

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:12–15 In the Sunday Gospel, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness for forty days. The desert is a place of testing, but it is also a place to be close to God. Jesus' time in the desert calls us to make Lent a season of growth, a season for developing habits that will make us more loving toward God and one another.

Promise (Grades Pre School and K) As Lent begins, your child needs to learn that he or she can do loving actions and can pray. Remember that, for the most part, young children will do these things in the context of the family. Talk about loving actions your family can do during Lent and set aside a time for family prayer. Make the prayer box that is in this week's newsletter that your child brought home from class.

Good News (Grades 1, 2 and 3): This week, your child will learn about God's covenant with Noah in the Gospel Weekly. Once you read through this week's lesson, ask your child to tell of God's promise. Your child needs to understand that God is always near us. Take some time to make a family plan of special prayers and actions for the Lenten season.

Venture (Grades 4–6): One of the most important words in our religious vocabulary is covenant. This week, in the gospel weekly that your child brought home your child will learn about the covenant with Noah and how, under the sign of a rainbow, God made a new relationship with his People. During this first week of Lent, make a family covenant— an agreement to spend the season doing good things for others, making personal and family sacrifices, and praying together as a family. It would be good to put your family covenant in writing.