

St. Michael the Archangel
100 Oak Drive South
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566
979-297-3041
www.smlj.org

Dear Parish Family,

We began the Holy Season of Lent last Wednesday by having the ashes traced on our foreheads to remind us of our mortality and sinfulness and the need for penance in our lives. Your presence in the church that day and that willingness to be marked with the sign of the cross with ashes was a silent testimony that we are sinners, and thus the need of God's mercy and forgiveness.

So we continue this Sunday with what we have started. In the gospel reading today, our Lord Jesus went into the desert, this empty and strange place, not only to be tested, but to fast, reflect, and pray to His Father. He needed this time to be away from the noise of the world and its demands and daily grind and to discover what is absolutely essential as He prepared for His ministry ahead.

Like our Lord Jesus, we need to have our own 'desert experience' — time to reflect and to take an inventory of our lives. We need to go back to the Christian basics of right and wrong. What did I do wrong or have failed to do? Have I really and truly loved God, neighbors, and myself? Is God my priority or He is simply in the background and truly is only important when all the things in my life are achieved and accomplished?

The 'desert experience' might be challenging or difficult, but wouldn't it be neat to look back at this experience and feel proud to have rediscovered what really matters in our Christian life.

In His love,

Fr. Dwight