



Established  
July 5, 1840

# St. Michael the Archangel Parish

*We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.*

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u  
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: [stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org](mailto:stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org) / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

**WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES:** 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

**WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES:** 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

**Adoration:** Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / **Confessions:** Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church

**WEEKEND MASSES:** Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 12 noon

**Gift Shop Hours:** Sun 7:30am - 11:00am

**Website:** [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org) **March 9, 2025 | 9 de marzo de 2025**

## First Sunday of Lent

Reading I - **Deuteronomy 26:4-10** | Psalm - **91: 1-2,10-11,12-13,14-15** | Reading II - **Romans 10:8-13** | Gospel - **Luke 4:1-13**  
Primera Lectura - **Deuteronomio 26:4-10** | Salmo - **90: 1-2,10-11,12-13,14-15** | Segunda Lectura - **Romanos 10:8-13** | Evangelio - **Lucas 4:1-13**

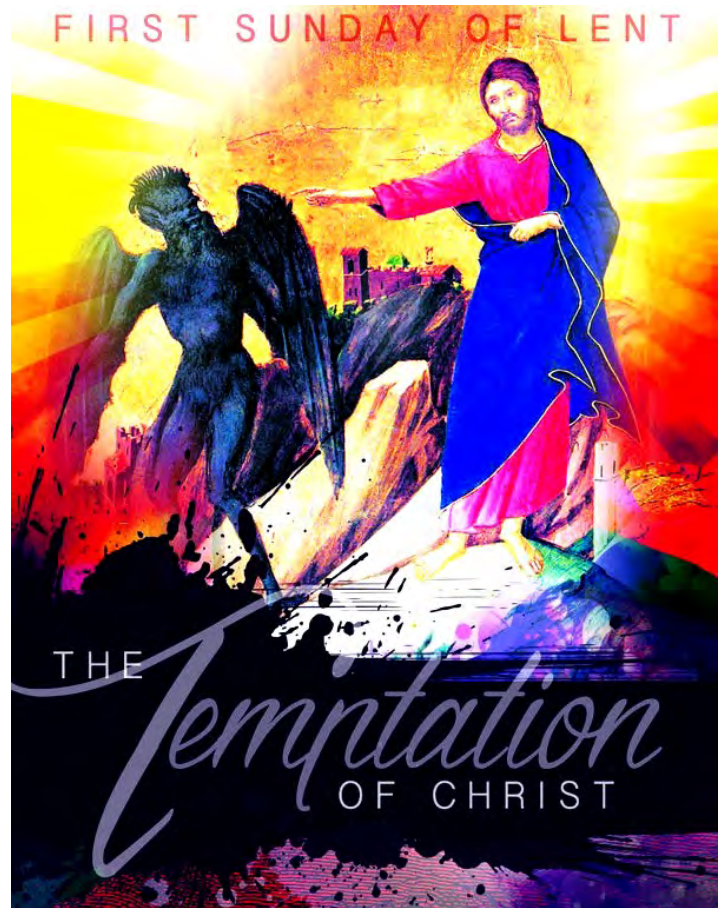
### ALMSGIVING, PRAYER, FASTING, AND TEMPTATION

As we begin our season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, the reading from Deuteronomy reminds us of our duty of almsgiving, that we “set [our offerings] before the Lord, [our] God, [and] shall bow down in [God’s presence]” (Deuteronomy 26:10). The reading from Romans refers us to our prayer, reminding us that “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart . . . For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:8, 13). These are comforting words, and encourage us to ask God for what we need and to aid us in our prayer. Finally, the Gospel of Luke shows us a fasting Jesus, who was tempted as we are, and who knows what it means to be human. Someone once said that temptation arises when you’re tired and weary, and the devil comes along and makes a perfectly reasonable suggestion. Jesus shows us that, with his help, we too can overcome our temptations, reasonable as they may sound.

- Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.

#### **PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and  
snares of the devil. May God rebuke him,  
we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the  
heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell  
Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about  
the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



#### **Prepare for Next Week’s Scripture Readings**

1st Reading: **Genesis 15:5-12,17-18**

Primera Lectura: **Génesis 15:5-12,17-18**

Psalm/Salmo: **27 (26): 1,7-8,8-9,13-14**

2nd Reading: **Philippians 3:17 - 4:1**

Segunda Lectura: **Filipenses 3:17 - 4:1**

Gospel/Evangelio: **Luke (Lucas) 9:28-36**

**Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish** - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org). To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.

March 9, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26:4-10 | Rom 10:8-13 | Lk 4:1-13

## **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

We've all seen it: the standard cartoon sketch in which the main character, faced with a decision, imagines the devil coaxing him toward evil on one shoulder while an angel encourages him toward good on the other. Lighthearted though they are, these classic scenes are the product of Biblical wisdom and millennia of human experience. In fact, the Garden of Eden provided the prototype: Eve was the first to listen to Satan in a conversation that was disastrous for her and her descendants. It is no coincidence that, in today's Gospel, Jesus finds himself in a desert – the “opposite” of a garden, so to speak – where he, too, confronts the devil. But note Jesus' response to Satan's advances: the Incarnate Word of God neither barter nor argues from human wisdom. For no amount of time does he turn over Satan's proposals in his heart. Instead, Jesus rejects the temptations immediately and relies on the power of the Word of God to put the devil in his place.

## **GO** EVANGELIZE

### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

The Lenten season is meant to be a “desert” in which we, like Jesus, confront temptation. It is not a self-improvement program; it is an opportunity to reject sins, habits, and attitudes which keep us distant from God so that we can give a wholehearted “yes” to his plan for our lives. But the scene from today's Gospel is offered on the first Sunday of Lent to remind us that we do not go into the desert alone. Jesus entered first to show us that he would be with us every time we are tempted. If, instead of giving Satan airtime, we stay close to Jesus (in prayer and by frequenting the sacraments) and immerse ourselves in the Word of God (by reading Scripture), we, like him, will draw our strength from God. We will emerge victorious because, as St. Paul reminds us, “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,” and, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

## **PLAN**

Have you made a Lenten plan yet? If not, the time is now! Don't be afraid to be generous with God. Remember the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Could you add a daily Mass or Rosary to your schedule? Could you incorporate some form of self-denial into your weekly meal plan or media consumption? Once you've worked out a plan, offer it to God and ask him to bless your efforts to grow in virtue out of love for him.



Philbrook Museum of Art, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

# Life of Stewardship

And so, it begins - the holy and, for some, daunting, season of Lent. This is the season in our liturgical year when the Church encourages us to increase our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to help us enter more deeply into the mystery of our Lord's Passion and Death and to celebrate more fully His Resurrection.

Jesus, by His own example in today's Gospel, demonstrates the necessity of setting aside a period devoted especially to prayer and fasting as a means of strengthening our spiritual muscles. Just before the launch of His public ministry, He is "led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil." In imitation of Jesus, we should ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into the desert, too - the desert of our interior lives where our thoughts and desires reside.

While our Lord was strong enough to withstand the temptations of the devil on His own, we most certainly are not! We must turn to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show us where we need to grow and then rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance throughout these 40 days of growth. Perhaps we will be led to take on a spiritual reading program, or a daily time of meditation on the Scriptures. Maybe we'll be inspired to fast from our favorite food or social media fix and find a project that serves the poor in this community.

If these spiritual exercises hurt a little, that means we are doing them right! At the end of this season, we will be prepared to enter the grace-filled days of the Triduum, and we will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, be resurrected as a new creation with our Lord come Easter. Let us begin!

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship

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## Parish News

### Rite of Election

The **Rite of Election** will be celebrated at the **4pm Mass on Saturday, March 8**. During the Rite, the catechumens will sign their names in the *Book of the Elect*. Catechumens are those who are unbaptized and preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Our 2025 catechumens are Keyan Glenn Sadumiano Costello, Echo Weiss, Jon Deluche, Frances Kaschan, Kylah Noll, Russell John Transfiguration, Rammell Transfiguration, Helena Weiss, Justin Weiss, and Elton Wilson. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on this important journey.

### Memorial Mass for Fr. Eli

Bishop Larry will celebrate a Memorial Mass for Fr. Eli on Thursday, March 13 at 6pm at Sacred Heart Parish in Hawi. Potluck with Bishop Larry to follow Mass in St. Damien Hall.

### 40 Days for Life

The Respect Life Committee will begin the 40days For Life prayer vigil starting Wednesday, March 5 through Sunday, April 13 in front of St. Michael's Church. 40days For Life is a peaceful prayer vigil to end abortion occurring nationwide and internationally. Sign up online at: [www.40daysforlife.com/en/kona](http://www.40daysforlife.com/en/kona).

### AARP Tax Aide Offers Free Tax Preparation

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual

tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on tax-payers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

- Hale Halawai on Thursdays from 8am - 12noon serving clients in-person; first-come/first-served walk-in basis.
- Yano Hall on Wednesdays from 10am - 4pm. Both walk-ins and appointments accepted. APPT. LINE for Yano Hall location only: (808) 765-9141

Visit <https://hi1.taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/taxpayer-information/> for more information.

### 40 Cans for Lent

The Knights of Columbus will begin their "40 Cans for Lent" campaign on Ash Wednesday. **Please consider donating one can for each day of our Lenten season.** Donations can be left in the carts near the front entrance.

### Lenten Soup Supper

Beginning March 12, we will be hosting a soup supper on Wednesdays after Adoration and Benediction. Please join us for Benediction at 5:00pm. Different ministries will provide a simple soup supper with bread in the Grace Parish Center. We will have paper goods available but you are welcome to bring your own soup bowl and spoon. We look forward to seeing you for this simple meal as we come together to embrace the Lenten season.

### Lenten Stations of the Cross

**Every Friday** during Lent, the **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed **at 5pm at St. Michael's in English** and **at 6pm at Immaculate Conception in Spanish.**

### Lenten Fish Fry Friday - March 14

Please join fellow parishioners on Friday, March 14 for Lenten Fish Fry Fridays from 5:45pm to 7:15pm, for just \$10 per person, in the Grace Parish Center, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

### Chat with Hope Services – Sunday, March 16

*"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matt. 25:40*

Grab a beverage and donut after the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, March 16 and join us in the Grace Parish Center to chat with the staff from Hope Services about their work with the homeless, their outreach services and activities at the Friendly Place.

### Friendly Place Lunches Ministry

This ministry provides a hot meal every Monday for our unsheltered neighbors here in Kona. We can always use more help! Prepare part of the meal, help to serve the food at the Friendly Place, or make a donation to help with the cost of the weekly meal. Please call the office for info.

### Faith Formation

#### Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Classes for March are on March 9, 23, and 30. No class on March 16.

- Margaret Essex, Catechist

#### Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Regular classes will be held on March 9 and March 30.

# Stewardship of Treasure

February 24th - March 2nd, 2025

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 4,350.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 15,463.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 12,960.00

## Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,731,902.79** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments.

*Mahalo* for your continued generosity.

**Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.**

## STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH MARCH 2025

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: **\$11,525.00**

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: **\$2,446.33**

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in *'Ohana in Christ* to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

## Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org) and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

There will be no Youth Ministry class on Sunday, March 2nd. Please note that our class on March 9 is a **Mandatory Safe Environment Training for all youth**. No classes on March 16 and 23 for spring break. -*Eduwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister*

## First Sunday of Lent

One of the most fascinating moments in American history is when George Washington could have become the king of the newly liberated United States and didn't. At the height of his power and fame, on Dec. 23, 1783, he resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief, and went home. The astonished King of England remarked that in doing so, Washington was "the greatest man in the world." Greatness is often defined by what we could do but don't. Greatness is measured by the temptations we overcome.

Jesus' greatness is revealed in his victory over temptations, too. The three offered him by the devil contain, we might say, all potential possible temptations: food, power and fame. They correspond to the triple human needs of body, soul and spirit. In overcoming these three, he says "no" in essence to every and even the greatest temptation. We see that every desire of his humanity - body, soul and spirit - is perfectly united to God, to love. This is a power available to each member of his body. It is the path to true greatness. How can we, who so easily fall into even small temptations, find the power to overcome large ones? By entering into the great dynamics of Jesus' temptations.

**Lenten challenge:** This first week of Lent, list some concrete ways you can overcome temptations that correspond with

your desires. For example, you may give up snacks between meals, choose not to participate in an activity of which you are an expert, and decide to reduce social media posting by 50%. It may not seem like much, but by saying "no" to the tyranny of food, power, and fame (in this example), you will discover true greatness. -

*Father John Muir, ©LPi*

## Treasures from our Tradition

Often, when a family keeps vigil around a person who is preparing for death, they may notice three interwoven activities. First, the dying person may become more prayerful and reflective than ever before, reviewing life's journey in gratitude to God, or seeking forgiveness and making amends for wrongs. Second, as death approaches, the need to eat and drink is lessened until even an ice cube brushed against the lips is satisfying. Third, persons who are dying often make plans to give their possessions away, making bequests, handing treasures down, providing for favorite charities.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: with these three "pillars" of Lent, we rehearse our death every year in this season, and anticipate the final work we will do in this life. And every year, at the end of our journey, is the joy of Easter and the experience of the victory of Christ over death's darkness and power. Annually, we remind ourselves that the Christian experiences the same power and presence at the end of life's journey: Christ to the rescue and the lasting joy of heaven.

- *James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

## Everyday Stewardship - Filling the Basket This Lent

Lent calls us into deeper everyday stewardship because it beautifully creates opportunities to be mindful of the call of Christ in even the most mundane moments of our day.

Many of us will participate in the time-honored tradition of doing penance, or "giving something up" for Lent. When we do this, we are mimicking the Israelites who filled their baskets with the first fruits of their harvest, "and having set them before the Lord, your God, (bowing) down in his presence" (Deuteronomy 26:10).

What are we going to bring before the Lord this Lent? What are our first fruits?

If you're struggling with ideas for how to "fill your basket," it can help to come at the problem from the opposite side. Take a look at the six characteristics of Everyday Stewardship and think about the moments in your day when you fail to fulfill the virtues to which they call you.

What is keeping you from being mindful of the call of Christ throughout your day? I promise you, if you listen, you'll hear it more than once.

What is keeping you from being prayerful? When you have set your first fruits before the Lord, what keeps you from bowing down in His presence to finish the offering?

What keeps you from being grateful - especially of the small things that so often go unnoticed?

What keeps you from being gracious, from leaving

# YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

## MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm  
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

## TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm

## WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Soup Supper (after Benediction) 5:30pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm

## THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm  
(3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm

## FRIDAY

- Stations of the Cross - English 5:00pm  
(St. Michael the Archangel)
- Stations of the Cross - Spanish 6:00pm  
(Immaculate Conception)
- Lenten Fish Fry 5:45-7:15pm

## SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

## SUNDAY

- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass  
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm  
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm  
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:50am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm  
(Please refer to the Faith Formation section for class dates)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

## Baptism

Classes are held once a month. Parents and Godparents must attend class.

To register, please email [baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org](mailto:baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org)

## Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation

people smiling as they walk away?

What keeps you from being committed and accountable? Where do your excuses come from and what makes you indulge them?

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

## Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments -What the Devil Doesn't Have

The devil knows all the rules. The devil knows all the Bible verses. He probably knows them better than you do (certainly better than I do).

He knows them so well that here, in today's Gospel, he thinks he can outsmart the Son of God. He thinks he can out-argue him.

See, the thing you need to know about the devil is that he could have a master's degree in theology. Maybe even a doctorate. But have you ever met a master's student, or even a doctoral one, who doesn't have a particular passion for what they're studying? I sure have.

The devil didn't rebel against God because he didn't understand God's will. He rebelled because he understood God's will perfectly - and he didn't like it.

The devil knows that Jesus is human, and so in today's Gospel he employs all the very best tricks he has for getting humans to break. Physical hunger. Insecurity and a desire for power. The yearning to appear learned and wise.

The devil will try these things with us, too - this Lent, and throughout our lives.

It doesn't work with Jesus, because, of course, Jesus is not just human. He can feel temptation, but he will not submit to it. But how are we supposed to do the same? We're not divine. We're just human.

Well, here's the thing. We may be only human, but as Christians, we have a secret weapon. (No, it's not a master's degree in theology. Some of you may have that, but it probably doesn't make you holier.)

We have a love of what the devil has renounced - those things belonging solely to God. Truth. Joy. Humility. Sanctifying sacrifice.

Let the love of those things carry you through this Lent, and beyond.

Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI



## SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH

4pm - Charles Perez, Rest in Peace

## SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 7am - Melvine & Donna Kualii, May they Rest in Peace
- 9am - Necitas Revilla, 1st Anniversary of Death, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - JP Urgino, Rest in Peace

## MONDAY, MARCH 10TH

- 7am - Barbara Nescall, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 5pm - Alejandro Jaramillo, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

## TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH

- 7am - James Piwai Akiona, Jr., Rest in Peace
- 5pm - MISSA PRO POPULO

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH

- 7am - Marc Daniel Grande, Birthday Blessings

## THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH

- 7am - Richardson Smith, Sr. Anniversary of Death, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Adam Santos, Rest in Peace

## FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH

- 7am - Melvine Kualii, 1st Anniversary of Death, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - In Thanksgiving for Karen & Gerry Street

## SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH

- 7am - Kayla & Chris McGee, Birthday Blessings and Special Intentions

## Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

**Mass cards are available.**

**"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."**

—Matthew 25:35

## The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am** at **Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot**.

# Giving "First Fruits"

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- ▶ Deuteronomy 26:4-10 - Thanksgiving for the Lord's goodness
- ▶ Romans 10:8-13 - The faith of the Christian
- ▶ Luke 4:1-13 - Temptation in the desert

The first reading is one among many in the Old Testament with a "first fruits" theme. Moses instructs the Israelites to give gifts of thanksgiving in response to all that God has done for them. He is very particular that they should offer "the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." This model of giving "from the top" is the basis of a "first fruits" theology.

For the ancient Israelites, this meant offering the first grapes of their harvest, or the first figs from their tree, or the firstborn goat or sheep of the spring. From a contemporary viewpoint, first fruits giving means *intentionally* giving of your time, talent, and treasure. It might mean literally giving the first fruits from your garden to a food bank, or buying school supplies for a child in need when you buy them for your own children. It might mean offering your guest bedroom as a place of hospitality for others, putting your car to good use by driving an elderly neighbor to doctor appointments, or volunteering to coach a local soccer team. As we move into Lent, thinking about how we share our gifts from a first fruits perspective is especially appropriate.

Often, we begin Lent with lofty plans for how we will re-orient our lives back to God, grow into a deeper prayer life, or adopt new habits of self-discipline or generosity. Maybe that's how Jesus felt after he was baptized and was "full of the Holy Spirit." Probably he was eager and



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"One believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved."

**Sheepish Questions:**  
What temptations do I least want to face right now? Why?

motivated to begin the work he had been sent to do: preach justice and peace, heal the sick, and offer freedom to those "imprisoned" by so many factors in their lives. But then, instead of beginning his ministry immediately, he was led into the desert where the devil tempted him.

These 40 days of Lent can be a time of practicing humility. Like Jesus, we will experience plenty of temptations that come our way and we will need to fall back on God's grace to resist them.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 In what area of your life might you be more intentional about giving of your "first fruits"?
- 2 What actions will you commit to for Lent this year, particularly in the areas of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving?

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