

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN

The First Fifteen

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission has asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling "The First Fifteen." We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week's weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.

Questions to Ponder:

In the bible we have seen Adam tempted in the Garden of Eden and the Jewish people tempted in the desert after leaving Egypt. They both failed and allowed themselves to give in to Satan's promises. Jesus succeeds in rebuking Satan and goes on to save us all with his sacrificial crucifixion.

1. Jesus stayed in the desert for 40 days. What does this number 40 days remind you of? How will you spend the next 40 days of Lent preparing to "Repent and believe in the gospel."?
2. Both John the Baptist and Jesus practiced self-discipline as they prayed in the desert. What practices of self-discipline do you do during this "desert time of Lent? How does this time build your faith?
3. After times of temptation who are the angels that enter your life to minister to you? Have you had the opportunity to be a ministering angel to others? How did this change your attitude towards those who are hurting?

End with the "**Glory Be**"

"Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen"