



Sons of Saint Joseph tm

ST. THERESA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
5301 MAIN STREET TRUMBULL, CT 06611
www.sonsofsaintjoseph.org

3 – SOSJ- The initiated Jesus: Temptation Saturday, July 20, 2024

MT 3: 4-11

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Questions

1. Why are we tempted? What are the most important ways in which to prepare for temptation? Why would God undergo baptism, and why would my life get more challenging after committing myself more to God?
2. Why would we have to guard against not only our weaknesses but also our strengths, in terms of temptations? How can the devil tempt us with our strength?
3. Why would bread be an evil temptation if you are hungry? Jesus was finished with His fasting... Why is appetite be an important word here for those who are serious about the spiritual life?
4. The devil quotes scripture to tempt; when has scripture been used to justify sin in our world? In our own lives, when have we used something from scripture to justify avoiding God?