

FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 17-18th, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Gospel reading

Mk 1:12-15

At once the Spirit drove him out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.
After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Intercession

That, remaining in Jesus’ love, we may support the many needs of our community through our Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Copy for bulletin announcement

Today’s Gospel said that Jesus “*remained* in the desert for forty days” (Mark 1:13, emphasis added). Remaining with Jesus in the desert is not easy. (Welcome to Lent.)

Further driving home how difficult it is to follow him, in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus warns, “*If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily*” (Luke 9:23). Yet on another note, in John’s Gospel, Jesus commands us, “*Remain in my love*” (John 15:9). Remaining in Jesus’ love isn’t easy, either—especially when it involves the desert.

Feeling like it’s too difficult to do this by ourselves is okay. It’s often exactly where God wants us—because it pushes us to rely on him. *That* can be a place of profound growth. Our parish, and those we serve, relies on you to help us meet our many needs and the needs of our community. As you lift the cross Jesus asks of you this Lent, please remember our Catholic Ministry Appeal. We are counting on you. This Lent, count on us, and count on God! We’ll walk in the desert with you.

Copy for pulpit announcement

The Holy Spirit asked Jesus to go into the desert to pray for forty days. The Church asks us to be with him this Lent. Please remember us in your almsgiving this Lent and generously support our Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Social media post/content

Photo: A silhouette of someone carrying their cross atop a ridgeline.

Text: *"Believe in the Gospel."* - Mark 1:15

Copy: Christ waits for you to join him in his desert trial this Lent. The adventure is hard, and worth it. You can help others find the joy of the Gospel this Lent through your support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal. May God be with you in your journey!