

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT - LET US TURN TO GOD IN OUR SPIRITUAL BATTLES



Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, it is with great spirit of joy and repentance that I welcome and I invite you to enter this holy season of Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday by placing ashes in front of our head with these words “remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” There is an alternative invitation **“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.” Certainly, Lent is a time of spiritual renewal, conversion, and reconnection with who we are.**

Lent invites us to reclaim our true selves and identities, which have sometimes been disfigured by sins. **We have been given this graceful opportunity to repent, renew, and transform. It is a spiritual battle that invites us to walk in the manner of Christ, who gave his radical "yes" to the Father's will.**

We are invited to contemplate the scene of Jesus' sojourn in the desert, His threefold struggle against the tempter, and His threefold victory, which shows us its inaugural moment. **But between the desert, where Christ is as if abandoned to Himself, and the Garden, where Christ gives Himself to His Father before being, during His Passion, given over to humanity, lies the life of Christ on the roads of Palestine. The desert, the road, the Garden — the program of our Lent can be expressed through these three Gospel locations and their three related challenges: the spiritual battle, following Christ, and the wondrous acceptance of His great love, where, in His Passion, He gives His Life for us.** For this reason, let us let four words from our Gospel resonate today: desert, temptation, son, and word.

Let us turn freely to the Father, from whom we receive everything and to whom we offer everything: let us go to the desert, following Christ and led by the Spirit! I wish us a blessed Lent: The Lord's victory precedes us!

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – March 1, 2026