

First Sunday of Lent  
February 18, 2018

As I reflect on the readings from this first Sunday of Lent, what I feel the most drawn to is God's promises and reminders.

Our first reading comes from Genesis and talks about one of God's first covenants with man, Noah. It shows us that like He waited for Noah to build the arc, God patiently waits for us to fulfill the plans He has for us. He is always there...to guide and to lead us...even when we face our own storms. He promised Noah that never again would flood waters destroy everything and He provided us with a reminder of His promise...rainbows after the storm.

The second reading from 1 Peter helps us to see God's promise to us in the New Testament...the promise of everlasting life through Jesus Christ. God saved Noah and his family from the flood waters. God saves us through the waters of Baptism. We are able to be saved because of God's promise of salvation through Christ Jesus. Jesus lived, suffered and died and rose from the dead so that we can have eternal life with Him in Heaven. Every time we touch our fingers to the water in the Baptismal font and make the sign of the cross, it is an opportunity to remind us of God's great love and our salvation through Baptism.

Our Gospel from St. Mark is a promise and a reminder as we begin our Lenten journey. Just as Satan tempted Jesus in the desert, we too will be tempted over the next 40-days. Let this be a time of reflection to help us remember that the "kingdom of God is at hand". Stay focused on God's promise of salvation. We should repent and be disciples, sharing God's word and love whenever we have the opportunity.

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