



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we begin the 1st full week of Lent, we find our Lord in the desert, a literal desert in Southern Israel. While most of us have never visited a desert, the term resonates within us. Over the years, it's a word that has developed into a figure of speech, to refer to that which is empty, difficult, trying time. All of us have a familiarity with those "deserts". In fact, we may spend whole portions of our life in "desert times". These are realities familiar to Jesus and to the Church. So we can have company in such times and that company can bestow great wisdom, and bring about greater maturity in us, in ways that ground us more deeply faith, hope and love.

As we enter Lent, do not fear the desert but seek in it the Presence of God. I share here an article Desert Fathers written by [Philip Kosloski](#) and published on 05/09/17

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Who were these "Desert Fathers"?

During the late 3rd century a Christian man named Paul, living in the city of Thebes, Egypt, was forced into the desert during the persecution of Emperor Decius. While there he lived in a cave and was waiting for the persecution to end. In the process Paul discovered that he enjoyed the solitude and freedom to fast and pray. He embraced life in the desert and lived in that cave for many more decades as a hermit dedicated to the worship of God.

Near the end of Saint Paul's life another man in Egypt named Anthony was inspired by the Gospel to give up his possessions and serve God alone. His experience is related in the famous [Life of Anthony](#) written by Saint Athanasius. The book recounts how during Mass one day, "the Gospel was being read, and [Anthony] heard the Lord saying to the rich man [Matthew 19:21], 'If you would be perfect, go and sell what you have and give to the poor; and come follow Me and you shall have treasure in heaven.'" Anthony believed the words were aimed directly at him and so, immediately following Mass, he sold all of his possessions and sought to do God's will.

Around this time Anthony heard about Paul the Hermit and went to visit him in the seclusion of the mountains. Anthony was inspired by his way of life and was convinced that God was also calling him to become a hermit in the wilderness. Anthony dedicated the remainder of his life to fasting and prayer, living a life of poverty for the glory of God. His holiness became widely known and, during the persecution of Diocletian, Christians became attracted to the desert as a way of escaping the world and living a private Christian life. Anthony's life and wisdom inspired numerous men and women to give up their worldly ambitions and live in solitude worshipping God. Monasteries developed over time and spread throughout Egypt. A rule of life was formed and other holy men and women began to take up the call to the desert.

While most Catholics may not be familiar with the writings of the Desert Fathers, their influence can be felt throughout the world. They call us to a radical form of Christian living that features fasting, penance and silence. In a world filled with numerous earthly temptations and such great noise, the Desert Fathers are a beacon of light calling us to live differently.

Even though we may not be called to give up all our possessions and live in the desert, the Desert Fathers challenge us to make our own daily sacrifices, live more simply, and dedicate time each day for prayer and silence.

FATHER CHUCK'S CHALLENGE

Contributions for Father Chuck's Challenge may be dropped off in the Sunday collection using the designated envelopes.

All donations will be forwarded from the parish. 236

ST. PAT'S IS GOING BACK TO THE MOVIES-CABRINI (PG-13) AT AMC PAINTERS CROSSING, SUNDAY, MARCH 10 AT 4:15pm-\$8.00 PER TICKET

The movie Cabrini is based on the inspiring true story of Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who devoted her life to fighting for humane treatment, better living conditions, and increased compassion for immigrant orphans at the turn of the 20th century. She eventually became the first American saint of the Catholic Church. Ticket holders will provide their own transportation to AMC Painters Crossing. **St. Patrick Church has a limited number of discounted tickets so be sure to reserve yours now! Cash or check payable to St. Patrick Church. Contact Jen Keller at 610-444-4364 or jenkellersp@gmail.com to reserve tickets.**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAYS DURING LENT
7:00 PM**



THANK YOU!

Because of your support many of our babies are much warmer this winter.