

1 Sunday Lent C 2016  
February 13-14  
Frazee/Callaway

Penitential Act  
(Chant Kyrie)

Announcements

Homily

Mary, Our Mother, we give ourselves totally to you as your possession and property. Please make of us, of all that we have and are, whatever most pleases you. Make us fit instruments, in your holy and immaculate hands, for bringing the greatest possible glory to God. Amen

God has a plan to get you from *here* to *heaven*. St. Paul put it like this, "...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." This is God's plan.

In the gospel reading we see so clearly that the Devil seeks to frustrate the divine plan. The Devil threw himself into the path of Jesus as he prepared for the beginning of his public ministry. Jesus was preparing to lay down his life for the world. He would offer himself to his father in obedience and humility. **At that very moment** the Devil offered him power and glory. The Devil sought to plant the seeds of doubt regarding the Father's power. Jesus would not be fooled or

deterred. He could see the empty promises of the evil one and he remained faithful to God's plan.

We know God's plan for us: to be saved. The Devil will always be true to himself, he will always hurl himself across the path of God's plan. God's plan unfolds for us each day in decision and thought, the action and inaction of our lives. As we begin this 40 day retreat it is good to remember that the devil seeks to frustrate our good plans, challenge our good intentions and discourage our resolve. The Devil will challenge us every time we choose to keep ourselves on God's path, in God's plan.

I remember last year about this time I was preparing to leave on a retreat. As the dates approached I was swamped with work. Every day for two weeks I seriously considered cancelling. By a minor miracle I got myself to the airport on the day of departure and the flight was delayed. I thought again about cancelling. I got to Chicago and my connecting flight was cancelled—twice. Each time I was tempted to rebook for home. I arrived at the retreat center with no luggage and a bad attitude. The Devil picked away at my good plans, my good intentions and my resolve to make it happen. It is horrible to live with harassment and temptation. I always forget to expect this.

What happened to Jesus in the desert happens to us every day and will happen again to us this Lent. Remain firm in your resolve and keep your good intentions.

It happens that we fail. Many of us slip up the first week of Lent. We sin. We forget to abstain from meat. We forgot to

fast on Ash Wednesday. We crack open a Coke when we have given up pop and then we don't want to waste it. The devil wants these little failures to become big discouragements. Do not be discouraged. Our God is a God of second chances, of forgiveness, mercy and love. Start again. Start again as many times as you need to.

By our good works and every time we avoid sin we are making present and tangible our profession of faith: our belief that Jesus Christ is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. Jesus Christ has overturned the snares of the ancient serpent! Jesus has won the victory for us.

Confess that Jesus is Lord.

Believe in his resurrection.

Let him save you.

#### General Intercessions

**Presider:** As we lift up these prayers, let us remember all those in need.

**Presider:** Lord our God, you protect those who put their trust in you, hear the prayers we make in faith, through Christ our Lord.

#### Sending