

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. Enthrona 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



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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?



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
Website: saintanthonylakin.org



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

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 registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office 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.

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

2/17/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Jason Velasco, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Debbie Frederick

E.O.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

2/18/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Haley Berning, Jace Berning, Cade Berning

Reader: Alvin Bergkamp

E.O. HC: Toby & Jessica Luhman-Fuller

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

2/24/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Ryann & Brecken Bamberger, Rowen Simon

Reader: Gwen Waechter

EO.HC: Tino Rosales Jr. Karen Burden

2/25/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Haley Berning, Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

Reader: Bob Woodrow

E.O. HC: Maria Enriquez, Rosa Cardenas

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

"Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant." (PS 25)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat.	Feb.17	4:00 pm	1st Sunday of Lent	For the people
Sun.	Feb. 18	9:00 am	1st Sunday of Lent	John Perez
Mon.	Feb. 19	5:30 am		David Hoang
Tues.	Feb. 20	9: 30 am		Barbara Wolf

(Tuesday Mass at the High Plains Retirement Village)

Wed.	Feb. 21	7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	NO MASS
Thurs.	Feb.22	12:15 pm	Chair of St. Peter	Gary Sack
Fri.	Feb. 23	7:30 am	St. Polycarp	David Hoang
Sat.	Feb. 24	4:00 pm	2nd Sunday of Lent	For the People
Sun.	Feb. 25	9:00 a.m.	2nd Sunday of Lent	David Hoang

My friends, as you know, the Lenten season is supposed to remind us Jesus' forty days in the desert --- which itself was meant to echo the Israelites flight from Egypt and their forty years of wandering in the desert before reaching the Promised Land. The Jewish people came out of that experience tested and stronger for it, not without a lot of hardship and conflict along the way though. Their identity as a people was made more real to them. Jesus, in a similar way, came back from his desert experience confident in who he was, committed to his mission. What might not have been as clear to him as a younger person was now in focus. And his journey that would end in Jerusalem a few years later could begin. And we begin this holy season and what? What is the endgame, the goal, the purpose? Who are we supposed to be when all is said and done, when these forty days are over?

Fr. Peter

Envelopes: \$725
Loose: \$698
Online Giving: \$1427.24
Total: \$2,850.24

Votives:
Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17
Income over/under +1,089.07

COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2024

THE READINGS OF THIS WEEK

- The author of Genesis does not use the word “rainbow” to describe the object God sets in the sky after the Great Flood. No, the word we see repeatedly is “bow,” as in “bow and arrow.” When God says, “I set my bow in the clouds,” what God is doing is unilaterally disarming (Genesis 9:13). In effect God is saying, “You have just seen the power I have to destroy all life on earth, but now I am promising you that I will never do it again; in fact, I will transform this weapon of aggression into a thing of beauty.” When we commit to peaceful, nonviolent action, we make ourselves vulnerable, but this is exactly what God does in making this covenant. May we be as willing as God is to do so.

- By the waters of the flood the world was transformed. By the waters of baptism we are transformed. God established a covenant with Noah, his descendants, and all living creatures, transforming humanity’s relationship with God. We enter into a covenant in baptism, transforming our relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we journey through these forty days, let us open ourselves to the transformative grace of God in our lives.

- Mark tells us precious little about Jesus’ forty days in the desert: no details of Satan’s temptations, as we hear from Matthew and Luke. But he mentions that Jesus “was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him” (Mark 1:13). We too may find ourselves beset by “wild beasts” within and without as we try to resist temptations. Let us look to the angels in our lives who care for us, who offer their occasional assistance when we need it or their constant support throughout our trials. Better yet, make us angels who minister to others when they undergo difficulties or trauma and feel deserted and in need.

Nos hacemos vulnerables cuando nos comprometemos con la paz y con las acciones no violentas, pero esto es exactamente lo que Dios hace con esta alianza. Estemos dispuestos a imitar a nuestro Dios.

- Con las aguas del diluvio el mundo fue transformado. Con las aguas del Bautismo nosotros somos transformados. Dios estableció una alianza con Noé, sus descendientes y todo ser viviente, transformando así la relación de la humanidad con Dios. La alianza en que entramos en nuestro Bautismo transforma nuestra relación con el Padre, el Hijo, y el Espíritu Santo. En esta peregrinación de cuarenta días estemos abiertos a la gracia transformadora de Dios en nuestra vida.

- Marcos nos dice pocas pero valiosas cosas acerca de los cuarenta días que Jesús pasó en el desierto: no nos da detalles de las tentaciones de Satanás como lo hace Mateo y Lucas. Pero Marcos menciona que Jesús estaba “entre animales salvajes, y los ángeles le servían” (Marcos 1, 13). También nosotros pudiéramos estar cercados de “animales salvajes” rumiando dentro y fuera de nosotros mientras tratamos de resistir las tentaciones. Acudamos a los ángeles de nuestra vida, que nos cuidan y nos ofrecen su ayuda ocasionalmente cuando lo necesitamos o nos ayudan constantemente durante nuestras pruebas. Y mejor todavía, seamos ángeles para servir a los demás cuando atraviesan dificultades o traumas y se sienten como en un desierto y necesitados.

LENTEN MINI -RETREAT—MARCH 10, 2024 We are excited to announce that Sister Rose Mary Stein will help us prepare ourselves for the coming Easter - right after that Sunday Mass . Please save that date . More information will be given.

SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family, on the passing of Johnney Perez. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS We would like to extend our congratulations to our newly Baptized, Mateo Muñoz , son of Luis and Karla Munoz who was baptized this weekend. Welcome to God’s family in the Church! May our Loving God continue to pour down His abundant blessings upon Mateo and his family.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT our Confirmation students will be confirmed by Bishop Brungardt on April 30 this year. In order to receive this sacrament worthily they do need to attend the Confirmation Retreat, which will be held on Saturday, March 9 in Lakin at the parish hall. It will start at 9:00 am and end with a meal after that Saturday evening Mass. All confirmation students are required to attend as it is part of their confirmation journey. Please pray for them and for their parents and sponsors.

RICE BOWLS AVAILABLE Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Please consider collecting your spare change and dollars in a CRS Rice Bowl this Lent. The cardboard containers are available in the vestibule.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS We hold Stations of the Cross led by Knights of Columbus every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm during Lent. We hope you will join us for this prayerful devotion.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION FEBRUARY 18

“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God....” - Mark 1:14

Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

“Después de que encarcelaran a Juan, Jesús se fue a Galilea a anunciar las buenas nuevas de Dios” - Marcos 1:14

Alguna vez ha pensado lo difícil que debió ser para Jesús ir a Galilea, sabiendo que Juan había sido arrestado por enseñar el mismo mensaje que Él estaba proclamando. Jesús tuvo un gran amor y confianza para hacer lo que el Padre le había enviado a cumplir en la tierra. De la misma manera, tener un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad supone un gran amor y confianza de nuestra parte. Debemos tener la voluntad de rendirnos completamente a Dios, confiando que Él siempre nos dará todo lo que necesitamos para cumplir el plan que tiene dispuesto para nosotros.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (from the Byzantine Liturgy) O leaders of the heavenly armies, although we are always unworthy, we beseech you that with your prayers you may encircle us with the protection of the wings of your angelic glory. Watch over us as we bow low and earnestly cry out to you: Deliver us from trouble, O princes of the heavenly armies. Amen.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, PART 17: Second Reading

The Mass

On Sundays and Solemnities, after the Responsorial Psalm, we always hear the proclamation of the Second Reading, which is taken from the New Testament books (other than the Gospels) and is generally continuous from one week to the next. While St. Paul is the most prolific of the New Testament writers, we also have readings from St. John, St. Peter, St. James, and

others. Although the sentences in these readings are sometimes long and a little awkward (because they were originally written in Greek, not English), they are packed with great wisdom and directives for Christian living. As Edward Sri writes, “Though often selected independently of the First Reading and the Gospel, these New Testament writings reflect on the ministry of Jesus Christ and his saving work and the meaning it has for our lives. They also draw out the practical applications of our life in Christ and exhort us evermore to ‘put on Christ’ and turn away from sin” (*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, p. 64).

How to Live in Christ Every Day

As we look through the books of the New Testament, we see how each writer was addressing a person or particular community with their own strengths and weaknesses. The writer knew his audience and, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, taught these people what God asks of us and how to live in Christ every day. These readings call us to faithfulness and generosity in loving one another. Sometimes we hear joyful words of truth: “Beloved, see what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are” (1 Jn 3:1). We also hear words of consolation: “We always pray for you” (2 Thes 1:11). At other times, we will hear exhortations to holiness, such as, “Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Cor 3:16) and “do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh” (Gal 5:13).

These writings are beneficial to us because St. Paul and the other writers were all helping early Christians understand how to live in an anti-Christian world (recall that Christianity was illegal in the Roman Empire during the first centuries of the Church). The writers provided answers to difficult questions, gave explanations for why we do certain things and not others, and exhorted the people to holiness and fidelity even in the midst of daily struggles and persecutions.

How to Live as a Christian in the World

A couple of very common questions today are: “How do I really live as a Christian in the world? How do I make what I do on Sunday last all through the week?” Thanks to these New Testament Readings, we have answers to these questions. Look through the readings for any Sunday, and what do you see? “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor 11:1); “For you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28); “For he is our peace” (Eph 2:14); “Seek what is above” (Col 3:1); “that you may not grow weary and lose heart” (Heb 12:3); “Be doers of the word and not hearers only” (Jas 1:19); “Compete well for the faith” (1 Tim 6:12); “Children, let us love...in deed and

truth” (1 Jn 3:18); “He will wipe every tear from their eyes” (Rev 21:4); “Always be ready to give an explanation...for your hope” (1 Pet 3:15). Does it feel like we could keep going and going? We really could! At every Sunday Mass and on Solemnities, the Second Reading is packed with wisdom from the saints to help us become saints, too!

For Reflection:

1. Invite family members, friends, or fellow parishioners to study a New Testament text (other than the Gospels) together. Find a resource or mentor to guide your prayerful study. Commit to meeting regularly, and experience how these texts addressed to the early Christian individuals and communities can strengthen your community life today.
2. Consider the significance of letter-writing in the early years of the Church’s development. Which person(s) in your life could use some encouragement or exhortation by way of a letter? Take the time to reach out through this personal communication.
3. Popes and bishops still write letters to the faithful. Find the most recent letter your bishop has written, and prayerfully read his message. If you are moved to respond, go ahead! (Fr. Luke Spanagel)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Doing the rite thing

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They’re going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year’s Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it’s a journey of the heart. For all, it’s what they’ve seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let’s help keep the inspiration going!

PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Hacer lo correcto

Hoy, algunos de nuestros vecinos van a hacer una elección contracultural. Van a firmar el Libro de los Elegidos, señalando su decisión de ser bautizados, confirmados y recibir la Primera Eucaristía en la Vigilia Pascual de este año. Estos elegidos han estado estudiando durante meses o años para abrazar la vida de la iglesia. ¿Por qué haría alguien esta elección en el siglo XXI? Para algunos, puede haber empezado como una curiosidad intelectual. Para otros, es un viaje del corazón. Para todos, lo que hace que el cristianismo católico sea una elección inspiradora es lo que han visto en gente como nosotros. ¡Ayudemos a mantener la inspiración!