

## The Temptation of Jesus

My dear friends in Christ,

Today's gospel reading presents us with the temptation of Jesus. Notice that the Gospel began by telling us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert. In other words, Jesus was not alone in the desert. Naturally speaking, you would think that the devil seeing Jesus and the Holy Spirit would retreat, but he was determined to derail Jesus from his mission of transforming lives and saving souls. Jesus' temptation ended in victory and became the beginning of the reconstruction and reunification of the world because despite the inducement to satisfy the self, he remained selfless.

On Ash Wednesday, we heard about the three pillars of Lent namely, *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*, and we were encouraged to go into the desert of our hearts for forty day, and strive to embrace these pillars of our faith. It is appropriate that we are reminded today that faith in God and our efforts to pray, fast, and give alms do not exempt us from or make us less vulnerable to temptation; rather, when we do not get discouraged in the face of tribulations, we become stronger and grow deeper in our faith.

Just like Jesus our Savior, we will face different kinds of temptation. Part of our temptation may be that we gave up something for Lent and try to reward ourselves in some other way; it may be that we constantly seek attention or approval for works of charity; it may even be that after a few days into Lent, forty days begin to appear too long and we begin to slip away from upholding what we gave up for Lent. Whatever the case, I encourage you to persevere and journey with Christ till the end.

With Jesus we pray "Our Father...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," Amen.

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## Appreciation

Last Tuesday's Mardi Gras celebration was spectacular. It was festive, joy-filled, and we had many visitors who expressed gratitude for how hospitable our parishioners were. We thank Elaine Caldwell who led this effort and tirelessly worked with many wonderful parishioners to sponsor, set up, decorate, clean up, and make this year's Mardi Gras a memorable event for us. May God continue to bless you.

We are profoundly grateful to Feliz Trevino, Kevin and Cynthia Kroll, and Jan Bolger for providing our parish with the new candle stands by the tabernacle and a Luna holder in the

chapel. Jesus in the Eucharist is the center of our faith, and any act of love and reverence of the Eucharist helps our faith shine forth.

May we grow closer to the heart of Jesus as we journey through these forty days of Lent.

***--Fr. Anthony Ahamefule***  
***Parish Priest***