



[Jesus] remained in the desert  
for forty days, tempted by  
Satan.

MARK 1:13



## A Trek in the Desert

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**D**eserts 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?***

**SAINT JOSEPH  
AKRON, CO  
phone: 970-345-6996**

**Pastor:** Rev. Marek Ciesla, S. Chr.  
**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Maurice Okeke  
**Deacon:** Joe Benjamin ph: 970-554-1154

**Masses:** Sat. - 7:00 PM      Sun - 8:00 AM  
             Tues. - 5:30 PM    Wed. - 7:30 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
Sat. after 7:00 PM Mass, Sun. - 7:00 AM,  
1/2 h before daily Masses or by appointment

**Anointing of the Sick** - call the Office

**Office: open** Tuesday and Wednesday.  
(970) 345-6996 leave message  
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If you are interested in being a cantor or  
providing music for the Mass, please contact  
**Marcia Pieper** (970)554-1535  
or **Julie Green** (970)554-0740

Bulletin: **Kathy McFadden** 970-301-2306  
or [kathryndianehall@gmail.com](mailto:kathryndianehall@gmail.com)

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Sat. Feb. 17</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Vigil</b> †Christine Lopez - Altar & Rosary
<b>Sun Feb. 18</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Mass/1st Sunday of Lent</b> †Louise Huggans - JG
<b>Tues Feb 20</b> 5:30 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> Graces for Jenny Spiker - MK
<b>Wed Feb 21</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>Mass</b> Health for Tom Koch - MK
<b>Sat. Feb. 24</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Vigil</b> Spiker Family Intentions- MK
<b>Sun Feb. 25</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Mass/2nd Sunday of Lent</b> †Soccoro Herrera

**In need of prayer support, call**  
Linda Littleton: 970-630-3267  
Kim Krause: 970-554-1459  
Peggy Dreher: 970-554-0546

**Please Pray For Our Sick:**  
Kane Schrock, Geneva Aguilar, Mary Ann  
Kreutzer, Barbara Wolf, Bobby Dreher,  
Terry Hart, Pauline Frenzl, Dan Killip, Ray  
Hottinger, Deacon Taylor Elder, Bridget  
Glosson, Ken Kuntz, Randy Kraich, Carol  
Benjamin, Don Mollendor, Von Axtell, Art  
Aaron, Maria Foy, Beverly Gebauer, Tricia  
Dreher, Tracy Basler, Bibiana Camacho,  
Robert McMillion

**For the Soul:**  
Kresten Wolff, Marcella Hottinger

**Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph**  
*Spend time with our Lord....*  
Every Tuesday from 5:00 a.m. till 9:00 a.m.



### How do you offer a Mass for someone?

The Mass is the most powerful of all prayers. Praying for loved ones through the Mass is an ancient tradition. While you can personally offer your prayers at Mass for a special intention, requesting that a priest say a Mass for your intention can be even more powerful because the priest himself has offered the Mass for that intention.

Requesting a Mass for your special intention is easier than you might think. It's often as simple as calling your local parish and putting in a request. There are also many religious orders and shrines with online Mass intention request forms which you can submit.

It is customary to give a very small monetary gift when you request the Mass. This money helps support the priest, parish facilities, or missions. In previous eras, for example, candles were expensive, this gift helped the priest buy them for the Mass.

You can offer a Mass for family members, friends, or any special intention, but Masses offered for the dead are very powerful. In fact, many souls have actually appeared to loved ones to ask for Masses to be said for them so that they will be released from Purgatory. Since the souls in Purgatory are no longer able to pray for themselves, they rely on the prayers and good works of those still on earth to help them enter heaven sooner. Jesus loves them so much that He will often release a soul sooner when such prayers as the Mass are offered.

Although having a Mass offered for your intentions is powerful, the gift of the Mass alone is powerful and transformative. We are participating in the glories of Heaven.

### Lay Minister Schedule

Sierra Mireles

**February 25, 2024**

**Greeters/Gifts:** Gene & Marjie Hottinger

**Pianist:** Marcia Pieper

**Cantor:** Volunteer

**Lector:** Mark Hart

**Altar Servers:** T Weis, J Gertge, E Koch

**Head Usher:** Tracy Samber

**Euch Ministers:** Jim Kuemmerig, David Poss

### February 25th - Breakfast

Anayeli Arteaga, TJ & Maura Hernandez



### Anointing of the Sick

**February 24th/25th**

after each Mass

### Saint Joseph's corner:

"St. Joseph, please make me aware that God's tender gaze of love is upon me and that He is singing songs of delight over me today. Amen"

### LENT 2024 - Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6:00 p.m. - Mass

6:30 p.m. - Lenten Soup Supper

February 21st - Esther W. & Kay F.

February 28th - Linda L. & Terry K.

March 6th - Cathay S. & Rita H.

March 13th - Marjie H.

March 20th - Jenny W. & Heather W.

**Thank you!**

### Lenten Penance Services at 6:00 p.m.

**March 12, Tuesday / St. Joseph, Akron**

**March 14, Thursday / St. Anthony, Sterling**

**March 21, Thursday / St. Mary, Brush**

Email: [office@stjosephsakron.org](mailto:office@stjosephsakron.org)

\* Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM (Tuesday, Wednesday)

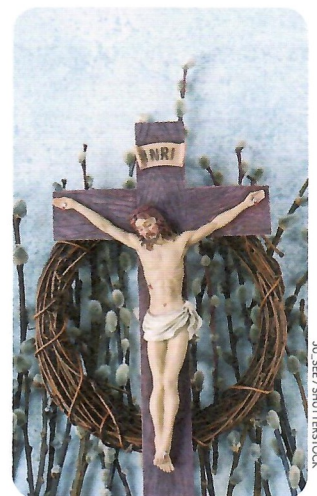
# Dear Padre,

***We're in the middle of home renovations, and the season of Lent is beginning. Everything is in total disarray. Any ideas to help me "keep my religion" at this time?***

"There is...a time to tear down, and a time to build" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3). During the season of Lent—a word meaning "spring"—we are called to put away the "dead" deeds of winter. It's a time of spiritual "spring cleaning" for the individual and for the faith community. As nature renews herself every spring, so do we. The change of season may even prompt a renovation project—the kind you are now undertaking. The structural changes to a home afford many spiritual parallels—the redoing of your physical home can be a challenge to realign your spiritual home during Lent.

In the Genesis story, God is pleased with the handiwork of his creation. Likewise, our stamina, perseverance, and patience to see a work through to its completion are cause for great satisfaction and celebration. This would remind us that we are made in the same image of God, who took delight in his own work. Lent also can become a time of delighting in ourselves as God's special and ongoing creation.

When your home improvement project is completed, arrange for a blessing of your home. Enthroned a special cross or icon to venerate, light a devotional candle, and use holy water in the area of the home that was improved. At that time, remind yourself again that you and your home belong to the Lord—renewed during the spring cleaning of Lent!



**Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 19	February 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Chair of St. Peter the Apostle	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Second Sunday of Lent
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Is 55:10-11	Jon 3:1-10	1 Pt 5:1-4	Ez 18:21-28	Dt 26:16-19	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Mt 25:31-46	Mt 6:7-15	Lk 11:29-32	Mt 16:13-19	Mt 5:20-26	Mt 5:43-48	Rom 8:31b-34
						Mk 9:2-10



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***How do we hear the voice of God? We hear it in his Word. For this reason, it is important to know Scripture, because otherwise we do not know how to react to the snares of the Evil One. And here I would like to return to my advice of reading the Gospel every day....***

**ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 22, 2015**



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