



## Things to Ponder

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### First Sunday of Lent – February 14, 2016

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Dear Parish Family,

We have begun our annual six week retreat in preparation to renew our commitment to being disciples of Jesus Christ. Lent, the springtime of the Church year, is an intensification of the spiritual life. Just as Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert, so are we led by the same Spirit to confront those obstacles that sometimes inhibit our faith. St. Jerome Emiliani wrote to the members of his religious fraternity about this process of purification in these words:

*“Our goal is God, the source of all good. As we say in our prayer, we are to place our trust in God and in no one else.”*

(Office of Readings, February 8)

What are the unique challenges to faith that you face in 2016? What tests have you endured in the past? What did you learn about yourself? If your faith was shaken, did it grow stronger?

*“God wishes to test you like gold in the furnace. The dross is consumed by the fire, but the pure gold remains and its value increases. It is in this manner that God acts with his good servant...If then, you remain constant in the face of trial, the Lord will give you peace and rest for a time in this world, and forever in the next.”*

(St. Jerome Emiliani)

Blessed Lent,

*Rev. Bill Foley*

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