



Led by the Spirit

Lent 2026

Dear Parishioners,

This Lenten season, 2026 we pray to be *Led by the Spirit* from “Annoyance to Blessedness.” What do I mean by that? (Stay with me here...)

The 40-day season of Lent, leading up to the glory of Easter, is often referred to as a “desert experience.” That expression reminds us of the 40 days that Jesus was in the desert, tempted by Satan. But it led Jesus into his public ministry and victory over sin and death through his cross and resurrection. It also reminds us of the 40 years that the Israelites were wandering in the desert. They had been liberated from slavery, but they were not yet home in the Promised Land. Eventually they crossed the River Jordan into the “land flowing with milk and honey.”

Here at OLL, we are also in a desert of sorts, displaced by the remodeling construction of our church and hall. As in the desert, we are deprived of certain things. We could choose to see that merely as an annoyance. But if we look more deeply and ask “What is the Spirit trying to teach us in these interim days?”, it can become a time of blessedness.

In Matthew Kelly’s book, *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory*, which we gave as a gift to everyone last Christmas, he makes a similar juxtaposition (on Day 2). It was between traveling as a tourist and traveling as a pilgrim on a spiritual quest. In short, as a tourist, if there is some inconvenience or change of plans, we see it as an annoyance. However, if you are traveling on a spiritual pilgrimage, the same kind of inconvenience can become an occasion to ask, “What is God trying to teach me through this situation?”, and we turn to prayer.

We are pilgrims in the journey of life and when obstacles confront us, we have a choice as how to respond. Do we treat each challenge as an annoyance, or do we allow ourselves to be *Led by the Spirit* to discover the blessedness that God has in store for us?

May this Lenten season, with its penances and challenges, lead us through the desert into Eucharist Glory as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. John Kerns, Pastor



Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
650 A Avenue, Lake Oswego OR 97013
503-636-7687 | ollparish.com