



ALL SAINTS'

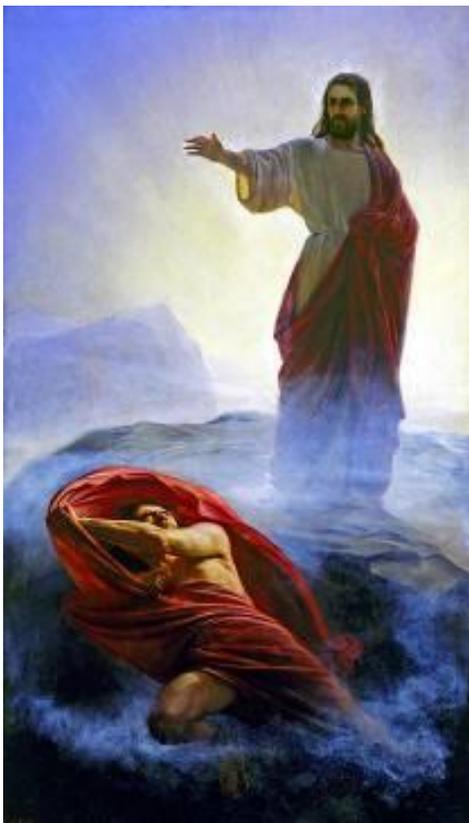
CHURCH

"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."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY — March 6 & Beyond

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"



As we come to the first Sunday in Lent we are told the story of Jesus undergoing temptation in the wilderness while fasting for forty days and night.

Whether we, as Episcopalians, choose to believe that the evil one is an actual being that opposes God's will and those who decide to follow it, or just the dark side that is part of all of us and can lead us astray from our true identity in God, the fact is that Jesus was tempted in an extreme way while He prepared Himself for the ministry that He was about to undertake.

No wonder so, because the more selfless and God-centered our purpose is, the harder the opposition it finds from the dark side.

In the wilderness there are practically no outer distractions. We are set apart from other voices and our daily occupations, so there is no other choice than to listen to the voice of our minds (or the voice of the evil one planted in our brains, if we choose to believe in this way).

Our minds are usually restless, and find it really hard to quiet down and center on our Creator and what is the real essence of our selves—our being in God. They wander from one idea or image to the next one, and linger on those that promise self-satisfaction of any kind.

When Jesus was baptized He had the revelation of His true identity in God, and His mission became clear to Him. He knew that being the recipient of God's infinite love also implied being the bearer and sharer of such love, even to the point of self-sacrifice.

But because He was fully human as He was fully divine, He had to face it and be absolutely sure that He had the courage and determination to carry out such a challenging and huge mission. Starting the mission and faltering mid-way would do more harm than good to the world, and He was aware of this.

He might have undergone several temptations throughout His stay in the wilderness, but the Gospels sum them up in three:

The temptation to give up His resolve to undergo the discipline of fasting and satisfy His personal hunger by altering the natural course of nature (turning stones to bread). The temptation to use His divine filiation to become the most powerful of worldly rulers by serving the dark forces of self-centeredness and selfish dominion of others.

The temptation to use this same filiation with the Creator to boast of it to others by putting His life in unnecessary danger, demanding God's supernatural protection.

To counterattack all of these tempting thoughts and ideas, Jesus uses the powerful shield of Holy Scripture, and comes out victorious. But it is relevant to notice that there is one instance in which the tempter quotes Scripture ("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.") in a twisted way to convince Jesus of the authority of the idea he is trying to plant in Jesus' mind.

This should serve us as a warning that people may simply take passages of Scripture out of context and try to use them to justify their self-centered whims. The guidance of the Holy Spirit in deep prayer is always the ultimate judge of the validity of a given passage in the Bible.

If we think that we can live without temptation, we are only deluding ourselves. The real world is full of temptations. Every single moment we can be assaulted by outer or inner insinuations to please our egotistic wishes, to relinquish our determination to stick to higher ideals, or to succumb to self-centered interests that hurt others, and even make ourselves and others believe that they are in accordance with "God's will".

The prayer that Jesus taught has a phrase that has been translated into English as lead us not into temptation. In other languages, like Spanish, the phrase has been translated as the equivalent of do not let us fall into temptation.

Anyway, it should be clear in our minds that we will not become better people, truer to God's image, by never having to face the real evils of this world, so that we can never fall into temptation.

Instead of prompting us to advance in the spiritual path, that would only keep us stagnant. Moreover, it would hinder us from becoming the bearers and sharers of God's love and light that we are called to be.

We need to face the hard and often evil reality of the world, and the dark side of our lives so that we may, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, in prayer, and with the guidance of His Holy Scripture, overcome temptations and come out victors in our mission to be the much needed light for this world.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:9-15 Romans 10:5-13 Luke 4:1-13

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and during Lent Friday 11:30am The Great Litany in St. Mary's Chapel followed by Stations of the Cross in All Saints' Courtyard.

SUNDAY The First Sunday in Lent

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

1:00pm Mass in Spanish St. Mary Chapel All are Welcome

TUESDAY: Noon Mass in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel followed by a fellowship snack in the Flower Room.

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos.

FRIDAY The Great Litany, at 11:30 am in St. Mary Chapel, followed by the Via Crucis (the Stations of the Cross) at Noon in the Courtyard

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OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

www.allsaintschurch.org