

**CCE classes** are in session March 1, 3, 4. We begin Big Idea 4: How to be Missionary Disciples of Christ. Our first topic: My Personal Call.

### **Breaking Open the Word for [The First Sunday in Lent](#)**

By Ginger Herrington

**Reading 1:** *Many trees in the Garden were delightful to look at and good for food.* The Garden of Eden was Paradise. Everything

Adam and Eve needed was there, and they walked and talked with God. Many trees were delightful to the eyes and its fruit was appetizing. Only two trees were off limits: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam's job was to tend the Garden, and he worked joyfully. Yet Adam failed to keep the cunning serpent out of the Garden. Eve's job was to be mother of the living, yet by her choice she brought the curse of sickness and death to all mankind. Adam failed to keep Eve safe, and Eve failed to trust God. The serpent insinuated that God, who had given Adam and Eve everything, was holding out on them just because He had forbidden them to eat of those two trees in the middle of the Garden. The tree of knowledge of good and evil worked right away: they realized they were naked, which is to say, they saw their sin and felt ashamed. Yet when God questioned them, they both came up with excuses. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. All were punished, and Original Sin passed down to every generation.

**Reading 2:** *Through Adam, death came to man; but Jesus brings us to life.* St. Paul highlights Jesus as the New Adam. The old Adam, the first Adam, disobeyed God; Jesus, the New Adam, was obedient even unto death on the Cross. The first Adam made excuses for his sin; Jesus, the New Adam, was sinless and took the sins of all mankind upon His shoulders. Death came through the sin of the first Adam; Jesus Christ brings us to new life. In Baptism, we die with Christ to sin and rise to new life, a life to be lived by conforming our hearts ever more closely to Jesus. God has given us the sacraments so that we can respect the great gift He has given: a share in His Divine life and His Presence dwelling within us.

**Gospel:** *Jesus said: the Lord God alone shall you serve.* Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray. These are two of the three pillars of Lent, so when you fast and pray, you are following Jesus' example. The cunning serpent tried to trick Jesus, but of course, Jesus quoted Scripture to the devil, refusing to be tempted. Let us follow Jesus' example in this as well. When we are tempted, consult the Scriptures or the Catechism; find the strength you need in the Word of God. Let us follow Jesus' example.

