**REFLECTIONS ON: Mark 1:1-14**

**After reading the scripture, reflect on the following questions:**

■ How does the Gospel continue to unfold in our world and in our own lives today?

■ What were the expectations of the Messiah then, and what do we expect today?

■ What is the difference between following the way of Jesus as opposed to adhering to a set of beliefs? How are we to conduct our daily lives in order to follow the way of Jesus?

■ What are the challenges we encounter as we attempt to follow the way?

■ How are we called to prepare the way of the Lord in the world today?

■ Why do you think Jesus came to John to be baptized, and what do you imagine the relationship between the two men might have been?

■ What is the difference between John’s baptism with water and Jesus’ baptism with the Holy Spirit?

■ What does it mean for the mission of Jesus that he is God’s own beloved Son and that God is well pleased with him?

■ When have you had a spiritual experience, or vision, in which you felt God’s presence very clearly?

■ The text says that the “Spirit immediately drove” Jesus into the wilderness. What is the significance of this strong language here?

■ Why was this time imperative for Jesus, and what do you imagine were the temptations that he might have faced? (Also refer to the accounts in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.)

■ The “wilderness experience” is a familiar metaphor. What does the wilderness itself represent, and what are the implications of such experiences?

■ Reflect on your own wilderness experiences, and what these times have meant for you.