



[Jesus] remained in the desert
for forty days, tempted by
Satan.

MARK 1:13



A Trek in the Desert

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Deserts come in all shapes and sizes. For Noah, it turned out to be a desert of water, an endless, dreary expanse. For Jesus, it was also without end, one of rocks and sand; it was a harsh existence. In our lives, deserts might be a debilitating illness, a dried-up marriage, grief over lost love, a job that seems to tax our sanity, or a childhood scarred by abuse. Not long ago, the world found itself in a pandemic desert. For many, it was one of cabin fever that isolated us from family and friends. Deserts are not alluring places. They are places from which we tend to run.

Some people deal with the inevitable deserts of life by becoming angry; others grow bitter and turn inward; others blame God and walk away from faith. Yet deserts can also be the very forces that reshape lives. With nothing else to distract us, in the desert we come face to face with ourselves, with who we really are and whose voice it is that we follow. There we take a stand on life, as Jesus did. It was the Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert, and it was there that he realized the future to which he was being called. So also with us. Deserts become places where we discover what God is asking of us and where we need to go, all discoveries that may otherwise never have occurred. In some strange and curious way, then, deserts may be blessings in our lives. ●

Reflect

Have you had a desert experience? How did it reshape your life?



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group taking orders now
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Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, February 18th - K thru 4th Grade & Confirmation Class
Sunday, February 25th - 5th thru 8th Grades **at HT CHURCH**

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of February 19, 2024

Monday	2/19			† No Mass
Tuesday	2/20	9:00 am	STM	† Geraldine Sondgeroth
Wednesday	2/21	5:30 pm	HT	† Gayle Thielke
Thursday	2/22	9:00 am	HT	† Michael Campbell
Friday	2/23	9:00 am	STM	† For The Purgatory Souls

Mass Intentions for the weekend of February 24 - 25, 2024

Saturday	2/24	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	2/25	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Joyce Gillan
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† The Bonnell, Kenny, Coughlin, and Sutton Families
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Temporarily Suspended

Reflection for the 1st. Sunday of Lent

Our gospel this Sunday sees Jesus being led into the desert. The gospel puts it rather more seriously than Jesus *being led* into the desert! It opens with the words, "The Spirit *drove* Jesus into the desert," and remained with him for forty days. Why was Jesus led or driven into the desert?

The desert in Jewish history is very important. When God freed and saved the People of Israel from slavery in Egypt, they spent forty years in the desert. They wandered and sometimes got lost as they tried to find their way to the Promised Land. This was not an easy journey for them. At times they lost faith in each other and in God. They forgot the promise that God made with them, *'I will be your God and you will be my people.'* Famously, when they were at their lowest, they made a statue of a golden calf and began to worship it. They had forgotten where they had come from, what God had done for them and lost sight of where God was leading them.

It is no surprise that we begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. Like his ancestors, he too is tried, tested and tempted. However, Jesus refuses to give up or give in so quickly or so easily. Jesus knows who he is, where he comes from and where he is going on his own journey. He leaves the desert with these powerful words which he offers us today, *'The time has come; the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'* What is this Good News that Jesus asks us to hear and believe? It is the good news that each of us is created, loved and forgiven by God.

As we begin our own Lenten journey today, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side every step of the way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. We need to realize that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance, and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us alone.

(By Michael Moore OMI)

Help to Spread the Word – Part-Time Church Office Position

We are looking for a secretary to assist in the operation of the church office 25-30 hours a week. Some responsibilities include clerical support, computer skills and knowledge of office equipment. Please help us spread the word if you know of anyone who may be interested. To learn more contact Julie by email juliehtc@outlook.com or call the church office 815-894-2006.

Upcoming Church Fundraisers

SP – Sausage Sales March 2nd | Order forms are in back of the churches | \$20/5lb bag Call Ann @ 815-638-2691 or Lauren @ 815-252-2334 | Volunteers are sincerely needed to make sausage on Saturday, March 2nd.

SP – Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Sunday, March 17th | 8:00am - 1:00pm | \$10 Adults \$5.00 Children Breakfast Menu: Pancakes, Homemade Sausage (Nuco's Recipe), Eggs, Toast, & Beverage

STM – FISH FRY Friday, March 15th at the church hall | 4:30pm - 7:30pm | Adults \$14 – Kids 7yrs & under \$7.00 Menu: Fried Fish, Fries, Coleslaw, Drink, & Homemade Dessert included with meal. Carry-outs available by calling Jyll @ 815-252-4377

STM – Rav/Tort will be for sale @ Fish Fry on March 15th | The Rav/Tort Fundraiser will be ending for the year at the end of March or beginning of April. Please place order by **March 15th**

LATEST OFFERING'S

FEB 11TH WEEKEND

HT – \$2,098.50

CEMETERY \$500

SP – \$ 454.00

STM – \$ 903.20



Friday, February 23rd

STM at 6:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. FEB 24TH

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST PATRICK

IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

We're in the middle of home renovations, and the season of Lent is beginning. Everything is in total disarray. Any ideas to help me "keep my religion" at this time?

"There is...a time to tear down, and a time to build" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3). During the season of Lent—a word meaning "spring"—we are called to put away the "dead" deeds of winter. It's a time of spiritual "spring cleaning" for the individual and for the faith community. As nature renews herself every spring, so do we. The change of season may even prompt a renovation project—the kind you are now undertaking. The structural changes to a home afford many spiritual parallels—the redoing of your physical home can be a challenge to realign your spiritual home during Lent.

In the Genesis story, God is pleased with the handiwork of his creation. Likewise, our stamina, perseverance, and patience to see a work through to its completion are cause for great satisfaction and celebration. This would remind us that we are made in the same image of God, who took delight in his own work. Lent also can become a time of delighting in ourselves as God's special and ongoing creation.

When your home improvement project is completed, arrange for a blessing of your home. Enthroned a special cross or icon to venerate, light a devotional candle, and use holy water in the area of the home that was improved. At that time, remind yourself again that you and your home belong to the Lord—renewed during the spring cleaning of Lent!



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 19	February 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Chair of St. Peter the Apostle	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Second Sunday of Lent
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Is 55:10-11	Jon 3:1-10	1 Pt 5:1-4	Ez 18:21-28	Dt 26:16-19	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Mt 25:31-46	Mt 6:7-15	Lk 11:29-32	Mt 16:13-19	Mt 5:20-26	Mt 5:43-48	Rom 8:31b-34
						Mk 9:2-10



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

How do we hear the voice of God? We hear it in his Word. For this reason, it is important to know Scripture, because otherwise we do not know how to react to the snares of the Evil One. And here I would like to return to my advice of reading the Gospel every day....

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 22, 2015