execution of the commands from the Head, makes us members active and holy.

Let us then, with the Church, make our prayer, "Lord, protect us in our struggle against evil, as we sanctify this period of Lent by our self denial."

Illustration: Thankachan



**Feb 26 First Sunday of Lent**

10 am: Holy Qurbana

12 pm: CCD

Choir Meeting

First Holy Communion & Confirmation Parents' Meeting

**Feb 27 Monday; Day of Fasting and Abstinence;**

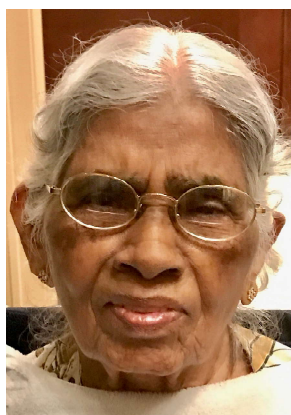
**50-Days Lent begins**



7.30 pm: Penitential Service; Holy Qurbana; Novena to St. Jude

**Feb 28 Tuesday**

5 pm-8 pm: Viewing Service of Mariamma Joseph, mother of Chacko Kurian & Aleykutty Chacko at Woodlawn Funeral Home (400 Woodlawn Cemetery Rd, Gotha, FL 34734). Our prayers begin at 7 pm.



**March 01 Wednesday**

10 am: Funeral Service of

Mariamma Joseph

Place: Holy Family Catholic

Church, 5129 S Apopka Vineland

Rd, Orlando, FL 32819/Woodlawn Funeral Home

**March 03 First Friday**

7.30 pm: Holy Qurbana; Way of the Cross; Adoration  
(Lead: St. Mary's Ward)

**March 04 Saturday**

5 pm: Holy Qurbana, Novena

**March 05 Second Sunday of Lent**

10 am: Holy Qurbana

12 pm: CCD

CCD Teachers' Meeting after CCD

**March 26 Sunday: Parish Council**

**March 31 Fri-April 01-Sat April 02-Sunday**

**Annual Lenten Retreat**

by Rev. Fr. Freejo Parackal, Prof. at Mary Matha Major Seminary Thrissur

**April 09: Palm Sunday**

**April 13: Pesaha**

**April 14: Good Friday**

**April 15: Great Saturday**

**April 16: Easter**

**Way of the Cross: Lead Order**

March 03: St. Mary's

March 10: St. Thomas

March 17: St. Anthony

March 24: St. Alphonsa

March 31: St. Joseph

April 07: St. Mother Teresa

**First Holy Communion & Chrismation**

Our beautiful church was consecrated on May 7th last year.

It is going to be one year. On the first anniversary day, Bishop mar Joy Alapattu will join us for the celebrations.

This year's First Holy Communion & Chrismation are planned to be conducted on that day.

Please plan ahead.

**Parish Council Decisions**

Kitchen in the Parish Hall needs to be remodelled

Parish Bulletins to be published

A Parish Activity Calendar for the whole year to be prepared

The back side of the church property to be fenced

Lawn Mowing Issues

Good Friday Way of the Cross outside the Church

Quarterly financial report to be published on the notice board

Parish Council decisions to be announced by the Vicar

Reports by CCD Coordinator, Women's Forum and Youth Coordinator were presented in the PC.

**Parish Council members**

Vicar: Fr. Kuriakose Vadana

Kaikkarans: Jiby Joseph Chittedom; Anoop Pulickal

Pastoral Council Member: Dr. Augustine Joseph

Other members: Antony Joseph, Ashita Antony, Beena

Kaithamattom, Benny Kuriakose Padikkattu, Celine

Emmanuel, Gijimon Philipose, Jose Thuruthumaly, Joseph

John Thalachelloor, Mathew Joseph, Mathew Simon (Babu),

Nisha Shiju Mattam, Santhosh Thomas, Sheeba Sojin,

Stephen Valley, Vincent Paul

**Parish Administration**

Vicar: Fr. Kuriakose Vadana

Kaikkarans/Trustees: Anoop Pulickal; Jiby Joseph Chittedom

**Religious Education**

DRE: Benoy Joseph

Coordinator: Sheeba Sojin

**Liturgical Services**

**Sundays**

10.00 am - Holy Qurbana

12.00 pm - Catechism for Children

**First Fridays of Every Month**

08.00 pm - Holy Qurbana, followed by Adoration and Benediction

**Tuesdays**

07.00 pm: Holy Qurbana, Novena to St. Jude

**Saturdays**

05.00 pm: Holy Qurbana, Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Wednesday-Friday: 9.30 am

Memorial services will not be conducted on Sundays. You are welcome to conduct sponsored/votive/special intentions Holy Mass on week days.