



# PARISH BULLETIN 522

Sunday, February 22, 2026.

**1st Lenten Sunday**

**Gospel: Mt 4:1–11.**

*At that time 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.*

**Commentary by the Pastor:**

The Church, at the beginning of Lent, presents to us the temptation of Jesus in the desert — the entire process as well as Jesus Himself. More than focusing on the three specific temptations, today we focus more on Jesus' experience of the forty-day fast and its culmination. Why did Jesus fast for exactly forty days? The answer can be found in the abundant biblical tradition and symbolism, but more important than the number itself is Jesus' victory in this spiritual battle.

Jesus endured forty days and nights without breaking or giving up the fast. The Gospel tells us about the climax of this period, the moment when it was "finished," when the competitor shouts, "I have won." Jesus emerged from a kind of spiritual exaltation, a state of spiritual absorption that allowed no one access. But when that ended, when the fast was over, natural needs appeared — hunger, the body's call for renewed strength. And now the tempter rushes in to ignite that euphoria in Jesus even more, hoping that in full spiritual power and omnipotence, He would even turn the hardest stones into the freshest bread.

The Gospel does not say that Jesus ate some accessible food after the fast, but that He could do more than that. In the other two temptations, Jesus rejects spectacle and directs true worship to God.

Jesus' example calls us to Lenten fasting and penance, to perseverance and overcoming evil tendencies, but also to spiritual vigilance so that we do not fall when we think we are at a spiritual peak, so that we do not become prideful when we see we have achieved something, and so that we do not think we are better than others if things "go our way."

Simply put, we resist the Evil One: if we fall into sin — through holy confession; and if we are in spiritual consolation — with humility, accepting our state and directing honor, glory, and praise to the one Almighty God, the source of all grace. The greatest fast, therefore, is to resist the Evil One...!

**Holy Masses**  
MONDAY – SATURDAY  
(23.2. - 28.2.)

7:00 ŠESTAK  
8:00 BALATINAC  
9:00 KNEŽEVIĆ  
12:00 PETRIČEVIĆ  
19:00 VLAH

**Confessions (6.2.)**  
MONDAY – SATURDAY  
(23.2. - 28.2.)

6:30 – 9:30  
11:00 – 12:30  
18:30 – 20:00

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

Saturday, 28th February	Privileged weekday — Liturgy of the Quattuor Temporum (Ember Days)
<b>Sunday, 1st March</b>	<b>2nd SUNDAY OF LENT, Year "A"</b>

**EMBER WEEK:** Today we begin the first week of Lent, which is also the Ember Week, specially dedicated to prayer, acts of penance, and charity, concluding on Saturday with its own Mass.

**NOVENA FOR FATHER GABRIĆ:** On the occasion of the birthday of our Father Ante Gabrić (born February 28, 1915), a novena is ongoing during the evening Masses.

**MASS FOR THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE RENOVATION:** On Monday, the 23rd of the month, we will pray for the benefactors of the renovation and our Foundation during the 7:00 PM Mass, commemorating the anniversary of the death of our dear parishioner Anamarija Carević, whom we also include in our prayers! Related to this is the following announcement for March

**CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT:** A solemn charity concert marking six years since the earthquake, "Heart in the Heart of Zagreb," will take place at Lisinski Concert Hall on March 31 at 8:00 PM. Mozart's Requiem will be performed by the HRT Symphony Orchestra and HRT Choir. Tickets are available in the sacristy, at Lisinski, and online.

**AUDITIONS:** The Palma Academic Choir will hold auditions for new members from February 24 to March 6. Sign up as a future singer in the Basilica. Information is on the posters.

**SPIRITUAL RETREATS IN LUŽNICA** This week, on Friday, February 27, spiritual retreats begin for all renovation benefactors and parishioners, lasting until March 1. Led by Father Niko Bilić and organized by the Anamarija Carević Foundation. Information and reservations are on the Foundation's website. Register soon, there are still places available!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** We pray it on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM in the garden, weather permitting. Individual prayer is also recommended for the faithful.

**PARISH ADORATION:** Scheduled for Tuesday, March 10. A detailed schedule will be announced next Sunday. We already ask all communities, associations, catechetical groups, and choirs to reserve at least half an hour for our common prayer.

**ROSARY AT THE KAMENITA VRATA:** Mondays at 8:00.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.

"The heart of man is restless until it rests in You". These words of Saint Augustine seem to echo in the Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent (Mt 4:1–11). In the desert, the struggle is not only against hunger, but against the restlessness of a heart seeking security far from God. Lent therefore brings us back to the fundamental question: on what are we building our lives?

Temptations today are the same as they once were, only packaged differently. Today we are constantly pulled by the need for immediate satisfaction: to buy and own immediately, to eat immediately, to respond immediately. We are also tempted by the need to be seen, to post everything, to present ourselves in the best light, to prove our worth before others. The desire for power hides in the urge to be right at any cost, to control others, to measure success primarily by social status and money. Jesus teaches us that temptations are not overcome by noise, but by knowing who we are and to whom we belong. When we know this, it becomes easier to resist what distances us from God.

Lent is an opportunity for concrete decisions. Perhaps this year our sacrifice does not need to be from food or drink. Instead, we might give up constant "scrolling" on our phones, watching series late into the night, gossiping, or the need to always have the last word. We can decide to spend at least half an hour each day without screens, in silence, prayer, or conversation with members of our household. Let us try to consciously withhold at least one criticism each day and replace it with words of encouragement.

The desert is not an escape from the world, but a space in which we learn to distinguish the essential from the nonessential, a time when we step away from the noise in order to hear God and our own hearts more clearly. Let us not be afraid to pass through our personal desert, for it is precisely there that our faith matures.