

Dear Padre,
In the Scripture passages about Jesus in the desert, it says he was alone. How do we know about things that happened to Jesus when he was alone?

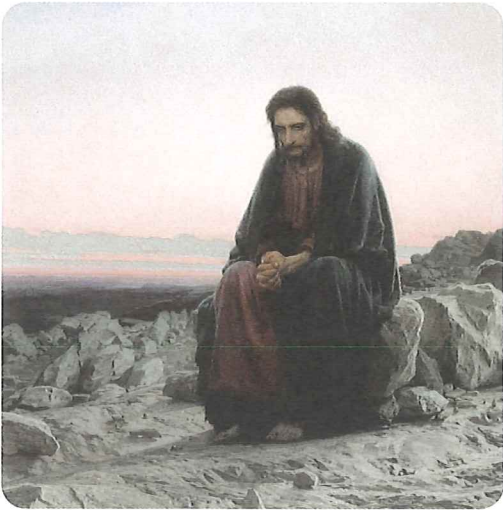
In today's Gospel, we hear one passage about the temptation of Jesus in the desert. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all refer to this incident, but none indicates that anyone was with Jesus.

There were witnesses to many incidents in the life of Jesus. But sometimes the disciples of Jesus depended on his instruction. The first Christians heard about Jesus' instruction and life from the apostles. This preaching of the apostles occurred before Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John wrote anything down.

Over time, the evangelists gathered this preaching together and put it in written form. Gradually these writings became accepted as the gospel, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The apostles were witnesses to what Jesus said and did, so Jesus did tell them things that others did not hear about until later.

Whatever Jesus experiences, he redeems. That means that while temptations are part of our life, they do not have to lead us away from God. Jesus shows us the way to meet them and overcome them. ●

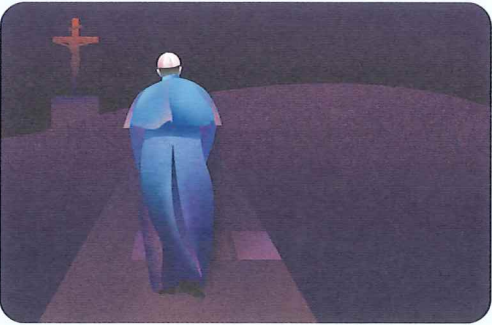
The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 27	February 28	March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	St. Katharine	Lenten Weekday	Second Sunday of Lent
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18	Is 55:10–11	Jon 3:1–10	Est C:12, 14–16, 23–25	Drexel, Virgin	Dt 26:16–19	Gn 12:1–4
Mt 25:31–46	Mt 6:7–15	Lk 11:29–32	Mt 7:7–12	Ez 18:21–28	Mt 5:43–48	2 Tim 1:8–10
				Mt 5:20–26		Mt 17:1–9



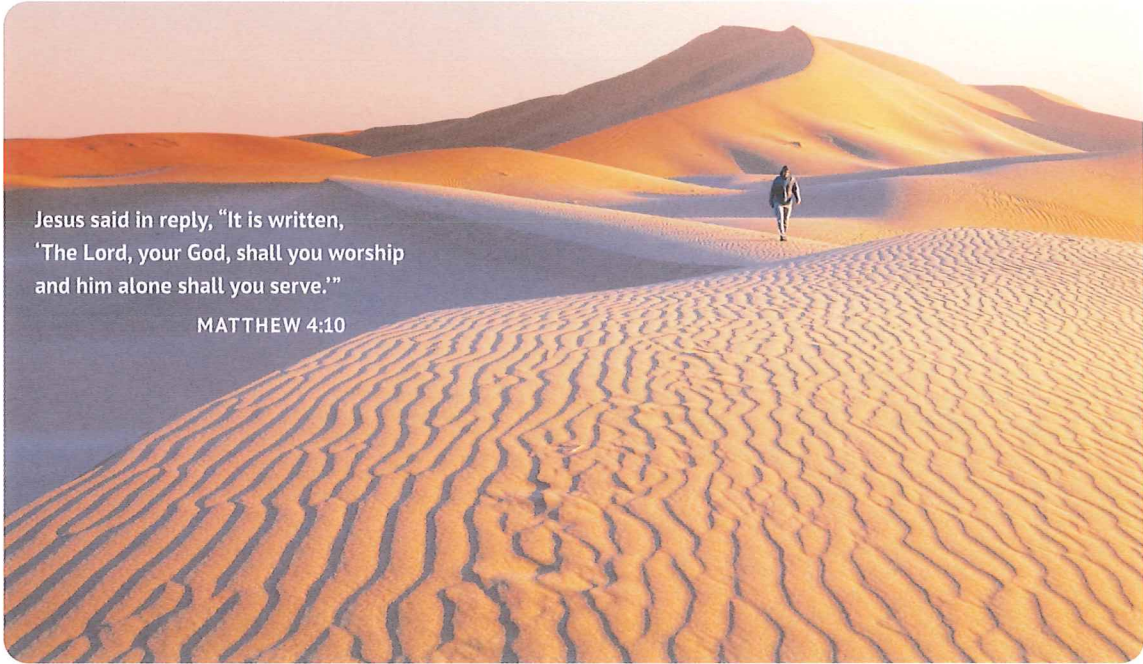
A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

May this time of Lent also be a time of the desert for us. Let us take time for silence and prayer—just a little, it will do us good—in these spaces let us stop and look at what is stirring in our hearts....placing ourselves before the Word of God in prayer.

ANGELUS, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MARCH 6, 2022

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent (A)
Genesis 2:7–9, 3:1–7 / Romans 5:12–19 or 5:12, 17–19 / Matthew 4:1–11



Jesus said in reply, "It is written, 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'"
MATTHEW 4:10

The Gift of Boredom

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Boredom is not a bad thing. It's a good thing. In fact, boredom is a gift. Lost in boredom, we begin to explore new interests and develop unrealized talents. We daydream and begin to form new hopes for our future. For these reasons, periods of boredom are especially good for children and why computers and mobile phones become distinct drawbacks for children and adults alike. It is also in the reverie of boredom that we find ourselves recognizing our limitations, faults, and weaknesses as human beings—the beginning steps to growth and wholeness.

Being bored can be like living in a desert, and that's not a bad thing to do once in a while. Deserts and their absence of anything to distract us become places where we come to know ourselves. It's what took place in Jesus on his journey into the desert. There, he was confronted by his humanity in the temptations he experienced.

There, he came to realize his calling and the beginnings of where it would take him. There, in the desert, he came to know himself.

The season of Lent, then, becomes an opportunity for us to create a desert for ourselves. Putting limits on our television and computer time can create a desert. Snacking between meals can become a mindless distraction; thus, fasting can become another desert. Setting aside time for quiet and prayerful reflection becomes one more such desert experience. A grace of this Lent would then become a fuller and more honest knowledge of ourselves—a kind of resurrection. ●

Reflect

Do you deal with boredom in a healthy way?



Rectory & Parish Office
600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
Mailing Address: PO Box 983
Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (Violet)

02/25/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Gwen Waechter

E.O.HC: Volunteers

02/26/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Youth (Luke Woodrow, Cade & Jace Berning)

Reader: Youth (Hannah Schauf)

E.O. HC: Maria Enriquez, Rosa Cardenas

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (Violet)

3/4/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Rayaam Bam-berger

Reader: Karen Burden

E.O.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

3/5/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller, Vol-unteer

Reader: Alvin Bergkamp

E.O. HC: Mike & Cindy Broeckelman

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Feb. 25	4:00 p.m.	For the people
Sunday, Feb. 26	9:00 p.m.	Sullen Bergkamp
Monday, Feb. 27	8:30 p.m.	Elaine Sack—Spe. Int.
Tuesday, Feb. 28	8:30 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Thursday, Mar. 2	8:30 p.m.	Lucy Martinez
Friday, Mar. 3	8:30 a.m.	S.Int. Powers Family
Saturday, Mar. 4	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, Mar. 5	9:00 a.m.	Sullen bergkamp

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be reg-istered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish of-fice for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

BE MERCIFUL, O LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED (PSALM 51)

My friends, it's painful to bring to light things we'd rather let remain hidden. It's painful to take an honest look at things we're not proud of, painful to admit we haven't always done the right thing or made the right choices in life. This Sunday's Gospel from Matthew shows Jesus out in the desert be-ing tempted by the devil. And we see Jesus refusing to give in to the temptations placed before him, refusing to be seduced by things that appeal to ego or ambition or self-interest. Rather, Jesus simply does the right thing, the good thing, the selfless thing, the holy thing.

And while we can never be perfect as Jesus is perfect in choosing the best option in our life, we still can live authentically, as God created us to live and to be and to act. And the real you and the real me has the potential to be more beautiful than we could ever imagine --- because our loving God is-n't at a distance, but rather dwells within each of us. More kind. More generous. More compassion-ate. More loving. This is what is truly possible, because God made us for this purpose, and will give us everything we need to help make it a reality.

So let's look deep within and examine the areas of our lives in which we don't choose the best op-tion, don't listen to the wisest voice. And let's use the holy practices of Lent --- prayer, fasting, and almsgiving --- to help us see clearly just how much God loves us, how completely dependent we are on him, and how simply choosing what we want can never be better than choosing what he wants. Have a blessed Lent everyone. Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for February 19, 2023: Envelopes: \$745; Loose: \$1020; Online Giving: \$257.64; Total 2043.02 Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +281.85

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$23081.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

2023 – RITE OF ELECTION/CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION On Sunday, February 26 at 3:00p.m. our parish Catechumen and Candidates will join with other Catechumen and Candidates from different parishes in our diocese to celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion/Rite of Election at the Cathedral in Dodge City. Please pray for them and their families so that they will open their hearts completely to receive God’s blessings and guidance.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (from the Alternate Prayer fro the Firs Sunday of Lent Roman Missal, 1985) Lord our God, you formed us from the clay of the earth and breathed into us the spirit of life, but we turned from your face and sinned. In this time of repentance we call out for your mercy. Bring us back to you and to the life your Son won for us by his death on the cross, for he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

LENT FASTING AND MEAT ABSTINENCE Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Praying the “Stations of the Cross” is one of the most popular devotions for Roman Catholic and is often performed in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during His Passion. The object of the Stations is to help us make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. **We hold Stations of the Cross led by Knights of Columbus every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. during Lent. We hope you will join us for this prayerful devotion.** A plenary indulgence may be gained by praying the Stations of the Cross.

THE PILLARS OF LENT As we begin our Lenten journey, reflect on how your prayers, fasting and almsgiving can guide you. As Pope Francis explain, these are “elements which, when lived sincerely, can transform life and provide a sure foundation for dignity and fraternity.” How can practicing the Lenten pillars transform your life and the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 4:1-11)

Deserts Deserts were dangerous places physically because they offered little food or water, and shelter was usually a mere cave. Deserts thus came to represent spiritual struggle or challenge. People went into the desert to confront their demons and to learn to depend solely on God. They fasted as a test of their endurance and commitment.

True son Jesus enters the desert soon after God calls him his beloved Son (3:17). In the desert Jesus demonstrates the kind of son he is. Matthew contrasts the forty days Jesus spends in the wilderness with the forty years that Israel spent in the Sinai desert. The Israelites, sometimes called collectively the son of God, had to learn to trust in God, but too often they complained about not having food or water or about being attacked by foreign tribes. Jesus is the true Son who acts with perfect trust and obedience.

Dueling in the desert At his baptism Jesus entrusted himself to God. The devil tests his commitment in stages. Notice that Jesus withstands each temptation by speaking God’s word rather than depending on his own arguments. 1. Jesus trusts completely in God (v.4). He won’t turn away from God in order to depend on himself, which is the great sin of humankind that our first reading dramatizes. 2. The devil can use scripture, too (v.6). He quotes God’s word in order to turn Jesus’ trust in God against him. Jesus doesn’t fall for it: genuine trust in God doesn’t demand proof or signs of love. Jesus also uses scripture correctly instead of distorting it for his own purposes. His proper use of scripture highlights his divine authority, an authority he refuses to misuse. 3. Although Jesus will reign over the whole world, he can’t skip past his ministry and crucifixion in order to arrive quickly at his resurrection and ascension (vv.8-10). He must remain patient and faithful to God’s plan of salvation, no matter how hard God’s mission for him becomes.

Angels God supports his Son by sending him angels. An angel protected God’s people when they fled Egypt and entered the Sinai desert (Exodus 14:19). An angel also fed and revived the prophet Elijah after a pagan queen threatened to kill him and he fled into the desert (1 Kings 19:5-8). (oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7)

Fragile but safe The Hebrew word for humankind is Adam, and the word for ground or earth is adamah. This play on words emphasizes our dependency on God who made us and on the earth itself, which God also made. We come from and will return to the earth. God alone creates and will recreate us. Eden means delight. God places the people in a garden where their needs are abundantly met. The garden is beautiful and filled with healthy food. The man and woman are safe and happy.

The serpent At the simplest level the serpent is a fictional character who sets the drama in motion. The serpent might also represent pagan rituals, which this story-teller wanted to denounce. Over time the serpent came to represent the devil.

Replacing their creator The man and woman had believed that God cared for them, but at the serpent’s suggestion they think they can do better. Though creatures, they seize the chance to become creators. They think they can rely on themselves and decide for themselves what will make them happy.

Their eyes are opened Lacking the life-giving power, wisdom, and love of the Creator, the man and woman are frightened by their limitations. They make primitive coverings to protect themselves from a world they can’t control. These pitiful clothes are their first attempt to hide their need and dependency.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION **Thinking to Speak** “O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.” When we speak, our words have power. They can build up and they can tear down. A nation can be built upon words, and a war can be started with words. We need to be good stewards of our words. Words can forgive, heal and rescue. But words come after our thoughts. There is a quote, “watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character, watch your character, it becomes your destiny.” We are stewards of our thoughts. We need to fill our thoughts with truth, beauty and goodness. The world, the flesh and the devil seek the opposite. Put on the mind of Christ, and our thoughts will prepare our words to give praise! (Catholicdioceseofwichita.org)

Pensar antes de hablar “Señor, abre mis labios, y cantará mi boca tu alabanza.” Cuando hablamos, nuestras palabras tienen poder. Pueden edificar y pueden derribar. Una nación puede construirse con palabras, y una guerra puede comenzar con palabras. Debemos ser buenos stewards de nuestras palabras. Las palabras pueden perdonar, curar y rescatar. Pero las palabras vienen detrás de nuestros pensamientos. Hay un refrán que dice: “Cuida tus pensamientos, porque se convertirán en tus palabras; cuida tus palabras, porque se convertirán en tus acciones; cuida tus acciones, porque se convertirán en tus hábitos; cuida tus hábitos, porque se convertirán en tu carácter; cuida tu carácter, porque se convertirá en tu destino”. Somos stewards de nuestros pensamientos. Debemos llenar nuestros pensamientos de verdad, belleza y bondad. El mundo, la carne y el diablo buscan lo contrario. Ponte la mente de Cristo, ¡y nuestros pensamientos prepararán nuestras palabras para dar alabanza!

Q: I have been a Catholic all my 35 years. But I am becoming increasingly angry at how the Church abuses its power and, among many things, excludes Gay people from getting married. Well, I pretty much know you won't agree, but I have to speak out. (name withheld)

A: You exemplify an interesting phenomenon wherein the modern world, which is often disdainful of Church "power," then turns and expresses exaggerated notions of Church power.

In terms of divine moral law, the Church has no authority whatsoever to overturn the biblical teaching against homosexual acts, or to redefine the parameters of marriage as given by God in the Scriptures and Sacred Tradition. The Church is the servant of the Word of God (cf Catechism # 86), not an all-powerful entity that is able to tear pages from the Bible, cross out lines, or overrule it. The sinfulness of homosexual acts (and also illicit heterosexual acts, such as fornication and adultery) is consistently taught at every stage of biblical revelation to the last books.

Hence, I would urge you to reconsider that what you call an abuse of power, is actually, a humble recognition of the limits of her power by the Church.

Q: If a priest who has had five years to discern his vocation can be laicized, why does a couple, who may court only six months to a year need a Church annulment, especially if it was due to abuse or alcoholism and the like. Doesn't a person who wishes to remarry deserve happiness without having to go through a long emotional process? – Jeannine

A: Your question seems to imply that laicization is a simple process. It is not, and often takes investigation, the preparing of a petition, and sometimes the gathering of testimony. This may take years to complete. Annulments, while not easy, can often be accomplished in six months to a year, depending on the diocese and complexity of the case. But the fact is, neither are easy.

That said, there is an important difference. Laicization does not generally seek to prove an ordination never took place or was invalid. It presumes the man was validly ordained and only releases him of his ecclesial obligations to live all the disciplines of priestly life such as perpetual celibacy, and the duties of the saying the Liturgy of the Hours, and celebrating Mass, etc.

Annulment on the other hand, is the recognition by the Church, based on evidence given, that a valid Catholic Marriage never occurred, since something essential was lacking. This of course requires proof that must be presented and then considered. And that, like the process of laicization, takes some time.

Both processes ultimately involve matters of great sadness and have significant pastoral implications. For while recognizing human struggles, the Church must also seek to uphold the gravity of vows that are made. Showing compassion to the individuals who seek annulments or laicization must be balanced with the common good, the reality of sacraments, and what Scripture teaches. The happiness of certain individuals cannot be the Church's only concern. Hence, the pastoral process involved must necessarily be thorough and careful. (Msgr. Charles Pope– Our Sunday Visitor)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

God’s messengers

Have you thought much about your guardian angel since you prayed at bedtime when you were a kid? If not, maybe it's time to catch up with the one that's been assigned to help you. The word *angelos* means "messenger" in Greek, and since angels "always behold the face" of God in heaven (Matthew 18:10), they're well-positioned to intercede for you. Appreciate the watchful care that surrounds you and protects you from spiritual and perhaps physical dangers. Their constant attention indicates how precious you are to God and how active God wishes to be in your life. (Preparetheword)

PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Mensajeros de Dios

¿Has pensado mucho en tu ángel de la guarda desde que rezabas a la hora de dormir cuando eras niño? Si no es así, quizá sea el momento de ponerte al día con el que te ha sido asignado para ayudarte. La palabra *angelos* significa "mensajero" en griego, y puesto que los ángeles "contemplan siempre el rostro" de Dios en el cielo (Mateo 18:10), están en buena posición para interceder por ti. Aprecia el cuidado atento que te rodea y te protege de peligros espirituales y tal vez físicos. Su atención constante indica lo valioso que eres para Dios y lo activo que desea estar en tu vida.