

Integral Faith

“Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home.”



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 1st Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (February 22, 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Genesis 2-3: The Lord planted a garden in Eden

Psalms 51: A clean heart create for me, O God

Romans 5: The gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many

Matthew 4: Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert

† Comments for the Day:

The first eleven chapters of Genesis explore the origins of sin. The story of the serpent, the tree, Eve, and Adam highlights how we make decisions that lead to sin. Lent is a time to turn away from sin (Ps. 51) and return to God. This season also encourages us to reflect on “ecological sins” (LS 8; 218).

In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he lays out a theological foundation for his gospel message. He compares and contrasts Adam and Christ. Adam’s disobedience and Christ’s obedience have universal importance for humanity. The legacy of Jesus Christ is much greater and has a more positive impact.

During his forty days of fasting and longing to encounter God in the desert, Jesus is tempted. The dynamics of temptation create situations where decisions must be made for good or evil. Jesus serves as the model for making decisions in a God-centered way and always prioritizing others.

A theme running through today’s readings is power. Is power used to dominate and conquer others, or to serve them? Adam and Eve faced the tempting power of knowledge in a way that led them to believe they “will be like gods.” Jesus confronted the destructive power of evil that sought to derail his mission to the poor and oppressed. Much is written today about the power of artificial intelligence (AI). We possess god-like technology. It is important for us to reflect on the “technological paradigm” that Pope Francis discusses in *Laudato Si*. We must be very careful with the decisions we make, as there will be consequences.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

A certain way of understanding human life and activity has gone awry to the serious detriment of the world around us... I propose that we focus on the dominant technocratic paradigm and the place of human beings and of human action in the world. (101)

Humanity has entered a new era in which our technical prowess has brought us to a crossroads... Technology has remedied countless evils that used to harm and limit human beings. (102)

Technoscience, when well directed, can produce important means of improving the quality of human life. (103)

Yet it must be recognized that... many other abilities which we have acquired, have given us tremendous power... Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used... In whose hands does all this power lie, or will it eventually end up? It is extremely risky for a small part of humanity to have it. (104)

The fact is that "contemporary man has not been trained to use power well", because our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience... It is possible that we do not grasp the gravity of the challenges now before us... We cannot claim to have a sound ethics, a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear-minded self-restraint. (105)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might be open to new ways of understanding the implications of our decisions and responsibility to care for the earth, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That our leaders may realize that technology and science must be wielded with humility and justice, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

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Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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