

# 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	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Second Sunday of Lent
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18	Is 55:10–11	Jon 3:1–10	Chair of St. Peter the Apostle	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	1 Pt 5:1–4	Mt 5:20–26	Mt 5:43–48	Rom 8:31b–34
			Mt 16:13–19			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....

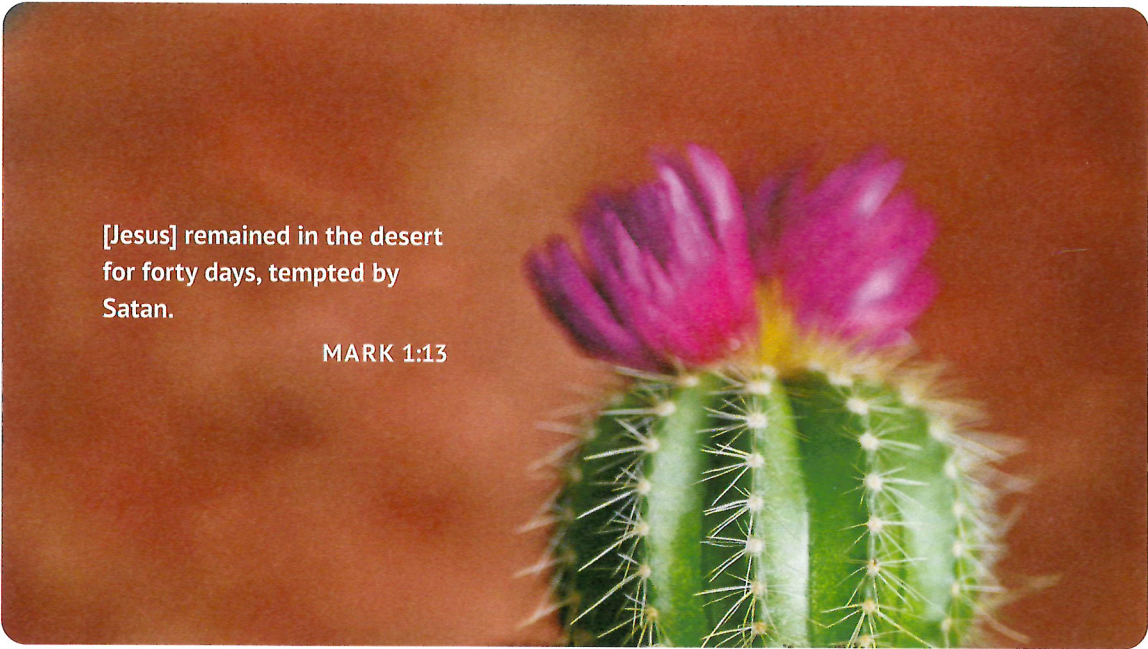
ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 22, 2015



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 18, 2024  
First Sunday of Lent (B)  
Genesis 9:8–15 / 1 Peter 3:18–22 / Mark 1:12–15



[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?



## Sunday, February 18, 2024 – First Sunday of Lent

### ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Weekly Thursday Mass – 10:30 a.m., Adoration at 9:00 a.m.

Website: [www.stjudeparishgobles.com](http://www.stjudeparishgobles.com) Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Fr. Alan Jorgensen Office: (269) 657-4459

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Tran  
Email: [tuyen4peace@gmail.com](mailto:tuyen4peace@gmail.com)

Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Jim Bauer Office: (269) 628-2219  
P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 Cell: (269) 655-6510  
Gobles, MI 49055  
Email: [deaconjimbauer@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjimbauer@gmail.com)

*For pastoral emergencies, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.*

### St. Jude Parish Office Hours:

Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Office Email: [st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com](mailto:st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper:	Lauren Gilbert	(269) 628-2219
Choir Director:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4866
Religious Ed Coordinator:	Jennifer Price	(269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator:	Jennifer Rossell	(269) 744-2582

*Mass Intention for today: Feb. 18, 2024: The People of St. Jude Parish*

### NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

READER: Ellen Brown

ALTAR SERVERS: Alexa, Alanah, Daisy, Bella

Mass intention for Thurs., Feb. 22, 2024: **Open Mass**

Mass intention for Sun., Feb. 25, 2024: Paul & Sofie Leitner by Marie Keller

### Weekly Collection Information

<u>Collections:</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over-(under)</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Feb. 11, 2024:	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1687.00	\$ 213.00	104
Year to Date:	\$ 60,300.00	\$ 60,831.81	\$ 531.81	3609

### LENT: A New Beginning

The first three words of the Bible are: "In the beginning..." (Genesis 1:1). Signs of a new beginning are soon to be around us and they include the sun rising anew in the morning; the caterpillar, which enters its cocoon and turns out to be a beautiful butterfly; the planted seed, which dies in the ground and brings out a new plant; the baby coming out of the womb or a new bird coming out of an egg.

The covenant (agreement) between God and Noah also marked a new beginning in the Creator's relationship with his creatures. **Not long after creating man, God was utterly disappointed at the rate of evil, violence, envy, hatred, and wickedness.** And so, in the days of Noah he sent a flood to cleanse the earth. The catastrophic flood could have been the end of the world, **but God gave the world and all its inhabitants a second chance by establishing a covenant with Noah, his descendants and with every living creature. He gave them the assurance that never again will there be a flood of that magnitude (which destroys all mortal beings).** In this covenant, **God sent the rainbow as a symbol of his promise.** The covenant was significant as it was not just limited to a specific person, Noah, or restricted to a particular people, Israel, rather it was with every living creature. This covenant offered a new beginning and gave all living things an assurance and hope of a good future.

The covenant came at the end of the destructive flood and this was to show that every end ushers in a new beginning. The end of every milestone in our lives is the beginning of a new milestone; the end of every war and break-up, marks the beginning of a peace process – reconciliation, rehabilitation, reconstruction; likewise, the end of formal school education marks a new beginning and a new chapter in our lives. In fact, even the end of physical life is a new beginning of a glorious life. Very often we are afraid of the end because we do not know how and where to start a new beginning. Sometimes, we fear the end of school because we do not know what the employment market holds for us; we are afraid of retirement because we do not know what a post-retirement life will look like; we tend to forget that a new chapter in life commences only after the end of the previous chapter. The end often appears to be dark, but the new morning of a new beginning comes soon after. **God is always in the beginning (alpha) and at the end (omega) of every event in our lives.**

The prophet Isaiah tells us about how God continues to do "A new thing" (Isaiah 43:19). In the book of Revelation, He declares, "Behold, I make all things new (Revelation 21:5). Long after the covenant with Noah, God began another new covenant through Christ, the "Mediator of the new covenant" (Hebrews 9:15). Christ launched a new beginning in the history of salvation, calling people to repentance and offering the Good News (Mark 1:14-15). He gave water a new meaning, as water was no longer a sign of destruction, as in the days of Noah, but a symbol of salvation. Jesus ushered in a new era where God will no longer use a flood to cleanse the earth, but the waters of baptism. According to the Apostle Paul, the waters of the flood predicted the waters of baptism (1 Peter 3:21). It is the spring of water gushing up to eternal life (John 4:14).

Baptism marks a new beginning in our spiritual journey. The season of Lent is a season of new beginning. We have already broken some promises we made for the New Year. We made mistakes in our decisions, in our choices, in words and expressions and in certain actions we executed. During his ministry on earth, Jesus met many people who made grievous mistakes in the past and He gave them hope for a new beginning.

We are on the threshold of a new beginning and **the season of Lent offers us a second chance.** It is a season of grace and a time to respond to Jesus' invitation for repentance. Repentance is a new beginning and so St. Augustine says, "The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works." We have an opportunity to start anew, and we should not be afraid of taking the first step. A new beginning implies having a new mind, a new heart, and a new spirit. We can embrace each day as a new beginning, because "God's mercies are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23).



#### FROM OUR DRE:

Our next student Mass will be on 3/3. Our Kindergarten class will be helping. First Communion Prep will begin March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. Student led Stations of the Cross will be on March 22nd at 6:30.

#### Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 6:30 P.M.

**Soup Supper Dates will begin at 5:30 p.m. on:**

February 23, 2023

March 1, 2023

March 15, 2023

Lexi Fath has volunteered to coordinate this. If you are interested in coming for the soup supper or willing to bring in a crockpot of soup and/or bread. Please get in touch with Lexi at: [LShoemaker@diokzoo.org](mailto:LShoemaker@diokzoo.org).

#### Job Opening

We are looking for someone to take over janitorial duties here at the church. It is a paid position. Applicants must be self-starters, be able to work independently on their own, **must be able to pass a background check, be able to lift up to 50 lbs.**

**Job description and applications can be picked up starting Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>. All applications must be in by March 6, 2023. Contact the office for more information.**

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of JIM MUNN  
By request of Deacon & Mrs. Jim Bauer*

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Pete Percival, Steve Klein, Garry Adams, Joan Rumery, David Vana, Phil Boyer, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

**EUCARIST HELPS US TO LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS AROUND THE WORLD.** Visit [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) to learn more and read this week's Story of Hope.

**Lent is a time of repentance and of uniting ourselves to Christ during his 40 days in the desert.** During this sacred season, CRS Rice Bowl—Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program—invites us to reflect on how caring for our neighbor is caring for Christ. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink (Matthew 25:35). Visit [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) for resources for families and parishes.

**FIRST WEEK OF LENT - A SEASON FOR REFLECTION** - During this holy time, we are called to pause and pay closer attention to our relationship with God and our neighbors. Reflect on how the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**FISH FRY** – The Knights of Columbus would like to invite everyone to our annual Fish Dinners on Fridays during Lent. The dinners will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 32373 Red Arrow Highway from 5-7 p.m. You can dine in or take out (269-657-2324), **Cash Only**. Look for a menu on [Paw Paw Now](http://PawPawNow.com). We hope to see you there.

**"I JUST WANT TO GO HOME!" - *The pursuit of full communion in the Holy Roman Catholic Church by a retired Lutheran clergyman.*** Come and hear an interesting and inspiring journey of faith by Mr. Fred Jordan who, as a retired Lutheran minister, will be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil. Wednesday, February 28, at 6 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish -Allegan. Dinner at 5:30. RSVP appreciated but not necessary - 269-673-4455 Hope to see you there!

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** - Jesus went into the desert to put his life in perspective. This Lent, take a fresh look at a difficult relationship in your life. Concentrate on the positive things that person does, not just the negatives. Try to understand why their behaviors 'bug' you. Can you honestly share your feelings with them without attacking them? Make Lent a time to MEND and FORGIVE!

#### FROM THE DIOCESE

**HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2024** -If you know someone in need of emergency heating assistance, please get in touch at 269-381-9800 or [homeheating@ccdok.org](mailto:homeheating@ccdok.org). We have many volunteers throughout the diocese to assist neighbors in need. If you are interested in donating to the assistance fund, please visit <https://ccdok.org/donate-today/>. Thank you!

**THE CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE (CBAR)** has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.