

A message for Lent, from Fr. Lewis:

Lent is a liturgical season that highlights prayer and penance. Jesus entered the desert to pray and fast for forty days before starting His public ministry; just so, we are called to enter the “desert” of Lent to pray and do penance.

We are near the end of my homily series “*Kerygma* and Mission,” which began in October. Below is a summary of that series. I hope this will be useful for folks who want to pray with these themes during Lent. After Easter, I hope that the “desert” of Lent will have prepared us, as a parish, to approach the Lord in prayer as a family in faith. We pray to receive from the Lord whatever He wills for us with regard to a pastoral plan for our parish as we look ahead to the second century of our parish presence and mission here in Spokane Valley.

“*Kerygma* and Mission” homily series summary points

- October 3/4, 2020 – PRAYER
  - What is prayer?
    - Conversation with God
    - Talking to...and *listening* to God
  - How to pray?
    - Nike: “Just do it!”
    - Al Davis: “Just pray, baby!”
    - Deacon Dan Glatt: “Here I am, God. Hello.”
  - Why pray?
    - To be at peace with God, self, and neighbor
    - To petition God with holy requests
    - To thank God for blessings received
    - Express our sorrow for sins committed
  - And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:
    - Am I praying? If not, then why not?
    - What are the fruits of prayer that I experience?
    - How can I expand and enrich my prayer life?
- October 10/11, 2020 – *Kerygma*: CREATED
  - God wanted, planned for, and created the world entire
  - God wanted, planned for, and created *you*
  - Why?
    - For relationship (with God, others, self, and the world)
    - For mission and purpose
    - That God wanted, planned for, and made you *now*, for *this* moment in history, is significant
  - And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:
    - How is my relationship right now with God, others, self, and the world?
    - What is my mission in life, my purpose for being here? And what am I doing right now to accomplish that mission, to fulfill that purpose?
- October 31/November 1, 2020 (All Saints) – *Kerygma*: CREATED



- Ultimately, God wanted, planned for, and made you for nothing less than sainthood, nothing less than Heaven itself
- You are the *imago Dei*, the “image of God,” made in God’s very image and likeness
- And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:
  - What is Heaven like?
  - Why is Heaven going to be so much better than Earth?
  - What am I doing right now to cooperate with the grace of God to get to Heaven – and to help others get to Heaven, too?
  - How exactly am I the *imago Dei*?
- November 7/8, 2020 – *Kerygma*: CAPTURED
  - Despite the sheer awesomeness of Creation and the fundamental truth that God made each of us by love, for love, and in order to love...something went horribly, demonically wrong: sin
  - Sin leads to spiritual death, and spiritual death for eternity is hell
  - A person’s free choice allows that person to choose *not* to love God – and that is sin
  - A person’s free choice to remain in unrepented sin, ratified by physical death, is what leads to eternal spiritual death – and that is hell
  - And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:
    - How can I examine my conscience?
    - Do I have any sins that I need to confess?
    - When was the last time I went to confession?
    - What holds me back from going to confession, and why?
- November 21/22, 2020 (Christ the King) – *Kerygma*: CAPTURED
  - Seven “stages” of how any instance of sin typically unfolds (be aware of this sequence, and the earlier you recognize it and interrupt this sequence, the easier it is to avoid sin)
    - Step 1: isolation; bypassing one’s support structure (the *family* structure)
    - Step 2: the innocent little question (“Is it really so bad...?”)
    - Step 3: the flat-out lie (“Of course it is not that bad!”)
    - Step 4: fear (“Unless I do this thing, I am unpopular, unfulfilled, unloved.”)
    - Step 5: the choice and the act (the actual moment of committing the sin)
    - Step 6: hide (shame; covering up the evidence, so to speak)
    - Step 7: blame (“Well, if only...then I would not have sinned!”)
  - And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:
    - As I examine my conscience, do I recognize this sequence in the sins that I have committed?
    - What can I do to interrupt this sequence and thus have a greater chance of avoiding sin in the future?
- December 5/6, 2020 – *Kerygma*: RESCUED
  - Jesus came to rescue us from sin
  - The “rescue mission” of Jesus began with His Incarnation
  - The Incarnation is an historical fact
  - Historical events in and around Israel demonstrate God’s providence in setting the stage to get everything ready for the Incarnation
  - And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:

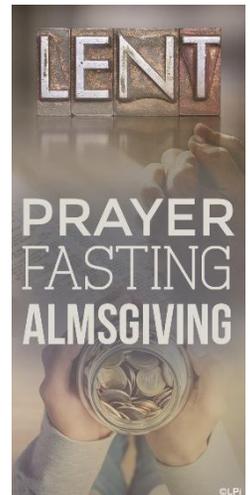
- How well do I understand the narrative of biblical history? Do I even read the Bible?
  - How well do I perceive God’s providence in the history of my own life?
- December 12/13, 2020 – *Kerygma*: RESCUED
  - The Lord wants, plans for, and makes it happen that we partner with Him in order to bring about the great “rescue mission” for everyone
  - God frequently works through mediators as agents of grace – and each of us, too, is an agent of grace when we choose freely to cooperate with the Lord and His grace.
  - Therefore, we need to prepare for the great and glorious work of working with God to accomplish the “rescue mission” of Jesus Christ for ourselves and others.
  - And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:
    - How open am I to cooperate with God’s grace to transform the world?
    - Do I perceive myself as a light for the world? If not, why not? What holds me back from recognizing and celebrating this beautiful truth?
- January 2/3, 2021 (Epiphany) – *Kerygma*: RESPONSE
  - Many biblical figures responded to God’s grace by actively, intentionally, and joyfully transforming their lives to live more in accord with God’s will
  - An epiphany is a grace from God manifesting heavenly glory to those who are given that epiphany, and that grace commands a response: repentance; conversion; and at last complete and wholesale transformation
  - Even in absence of an epiphany, each of us still encounters Jesus in many ways, and each encounter is an invitation to follow Him
  - And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:
    - How have I encountered Jesus Christ?
    - How have I responded?
    - How will I expand and enrich my response such that I will follow Jesus, even to the ends of the earth?
- January 9/10, 2021 (Baptism of the Lord) – *Kerygma*: RESPONSE
  - We are Created by God...but we are Captured in Sin...but we are Rescued by Jesus, Who bids us now to follow Him...and now, we need to Respond
  - In the end, all there remains for us is one response or another to the High Call of Jesus Christ: either “yes” or “no”
  - And so, questions to ask ourselves in prayer:
    - What tempts us to respond “no” to Jesus?
    - What keeps us from responding “yes” to Jesus?
    - What will it take for us to deny the temptations to “no” and overcome the hindrances to “yes”?
- January 30/31, 2021 – *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*
  - Now we are familiarized with the *kerygma*; now we know *what* we are to proclaim in order to help others respond “yes” to the High Call of Jesus Christ
  - The cultural context in which we live contribute to *how* we go about this holy work
  - There are two broad cultural contexts, and a spectrum of cultural contexts that span between two extremes
    - Christendom

- The Christian worldview is accepted by the vast majority of the people in a given culture, and therefore, people are generally very welcoming toward the Christian life
- Institutions within a given culture are thoroughly infused with a Christian ethos
- Apostolic Mission
  - The Christian worldview is rejected by the vast majority of the people in a given culture, and therefore, people are generally hostile toward the Christian life
  - Institutions within a given culture are thoroughly secular, and even those institutions that once were Christian are now only nominally so, or have altogether abandoned the Christian ethos

Below is a list of our parish Mass, confession, and Adoration times. I invite and encourage all of us to go deeper with the prayerful practice of our Catholic faith by participating more frequently in the sacramental life of the parish. If you go to Sunday Mass but not a weekday Mass, try to attend even just one weekday Mass each week this Lent. If you only go to confession maybe once a year, make a point of going to confession at least once in Lent. If you have never attended a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, try it in Lent and receive the plentiful graces that Jesus wants to give you.

### Mass times

- Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9 AM, 11:30 AM (5 PM vigil Mass on Saturday)
- Monday: 5:30 PM
- Tuesday: 5:30 PM
- Wednesday: 7 AM
- Thursday: 5:30 PM
- Friday: 7 AM, 5:30 PM
- First Saturday each month: 9 AM



### Confessions

- Wednesday: 4:30 to 5:30 PM
- Friday: 6 PM to 7 PM (during Adoration; ***during Stations of the Cross in Lent***)
- First Friday each month: 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM (during First-Friday Eucharistic Adoration)
- Saturday: 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
- ...and by appointment

### Eucharistic Adoration

- Friday each week: 6 PM to 7 PM (***in Lent, Stations of the Cross instead of Adoration***)
- First Friday each month: 7:30 AM to noon (confessions 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM)
- First Saturday each month: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- Last Thursday each month: 6 to 7 PM (during which Compline, Night Prayer, is sung)