

# Fr. Simon Sez



## CATHOLIC FAMILY SHARING APPEAL 2022 ONE FAITH. ONE FAMILY.

A brief introductory explanation may be helpful to some parishioners regarding the annual Catholic Family Sharing Appeal. This is Bishop DeGrood's direct annual appeal to parishioners throughout the Diocese of Sioux Falls to support the local Church of eastern South Dakota in its direct ministry of serving the people of eastern SD and in supporting our parishes in its operations and administrative responsibilities. The information mailed out to our parishes and the appeal letters mailed directly to our parishioners has been delayed.

One of the main concerns of our parishes is the CFSA Parish Share or goal determined each year for each of our parishes that needs to be paid in full by the end of the calendar year. The total pledge response from the parishioners goes towards their respective parish goal. If their contributions fall short of the goal, then the parish pays the remainder out of its resources. If it goes over the goal, the remainder stays in the parish. If the diocese falls short of its budget, then they may do direct phone call appeals to parishioners who have not responded with a pledge. If a parishioner can only offer prayers for the diocese, that is an appeal response.

The method for setting each parish's goal is complicated, necessarily, so that it takes into account many varying factors among the many parishes of our diocese using the most recent parish fiscal year reports to the diocese. It was approved by the Diocesan Presbyteral Council (a council of representative priests) and put into place in 1995. The worksheet used for determining the goal for a particular parish is provided to parish priest. In turn, I provide them to the Parish Councils. Basically, the individual parish's ordinary income and deductions as a percentage of the totals for all parishes is given two-thirds weight and the individual parish's number of households as a percentage of the total for all parishes is given one-third weight. For more information go to <https://www.sfcatholic.org/cfsa/>.

The final 2022 CFSA Parish Share for Sacred Heart Parish of Potter County is \$32,200.00. It was \$30,000 in 2021. The final 2022 CFSA Parish Share for St. Pius X Parish of Sully County is \$15,600. It was \$14,000 in 2021. (Special collections and national collections are not included.)

### LENT REGULATIONS FOR CATHOLICS

All Fridays throughout the year, especially during Lent, are penitential days. Abstinence: All who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Fasting: All those who are 18 or older, until their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is one full meal and two lesser meals without eating between meals.

### ANNUAL MASS ATTENDANCE SURVEY

Mass attendance counts will be taken at all Sunday Masses (including Saturday vigils) during upcoming weekends March 12-13, 19-20, & 26-27, 2022. The data collected in this annual survey has been shown on many occasions to be helpful in explaining decisions or lending essential context to decisions that are made both at the parish and diocesan levels.

### Forty Days: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday of Lent



Deuteronomy 26:4-10  
Psalm 91:1-2, 10-15  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13

In today's epic Gospel scene, Jesus relives in His flesh the history of Israel.

We've already seen that, like Israel, Jesus has passed through water and been called God's beloved Son (see Luke 3:22; Exodus 4:22). Now, as Israel was tested for forty years in the wilderness, Jesus is led into the desert to be tested for forty days and nights (see Exodus 15:25).

He faces the temptations put to Israel: Hungry, He's tempted to grumble against God for food (see Exodus 16:1-13). As Israel quarreled at Massah, He's tempted to doubt God's care (see Exodus 17:1-6). When the Devil asks for His homage, He's tempted to do what Israel did in creating the golden calf (see Exodus 32).

Jesus fights the Devil with the Word of God, three times quoting from Moses' lecture about the lessons Israel was supposed to learn from its wilderness wanderings (see Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16, 12-15).

Why do we read this story on the first Sunday of Lent? Because like the biblical sign of forty (see Genesis 7:12; Exodus 24:18; 34:28; 1 Kings 19:8; Jonah 3:4), the forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification.

Lent is to teach us what we hear over and over in today's readings. "Call upon me, and I will answer," the Lord promises in today's Psalm. Paul promises the same thing in today's Epistle (quoting Deuteronomy 30:14; Isaiah 28:16; Joel 2:32).

This was Israel's experience, as Moses reminds his people in today's First Reading: "We cried to the Lord . . . and He heard." But each of us is tempted, as Israel was, to forget the great deeds He works in our lives, to neglect our birthright as His beloved sons and daughters.

Like the litany of remembrance Moses prescribes for Israel, we should see in the Mass a memorial of our salvation, and "bow down in His presence," offering ourselves in thanksgiving for all He has given us.

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