

A large, golden sand dune dominates the foreground, sloping from the left towards the right. The dune's surface is smooth and slightly undulating. In the background, a flat desert landscape stretches to the horizon under a clear, pale blue sky. The overall scene is bright and serene, with a strong sense of vastness and isolation.

Lent
is the
forty-day
period of preparation
(excluding Sundays) preceding
Easter, reminding us of Jesus' forty-day
period of testing and reflection in the desert and the Israelites'
forty-year period of wandering in the wilderness.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The ancient sign of ashes placed on the forehead speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of the wearer.

You are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.