



# MOVIES FOR LENT



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA  
*The Anglican Church of Canada*



THORNELOE  
UNIVERSITY

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - Film: *Conclave* (2024), Theme: Temptation, Scripture: Matthew 4:1–11

## Introduction

The First Sunday in Lent brings us into the wilderness, where Jesus confronts temptation at the outset of his public ministry. In *Conclave*, temptation unfolds not in desert isolation, but within the sacred walls of the Church, during the election of a new pope.

The film explores the subtle and powerful forces at work when discernment, ambition, fear, and conscience intersect. It asks searching questions about power, loyalty, truth, and integrity—especially when spiritual authority and institutional responsibility are at stake.

As Lent begins, *Conclave* invites us to examine how temptation operates in our own lives and communities. Like the wilderness narrative, it challenges us to consider what we are willing to grasp for, what we are willing to surrender, and what faithfulness truly requires.

## Discussion Questions

1. After viewing *Conclave*, what thoughts and impressions lingered after the credits rolled? Why?
2. From a cinematic perspective, what did you enjoy about the film? What worked well? What did not?
3. One thematic throughline in *Conclave* is temptation and the grasping after power. How do different characters utilize and/or pursue positional power throughout the film?
4. At the outset of his public ministry, Jesus is faced with various temptations (Matthew 4:1–11). What is the nature of the temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness? How might the nature of these temptations be common to all humanity, and how might they be resisted rather than succumbed to?

## How to Access This Film

*Conclave* (2024) is available through the following legal streaming and rental options in Canada: Preferred Streaming Option: Amazon Prime Video, Free 30-day trial available for new subscribers. Rent / Buy: Apple TV Rent: \$6.99, Buy: \$17.99. Availability and pricing may vary by region and over time. For additional options or to check availability in other countries, [www.justwatch.com/ca](http://www.justwatch.com/ca) is a helpful tool for locating where films can be streamed, rented, or purchased legally.

## About Movies for Lent

*Movies for Lent* is a Lenten film series curated by The Rev. Jason Tripp, President of Thorneloe University, in partnership with the Diocese of Algoma. Each film is paired with a central theological theme and Scripture from the lectionary, inviting viewers into reflection and conversation at the intersection of faith, culture, and lived experience.

Film Credit: *Conclave* (2024), Directed by Edward Berger, © 2024 Focus Features, Used for educational and discussion purposes only.