

Lent... the church's springtime.

Even the word comes from the Anglo-Saxon word that means "Springtime"

I. Lent is all about TURNING

The earth is turning more toward the sun.... even our cars feel warmer when we get in them

Winter is turning into spring at this time

Even the soil will soon be turned inward to receive the seed

And so we too turn.... THE PROPHET calls us "Come , let us return to the Lord."

We turn our minds and hearts toward God with time for PRAYER

We turn inward to see what needs to be changed, how we can empty our lives of what does not really matter... how we can do without in our FASTING

And we turn our attention to the needs of others in our works of charity, in our ALMSGIVING

In The first reading today, Noah invites us to "GET ON BOARD" climb into the boat.

There was a lot of chaos in his world...

But God saved him....

God protected him, God brought him to safety.

There is a lot of trouble in our world too.

God is inviting us to come to him this Lent, to find safety and set our boats on the right course.

How can I find God in prayer this Lent?

What do I need to fast from this Lent?

How can I give to those in need this Lent?

Then we see Jesus in the Gospel

He has just been baptized by John.....

He has heard the voice of his Father. "You are my beloved son, my favor rests on you"

What does that mean for his future? How is he to respond to this realization?

So he goes to the desert, a place where he can be alone and think and pray.

But that is when Satan tempts him....

Jesus hears

If you are the beloved Son ... You can be famous, work miracles, everyone will come to you.

If you are the beloved Son.... You won't have to suffer anything, God will protect you.

But Jesus chooses another way.....He embraces his humanity in all that it will give.

He WILL suffer....

He WILL be afraid.....

He WILL die....

He WILL be like us in every way, except sin.

Jesus was tempted....just like we are

Jesus knows struggles....just like we have

So we can call on him, when we face difficulties...

When we have to have a conversation that might be hard... Call on him.

When we are tempted to give ourselves favors on our taxes.... Call on him.

When we are tempted to be unfaithful, or untruthful, ... Call on him.

He knows our temptations.... He will help us.

Lent is a time for us to "get on board" to set our sails on the right course.

Lent is a time of retreat, to step aside and look at our lives.

What will I do these weeks to come closer to God?

God is inviting.... "Come back to me, with all your heart !"