

By Fr. Christopher Szarke

We continue reading from the Gospel of St. Mark on this Second Sunday in Lent. A dominant theme in this Gospel is that of discipleship and the necessity of teaching the Word of God. Faith in Jesus is neither easy nor difficult, but Mark understands that discipleship does not come easy. Jesus is referred to as the Son of God in the Gospel of Mark, acknowledging the divinity of Christ while not neglecting Jesus' humanity.

Jesus challenges Peter, saying, "Get thee behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Ouch! I cringe for Peter. Who wants to be referred to as Satan, especially by Jesus? Of course, Jesus isn't really naming Peter as Satan, but rather underscoring that we are called to focus on the things of God rather than the values of the world.

I remember another parish, when Kay described her gardening experience. Sometimes what was planted did not grow as well as desired the first time, so the soil needed more attention and seeds were replanted later in the season or the next year.

Her words still speak to me as I consider the seeds that haven't grown well in my life, the times that the garden of life are overrun with weeds of attention in the wrong areas, and how God calls us to be faithful in tilling the soil, replanting, and trusting that every garden has the potential for harvest.

Blessings on your gardening during Lent. Amen.