



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

THIS SUNDAY March 1 & BEYOND

Firmly Rooted in God's Word



As we start our Lenten journey towards Jesus' passion, death and glorious resurrection, we feel we need to engage in spiritual disciplines that will help us along the way. We intentionally try to break away from routine to open spaces for more inner reflection, often accompanied by the abstention from certain foods and habits, and a lot of prayer. At the same time we engage in the practice of giving more generously to those in need.

But when we break away from our busy agendas, often filled up so there is no time for being with ourselves, we enter our inner world, and that can be frightening. When we are left alone with ourselves, our mind will start to talk. The mind fears silence. It is not used to it. It wants to be active all the time.

Not all the thoughts that come to our mind are good nourishment for the spirit. Some of them can be misleading indeed. It is not my intention here to defend a certain position as to the origin of this kind of thoughts. As an Anglican, I am free to believe that they can come from an evil spiritual realm, from our subconscious mind, or a combination of both. Whatever the origin, the vital issue to consider is whether

we let them take over and lead us to act under their influence or not. “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”, as the Lord’s Prayer states.

This is what happened to Jesus when, in preparation for His earthly ministry after being baptized, after having been assured of His divine kinship, He is led by God’s Spirit to spend time with Himself in the wilderness. He fasts for a forty-day period and then feels famished. At that critical moment, when our being is most vulnerable, evil thoughts can easily creep in.

When we think of evil, we usually tend to think of acts that harm or take away other people’s lives. But evil thoughts usually disguise themselves with intentions that may even appear good at first.

Jesus felt the temptation to quit his fast, and to satisfy His immediate needs using some of His divine power. He was also tempted by the convenience to have absolute dominion over the world if He simply gave up His determination to serve only God; and even by a feeling of spiritual pride and superiority that would make Him invulnerable to physical harm. But in all cases he used an infallible weapon that made Him come out victorious: His deep knowledge of God’s Word as it appears in Holy Scripture. There was an instance when the evil one used a passage taken from Scripture to convince Him, but Jesus showed that He knew Scripture in integrity, and He let the Holy Spirit discern its real intention.

Jesus Himself is God’s Word. John tells us at the beginning of his Gospel that He is God’s Word incarnate. The evil one was a fool when he tried to use the Word to deceive Him who is the Word.

We have the Holy Scriptures as the most powerful weapon against all evil thoughts that may creep into our minds during our meditation times. But remember that the evil one can use detached passages of Scripture for evil purposes too. Let us carefully and prayerfully consider the intention of each passage, taking it as part of a whole, whose final purpose must always be to lead us to Jesus, the Word made flesh. Being firmly rooted in God’s Word, our Lenten journey is spiritually safe and fruitful.

Fr, Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The First Sunday in Lent:

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17, 25-3:7 Psalm 51:1-13 Romans 5:12-21 Matthew 4:1-11

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: **The First Sunday in Lent**

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn High Mass (Church)

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 6:00pm Experience, Strength and Hope AA Group (Parish Hall)

TUESDAY: 11:00am Lenten Study (Library)

Noon Mass (St. Mary Chapel)

WEDNESDAY Noon NoonPrayer (St. Mary Chapel)

6:30pm Contemplative Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

THURSDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

FRIDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

12:30pm Way of the Cross Pilgrimage (Church)

1:00pm Potluck Luncheon (Flower Room)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY **Society of Mary Day of Devotion**

11:00am Rosary (St. Mary Chapel)

11:30am MASS (St. Mary Chapel)

Noon Potluck Lunch (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY **The Second Sunday in Lent**

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)