

# THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

March 2025

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME  
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



## COMING EVENTS

Novena March 17th thru 25th

Pilgrimage Sunday, March 23rd

Mass at 11:00 AM

Rosary and Novena Prayers before Mass

Mass Times at St. Wenceslaus Home of the  
National Shrine of the Infant Jesus

Saturday Night Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 11 :00 AM

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00 PM

This newsletter is published monthly to promote  
the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the  
National Shrine in Oklahoma, USA.

[www.shrineofinfantjesus.com](http://www.shrineofinfantjesus.com)

[www.facebook.com/iopshrine](https://www.facebook.com/iopshrine)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

When does Lent 2025 begin and end?

Lent 2025 is one of the most important periods in the liturgical year of the Catholic Church, marking the journey of repentance and spiritual preparation for Easter. This is a time for believers to look inward, practice fasting, pray and do good deeds, in order to renew their faith life and relationship with God.

Lent 2025 begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. This is a special day when believers attend Mass to receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance, a reminder of the fragile human condition: **“Remember, for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”** (Gen 3:19)

Lent ends on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025, before the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. This Mass marks the beginning of the Triduum (the three holiest days of the Catholic liturgy: Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter). In total, Lent lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays, because every Sunday is a memorial of the Resurrection of Christ. The number 40 has a special meaning in the Bible, symbolizing a time of testing, purification and preparation, such as:

- 40 days of Jesus fasting and praying in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11)
- For 40 years, the Israelites wandered in the desert before entering the Promised Land (Exodus 16:35).
- 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai to receive the Law (Exodus 24:18)

Lent 2025 begins and ends from March 5 to April 17, which is a sacred time for every Catholic believer to reflect on themselves, purify their souls and prepare to celebrate Easter with a new faith and full of hope. This is a journey of return, not only returning to God but also returning to one’s true self, to live better in love and forgiveness. Temptation is as old as the earth. Temptation appears with the presence of humans. Surely we cannot forget the story of the two ancestors falling into the temptation of the devil. The Jewish people, when enslaved under the yoke of the Egyptians, wanted to be free, but when wandering in the desert for 40 years, suffering from hunger and thirst, were tempted to return to Egypt to be full and warm. It can be said that the three temptations that Jesus had to face today include all the temptations that people often encounter.

**The first temptation:** Instant satisfaction of every need.

After Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights, He felt hungry. Hunger is a very common physiological phenomenon when people fast without eating or drinking for a long time. Seeing this, the devil immediately suggested that Jesus turn stones into bread to eat.

What a reasonable suggestion. If you are hungry, you must eat. If you want to eat, you must have bread. But how to get bread is the problem. Not every need must be satisfied immediately. And above all, you must not use unethical means to satisfy your needs. Bread represents the basic needs of man. There are many human needs and it seems that they tend to increase and that’s why the temptation to satisfy the needs is getting bigger and bigger.

**The second temptation:** the desire for power and domination.

The devil knew that Jesus wanted to save humanity, so he offered to give Him all the kingdoms on earth. Many people may think that the devil's offer was reasonable. Just have the power to rule over all nations and people will listen to whatever he says. Jesus would not have to suffer and die. He only needed to kneel down and worship the devil, and the kings, officials, and people of all nations would obey him.

**The Third Temptation:** Seeking the Miraculous.

Wanting miracles. Want to do amazing things. Wanting to have great success. This temptation drives people to rush to seek miracles. The ancient temptation to build the Tower of Babel still continues.

Always looking to God - Leslie Dunkin once talked about a dog his family raised when he was a boy. This was an unusually well-behaved dog. Sometimes, his father would test the dog's obedience by placing a tempting piece of meat on the floor. Then he would turn to the dog and command, "No!" The dog, although he really wanted to run to eat the meat, was placed in the most difficult situation to obey or disobey his master's orders. "The dog never looked at the meat," Dunkin said. It seems to feel that if it were to look, the temptation to disobey would be too great. So he kept looking at my father's face steadfastly." Dunkin then made this spiritual application: "There is a lesson for all of us. Always look up into the face of God."

As one hymn puts it: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus/ Look full in His wonderful face,/ And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,/ In the light of His glory and grace."

Another Holy Lent season is here, and it's time for us to turn to God together, spread love and sharing to live the Holy Lent season to the fullest. First of all, please allow me to send to all the benefactors and members of the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague my best wishes for your health and my sincere thanks for always accompanying and supporting us financially and in prayer. Time flies so fast, I have been to the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague for two Holy Lent seasons. Thanks to the generosity of all my benefactors last year I was able to plant many trees, buy new Altar cloths and a new set of vestments. This year, an anonymous benefactor donated nearly ten thousand to the National Shrine so that I could move the Stations of the Cross to beautify the grounds of the Shrine so that all pilgrims during this Jubilee Year and during this Holy Lent can walk the Stations of the Cross and together meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus. And there are still many projects this year. We hope there will be more generous hearts, joining hands to contribute a little to beautify the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus. Love is not about what I am going to get, but what I am going to give. Pray that God and Mother Mary will pour out lots of Grace and give lots of health and peace to you and your family.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran, Rector



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