

LENT

Gethsemane
Carl Bloch (1880)



First Sunday of Lent
March 9, 2014

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
760-758-4100 x100
michaelr@stmoside.org

Who and What Rules My Life?

During this Season of Lent, we enter into the desert as Jesus did and face, head-on, the demons with which we struggle.

Today, as we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent, we are reminded that immediately after his Baptism, the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert where he spent 40 days among the wild beasts and the angels of the Lord ministered to him.

Before Jesus began his public ministry, he had to struggle with his demons. He had to face temptation and conquer it.

His task is our task as well! As his disciples, continuing his mission and ministry, we must deal with and conquer our demons if we are to worthily and responsibly preach the Gospel.

If we take advantage of these 40 Days, we are given an opportunity to renew and refresh ourselves in order to be more faithful to our Baptismal Promises.

You are encouraged to take these questions with you into the desert this Lent. May these questions help you live more honestly, responsibly, and worthily as Disciples of the Lord Jesus:

Am I living in the image and likeness of God?

Do I see myself as a daughter, as a son of God?

Do I think about Jesus on a daily basis?

Do I regard him as my brother?

What passions rule my life?

In what area(s) of my life, am I living a lie?

What is making me a slave?

...alcohol, other drugs, food, money, cigarettes, anger, jealousy, unhealthy relationships, prejudice, stereotyping and judging groups of people of other races, religions, or different sexual orientation...

What do I need to let go of and what do I need to grab hold of in order to get closer to God?

What prevents me from living in the Kingdom of God, right here, right now?

What prevents me from proclaiming the Kingdom of God, right here, right now?

If we want to live in God's Kingdom, we must be willing to struggle with and, trusting in God's grace, be willing to conquer our demons!

F. Mike