

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

**B**oredom 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?***

# Saint Michael's Catholic Church

17150 - 88th Ave, Coopersville, MI 49404  
Parish Office: 616-384-4026

*Saint Michael's Catholic Community is a family challenged by Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to care for others and to become the body Of Christ through worship, hospitality and service.*

Pastor: Fr. Michael Hodges—[frmhodes@grpriests.org](mailto:frmhodes@grpriests.org)  
Deacon: Deacon Tom Roberts—[troberts@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:troberts@saintmarysmarne.org)

For more information on staff, councils, ministries and schedules, visit our website : [www.saintmichaels.us](http://www.saintmichaels.us)

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday February 25

4:30PM † Frank Lampe by M/M Rob Rander .....MA

### Sunday February 26

8:30AM † Stacy Emelander by Pam Racziewicz .....MI

10:30AM † Pope Benedict by Knights of Columbus #11581 ..... MA

4:30PM † Betty Klein by Gary Klein & Family .....MI

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM - St Michael*

**Monday February 27..... NO MASS**

### Tuesday February 28

9:00AM † Rick Lothschutz by M/M Mike Morse.....MA

*Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm*

### Wednesday March 1

9:00AM † Sherm Hecksel by John & Denise Anderson.....MI

*Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm*

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM*

### Thursday March 2

9:00AM † Brian Karr by M/M Gary Karr .....MA

### Friday March 3

9:00AM † Al Spencer by Winnie Spencer & Family .....MI

### Saturday March 4

4:30PM † Frank Lampe by M/M Jerry May .....MA

### Sunday March 5

8:30AM † Brent Beuschel by Dave & Sharon Carlson .....MI

10:30AM † Mary Klein by Family ..... MA

4:30PM † Margaret Jonio by Kathy Bliss .....MI

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM - St Michael*

MA=St. Mary MI=St. Michael's



**Please Note:** When there is inclement weather (where Coopersville Public Schools or Kenowa Hills Public Schools are closed) The Parish Offices will be closed and all events scheduled for that day will be cancelled. Daily Mass will also be cancelled. The Mass intention for that day will be re-scheduled at our earliest opportunity. Additionally, when a Funeral Mass has been scheduled, Daily Mass will be cancelled

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 5 / 8:30 AM	Mar 5 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Lauren Meerman Claire Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Sharon Carlson Denise Nelson Mark Phillips Joe Hitchings Debbie Venekase	Greg Helsen NEED ONE
Lector	Carl Pohlman	Carol Reens
CLW	Debbie V. & Cheri B.	NO CLW
Sacristan	Jane Vitunskas	Karen Helsen
Ushers	Calvin Lindberg Jim Ponshair Peter Nielsen Ed Irwin	Greg Helsen NEED ONE
Music	Anna Jonaitis	Anna Jonaitis

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	March 4- 4:30PM	March 5- 10:30 AM
Sacristan	Matt Karr	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Bryson Potts MJ Potts	Lauren LeMieux Ty Ricord
Host	Sara Patterson Julie Lothschutz Geary Farrell	Jim Looks Marian Looks Margie Jirous
Cup	Mary Kirkwood Deb Hapon Breton Petrauskas Lauren Petrauskas	Janette Ney Becky Warners Christina Withers Need One
Hospitality Ministers	Scott Lampe Michelle Lampe Austin Lampe Steve Lampe	Rick Leale Jeanne Leale Bruce Kamp Marcia Kamp
Lector	Vito Dolci	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

## To Light a Fire on the Earth: Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age

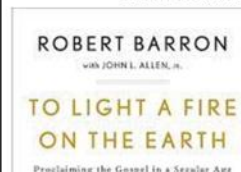
*Presentation will be led by Fr. Michael Hodges*

### St Michael & St Mary Parish Cluster

### 2023 Lenten Evangelization Event

**Dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023 Time: 6:30PM - 8:30PM**

**St Michael's Catholic Church- Family Center  
17150 88th Ave, Coopersville, MI 49404**



#### Schedule:

6:30PM	Presentation
7:30PM	Refreshments
7:45PM	Q/A Discussion
8:30PM	Adjourn

*As secularism gains influence, and increasing numbers see religion as dull and backward, Robert Barron wants to illuminate how beautiful, intelligent, and relevant the Catholic faith is.*

*Touching on everything from Jesus to prayer, science, movies, atheism, the spiritual life, the fate of Church in modern times, beauty, art, and social media, Bishop Barron reveals why the Church matters today and how Catholics can intelligently engage a skeptical world.*

**NO COST** to attend (free will offering)

Pre-Registration is highly recommended to ensure we have enough presentation materials on hand. Please contact Beki at 616.384.4026 or Cathie at 616.677.3934 by February 24 to reserve your spot.



## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News**— Thank you to our 12 families that purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$97.29.



What is it? The PaperGator® is a fundraiser where St. Michael's is paid to collect paper products for recycling.

### What CAN go in the bins?

Newsprint  
Catalogs/Magazines  
Junk Mail  
Phone Books  
Office/School paper  
Hard and soft cover books

### What CANNOT go in the bins?

Paperboard  
(Grocery Item boxes)  
Plastic  
Metal  
Trash  
Glass  
Cardboard

## St. Michael's Preschool

Have you considered St. Michael's Preschool for your child or grandchild? If not, you should! Come see what a great experience St. Michael's Preschool can provide. Come meet our Director/Teacher, Cindy Lindberg! Preschool meets on MWF from 8:45—11:45 am (Mon. 8:45am-2:30pm for 4-year-olds). For more info, call the Parish Office at 616-384-4026.



## St. Michael's Faith Formation

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** this program is offered during Sunday morning Masses. Children 3-9 years old are welcome to join us each week as we pray, read and explore the Sunday Gospel from a child's viewpoint. We include the Gospel Acclamation so children understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading. Before beginning his ministry, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit and went into the desert to pray. He didn't eat or drink; he fasted and used this to focus on his relationship with God. Jesus underwent temptations from the devil and he resisted him. We too experience temptation to sin and we too can resist temptation with the help of the Holy Spirit.

**Elementary Faith Formation:** This program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **First Communion Retreat:** A retreat for both student and parents will be held on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am-12:00 noon. We will start in church. Contact Debbie Veneklasé if you cannot attend.

**Middle School Faith Formation:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30am Mass, from 9:45 to 11:15 in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation during that time. Eighth grade Confirmation students are to attend The Shine Youth Rally on Sunday, March 27 from 1-6.

## St. Michael's Parish Family

**Remembers in Their Prayers:** Kevin Johnson, Anne Pols, Alexandria Gordon, George Langlois, Brooke Campbell, Linda Abel-Carroll, Jackie May, Marvin Hecksel, Carmen Dietrich, Dennis Goosen, Jean Mayse, Ken Heflin, Winnie Spencer, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.



## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Paula Raczkiewicz-Kelly  
by Pam Raczkiewicz

## Knights of Columbus News

### St. Michael's Fish

**Dinners**— Dinner includes: Deep fried fish OR baked fish, fries, rolls, coleslaw, green beans, dessert and beverage; grilled cheese sandwich also available. Fridays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. PRICES: Adults - \$13.00, Children – Ages 6-10 - \$6.00, Children under 6 – Free. If you'd like to donate a dessert, please bring a "sweet treat" with you on Friday night!



**Take a break and let us do your Lenten cooking. Join us for an evening of prayer and fellowship!**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**— Fridays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, at St. Michaels, at 7PM following the Fish Dinner.

**Bunny Business is Back in Business!** We will be collecting candy, Easter baskets, blow bubbles, chalk, coloring books, crayons, books and small stuffed animals for the next few weeks. If you would prefer to donate cash, the committee will purchase needed items. There will be a container for all donations in the glass hallway. Please mark your calendar to help stuff Easter baskets for Coopersville Cares on March 26th, in the Family Center, after the 8:30 Mass. With your help, the Knights of Columbus hope to stuff 100 baskets again this year.

**All are welcome!** The Michigan State Council of the Knights of Columbus were able to secure tickets to the Detroit Redwings vs. the St. Louis Blues hockey game at Little Caesar's arena on March 23, 2023, at 7PM. Seating is in the Gondola Boxes running along the west side and up near the roof. Tickets are \$30.00. If interested, contact John Anderson 616-437-1627. Please let us know by March 1st, if possible.

## Giving Back to God

February 19, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$3,466.00
Loose Cash	\$236.00
Children's Envelopes	\$14.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,716.55</b>
Building Fund	\$25.00
Financial Assistance	\$30.00

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**February 26, 2023 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent**

## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### 40 Days for Life ~ March 2, 2023

#### Would you be willing to pray for one hour?

40 Days for Life is a unique pro-life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil in front of abortion clinics. This will be the 27th campaign in Grand Rapids, and it will take place in front of Heritage Clinic for Women at 320 East Fulton Street. This is the only free-standing surgical abortion facility still operating in our community. Dozens of area churches have adopted a day of prayer. **Our parish family has chosen**

**Thursday, March 2, 2023~** Would you be willing to pray for one hour to fill in the time slots to pray to end abortion and close the Heritage abortion clinic in Grand Rapids? Contact Lisa Potts 616-723-3213 or [potts.lisa99@gmail.com](mailto:potts.lisa99@gmail.com) to sign up or for more information. We will need 2 prayer volunteers from 7 am till 7 pm throughout the day. This is a powerful and proven effective way to close abortion centers and show the Mother's that we are praying and thinking about them and their babies. Please consider a hour of your time~ If you are unable to attend that day you may go to the clinic and pray any time! Thank you for your commitment to LIFE! God bless! [www.40daysforlife.com/GrandRapids](http://www.40daysforlife.com/GrandRapids)

**Please Note: Fr Mike will be leading the Rosary at 11 AM for our prayer group on March 2.**



## Youth Ministry

### Middle School Youth Ministry (6-8 Grade)

#### Are you looking for something to do this Lent?

**Service Project:** Are you interested in leading a Lent event for your Parish?

**Shine Rally:** March 26, 1-6:30 p.m.  
Early registration discounts available.



### High School Youth Ministry (9-12)

**Weekly gatherings** are offered. Additional events are offered on occasion too. For information about Youth Ministry gatherings, trips or events, please contact Rebecca.

#### Are you looking to deepen your faith this Lent?

**Service Project:** Thursday, March 2.

**Retreat:** March 24-25 .

**Book Study:** We will read, *If you really loved me* and meet weekly during Lent. Teens need straight answers to tough questions about dating, relationships, and sexual purity. With more than 300 pages of answers that include well over 1000 references and studies, *If You Really Loved Me* offers a wealth of information in a language that resonates with today's teens. Please contact Rebecca with the day of the week and time that works best for you this Lent., if interested in signing up.

#### Questions or comments

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at 616-677-5065 or [re@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:re@saintmarysmarne.org)



### Fr. Mike's Musings

Christians believe that Jesus, through His suffering and death for the salvation of humanity, has gifted us with the unending abundance of the Holy Spirit. Imagine the Cross as a fountain from which the living waters of the Spirit and God's blessings continually flow. All believers can come to partake of these waters and find a true life of grace. The sacraments of the Church are channels or streams by which the waters flow to God's people, and they can never be blocked, nor will they run dry—they are the presence of the eternal in the world.

The sacraments are not "magic". The power and life that they convey are divine. Separated from the Cross of Christ and from His grace, the sacraments would only be dry, meaningless rituals whose effectiveness would be little more than the slight-of-hand of a common stage magician. But as they are united with the realities of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus, they are inseparably linked with abundant life and presence of the Creator, they are a bridge from the temporal to the eternal. Catholics believe that the grace of Jesus Christ is present in the sacraments because the Bible, the post-Resurrection activity of the Apostles, and the tradition of the early Church all give evidence in support of this belief. The sacraments are a prime example of God's manner of approaching and relating to humanity. In addition to sharing of Himself in a spiritual way, God also comes to us through things, personas, and events that are tangible and thus can be experienced through our natural senses.

Our belief system also recognizes the primary sacrament is Christ himself. God chose to save humanity and communicate His graces by becoming a man and walking among His people on earth. No other theology or mythos has the divine become incarnate in such a way as to be indistinguishable from ordinary humans. This is exactly what has happened though when God became the "Word of Life", Jesus Christ, who is announced to the world as "Emmanuel": GOD IS WITH US. (Matthew 1:23) In this manner of being God began a new way of relating to His people. He came down to our level and presented Himself as an ordinary man, like us in all ways but sin.

The seven sacraments recognized by the Roman Catholic Church are all traced to and based upon some aspect of Jesus' life and teachings. The sacraments became distinctive parts of the life of the Church from its beginning as the Apostles carried the practices and teachings of Jesus out into the world following His Resurrection. They anointed the sick and the dying to beseech God's healing power (Anointing of the Sick). They laid hands on people to impart the Holy Spirit into their faith lives (Confirmation). They imparted preaching and healing authority to those designated in a community for special ministries or charisms (Holy Orders). They forgave sins (Reconciliation) and washed new believers clean of their original sinfulness (Baptism). They blessed martial unions in the name and authority of Christ as a mirror of His love for the Church (Marriage). And they regularly offered bread and wine to become the "Real Presence of Christ" through a celebration of thanksgiving for the salvation that God willed into the world through that same Christ (Eucharist).

It did take considerable time for the Church's formal understanding of the sacraments to gel and take hold among the whole of the Catholic Christian faith community, their implementation and practice has been a vital part of the lives of believers since the physical time of Jesus Christ on earth. In the coming weeks we shall explore these practices and come to our own understanding of how we in this age are firmly and undeniably linked to the One who is the means of our eternal salvation—Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.



### Knights of Columbus News

#### St. Mary's Knights of Columbus #11581

The St Mary's Knights meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00PM in the Parish Hall. For more info please contact Grand Knight Rob Rander:

at: [roblander82@gmail.com](mailto:roblander82@gmail.com) or visit:

<https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/knights-of-columbus>

**Next Breakfast & Blood Drive: October 8**



#### St. Michael's Knights of Columbus #9909

The St. Michael's Knights meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit

<https://saintmichaels.us/knights-of-columbus-9909>

**February 26, 2023 ~ The First Sunday of Lent**

## St. Mary's Parish News

### Religious Education

#### This Sunday's Gospel Reflection:

Jesus makes three choices in this Gospel. He could choose to turn stones to bread, or become ruler of the world, or jump off the top of the Temple and have angels catch him. But Jesus chooses not to be a magical, superhero Messiah. Jesus comes to be one of us, our brother. Jesus makes choices just as we must.



Jesus chooses to follow God's word. Bread is not the only food we need. We also need the word of God to nourish our spirits. Jesus could seek power but he chooses to worship God and calls us to do the same. Jesus shows us how God acts as a human being.

#### Questions of the Week:

- What does Jesus mean when he says people do not live on bread alone?
- Why does Jesus refuse to turn stones to bread?
- How will you choose to follow Jesus this week?

Lent is a time to practice loving actions, such as sharing, forgiving, including, and thanking. During Lent, we try to grow in holiness. Make a commitment to add something positive to your Lenten journey (e.g., pray, almsgiving and fasting).

What sacrifice (or extra commitment) are you going to make this Lent

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** dismisses and meets during 10:30 a.m. Mass.

#### Questions or comments

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at 616-677-5065 or dre@saintmarysmarne.org

#### **High School Youth Ministry**

SEE CLUSTER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

### Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7PM During Lent

Feb 24- Led by The Pastoral Council in Main Church  
Mar 3- Led by Our Lady of Fatima Guild in Main Church  
Mar 10- Led by Religious Ed Classes in Main Church  
Mar 17 - Led by Adult Bible Study  
Mar 24 - Led by Youth Ministry Group  
Mar 31 - Led by Knights of Columbus Councils #11581 & #9909 at the Outdoor Meditation Path

**We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

### St Mary Parish Prayer Line

If you would like to request a prayer for our parish prayer line please contact the parish office or Linda at 677.3269. For evening requests call Darlene 453.0157 or email: bfa1414@yahoo.com Please continue to pray for all of our sick, hospitalized & homebound parishioners and all of the personal intentions that St Mary's Parish parishioners hold close to their hearts.

### Knights of Columbus #11581 Blood Drive Results

Goal: 25 / Donors Scheduled: 31 / Donors Registered: 32

Successful Donations: 30 whole blood = 30 units

Lives saved in our community: 90!

First Time Donor: John Farver

Congratulations to our milestone achievers!

Bonnie Rasch - 6 gallons! / James Lothschutz - 12 Gallons!

**THANK YOU**  
**Next Blood Drive: October 8**

### Did you Know?

Our monstrance at Saint Mary has just returned from an 18 week-long restoration. Please take the time to see it. It is holding Christ during adoration every Tuesday. It was given to the parish in memory of Aaron and Irena Finerman in 1958. It has long served as the throne of the Body of Christ during Adoration. It was showing the effects of many years of service. The gold was worn off in places from the elevation during exhibition, and general wear. During Lent, the Altar Society and Lady's Guild will be leading a fundraiser for the \$1900.00 cost of the restoration. All donations over this cost will be used for the maintenance of other Eucharistic vessels (many of them are also showing the effects of many years of honorable service.) Thank you, Fr Mike & Gary Karr



### Thank You

Thank You Father Hodges for being with us during this most difficult time, as well as saying a most touching Mass for our Mother. Thank you parish family for your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for the beautiful music at Mass and the wonderful luncheon afterward. God Bless all of you.  
The Betty Oziemkiewicz Family



### Save the Dates

<b>Feb 24</b>	Stations of the Cross 7PM St Mary / 7PM St Michael
<b>March 2</b>	40 Days for Life- Cluster Day of Prayer 7AM-7PM Heritage Clinic for Women at 320 East Fulton Street
<b>March 3, 10, 7, 24</b>	Stations of the Cross 7PM St Mary / 7PM St Michael
<b>March 6, 13, 20, 27</b>	To Light A Fire On Earth- Lenten Parish Cluster Presentation 6:30PM to 8:30PM St Michael Family Center
<b>March 23</b>	The Light is On for You, An Evening of Penance (Diocese Wide) 5:00PM to 8:00PM St Mary
<b>March 25</b>	Soup Supper 5:30PM St Mary Parish Hall. (Join us for 4:30PM Mass prior)
<b>March 31</b>	OUTSIDE Stations of the Cross at The St Mary Meditation Path Hosted by the Knights of Columbus Councils #11581 & 9909)

### Giving Back to God

	<b>Feb 18/19</b>
Regular Contributions	\$7902.00
Capital Improvement	0.00
Online Contributions	\$860.00
Children's Contributions	\$39.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8801.15</b>

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity!**

### St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

#### PUTT PUTTS BAR

The Fischer Family ~ 616.774.9129 ~ 1148 W. Fulton

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!**

**Welcome to the Cluster Parishes of St. Mary and St. Michael**



# 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*

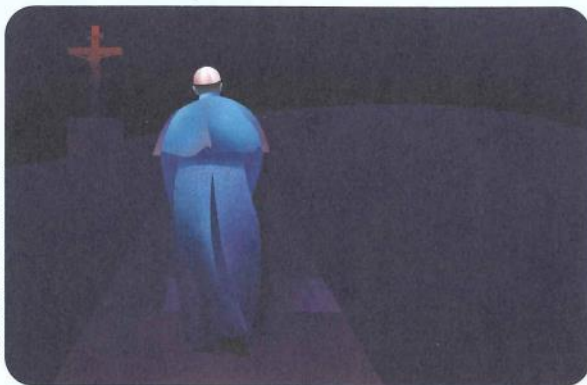


CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS BY IVAN KRANSKOV, 1872

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://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 Drexel, Virgin	Lenten Weekday	Second Sunday of Lent
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15	Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12	Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26	Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48	Gn 12:1-4 2 Tim 1:8-10 Mt 17:1-9



JOSCREATIVE / SHUTTERSTOCK

## 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