First Sunday of Lent — March 6, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

This weekend as we begin the season of Lent, the Church wants us to think again about the great fundamental facts about our religion. The Church wants us to reflect on the relationship between God and the people of the Old Testament, between God and his Son Jesus Christ, and between God and ourselves.

Jesus came as the new Israel, the chosen one of God. In his person he summed up the whole purpose and meaning of the chosen people, and fulfilled and completed all that they should have and more. Like the chosen people Jesus was led into the desert, and there spent, not only forty years, but forty days. There he underwent temptations similar to those of the Israelites. The devil tempted Jesus to be selfish. The devil was trying to get him to think only of himself, to use his power for his own convenience and comfort. The devil tempted Jesus to put God to the test, to have God prove his might and his power by saving Jesus from destruction in a leap from the parapet of the temple. The devil even tempted Jesus to idolatry by saying "Prostrate yourself in homage before me and the world shall be yours.

Yes, Jesus did undergo temptations similar to those of the Israelites in the desert, but where the Israelites had failed, Jesus was triumphant. Jesus showed that his relationship with his Father was based on loving obedience. The loving obedience indeed led Jesus to die on the Cross, but it was through that death that God exalted him and led him into the true promised land, the life of perfect happiness in heaven.

What with our relationship with God? We are the new chosen people of God. He wants to lead us into the promised land with Jesus, but for a while we must wander in the desert of this world. Here we too undergo temptations. We are enticed by the devil to be selfish, to think only of ourselves, our welfare our convenience. When our wants and wishes are not satisfied, we are tempted to put God to the test, to demand that he show his power and his might by healing the ills of our society and by solving our own personal problems. We are even tempted to turn from the true God to worship false gods, such as materialism, pleasure, expediency and laziness.

We will fall victim to these temptations if we forget all that God has already done for us and what he promises in the future. God has saved us in Jesus Christ, and as he raised Jesus from the dead and exalted him because of his loving obedience, so God will raise us and lift us up to heaven if we have the same loving obedience as Jesus. That is our faith, and it should be a motive to keep us from failing God.

Lest we become selfish and concerned only with ourselves, we should be more generous in works of charity. Lest we give in to temptation to put God to the test, to demand that he show his power, we should prepare with joy for the paschal feast, the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Finally, lest we become worshipers of modern false gods, we must be more fervent in prayer.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**March 8**	**11:00AM**
Tom Cummings †		Lena McCrossen
Wed.	**March 9**	**9:00AM, 6PM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**March 10**	**11:00AM**
Lisa & Robert (Anniversary)		Lena McCrossen
Fri.	**March 11**	**11:00AM**
C. Essex (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Sat.	**March 12**	**4:30PM**
Adrianne Ware †		Stella Noe
Sun.	**March 13**	**9:00AM**
John Bianchi †		Choir
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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