



Ignite the F.I.R.E.



Families Involved in Religious Education

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LENTEN PREPARATION

We are over 30 days into Lent now...how has your time “in the desert” been? These 40 days of Lent parallel the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying before He was to be tried and crucified. He was tempted by the devil to turn away from God. He was hungry, He was tired, but He used that time to draw strength and courage from His heavenly Father to carry out His mission to lay down his life in a quiet witness of the strength of His will to sacrifice Himself for the good of humanity.

It’s not easy to put ourselves in the place of Jesus, who was both divine God and a human being, but it’s in those times that we struggle and wonder “how am I going to get through this?” that we need to focus on Christ and realize that He had times like that as well. On that Friday, the day of his death, He carried the cross, the weight of the world, while people spit at Him, yelled and ridiculed Him and acted in hatred, but He pursued on. Fall after fall, He quietly arose, without fighting back, without shouting back in protest. It’s so hard to imagine doing that hour after hour, but it was during those times that God was with Him, putting people in His path to encourage and support Him and show their love for Him.

That’s how we can connect with Jesus...when our burdens become heavy, and we feel like we are falling under the weight of them, we need to know that there are prayer warriors out there along our path, to keep us going strong and fighting off those harsh words and actions of the enemy. We connect by realizing in those times that we need to turn to God for His strength, courage and wisdom to guide us. We connect by taking the time to spend with God in the desert seriously seeking Him so that we may feel and know His presence when we are carrying the burdens of life and know in our hearts that Christ is right there with us, understanding and knowing completely what we are going through. It’s in that surrender that He stands there with you and picks up the cross for you and takes it all upon Himself because of His great love for you. Don’t waste another day turning Him away!

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!” ~ St. Catherine of Siena