



# Parish of Saint Monica

Atlantic City, NJ



The Parish of Saint Monica serves all of Atlantic City. It is the union of the city's previously five Catholic parishes: St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Michael, Holy Spirit, and St. Monica.

## February 25, 2018 Second Sunday of Lent

### New Year Celebration



The Vietnamese Community celebrated their traditional New Year with the New Year's Eve Mass on Thursday the 15th for thanksgiving and pray for peace. The celebration was held at Memorial Hall on Tuesday the 20th, the Year of the Dog!

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Our Lady Star of the Sea**  
2651 ATLANTIC AVENUE

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 AM, 4:15 PM 7:00 PM (Spanish)
<b>Sunday</b>	7:30 AM, 9:00 AM 10:30 AM (Spanish) 12:00 Noon 2:30 PM (Spanish) 6:30 PM (Vietnamese)

**DAILY MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Mon. - Fri.</b>	7:00 AM, 5:15 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM (Spanish)
<b>Thursday</b>	6:30 PM (Spanish)
<b>Friday</b>	7:00 PM (Spanish)

**Saint Nicholas of Tolentine**  
1409 PACIFIC AVENUE

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 PM
<b>Sunday</b>	8:45 AM (Traditional Latin) 10:30 AM 12:00 Noon

**DAILY MASS DURING LENT**

<b>Mon. - Fri.</b>	12:00 PM
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**Saint Michael's Church**  
10 N. MISSISSIPPI AVENUE

**First Sunday of the Month**  
10:00 AM  
**Sunday, March 4, 2018**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb. 25**  
**Local Black History Exhibit**

- Sunday, February 25, 2018
- 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
- Quaremba Hall
- All are invited

**Feb. 28**  
**Bible Study on Prayer**

- 6:00 PM at Quaremba Hall
- Continues on Wednesday, March 7, 2018
- Led by Fr. Jon

**Mar. 2**  
**Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent**

- 4:45 PM before Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
- After 12:00 PM Mass at St. Nicholas Church

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Parish of Saint Monica** • 2651 Atlantic Avenue • Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
www.accatholic.org • phone 609-345-1878 • fax 609-348-0248

**Our Lady Star of the Sea School** • 15 North California Avenue • 609-345-0648

**Catholic Charities** • 9 North Georgia Avenue • 609-345-3448

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Monday - Friday, 5 PM at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Saturday, 3:15 - 4 PM in both churches. Also available by appointment.

## MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage should set a date with a parish priest at least six months in advance.

## INFANT BAPTISM

Preceded by a required baptismal preparation program. Speak to Fr. Pham.

## WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

Need to complete your initiation into the Church? Classes run September - June, Mondays at 6:00 PM. Speak to Fr. Pham.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the office when a parishioner is seriously sick so one of the priests may visit.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Monday 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM for grades 1 - 6 and 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM for grades 6 - 12. Adults 6:00 - 7:00 PM

## MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Wednesday evenings after the 5:15 Mass.

## ROSARY

Monday - Friday, after 7 AM Mass and before 5:15 PM Mass. Saturday after 8:00 AM Mass.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

Letters of suitability cannot be issued to persons not registered with the parish. You can register in person in the office or online.

## HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

### Our Lady Star of the Sea Vigil

5:15 PM English  
7:00 PM Vietnamese

### Holy Day

7:00 AM English  
5:15 PM English  
7:00 PM Spanish

### St. Nicholas of Tolentine

8:00 AM English  
10:00 AM Latin Mass  
12 Noon English

# Our Lady Star of the Sea School

School Principal: Mrs. Susan J. Tarrant School Staff: Sisters of Mercy and Lay Faculty

**"The mission of Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School is to unite our multicultural community through the Catholic values of Academic excellence, compassionate service and respect for all."**



On Feb. 16, students from St. Mary's School in Vineland came to visit, spending the day working with our kindergarten through 4th graders. The annual visit is always enjoyed, as they join our students for recess and lunch as well.

**SPECIAL VISIT:** Last week the seventh and eighth graders from St. Mary School in Vineland made a visit to OLSS School to read and share and have lunch with the students in grades K-4.

**100th DAY:** Hard to believe but February 15th marked the 100th day of this school year. Students celebrated being 100 days smarter by engaging in many STEM and Language activities that had the "100" theme. Teachers wore creative shirts bearing 100 symbols and students brought collections containing 100 items. It was a special day that combined extra special fun and learning experiences.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The annual Sister Shamus Walk for Education will be held on Saturday, April 28. More details to come.

Please visit us on facebook (our lady star of the sea school acnj) and call for a tour: (609)345-0648.

## PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Jon Thomas**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. Thanh Pham**  
*Parochial Vicar*

**Rev. Fernando Carmona**  
*Parochial Vicar*

**Rev. Robert Matysik**  
*Hospital Chaplain*

**Joan Parker**  
*Business Manager*

**Maria Isabel Duran**  
*Religious Education Coordinator*

**Erick Duran**  
*Facilities Manager*

**John Mooney**  
*Outreach Director*

**Kathleen Given**  
*Pastoral Associate*

**Maria Isabel Espinoza**  
*Secretary and Safe Environment Coordinator*

**Laura Esparza**  
*Asst. for Hispanic Ministry*

**Henry Porvaznik**  
*Asst. for Special Projects*

## CONTACT

**RECTORY**  
609-345-1878

**RELIGIOUS ED**  
609-345-1878 Ext-24

**SCHOOL**  
609-345-0648

**SCHOOL CONVENT**  
609-347-0434

**ST. MICHAEL'S CONVENT**  
609-343-1545

**WEB SITE**  
accatholic.org

# The Faith Page

We attend Mass not only to witness the sacrifice of Christ but to become part of it.

"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God." - *Romans 12:1*

"May he [Christ] make of us an eternal offering to you [the Father], so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect." - *Eucharistic Prayer III*

## Word of life

**GN 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18**

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

**Adults:** What benefits do you reap when obeying God's will above your own?

**Children:** Abraham obeyed God. Why is it important for you to be obedient?

## Palabra de Vida

**GN 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18**

En aquel tiempo, Dios le puso una prueba a Abraham y le dijo: "¡Abraham, Abraham!" Él respondió: "Aquí estoy". Y Dios le dijo: "Toma a tu hijo único, Isaac, a quien tanto amas; vete a la región de Moria y ofrécelo en sacrificio, en el monte que yo te indicaré".

Cuando llegaron al sitio que Dios le había señalado, Abraham levantó un altar y acomodó la leña. Luego ató a su hijo Isaac, lo puso sobre el altar, encima de la leña, y tomó el cuchillo para degollarlo.

Pero el ángel del Señor lo llamó desde el cielo y le dijo: "¡Abraham, Abraham!" Él contestó: "Aquí estoy". El ángel le dijo: "No descargues la mano contra tu hijo, ni le hagas daño. Ya veo que temes a Dios, porque no le has negado a tu hijo único".

Abraham levantó los ojos y vio un carnero, enredado por los cuernos en la maleza. Atrapó el carnero y lo ofreció en sacrificio en lugar de su hijo.

El ángel del Señor volvió a llamar a Abraham desde el cielo y le dijo: "Juro por mí mismo, dice el Señor, que por haber hecho esto y no haberme negado a tu hijo único, yo te bendeciré y multiplicaré tu descendencia como las estrellas del cielo y las arenas del mar. Tus descendientes conquistarán las ciudades enemigas. En tu descendencia serán bendecidos todos los pueblos de la tierra, porque obedeciste a mis palabras".

**Adultos:** Que beneficios obtienes cuando obedeces los mandamientos de Dios sobre los tuyos?

**Niños:** Abraham obedece a Dios. Porque es importante para ti ser obediente?



# How We Serve

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### FOOD PANTRY

At St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church  
1409 Pacific Avenue

Your donation of food, money and/or time are always welcome!

Come every **third Monday of the month** between **8:00 am & 11:00 am** on Memorial Ave. (Rear of church property) Please come early.

**NEXT DISTRIBUTION IS MARCH 19, 2018**

In 2016, the Atlantic City Office was able to provide food assistance to 1,358 individuals. Over 500 individuals, 50 of whom were homeless veterans, received rent or utility funding in order to prevent homelessness and disconnection. The office has also provided over 1000 changes of clothing, fresh hygiene products, and sandwiches to the homeless on Fridays.

The Atlantic City office, located at 9 North Georgia Ave., is open on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, and includes a food pantry, free baby supplies, and a thrift store.

Thrift Store Hours: 9:30-11:30 AM Mondays: Adult clothing, Wednesdays: Children & housewares, Fridays (except First Friday): Free clothing to those who provide proof of homelessness.

For more information and a full list of services, please visit: <http://catholiccharitiescamden.org> or call 609-345-3448.

## WHAT WE GIVE

Bags of Food Monthly: 300

Children at Trunk or Treat: 1,000

Easter baskets Distributed: 200

House of Charity donations given by parishioners in 2017: \$105,000

Christmas Toys Distributed: >300

To help with the Easter Basket Program this year, contact Margaret Steadman at: 609-703-9093.

## SERVING THE LORD

While the parish strives to serve the community, our first responsibility is to serve the Lord. One often overlooked way to do that is to say grace before and after each meal. This is particularly important when dining in a public eatery. What a great way to show the community that you are a committed Catholic.

# Join Us

## Diocese of Camden - CAP 1 & 3 Training For Employees and Volunteers

### CAP 3 Session:

**When:** Monday, February 26, 2018  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Where:** Christ Our Light (St. Mary Room)  
402 Kings Hwy N., Cherry Hill, NJ

## NJCFE 3rd Annual Job Help and Financial Fitness Expo

**When:** Thursday, February 28, 2018  
**Time:** 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
**Where:** Bally's Hotel & Casion, Atlantic City, NJ  
**Contact:** Steven Drulis (732)735-4960  
Please register at [www.njcfef.org](http://www.njcfef.org)  
**Include:** Financial Aid is available to qualified individuals for housing and rental assistance; and advice for home mortgage forecloses and attorney assistance.

## Atlantic City Planning & Development Update

**When:** Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
**Time:** 12:00 PM  
**Where:** City Council Chambers  
**Presentation:** The Growth, Beautification and Development of Tennessee Avenue, featuring a group of entrepreneurs who plan to transform Tennessee Avenue.

## Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal Invite all young women to Handmaids Women's Prayer Night

**When:** Friday, March 2, 2018  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Where:** St. Michael's Convent  
**Include:** Eucharistic Adoration, confessions, music, meditation, rosary, euchaistic, and benedictio.  
**R.S.V.P.:** Please call (609)343-1545

## Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal

**When:** Saturday, March 3, 2018  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
**Where:** St. Michael Church  
**Include:** Mass, a talk by a Franciscan Friar, adoration, confessions, music, rosary, euchaistic, healing service and benedictio. Bring your own lunch.

## Atlantic City Chapter of UNICO and St. Michael's Church present St Joseph's Day Pasta Dinner

**When:** Sunday, March 4, 2018  
**Time:** 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
**Where:** Quaremba Hall  
**Tickets:** \$10.00 adult / \$5 children (Ages 2-12)

## BY THE NUMBERS

### PARISH COLLECTION FOR FEB. 17 - FEB. 18

OFFERTORY . . . . .	\$20,010.00
BUDGET . . . . .	\$12,506.00
POOR BOX . . . . .	\$602.00

### MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

NUMBER OF REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS . . . . . 2003

### DEAR VISITOR

I always thank God for time away, whether on a European vacation or on a day trip. I know many people do not have these opportunities. Therefore, when I attend Mass, I show my gratitude with a particularly generous gift to the local church. I am grateful for your generosity to us. Also, please tip your housekeepers and other hospitality staff – they are our parishioners!

### WHY A SECOND COLLECTION?

About 15 times a year, the US bishops ask parishes to take a second collection for a special cause of national or international significance. For the sake of simplicity, our parish always takes a second collection. On unassigned Sundays, the second collection supports our parish in the same way as the first.

## SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

You can help ensure that Catholicism has a bright and solid future in Atlantic City. To the extent you are able, will you give to the parish from the blessings you have received from God? You can sponsor a school student, have a memorial stone placed by the Mother Lewis statue, purchase a pew bible, even support building renovations. Giving is easy, quick, and secure if you use our online giving page. Go to <http://accatholic.org/how-you-can-help/66-giving-opportunities-01>

Of course you can still call the office and mail in your donations.

### Stardust Winners

February 10, 2018

- #349 - Charles Smith, EHT, NJ - \$3,000
- #65 - Hugh Gallagher, Margate, NJ - \$500
- #54 - Marian Fink, Mullica Hill, NJ - \$500
- #107 - Francis Allebaugh, Egg Harbor, NJ - \$500
- #806 - Mr. & Mrs. V. Desiderio, Secane, PA - \$500

## BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

**DID YOU KNOW?** - Black history can and should be shared at any time. During our last week of Black History month, we would like to congratulate Trina Rodgers, daughter of Bernice Rodgers, both parishioners. Trina wanted to share a black history fact. In 1980, she was selected to serve as the judicial law clerk by the Presiding Judge of the Atlantic/Cape May County vicinage, Honorable Philip A. Gruccio. Trina was the first African American selected to serve in that capacity in the vicinage. Trina stated, she served her clerkship with the Honorable Gerald Weinstein, J.S.C (retired)".

**READERS CORNER** - There is nothing like a good book and as a tribute to Black History Month; I would like to suggest "The History of Black Catholics in the United States" by Fr. Cyprian Davis. The author Cyprian Davis was a Black Catholic Historian. His book published in 1990 was cited in Publishers Weekly: "The story of the black Catholic community in the united states begins with the story of the Catholic church in Africa". Davis was working on a revised edition of his book at the time of his death in 2015. The publication was released in 2016. The revised edition includes new information gathered during the last 25 years. Davis wrote for everyone interested in the history and culture of Black Americans. His book is the only authoritative history of black Catholics in the United States. Send information of interest to: (bmwhitetoole@aol.com).

## STEWARDSHIP

### 2nd Sunday of Lent - Stewardship Challenge

"Here I am!" he answered." - GENESIS 22:11

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say "Here I am, Lord," when a neighbor needs our help, when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Stewardship is not always easy, lift us Lord when we are uncomfortable and vulnerable. That we as Christian Stewards may answer, "Here I am, Lord," whenever, wherever and however God calls us to serve Him. For all Teens and Young Adults who are indignant at seeing power used unfairly against them, and ideals being ignored in practice, that they may not become bitter, but may be driven to work harder and more effectively for a world of justice and love, we pray to the Lord...

## DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

If this year, 2018, you are celebrating a milestone Wedding Anniversary of

25, 50, 60 or 70 years or more.

Please join us in celebrating Mass with Bishop Dennis Sullivan on

Sunday, June 10, 2018

(A light reception will follow in the parish hall.)

Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

500 Greentree Road

Glassboro, NJ 08028

Registration forms are available through your local parish.

Deadline is May 18, 2018.

For more information please contact your parish office.

# Comunidad Hispana

## Horarios de Atención Oficina Hispana

Martes, Miércoles y Jueves ..... 10am - 2pm

Viernes ..... 11am - 2pm

Secretaria Laura Esparza

609-345-1878 ext.19 lesparza@accatholic.org

## Horarios de Oficina Educacion Religiosa

Lunes a Jueves ..... 10:30am - 3pm

Maria Isabel Duran, Directora

609-345-1878 ext. 24 mduran@accatholic.org

Numero Directo 609-470-9157

## CLASES DE BAUTISMO

Las clases de bautismo en español se darán todos los primeros y terceros jueves de cada mes, empezando con la misa a las 6:30 PM y luego con la plática a las 7:30 PM. Por favor de traer el Acta de Nacimiento del su hijo (a).

Spanish Baptismal classes are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 PM in the sacristy. The classes will follow the 6:30 AM Mass. Please bring the child's Birth Certificate to the class.

### Renovación Carismática Católica

#### Siervos De Cristo - Grupo de Oración

2nd y 3rd miércoles de mes después de Misa

"Y todos quedaron llenos del Espíritu Santo, y comenzaron a hablar en otras lenguas, según el Espíritu hacia que hablaran" – Hechos 2,4

### Misa Diocesana de Aniversario Matrimonial

Si usted está celebrando su aniversario matrimonial número 25, 50, 60, 70 o más durante este año.

Acompáñenos a celebrar la Misa con el Obispo Dennis Sullivan el Domingo, 10 de junio del 2018 a las 3:00pm

(Tendremos un compartir sencillo después de la celebración en el salón parroquial)

Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

500 Greentree Road

Glassboro, NJ 08028

Los formularios de inscripción están disponibles a través de su parroquia local.

La fecha límite es el 18 de mayo del 2018. Para obtener más información póngase en contacto con la oficina de su parroquia.

## INFOMACION PARA LA CONFIRMACION 2018

\***Confirmacion de Saint Monica** es Martes, Mayo 1, 2018 a las 5:00 PM.

\***El Retiro** es Sabado, Marzo 3, 2018 de 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM en la Cafeteria.

\***Practica con los padrinos** es el Sabado, Abril 28, 2018 de 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM en la Iglesia.

\***El costo del Alba de Confirmacion es de \$25.00.** Por favor traer el pago el dia de la practica en un sobre que diga "Confirmacion Gown". Nombre, medida y grado. Para entregarle su vestimenta exclusiva para usted.

### ORACION DE LOS ESTUDIANTES DEL CCD

I love God and everything he has done for me and my family. Amen. *De parte de la estudiante Mitzy Velazquez.*

## STEWARSHIP

25 de febrero de 2018

2º domingo de Cuaresma

"<<¡Aquí estoy!>>, Respondió." - GÉNESIS 22:11

Es fácil decir: "Aquí estoy, Señor", cuando estamos arrodillados en la iglesia. Pero ¿qué tan fácil es decir "Aquí estoy, Señor", cuando un vecino necesita nuestra ayuda, cuando nos invitan a unirnos a un ministerio parroquial, o cuando se nos pide que brindemos apoyo financiero? Muchas veces nos llaman cuando no nos conviene. El discipulado no siempre es fácil, la mayoría de las veces nos hará sentir incómodos y vulnerables. Para que podamos responder: "Aquí estoy, Señor", cuando sea, donde sea y como sea que Dios nos llame a servirle.

# Mass Intentions for the Week - February 25, 2018

## Our Lady Star of the Sea

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Saturday	Feb. 24	8:00	Nick Madonna (D)/ Robert Melito
		4:15	Arleen Walsh/ Marcie & Jack McAvaddy
		7:00	Mass for the People
Sunday	Feb. 25	7:30	Phyllis Madonna (L)/ Robert Melito
		9:00	Claudia Thomas Billings/ Walsh Family
		10:30	Edith Galindo Sarmiento/ Familia Galindo
		12:00	Marie Pompo/ Conchetta
		2:30	Mass for the People
Monday	Feb. 26	6:30	LH Giuse / Chj Lan xin
		7:00	Joan Madonna (L)/ Robert Melito
Tuesday	Feb. 27	5:15	Claudia Thomas Billings/Tim Brennan & Christine Mc-Cullough
		7:00	Susan Madonna (L)/ Robert Melito
Wednesday	Feb. 28	5:15	Nevil Tauro/ Family
		7:00	Anastasia Tuohy & Tuohy Family/Theresa McGettigan Kennedy
Thursday	Mar. 1	5:15	Thanksgiving/ Frances Ierardi
		7:00	Mass for the People
		7:00	Rev. Joseph Jung (Birthday)/ Berni Lee
Friday	Mar. 2	5:15	Jack Kelly, 3rd birthday/ the Kelly Family
		6:30	Mass for the People
		7:00	Rob Madonna(L)/Robert Melito
		9:00	May Levine & Her Grandson Rick Heiden/Loretta & Carl Heiden
		5:15	Baptist & Magdeline Tauro/ Family
Saturday	Mar. 3	7:00	Mass for the People
		8:00	Darlene Melito(L)/ Robert Melito
Sunday	Mar. 4	4:15	Louis Chanese/Pavese Family
		7:00	Mass for the People
		7:30	Floyd Fetter(L)/ Robert Melito
		9:00	Adam Sofa/Anne Sofa & Kazimiera
		10:30	Edith Galindo Sarmiento/ Familia Galindo
		12:00	Claudia Thomas Billings/Kennedy Family
		2:30	Mass for the People
		6:30	Các linh hồn/ Ô.B. Chinh xin

## St. Nicholas Church

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Saturday	Feb. 24	4:00	Dr. Joseph Michael Formica
Sunday	Feb. 25	8:45	Daniel Beckett / Ray & Barbara Sands
		10:30	Joseph Michael Formica
		12:00	Madeline Hopper & Family
Monday	Feb. 26	8:00	William Thomas Taylor
Tuesday	Feb. 27	8:00	Most Abandoned Souls Madeline Hopper & Family
Wednesday	Feb. 28	8:00	The souls in purgatory/ Joseph Formica Rollande & Leo Mcroteau/ Family
Thursday	Mar. 1	8:00	Dr. James Patrick Burke
Friday	Mar. 2	8:00	Madeline Hopper & Family
Saturday	Mar. 3	4:00	Dr. Joseph Michael Formica
Sunday	Mar. 4	8:45	James Patrick & Mary Teresa Burke
		10:30	Madeline Hopper & Family
		12:00	Pam Del Ross (Birthday) (L)/ Marge



## St. Michael's Church

Day	Date	Time	Intention
Sunday	Mar. 4	10:00	Jack Iaconelli (D) / John & Natalie Iaconelli

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"

The significance of that is that if we are on the side of righteousness, which should be a major goal of our Lenten experience, there should be nothing to threaten us.