

St. Augustine’s Reflection on the Temptation of Jesus

As we reflected on the Gospel reading of the First Sunday of Lent last week (Mt. 4: 1-11), several of you asked: “**Why was Jesus tempted by the devil?**” As Jesus is both man and God, how is it that Satan dared to tempt Jesus after he had fasted forty days and forty nights in the desert? **Saint Augustine** in his commentary on the psalms (Psalm 61: 2-3) gave his own answer and it could be summed up in one sentence: “**In Christ we suffered temptation and in Him we overcame the devil**” (a full explanation is given in the Office of Readings on the First Sunday of Lent). The psalmist says: “Hear, O God, my petition, listen to my prayer. I cried from the ends of the earth while my heart was in anguish.” St. Augustine continues: “ Our pilgrimage on earth cannot be exempt from trial. We progress by means of trial...**Christ** chose to foreshadow us, who are His body...he made us **one with Him when He chose to be tempted by Satan.**” In other words, Christ suffered temptation as a man, and he overcame temptation of his own power as man, resisting Satan’s three consecutive temptations by referring to **God’s word** in Scriptures (Old Testament). Like Christ, we too will be tempted, but like Christ, we too can be **victorious over temptation.** As God, Jesus could have kept the devil away from him. But had He not been tempted, he could not have taught us how we can “triumph over temptation”.

Another question is often asked: “**Is temptation a sin?**”. Following the above commentary from St. Augustine, one could affirm: “**It is not!**” We know that Jesus as a man was tempted. We also know that Jesus as God cannot commit any sin. This may be another reason why Jesus was tempted. As disciples of Christ, we are all to strive to follow Jesus’ example as well as His teachings. Jesus often speaks about the tribulations we will have to face in our life on earth. While temptation is not a sin, resisting temptation strengthens our own relationship with Jesus.

A third question often asked: “**Who tempts us?**” From Jesus’ own experience in the desert, we can affirm that the devil is the one who tempts us. From Eve’s own interaction with the serpent at the beginning of creation (Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7), we can also affirm that it is indeed the devil, through his lies and deception. However, from Adam’s experience, one could say that we may be tempted directly by other human beings without being aware that it is the devil at work through others – a child who disobeys his parents may defend himself by saying that it is his brother or sister who made him disobey.

As we continue our **Lenten journey**, I invite everyone to **reflect on the role of temptations in our lives**. Last time we committed a major sin, why did we do so? We know that as we have been created with free will, we can also say no to the choices offered to us by the devil. Why have we been unable to resist temptations? One suggestion to avoid to succumb to temptation comes from **St. Francis de Sales**. He states the best way to resist temptation is to resist from the very beginning of temptation, as the longer you wait to fight temptation, the more difficult it will be to be victorious.

Lent is a time of **repent and reconcile**. As you prepare to go to confession this Lent and you examine your conscience, take some time to go deeper and to better understand the root of individual sins. May God help each of us to make the decision to go to confession this Lent. May God help each of us to make a deep examination of conscience.

Mass Intention

- Saturday, March 11, 5:00 PM: Marika Starke +
- Sunday, March 12, 8:30 AM: Bill Bryner +
- Sunday, March 12, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, March 12, 11:30 AM: Jose & AnnaMarie Gonzales and family +
- Monday, March 13, 9:00 AM: Julie Toscano +
- Tuesday, March 14, 9:00 AM: Josephine Jean-Jacques +
- Wednesday, March 15, 9 AM: William Richardson +
- Thursday, March 16, 9 AM: Ruben Aguilar +

Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Theresa Beinert, Mike Connolly, Jessica Curry Miller, LaShay Barnes, Samuel Lopez, Robin Dwars, Julieta Bool, James Knapp, Wilbur Etbauer, Fr. Thomas Crowley, Fr. Eamon Dignan, Zach White, Lisa Rullo, Susan Walker, Doris Conover, Elijah Larson, Sunni Park, Mireille Obas, Joan Etbauer, Joseph Cheseldine, Sr., Consuela Velasquez, John Lohman, Wilhelmina Franck, Tabitha Barton, Isabel Smith, Michael Sofield Jr., Elinore Fortney, Patricia Moffat, Errol Randall, Dorothea Johnson, Vanessa Barrett, Jean Erick Joassaint, Graham Baldwin, Jane Watson, Ollie Johnson, Kathy Baumgaertner, Baby Kaden, Dennis Archible Jr., Phillip Green, Doris Chesley, Patricia & James Robey, Dick White, Ada Johnson, James Thompson, Sean Guido, Marcus Williams, and all our military and civilians serving in harm’s way.

Mass Readings for March 19, 2017

Third Sunday of Lent

- First Reading– Exodus 17: vs. 3-7
- Second Reading– Romans 5: vs. 1-2, 5-8
- Gospel–John 4: vs. 5-42

Lenten Information

- **The Light is On For You**– Every Wednesday– Confession & Adoration– 6 to 6:45 pm; Mass– 7 pm; Confession & Adoration– 7:45 to 8:30 pm.
- **Stations of the Cross**– Every Friday– 7 pm (also Exposition and Adoration) (note: on First Friday, Mass to follow).
- **Parish Mission**– Mar. 13-15, 7 to 9 pm. (**This Week!**)
- **Parish Penance Service**– Tuesday, Mar. 14, 8 pm, during Parish Mission (also First Reconciliation).
- **Healing Mass** (Fr. Martin Scott)- Sunday, Mar. 19, 7 pm.
- **International Pilgrim Statue of Fatima**– Wednesday, March 29. (see information, page 2 this bulletin).
- **Youth Group Living Stations**– Friday, Apr. 7 at 7 pm.

(cont.) May God help each of us to go to the root of our sinfulness and enter into a lifetime journey of conversion!

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*

Second Sunday of Lent

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2016-2017 CCD Registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

Mar. 12/13- CCD/Mission

Mar. 13-15- Parish Family Mission

Mar. 14- 1st Reconciliation at Mission

Mar. 18- 1st Communion Workshop #2

Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or dre@olhoc.org

Parish Youth Night !

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (Sun., 5-6:30 pm, March 12, 26; April 2, 9, 30; May 7)

Edge: middle school youth ministry (meets monthly)

FIAT: elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)

Attention Families!!

The next **All-Youth Night (FIAT, Edge and Life Teen)** will be **March 19** and will begin with 4:00 PM Mass followed by pizza, fellowship and FIAT, Edge, and Life Teen meetings. Bring your friends ! See the website at: olhoc.org/ym.

Steubenville Youth Conference

Steubenville is a weekend (Fri-Sat) Catholic Youth Conference for students currently in 8th-12th grade, that is similar to a retreat experience. This amazing weekend (**June 23-25, 2017**) features a series of talks from popular motivational speakers from across the country, Adoration, confession, Mass and more. For more details and to register visit www.olhoc.org/ym and click on Life Teen. **Don't delay, limited spots available!**

Upcoming Child Protection Classes

Upcoming sessions of "Protecting God's Children for Adults" for those who need to become Virtus Compliant (Adults wishing to volunteer in any capacity while children are present)"

- 3/15/17- St. Mary, Newport – 7pm
- 3/22/17- Sacred Heart, La Plata- 6:30 pm

Go to VIRTUS.org to register. Call Nieda or Therese with questions at 301-645-7112 with questions or if you need assistance with this process.

! OLHOC Parish Family Mission !

Join us for our upcoming **Parish Family Mission**, March 13th, 14th, and 15th. This year's mission will be led by a husband and wife team and will include praise and worship, interactivity, prayer, dynamic talks, Adoration, our Lenten Penance Service, and more. A Children's Ministry tied to the nightly Mission themes will be held during the Mission for children 2 1/2 to 4 years old, and 5 to 10 years old!

Pick up a brochure today to discover more about our upcoming Parish Family Mission and plan on attending!

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

- Fall registration begins next Friday, **Feb. 17, 2017**, for all new students.
- Please call 301-645-7112 or email preschool@olhoc.org for information.

Community Outreach

All are welcome! The next **Shepherds' Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, March 16, 2017** at Good Shepherd Church. The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **April 5** at 7 pm.

Volunteers go to: www.olhoc.org and click on the Community Outreach link. or sign-up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B044FABAD2DAA8-olhc

Share Sunday

Sharing Sunday is the first Sunday of every month; non-perishable food items and toiletries can be left in marked boxes in the Social Hall at any time. Thank you!

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima

The world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima is on an historic 2-year tour of America to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, and is coming to Our Lady Help of Christians! Our parish is one of three parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington selected to host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue (the only one in Southern Maryland).

Our Lady Help of Christians will host the tour on **Wednesday, March 29 starting at 7 pm**. It will be an extraordinary occasion. Join us to hear the story of Fatima and to see the statue that began it's journey in 1947 to bring the graces of Fatima to all who might not ever be able to make a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal.

Schedule: Wednesday, March 29, 2017

- 5 pm- Confession
- 7 pm- Candle Light Procession of Our Lady
- 7:15 pm-Crowning of Mary
- 7:15 pm-7:45 pm- Confession
- 7:15 pm- Rosary
- 8 pm- Mass
- 8:45 pm- Prayer of Consecration
- 9 pm- Farewell Procession of Our Lady
- 9:15 pm- Scapular Enrollment