

# St. Joseph Church

136 HENRI DE TONTI PO BOX 39 TONTITOWN, ARKANSAS 72770  
(479) 361-2612 FAX (479) 361-9271 E-Mail: stjoeontitownad@att.net

A change in any of our daily habits brings about new experiences within us. For a coffee drinker to stop the caffeine brings about withdrawal pangs first then a certain calm. Fasting begins a shrinkage in stomach size and a lessening of the food appetite. Trading TV time for spiritual reading sharpens our spiritual awareness and a hunger for the Godly in our lives.

Hopefully the practices we assume for Lent have begun to let us experience such changes. The changes can strengthen our spiritual faith and open our spiritual eyes to the reality of God's word within us. Yes, God does speak to His children and we are expected to recognize His voice among the many sounds within. He keeps repeating some of what we are familiar with but also has some messages meant for our ears only. He wants a personal relationship to grow between Him and us. How do we know it is His word?

First He will never contradict what He has already revealed in Jesus. Become more familiar with the New Testament. Secondly, He will connect us with the memories He has let us identify of His interventions in our lives. He will never change His plans for us to be close to Him for all eternity. He does not want the sinner to die but be saved. Thirdly He will always speak the whole truth to us. Discernment of God's will and word is a necessary task for us and needs to be included in our frequent prayers.

Lent is a time of salvation.

Msgr James Mancini