

February 24-25, 2007

First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

A slice of moldy bread is hardly appealing and not good to eat, yet a slice of moldy cheese is pungent and delicious...it's a question of being able to distinguish between when is mold appropriate, and when is it not. Thus, as we enter the Season of Lent we are presented with the Gospel of Luke's account of Jesus being tempted with CHOICES, the first being to turn rocks into bread (notice the art and environment piece next to the altar...hint, hint, hint.) In our daily lives we are presented many choices and options by which to live, certainly in our culture and location we have an abundance of ways to fill (or deplete) our lives. Amidst the busyness of our lives it might be tempting to think that everything is good and fine for us...but the reality is sometimes darker and more demanding. An Ipod can be a pleasant source of personal music...but what if the downloads are illegal? What if you don't hear the fire-truck siren until you crash your way through an intersection? A computer can be a wonderful piece of technology and communication...but what if it opens the door to online predators, porn, malicious postings or worse? Cell phones offer immediate communication and 'friendly networking'...but reducing relationships to sound bites and short conversations. As Catholic-Christians striving to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, our 'promised land' is not a place...it is a WHO...the person of Jesus. The desert we journey through can be the travails of daily life and Lent is our opportunity to stop and get our bearings. With all the options available to us, all the commodities and choices that purport ultimate satisfaction and happiness...which of these are really rocks, and which of these are truly bread and life? Which of life's options flow from and lead to Jesus? If Jesus is our magnetic-north, our north star, our GPS...Lent is the opportunity to review in which direction our lives are heading. Are our choices leading us TOWARD Jesus, or away? Are we starving ourselves on the rocks of our culture or are we seeking the bread of life offered in Jesus? 'Choices' and 'freedom' are part of the gift of free will given us by God...but they come with the presumption that we will use our heads and hearts to understand that which we choose...and that which we decline. Happy Lent.

The season of purple has returned, a lengthy time that will not end until Triduum, April 5-8. Please take a Bulletin home with you all the developing Lenten opportunities. A reminder that the Grand Hall will be open throughout the day until 9:00 p.m. on all the Fridays of Lent for private devotions, prayer and meditation. Please do your best to abstain from meat on the Friday's of Lent...just one small way to make the season a time of prayer and sacrifice...but no matter what day of Lent it may be, remember, you are loved. FKB