



Today's Readings Pg 72

Genesis 9:8-15

Psalms 25:4-9

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?

Lord, We Lift Up to You in Prayer...

April Hicklin, Mary Lou Weepie, Elaine Ernst,
Lois Wickman, Carma Schmidtke, Charlie Corey,
Norm Pint, Pam Miller, Marci Willey, Diana Snyder,
Michael McDonough, Rose Kalb, Dave Chase,
Marisa Davidson, Mary Ellen Youngblut, Karyn Beenken,
Leona Kleitsch, Lindsey Ernst, Ron Babinat,
victims of hatred, racism, violence, natural disaster;
terrorism, and all in our parish, our community, and our hearts
who are suffering and in need of Christ's healing touch †
May they know His loving Presence in the eyes, hands and
hearts of those who give them care.

**May our prayers for help and
healing rise like incense
to our God of hope, love and mercy.**



► Communion To Our Sick Or Homebound Ministry:

contact Michelle Weepie 319-635-2428

► **I C Parish Prayer Chain Hotline:** Please contact
Vivian Rourke at 319-238-3225 (V) or 319-238-2083 (M)

► **Sacrament Of The Sick** ~ Anointing for the seriously ill
or dying, call the Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743,
or if having surgery speak with Father Atwood in the
Sacristy before or after Mas

► **Baptism Class For Parents:** All parents who wish to
have their child baptized at Immaculate Conception
parish are required to attend a baptism class prior to
scheduling the baptism. Please contact Deacon Jim
at 319-509-1210 for scheduling details.

► **I C Cemetery** – contact the parish office

► **Funeral Dinners: Group #3 Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec**
We provide desserts & serve a catered meal

I C STAFF

~ Fr. Ray Atwood, Pastor ~

IC Parish Office Wednesday Mornings after 8:30AM Mass

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Sacred Heart Rectory 319-283-9577

email: dbq151@dbqarch.org

~ Deacon Jim Patera ~

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Cell phone 319-509-1210

~Glenda Kleitsch IC Secretary/Bookkeeper~

I C Parish Office PH: 319-635-2211

located at 405 Fairbank St

I C Parish Office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8AM – 3PM Closed Friday

Mailing address: P O BOX 505 Fairbank IA 50629

email: icfairbank@gmail.com

[website: http://icfairbank.weebly.com/](http://icfairbank.weebly.com/)

[Archdiocesan website: www.dbqarch.org](http://www.dbqarch.org)

~Kim Weepie, DRE & Youth Ministry~

PH: 319-240-5912 kim.weepie@gmail.com

DRE Office PH :319-635-2211

located in the Parish Center at 405 Fairbank St

Mailing address: P O Box 505, Fairbank IA 50629

Jean Sauerbrei, Facility Rental Coordinator

PH: cell 319-296-8459

or email jmsauerbrei@yahoo.com

Pastor's Message

February 18, 2024

“Our Lord’s Temptations and ours”

What is your greatest temptation? In other words, what most tempts you to sin? It could be pride, lust, gluttony, envy, greed, or any number of things. Temptation is not sin, but yielding to temptation is sinful. The *Catechism* talks about sin in three paragraphs in the section titled “The Mysteries of Jesus’ public life.”

First: “The Gospels speak of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after his baptism by John. Driven by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus remains there for forty days without eating; he lives among wild beasts, and angels minister to him. At the end of his time Satan tempts him three times, seeking to compromise his filial attitude toward God. Jesus rebuffs these attacks, which recapitulate the temptations of Adam in Paradise and of Israel in the desert, and the devil leave him ‘*until an opportune time*’” (CCC 538). This year, we hear Mark’s account of the Our Lord’s temptations (the shortest of the Gospel accounts). At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus goes into the desert to encounter the devil. The forty days are a symbol of completion or perfection. Note that Our Lord rejects Satan’s attacks using Scripture (as we hear in Matthew and Luke). Jesus does NOT dialogue with Satan. One never dialogues with the devil. You reject him when he comes along. Jesus did not compromise with evil; he fought it and drove it back. We can and should do the same.

Second: “The evangelists indicate the salvific meaning of this mysterious event: Jesus is the new Adam who remained faithful just where the first Adam had given into temptation. Jesus fulfills Israel’s vocation perfectly; in contrast to those who had once provoked God during forty years in the desert, Christ reveals himself as God’s Servant, totally obedient to the divine will. In this, Jesus is the devil’s conqueror; he ‘*binds the strong man*’ to take back his plunder. Jesus’ victory over the tempter in the desert anticipates victory at the Passion, the supreme act of obedience of his filial love for the Father” (CCC 539). Our Lord sets the pattern for our victory over the devil. We are called to be “devil’s conquerors” instead of “devil’s conquered.” How are we doing? Lent can help us in this effort.

Third: “Jesus’ temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him. This is why Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: ‘*For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning.*’ By the solemn forty days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year the mystery of Jesus in the desert” (CCC 540). Jesus has been through it all; he can relate to us.

Every Lent is a new opportunity to grow in resistance to evil. Jesus showed us the way. He fasted, depriving himself of food in order to teach us that we live by the Word of God first; he quoted Scripture, in order to drive off the tempter; he prayed in order to draw strength from on high; he rejected the temptations presented to him. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are time-tested weapons in the spiritual fight. As Lent 2024 begins, let us enter into the spirit of the season by embracing the cross, fasting faithfully, making a good Confession, and giving to the needy people in our community. Don’t let this Lent go by and realize you haven’t done much. This can be the best Lent ever if we enter the spirit of the season. **God Bless You!! Father Ray Atwood**

★ *Thank You!* ★

FOR YOUR DONATION

Parish Financial Support

Feb 11-15

Budget	\$3008.57
Offertory	\$297
Building Fund	\$30
Parish Center Debt	\$60
Solemnity of Mary	\$10



Fr. Atwood will be doing THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS during Lent immediately following the Wednesday morning Mass at IC

IC Church

Hadley Brown
Daxton Destival
Isaac Kleitsch
Elsie Weepie
Sam Rechkemmer
Perry Bay Estrada



First Reconciliation

Sacred Heart

Gabriel Davis
Toula Ehlers
Kailani Taylor
Brantley Nolan
Carly Recker
Adalynn Little
Bentley Weig

February 2024

TODAY ~ First Reconciliation

- ~ Donut Sunday Hosts FF Committee
- ~ Book Study Starts after 8:30AM Mass.

Contact Michelle Weepie 319-215-0778

Wed Feb 21 ~ Monthly Community Potluck 11:30AM

Wed Feb 21 ~ Pastoral/Finance Mtg 5:30PM

Sun Feb 25 ~ Kaufman Baptism 9:30AM

Sun Feb 25 ~ Book Study after Mass

Sun Feb 25 ~ 3:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Next Sunday Immaculate Conception Church

Agnus Dei Ministry Presents:

"Saved by Grace through Faith"

Saved by Grace Through Faith is a Lenten program featuring inspiring music, readings, and meditations on God's gift of Grace. This program is a time of praise, prayer, and reflection that will draw us to a greater appreciation of how this gift is offered and our call to respond.

Agnus Dei Ministry includes music ministers from several area Catholic churches in the Cedar Valley:

Waterloo -Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Heart, St. Edward, First Presbyterian; Gilbertville, Immaculate Conception, Independence - St. John's. This program is our gift to you.

FREE ADMISSION

LET'S FILL THE CHURCH!!



Colleen Bovy is celebrating her 90th birthday on March 1st, 2024

Cards and birthday wishes can be sent in care of Steve & Sue Schneider

1400 E Knoll Ct

Oelwein, IA 50662



Sun	Feb 18	8:30AM	IC	Glen & Wilma Yeager†
			M: Deacon Jim	EM: Diane Rourke
			Lector: Kelly Cummings	

Sun	Feb 19	10:30AM	SH	For the People
Mon	Feb 20	8:30AM	SH	Hubert & Loretta Smith Fam†
Wed	Feb 21	8:30AM	IC	Vera Rozmust
Thurs	Feb 22	8:30AM	SH	Bill Stone †
Friday	Feb 23	Noon	SH	John Becker †
Friday	Feb 23	5:30PM	SH	Prayer Service
Sat	Feb 24	4:30PM	SH	Living & Deceased members Hogan, Weiden, Becker Families†

Sun	Feb 25	8:30AM	IC	Frank & Amber Chase†
				Paul & Earl Chase †

EM: Lori Beierschmitt, Michelle Weepie

Lector: Brenda Bodensteiner

Sun	Feb 25	10:30AM	SH	For the People
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Sunday, Mar 3, 2024 8:30 AM Mass

EM: Joe & Cheryl Kleitsch

Lector: Kelly Cummings

February Ushers and Greeters

Bob Bellis, Mike Bueznaw, Adam Kaufman, Mitch Sauerbrei, Rick Woods

February Money Counters

Tom Kleitsch & Jean Sauerbrei



LENT

The large brass vase near the Baptismal Font will be a 'well' for our prayers and concerns throughout Lent. We invite you to write your prayers, intentions, needs, concerns, words of thanks or praise, on a slip of paper and drop it in the vase as often as you wish. As an assembly of the faithful, we will offer these up at each Mass, to our God of Love, Hope, and Mercy.

Bring your worries & cares and drop them in the 'well'.

Support the Local Ministry of Catholic Charities:

Did you know that your donation to Catholic Charities of Dubuque stays in the 30 counties of the Archdiocese and serves the most poor and vulnerable in our local communities? Since it found in 1931, Catholic Charities of Dubuque has continuously evolved to respond to the ever-changing needs of people in our communities. Through these changes, Catholic Charities remains a leader in providing direct social services to families right here in Northeast Iowa. Please send a check directly to the Archdiocese in Dubuque to receive proper acknowledgement of gifts for tax purposes. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Dubuque
1229 Mt Loretta Ave
Dubuque, IA 52003

We welcome all visitors and thank you for worshipping with us. If there is anyone who is moving to the area and would like to become a member of our parish, please call or stop in the parish office to register.



Gospel Reading

Mark 1:12-15

Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.



Fri March 22 Fish Fry IC Parish Hall

Serving 4:30 to 7:30 PM

Adults \$15.00 10-6 yrs. \$7 5 & Under Free

Dine In and Carry Out Available!!!

Menu: Cod, baked potato, baked beans,
coleslaw, roll, dessert

Question of the Week: What will you do this Lent to become more like Jesus?

Choose one of the following activities to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

- Talk about ways family members can become more like Jesus during the season of Lent. Create a family prayer space in your home. Read from the gospels each day. Have each family member choose a Lenten practice and write it on a piece of paper. The papers can be folded and placed in the prayer space as a reminder.
- In Baptism, we turn away from sin and selfishness to live in love according to God's plan. Recall with your child the story of his or her Baptism. Share family photos.
- Christians make a new beginning in Baptism. Discuss these questions: What new beginnings could our family make this year? In order to make these new beginnings, what will we have to do?
- Whenever the family gathers to pray this week, pray for those who are preparing for Baptism or full membership in the Catholic Church and for their sponsors.

MONDAY

February 19
Lenten Weekday
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY

February 20
Lenten Weekday
Is 55:10-11
Mt 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY

February 21
Lenten Weekday
Jon 3:1-10
Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY

February 22
*Chair of St. Peter
the Apostle*
1 Pt 5:1-4
Mt 16:13-19

FRIDAY

February 23
Lenten Weekday
Ez 18:21-28
Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY

February 24
Lenten Weekday
Dt 26:16-19
Mt 5:43-48

SUNDAY

February 25
*Second Sunday
of Lent*
Gn 22:1-2, 9a,
10-13, 15-18
Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10

