

Pastoral Reflection
Feb. 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

Forgetting is one of the chief ways that our minds edit reality. What is remote, or too challenging, or too frightening, or too painful is routinely forgotten, edited out of existence. A difficult childhood, a disastrous marriage, a broken trust, a betrayal, a lost friendship, a struggle with addiction are all fodder for the dark side of the mind.

Lent is a time to re-call the past so we can re-think the future. Otherwise we will continue to make the same mistakes. We forget who we are - God's beloved. God can handle what we try to forget. Lent beckons us to move past the surface and unearth what is pulling us down. That is called living the Paschal Mystery. Let's give God a chance to lead us past those buried hurts. But we can't skip to Easter without revealing and accepting our brokenness. Let's head into the desert. There will be an oasis!

--Fr. Jack Schuler