

During this unprecedented time in our world's history, we offer you the following material for your praying and reflecting on God's Word.

Introduction - March 6, 2022

Today's Gospel depicts Jesus' journey into the wilderness for 40 days, right after his baptism. In the wilderness, the devil presents Jesus with 3 temptations. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger, he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him, and he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test. In each case, Jesus resists, citing words from Scripture to rebuke the devil's temptation. Each temptation that Jesus faces offers insight into the spirituality we hope to develop as we keep the forty days of the Season of Lent. We can trust God to provide for our material needs. We worship God, because God alone has dominion over us and our world. We can trust God to be faithful to his promises. We are dependent upon God for all that we have and all that we are.

Lectio Divina with the Sunday Gospel

Lectio Divina means 'divine reading'. It is a way to pray using the holy scriptures in a step-by-step process. Gather the entire family around and make the sign of the Cross. Light a candle.

Leader: "Holy Spirit, you inspired the authors of Sacred Scripture to write what you wanted us to know for the sake of our salvation. Inspire us now to hear those words not only with our ears, but our hearts, so that we might know your saving Word for us today."

- Have one person **read** the scripture slowly, out loud and have a few moments of silence afterwards. (It may be helpful for everyone to have a copy of the reading).
- **Read** the scripture again out loud and choose a single word or short phrase that touches, speaks or surprises you. Share with everyone.
- **Read** the scripture out loud one more time and discuss what is happening directly in the text.
- **Meditate** on what God is doing now in our lives through this text.
- **Respond** to what God is doing through prayer.
- **Contemplate** on what God is asking of me through this text and how to use these words as a gift for others through my actions.
- After a period of silence, end with the Sign of the Cross.

(see over)

The Holy Gospel for March 6, 2022

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus, full of the Holy spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

The devil said to him,

“If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

Jesus answered him,

“It is written, ‘Man does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up

and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

And the devil said to him,

“To you I will their glory and all this authority;

for it has been given over to me,

and I give it to anyone I please.

If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

Jesus answered him,

“It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem,

and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him,

“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,

for it is written,

‘He will command his Angels concerning you, to protect you.’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said,

‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

When the devil had finished every test,

he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(see over)

Family Activities

- ❖ As a family, reflect on and share some temptations you are faced with. We are not immune from temptation. Jesus was tempted too. But Jesus showed that he loved and trusted God by refusing the temptation. Every time we make a good decision, we show we love and trust God. We can ask Jesus to help us make good decisions and not give into temptation.
- ❖ Reflect on the 3 disciplines of Lent - praying, fasting and almsgiving. How can these practices strengthen us to temptation?
- ❖ Make a list of everything that you are grateful for. When we are aware of all the things that we are grateful for, we become aware and acknowledge God's presence in our lives. This week, pay special attention to God's presence, even in those times when it is difficult. Be assured that God is there.

Prayer:

***Dear Heavenly Father,
as we seek to draw closer to you throughout this season of Lent,
open our hearts to you.***

***Allow us to begin to grasp the enormity of your redeeming love.
Help us to respond and follow Jesus' call.***

Amen