



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 23, Issue 8

<http://bldtrenton.com>

February 24, 2023

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are the salt and light of the earth when we overcome all occasions of sin by praying, fasting and standing on God's word.

PROMISE:

"...through the obedience of the One, the many will be made righteous." (Rom 5: 19b)

WORD:

Gn 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7/ Ps 51: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17/ Rom 5: 12-19/ Mt 4: 1-11

ORDERS:

- *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.* (Mt 4: 4)
- *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.* (Mt 4: 17)
- The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve. (Mt 4: 10)

DIRECTIONS:

- Avail of the Holy Eucharist frequently.
- Soak ourselves in the Word of God.
- Pray unceasingly.
- Invoke the Holy Spirit to avoid occasions of sin.
- Put God above all else.

Resisting Temptation

REFLECTION:

The Liturgy for the first Sunday of Lent describes that there are two "types" of men. The first man is Adam who is mentioned in the first reading and the second man is the new Adam, Jesus, as mentioned in the second reading and the Gospel. As a result of Adam's disobedience, sin and condemnation entered the world, and death came to reign over all. However, through Jesus' obedience, abundant grace, justification, and life reigned for all. Adam was formed from clay and was filled with God's Spirit. He was a son of God, crowned with glory, given dominion over the world, and was protected by the angels. He was made to worship God- to live not by bread alone but in obedience to every word that comes from the Father. However, he put the Lord to the test by giving in to the serpent's temptation. He tried to seize for himself the power that God had already promised him. On the other hand, in His hour of temptation, Jesus triumphed where Adam failed, and drove the devil away.

As earthly beings, temptation will always



be part of our daily lives. Even Jesus was tempted not only during tonight's Gospel, but even up to His very last hours on the cross, *"if you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"* As we approach the Lenten season, we are to contemplate on how we are to prevail over temptation. When temptation

hits us directly on our face, are we going to succumb to it like Adam or triumph over it like Jesus? Jesus subjected himself to homelessness, isolation, and starvation. He did not take an easy way out. Rather than using His power or privilege to make bread, He became the bread of life on which we live on. Refusing to gain power and glory by bowing to something other than God, He commits himself to poverty and humility and shows that He is the true Lord. Rather than throwing Himself from the temple and demonstrating he can save himself from death, He aims to show us His love by offering Himself as the sacrificial lamb.

In order for us to resist temptation, we must first recognize the various ways of how the devil entices us. In the case of Adam and Eve, the devil plants a seed of doubt of what

Temptation - See Page 2

Tending the Flock


A Time Of Spiritual Training

... Jesus puts the only authentic criterion obedience, conformity to God's will, which is the foundation of our existence, before human criteria. This is also a fundamental teaching for us: if we carry God's word in our minds and hearts, if it enters our lives, if we trust in God, we can reject every kind of deception by the Tempter. Furthermore, Christ's image as the new Adam emerges clearly from this account. He is the Son of God, humble and obedient to the Father, unlike Adam and Eve who in the Garden of Eden succumbed to the seduction of the evil spirit, of being immortal without God.

Lent is like a long "retreat" in which to re-enter oneself and listen to God's voice in order to overcome the temptations of the Evil One and to find the truth of our existence. It is a time, we may say, of spiritual "training" in order to live alongside Jesus not with pride and presumption but rather by using the weapons of faith: namely prayer, listening to the Word of God and penance. In this way we shall succeed in celebrating Easter in truth, ready to renew our baptismal promises. May the Virgin Mary help us so that, guided by the Holy Spirit, we may live joyfully and fruitfully this Season of grace.


~ Pope Benedict XVI

Angelus Message, February 21, 2010



BLD TRENTON

COMMUNITY LENTEN RETREAT



St Mary, Mother of God Church
39 Cherry Tree Farm Rd
Middletown, NJ 07728

Spiritual Director
Fr. Mark Nillo

February 25, 2023
11am - 3pm

General Assembly to follow after the Retreat

For further inquiries, pls email: coordinator@bldtrenton.net, smg-angels.4@gmail.com, mpadonai2@gmail.com

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.
Donate link can be found at
www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

February 17, 2023

Tithe :\$420.00
Love Offering :\$210.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

Without Calculation



Brothers and sisters, the Lord invites us to step out of the logic of self-interest and not to measure love on the scales of calculations and convenience. He invites us not to respond to evil with evil, to dare to do good, to risk in the gift, even if we receive little or nothing in return. For it is this love that slowly transforms conflicts, shortens distances, overcomes enmities and heals the wounds of hatred. And so, we can ask ourselves, each one of us: do I, in my life, follow the logic of recompense, or that of gratuitousness, as God does? The extraordinary love of Christ is not easy, but it is possible; it is possible because He Himself helps us by giving us His Spirit, His love without measure.

Let us pray to Our Lady, who by answering "yes" to God without calculation, allowed him to make her the masterpiece of his Grace.

~ Pope Francis

*Be merciful,
O Lord.*

Last Week's Prophecies



- *Be reconciled with everyone, especially those who are irritating, those who annoy you, those who do not like you, and those who bear grudges against you.*
- *My children, the act of perfection is of holiness; therefore, forgive and take part in divinity.*

God's Blessings

Birthday

Jackie DelValle	2/24	Raquel Adame	2/26
Josie Rodriguez	2/24	Roy Roldan	2/26
John Young	2/24	Cecil Sanchez	2/26
Mabel Bartocillo	2/25	Nelia Doropan	2/27
Dennis Buenafe	2/25	Nona Alquiros	2/28
Drin Aparicio	3/2		

Anniversary

Renato & Elena Madarang 3/1



Bukas Loob Sa Diyos
Diocese of Trenton

proudly presents

The Philippine Madrigal Singers

Mark Anthony A. Carpio, choirmaster



MAY 13, 2023 | SATURDAY | 7PM

CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE
61 GEORGIA RD, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$40 | VIP MEET AND GREET: \$75
Proceeds will benefit Bukas Loob Sa Diyos mission activities.

FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS AND INQUIRIES:
EMAIL: BLDTRENTON.MAD2023@GMAIL.COM | CONTACT: TM (609) 954-2300

Temptation - Cont'd from Page 1

truly God instructs us to do, "Did God really say, 'You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?'" So, Eve replies, "It is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that you shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die." The devil counters with a lie, "You certainly will not die!" Then he strokes her ego and desire for power by adding, "God knows well that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know good and evil." Notice that this was Satan's own sin, attempting to take God's place. Satan used the same tactic on Jesus in the desert, "If you are the son of God, command this stone to become bread." In other words, "why are you hungry if you are God's Son?" Since Adam and Eve were merely humans, they immediately fell prey to the most basic temptation which involves the desires of the flesh. Take note that the devil's initial temptation is focused on our basic needs and pleasures of the flesh such as food, alcohol, drugs, and sex and when these become the focus of our lives, it become an addiction. The second level of temptation involves something more complex in

our hierarchy of needs, such as our desire for wealth and accumulation of material goods. Jesus, in this Sunday's Gospel, did not succumb to the temptation of the flesh, thus the devil used more advanced tactics by appealing to the ego. He first used the lure of possession of power. When that did not work, he then used the appeal of being honored and glorified.

Now that we know the devil's temptation tactics and the various levels of temptation, how can we overcome this? Classically, we have been taught that we resist sin by the triad of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. However, for this Lenten season, we can use the Counsel of Servant Leader's suggestions. The first activity is prayer, which means opening up our mind and heart to God. Through prayer we establish a relationship of intimacy with our loving God. Since prayer is a means of direct communication with our Father, we are made aware of His purpose and mission for us. If we focus on His will for us rather than following our will, we are able to resist temptation. Secondly, fasting, which is the act of refraining from food to help us bring our bodies under the control of our spirit. It devel-

ops spiritual strength. Fasting establishes self-mastery of our bodies. It is a spiritual boot camp. Take note that fasting does not only pertain to food, but it can also extend to wasteful activities that shift our focus away from God, such as social media and the internet. We can then use our new found time to develop a deeper relationship with our Lord and with our family. Finally, the third instrument at our disposal to resist temptation is standing on God's word. You may notice that Jesus rebuked all of the devil's temptation by quoting scripture obtained from Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Old Testament. This was Moses' farewell address to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land of Canaan. In other words, it was Moses' final instructions to God's chosen people after he had led them through the desert for the past 40 years. The Lord your God will bless you in the land He is giving you so long as you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. It is true now as it was then. The scriptures are God's instructions to us of how to remain blessed and it is God's love letter to us. It is our duty to know and remain faithful to God's word.