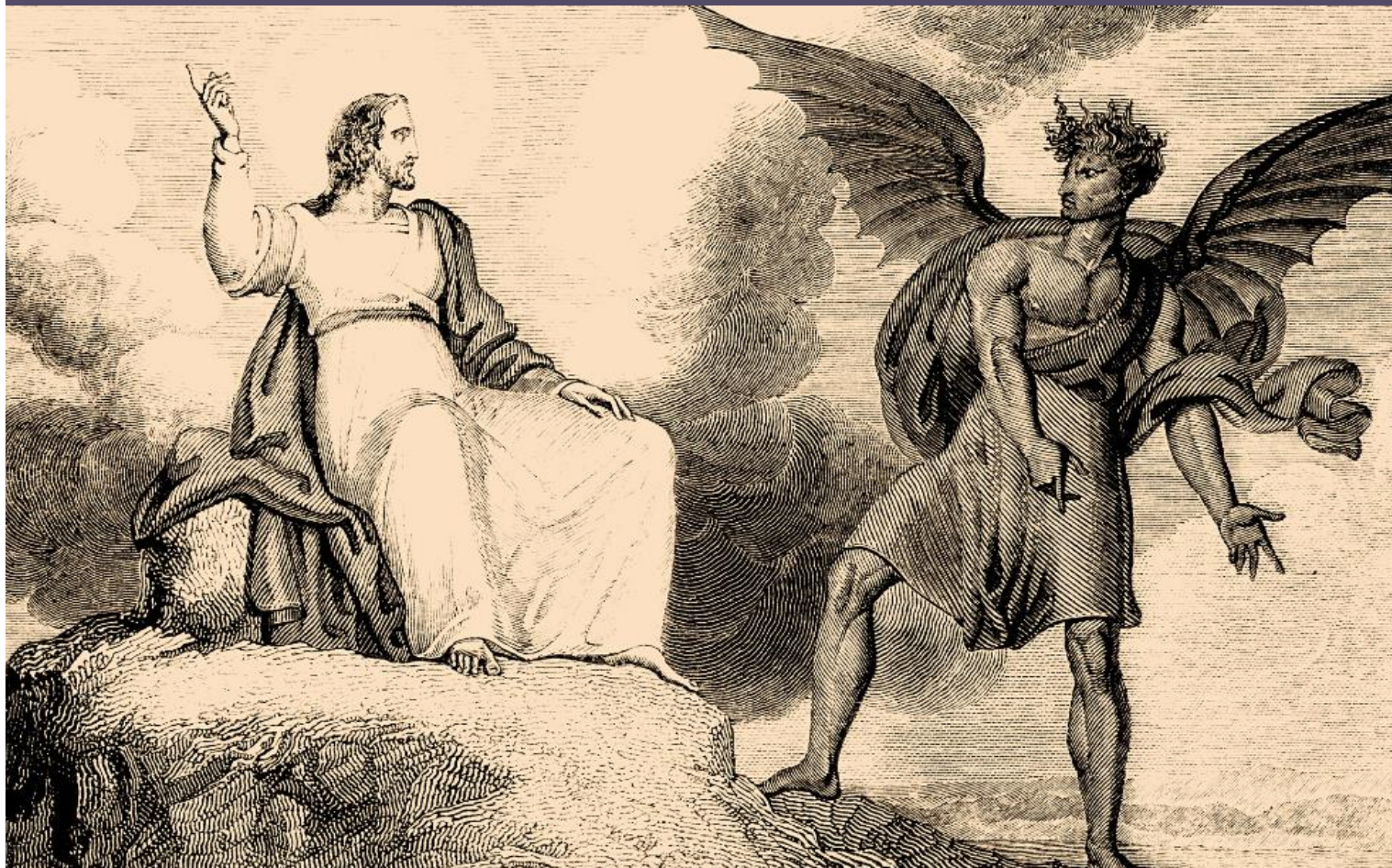


# Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic Church

## First Sunday of Lent



**Pastor: Father Larry Morrison**

[fr.larry@ourladyoftahoe.org](mailto:fr.larry@ourladyoftahoe.org)

**Office Manager: Susan Marschner**

[susan@ourladyoftahoe.org](mailto:susan@ourladyoftahoe.org)

**Saturday: 5pm | Sunday: 10am**

**Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 11:30am**

**Confession: Wednesday at 11am or by appointment**

**Baptisms and Marriages: Contact the parish during  
business hours, M-F, 9am - 3pm or visit our website:**

[www.ourladyoftahoe.org](http://www.ourladyoftahoe.org)

**1 Elk Point Rd. | PO Box 115 | Zephyr Cove, NV 89448**

**Phone: 775-588-2080**

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Seeing Jesus tempted here helps us to understand his full humanity. God made God suffer so that we could relate to Him. Each of us struggles with temptation daily, and it is standard to often feel alone in that battle. In this passage, the "wilderness" and "beasts" are metaphorical representations of the chaos and obstacles which impede on us as we stumble through life, bearing our burdens. The ability to turn to scripture and see Jesus facing the same difficulties is a comforting reminder that we are not alone in our struggles. In Jesus' example, in fact, we find that the wilderness is not a place to be feared, but one of great hope! It is a place of revelation and of intimacy. In our darkest moments, when we are alone and most in need of God, he appears to us. Yes, Jesus was by himself among beasts, exhausted from battling Satan's temptations, but at the same time "...the angels ministered to [Jesus]." God was on his side, and for this reason, Jesus emerged from the wilderness in proclamation! This is the beauty of this succinct passage: it wraps up the purpose of Lent in 8 brief lines. Jesus remained in a dark place, confronting his temptations vulnerably, in the fullness of his humanity, for 40 days. So, too, do we begin that journey now. Angels ministered to Jesus throughout this battle. We, too, are reminded that we are never alone in our struggles. God reaches out to us in intimacy, yearning to create, heal and nourish His personal relationship with each of us, especially within our darkest moments. After 40 days of restless confrontation, Jesus returned to Galilee, proclaiming the Good News to all who would hear it: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." We pay heed to this advice when participating intentionally in the Lenten season, and we pray that as we work on ourselves, we experience intimacy with God in the wilderness. At this, our hearts will be transformed in a way which sends us off in proclamation - firm in both our faith and our desire to share it!



Imagine being able to sit at the feet of the apostles and hear their stories of life with Jesus from their own lips. Imagine walking with those who had walked with Jesus, seen him, and touched him. That was what Polycarp was able to do as a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. But being part of the second generation of Church leaders had challenges that the first generation could not teach about. What did you do when those eyewitnesses were gone? How do you carry on the correct teachings of Jesus? How do you answer new questions that never came up before? With the apostles gone, heresies sprang up pretending to be true teaching, persecution was strong, and controversies arose over how to celebrate liturgy that Jesus never laid down rules for. Polycarp, as a holy man and bishop of Smyrna, found there was only one answer -- to be true to the life of Jesus and imitate that life. Saint Ignatius of Antioch told Polycarp "your mind is grounded in God as on an immovable rock." Polycarp faced persecution the way Christ did. His own church admired him for following the "gospel model" -- not chasing after martyrdom as some did but avoiding it until it was God's will as Jesus did. They considered it "a sign of love to desire not to save oneself alone, but to save also all the Christian brothers and sisters." One day, during a bloody martyrdom when Christians were attacked by wild animals in the arena, the crowd became so mad that they demanded more blood by crying, "Down with the atheists; let Polycarp be found." (They considered Christians to be "atheists" because they didn't believe in their pantheon of gods.) Since Polycarp was not only known as a leader but as someone holy "even before his grey hair appeared", this was a horrible demand. Polycarp was calm but others persuaded him to leave the city and hide at a nearby farm. He spent his time in prayer for people he knew and for the Church. During his prayer he saw a vision of his pillow turned to fire and announced to his friends that the dream meant he would be burned alive. As the search closed in, he moved to another farm, but the police discovered he was there by torturing two boys. He had a little warning since he was upstairs in the house but he decided to stay, saying, "God's will be done." Then he went downstairs, talked to his captors and fed them a meal. All he asked of them was that they give him an hour to pray. He spent two hours praying for everyone he had every known and for the Church, "remembering all who had at any time come his way -- small folk and great folk, distinguished and undistinguished, and the whole Catholic Church throughout the world." Many of his captors started to wonder why they were arresting this holy, eighty-six-year-old bishop. But that didn't stop them from taking him into the arena on the Sabbath. As he entered the arena, the crowd roared like the animals they cheered. Those around Polycarp heard a voice from heaven above the crowd, "Be brave, Polycarp, and act like a man." The proconsul begged the eighty-six-year-old bishop to give in because of his age. "Say 'Away with the atheists'" the proconsul urged. Polycarp calmly turned to the face the crowd, looked straight at them, and said, "Away with the atheists." The proconsul continued to plead with him. When he asked Polycarp to swear by Caesar to save himself, Polycarp answered, "If you imagine that I will swear by Caesar, you do not know who I am. Let me tell you plainly, I am a Christian." Finally, when all else failed the proconsul reminded Polycarp that he would be thrown to the wild animals unless he changed his mind. Polycarp answered, "Change of mind from better to worse is not a change allowed to us." Because of Polycarp's lack of fear, the proconsul told him he would be burned alive but Polycarp knew that the fire that burned for an hour was better than eternal fire. When he was tied up to be burned, Polycarp prayed, "Lord God Almighty, Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and powers, of the whole creation and of the whole race of the righteous who live in your sight, I bless you, for having made me worthy of this day and hour, I bless you, because I may have a part, along with the martyrs, in the chalice of your Christ, to resurrection in eternal life, resurrection both of soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. May I be received today, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice, among those who are in your presence, as you have prepared and foretold and fulfilled, God who is faithful and true. For this and for all benefits I praise you, I bless you, I glorify you, through the eternal and heavenly High Priest, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, through whom be to you with him and the Holy Spirit glory, now and for all the ages to come. Amen." The fire was lit as Polycarp said Amen and then the eyewitnesses who reported said they saw a miracle. The fire burst up in an arch around Polycarp, the flames surrounding him like sails, and instead of being burned he seemed to glow like bread baking, or gold being melted in a furnace. When the captors saw he wasn't being burned, they stabbed him. The blood that flowed put the fire out.. The witnesses reported this with scorn for the lack of understanding of Christian faith: "They did not know that we can never abandon the innocent Christ who suffered on behalf of sinners for the salvation of those in this world."

## THERE IS HOPE AFTER ABORTION

During the month of February, we pray for all marriages which have been negatively impacted by the scars of an abortion. May these couples invoke Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (the Holy Family) to walk with them through this challenging time. Please find out more about us at <https://www.highdesertcatholic.org/>. Click on Our Works, scroll down, click on Project Rachel. Contact our confidential, non-judgmental help line 775-324-4325 or email [KarenM@Catholicreno.org](mailto:KarenM@Catholicreno.org) to take advantage of valuable resources.

"We are His Body" 1COR 10:16-17	GIVING GUIDE	"Somos Su Cuerpo" 1COR 10:16-17																				
The CSA depends upon your generous pledge. The pledge redemption program is designed to allow you to spread your commitment over 10 months. Your gift may be made in ways other than check, stocks, bonds or real property can also be contributed. Payment by Credit/Debit Card is also available. Call 775-326-9444 or 775-326-9433 or visit <a href="http://www.highdesertcatholic.org">www.highdesertcatholic.org</a>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SUGGESTED PLEDGE:</th> <th>10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000.00</td> <td>\$500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000.00</td> <td>\$200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500.00</td> <td>\$150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00</td> <td>\$100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$700.00</td> <td>\$70.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00</td> <td>\$50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$400.00</td> <td>\$40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00</td> <td>\$20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$Other</td> <td>\$Otro</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SUGGESTED PLEDGE:	10 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000.00	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000.00	\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500.00	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$700.00	\$70.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400.00	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$Other	\$Otro	El programa del CSA depende totalmente de su generosidad! Su promesa puede dividirse durante 10 meses. Además de cheque esta puede hacerse de otras maneras. Se aceptan acciones, bonos o propiedades. También se aceptan donaciones con tarjeta de crédito/débito. Lláme al 775-326-9444 o 775-326-9433 o visite <a href="http://www.highdesertcatholic.org">www.highdesertcatholic.org</a>
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The Catholic Services Appeal is the direct annual appeal to the people of the diocese to make a gift and support the mission and ministries of the Diocese of Reno. The appeal provides Catholics opportunities to support a wide range of ministries and programs that benefit more than 80,000 people each year. These ministries reach many different people. Your gift reflects your commitment to furthering God's work, enabling us to train future leaders of the Church, support religious education for young people, strengthen parish ministries, and support the clergy and seminarian education. Each year we commit ourselves to reflect on God's great generosity. We respond with a gift of our own that helps bring others into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. Our 2024 assessment is \$45,158.00.

## Mass Intentions

Saturday	17	5pm	Intentions of OLT Parishioners
Sunday	18	10am	† Joan Taylor
Wednesday	21	11:30am	† Tim Taylor
Thursday	22	11:30am	Healing for Eileen Martinez
Friday	23	11:30am	† Dale C. Smith

Pro Populo  
OLT Women's Guild  
OLT Women's Guild  
Nancy Martinez  
Melinda Guajardo

Last weekend's collection came to \$3,190.00. Donations are the financial lifeblood of the church. We ask that you continue this spirit of giving in not only your spiritual life but your personal and public lives as well, representing the enduring gifts of Jesus Christ. Thank you!



## Ten Ways to Love

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)

## Bible Study Update - Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come

Next week's bible study will be on Revelation Chapters 2 and 3. All are welcome! Wednesday 10-11:15am in the parish hall. Any questions, please call Janine Nyre at 775-339-1961 or email her at [janinenyre@comcast.net](mailto:janinenyre@comcast.net).

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. – Revelation 1:3



## St. Patrick's Day Party!

Please join us Sunday, March 17 for dinner at Our Lady of Tahoe in the parish hall! We open at 4pm, dinner is served at 5pm. There will be corn beef, cabbage, potatoes, cottage pie (beef). Pre-purchase tickets at mass for \$30 per couple, \$15 for singles, no charge for children under 8. If bought at the door, the cost per person is \$20.00. If you can bring an appetizer or dessert, that would be much appreciated!

As disciples of Jesus Christ, and in the name of Mary, Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic community welcomes and embraces all those who come to us. With guidance of the Holy Spirit, through worship, the sacraments, and loving service, we provide for one another's spiritual and material needs. In being so nourished, we reach out in faith to serve the larger community.



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**IRA QCD:** If you are 70 1/2 or older, ask your professional advisor if giving directly from your IRA is a tax-wise way for you to give.