



Learning from Jesus' Temptations

Every Lent, priests, nuns, monks, and many laypeople pray the following: "Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus encountered this truth in his temptations in the desert, another place in his ministry where he experienced the struggle of humanity.

The temptations begin, "If you are the Son of God...." All our temptations begin by doubting and challenging Jesus to prove himself. Although Jesus is all-powerful and all-good, we struggle to make sense of suffering and tragedies.

The temptations continue as Jesus is invited to satisfy himself, impress others, and skip suffering. But Jesus responds repeatedly in humility. In the desert he doesn't turn stones into bread. Later, he does something far greater; he turns bread and wine into himself. When tempted, we cry out to him to soften

the hard realities of our lives. And Jesus does just that. He suffers in his passion, dies, and rises again to become life-giving bread for us. He becomes manna in our desert.

When we wish for power, Jesus promises we will reign with him if we also let him suffer for us and we with him. The devil would have us take matters into our own hands, doubt God, and make him prove himself by our measures. Yet if we listen to Jesus, look at his answers, and learn from his life, then true power will be ours.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

What makes me question God the most?

How can God's word and Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection respond to that doubt?



Piece: *Temptations of Christ* (detail), 1482
Artist: Sandro Botticelli
Location: Sistine Chapel

When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

Luke 4:13

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. Darrell Kostih

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

MARCH 10, 2019 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

"Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble." Psalm 91

In today's epic Gospel scene, Jesus relives in His flesh the history of Israel. We've already seen that, like Israel, Jesus has passed through water and been called God's beloved Son (see Luke 3:22; Exodus 4:22). Now, as Israel was tested for forty years in the wilderness, Jesus is led into the desert to be tested for forty days and nights (see Exodus 15:25). He faces the temptations put to Israel: Hungry, He's tempted to grumble against God for food (see Exodus 16:1-13). As Israel quarreled at Massah, He's tempted to doubt God's care (see Exodus 17:1-6). When the Devil asks for His homage, He's tempted to do what Israel did in creating the golden calf (see Exodus 32). Jesus fights the Devil with the Word of God, three times quoting from Moses' lecture about the lessons Israel was supposed to learn from its wilderness wanderings (see Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 6:12-15). Why do we read this story on the first Sunday of Lent? Because like the biblical sign of forty (see Genesis 7:12; Exodus 24:18; 34:28; 1 Kings 19:8; Jonah 3:4), the forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification. Lent is to teach us what we hear over and over in today's readings. "Call upon me, and I will answer," the Lord promises in today's Psalm. Paul promises the same thing in today's Epistle (quoting Deuteronomy 30:14; Isaiah 28:16; Joel 2:32). This was Israel's experience, as Moses reminds his people in today's First Reading: "We cried to the LORD . . . and He heard." But each of us is tempted, as Israel was, to forget the great deeds He works in our lives, to neglect our birthright as His beloved sons and daughters. Like the litany of remembrance Moses prescribes for Israel, we should see in the Mass a memorial of our salvation, and "bow down in His presence," offering ourselves in thanksgiving for all He has given us.



3/3 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,605.00

3/3 Children's Offering: \$6.00

3/3 Building Fund: \$464.00

3/6 American Missions: \$559.00

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Bulletin Information: **MARAK:** Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-869-2511)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Ministries for March 17

Rosary: Volunteers

Offertory: Garrett & Lisa Prcin & Family

Ushers: George Dohnalik & Johnny Winkler

Altar Servers: Sam Richter, Will Richter & Brady Barton

Eucharistic Minister: Merlene Slavik

Lector: Jill Stermer



Prayer Chain... Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and the following: Gerald Beach, Andrea Enga(Cousin of Ethel Marak), Seth Litzman (nephew of Lynne Hornung), Albina Vrazel, JoLeen Cayhill, and Ethel Marak. Prayers are powerful and with God nothing shall be impossible.

Contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net to be put on the prayer chain.

MARAK MASSES—March 10-17, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today— 3/10	10:15am	+ Joe Vansa by Bill & Carol Smetana
3/13— Wed.—Mass & Stations of the Cross	5:30pm	+ Martha Hertenberger by Cecilia Marak
3/17—Sunday	10:15am	Living Members of Hornung Family

CYCLONE MASSES— March 10– 17, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today – 3/10	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Mrs. Joe Teakell, Sr.
3/12– Tuesday	7:00am	+ Susan Clowers by Michael & Kim Dach
3/14— Thursday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Alice & Ellen Stojanik
3/15—Friday—Stations of the Cross & Mass	6:00pm	Lou & Al Buckholt for Peace & Healing by Carol and Bill Smetana
3/16– Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ M/M Adolph Smetana by Jackie & Charlie Green
3/17— Sunday	8:15am	+ Randolph Green by Family

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **MARCH 11:** Parish Social and Pot Luck—Marak Parish Hall—6pm-9pm
- **FISH FRY:** KC Council #13902—every Friday beginning March 8th thru April 12th—Westphalia Parish Hall Pit—3:30pm—7:15pm (or until sold out). \$10/plate. Fried shrimp, fish, beans, coleslaw & fries.
- **IDEAS OR INPUT:** The cemetery board is in the planning phase of erecting a graveside directory at the cemetery. If anyone has any ideas or input on this project or would like to contribute in anyway, please let us know. Contact any board member or attend the May 4th meeting after mass.
- **THANK YOU:** Special Thanks to Robert Vansa and Alfred Vrazel for repairing the Septic System pump for the Parish Hall. May God Bless both of you for your hard work in getting the system working properly.
- **From Ashes to Easter :** The annual diocesan Ashes to Easter Lenten Mission Campaign has begun. Each family is invited to pick up a box and keep it on or near the family dining table or by their bedside table. Put in some coins each day during Lent, and pray for missions worldwide. Contributing coins each day is a corporal work of mercy that will help shelter the homeless and spiritual work of mercy that will help comfort the sorrowful. The money collected helps local missionaries and missionary projects from our diocese.

Calendar

Monday

MARCH 11

Lenten Weekday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18

Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

MARCH 12

Lenten Weekday

Is 55:10-11

Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

MARCH 13

Lenten Weekday

Jon 3:1-10

Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

MARCH 14

Lenten Weekday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25

Mt 7:7-12

Friday

MARCH 15

Lenten Weekday

Ez 18:21-28

Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday

Dt 26:16-19

Mt 5:43-48

Sunday

MARCH 17

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

Phil 3:17-4:1

or Phil 3:20-4:1

Lk 9:28b-36

Dear Padre,

In some books and movies, the devil is depicted as an all-powerful, unconquerable force. Is this the true image of Satan? What should be the Christian response toward the devil?

In years of priesthood, I have infrequently encountered situations in which the presence of evil was palpable. Typically, they involved the abuse of someone innocent and vulnerable. These incidents remind me of my need for a deeper trust in God, and the strength of someone spiritually wiser than I, if such evil is to be repelled.

However, the usual way Satan operates is by subtly seducing us into confusion, complacency, and self-will. Indeed, isn't that the case in today's Gospel of Jesus' temptations in the desert?

Jesus experienced not only a frontal assault by the devil, but also the hunger, fear, and isolation that make all of us vulnerable to false gods of greed, security, or power. When the devil addressed him in his privation and

vulnerability, Jesus found ways to call upon God's word and power. Satan's attack was vanquished in the desert.

Likewise, our encounters with this real, fallen angel will persist. We will always be vulnerable, with the devil always watching for an opportune time. "One day at a time" can summarize our approach to evil.

We need to rely on God's power daily to lead us through a maze of choices. The next day we must again seek the same God-bestowed grace of wisdom and courage, calling on God to lead us in God's ways. In other words, God's grace is sufficient and available if we call upon it daily.

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A Word from Pope Francis

The devil wants you to quarrel among yourselves, because in this way he divides you, he defeats you, and he robs you of faith. Therefore, solidarity among brothers and sisters to defend the faith!....Go forward and don't let the devil divide you!

—Visit to Bañado Norte, Paraguay, February 19, 2017



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