

## Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. What is a desert? It is a dry, desolate place open to the elements where one is exceedingly vulnerable. Or the desert may be a quiet place where one can let the pressures of everyday life fall away, allowing a peaceful interlude.

How does the devil enter into our desert? Certainly he comes well-prepared to find our weakest, most unprotected self. Perhaps it is hunger for excessive food or drink. Maybe it is the attitude that we can "do it all" without needing God. Or, it might be power; we may enjoy intimidating the weak among us.

Jesus knew his tempter. He had fasted and prayed for 40 days. He was ready to be confronted. The lesson for us is that we, too, must prepare ourselves to engage with the many temptations we encounter in today's world. We are surrounded by a wealth of material goods – the television, computers, iPods, cell phones, videos, magazines, newspapers, cars, shopping malls, not-so-good friends – you can add to the list, but all have the potential to serve us well or to become the obstacle that draws us into the paralyzing "everyone-does-it" trap.

How do we keep our balance in this environment? The balance between the material options and peace in our heart is achieved by being attentive to the whisper of the Spirit. In the quiet of our "inner room" we ask God to create in us "a clean heart" (Psalm 51:12).

When Jesus went into the desert, he prayed for 40 days; he did not face the devil unprepared. He listened in his heart to the promptings of the Spirit. During Lent we are given 40 days in which to prepare ourselves. We must look into our hearts to search out the obstacles which might prevent us from listening to the divine voice. *Eileen Prendergast and Jean McKenna*

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Matthew 4:1-11*

W X P M T E M P T E D K R  
B O F F I C P F B A P I J  
U S R R F N X D V B K N N  
F T R S S E I N T Q G G V  
H O D V H C F S D Q N D C  
T N E T T I R W T A H O T  
A E H W Y F P N T E M M R  
O S P W S I T A D M R S O  
Z D Y A N N S R A H Y C P  
Q O S D R G O N E W Y T P  
S L E G N A D I R S Y Q U  
A S K T J M P O B L E E S  
P R O S T R A T E Q J D I

**Find these words from the Gospel passage.**

ANGELS	BREAD	COMMAND
DESERT	KINGDOMS	MAGNIFICENCE
MINISTER	PARAPET	PROSTRATE
SATAN	STONES	SUPPORT
TEMPTED	WORSHIP	WRITTEN

## Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*First Sunday of Lent  
2/10/08*

*Matthew 4:1-11  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

435 Berkeley Ave.  
Claremont, CA  
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## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

## The Word of God: *Matthew 4:1-11*

### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

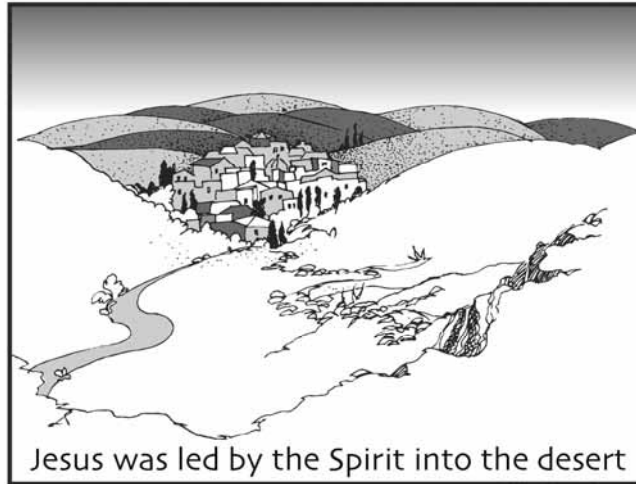
At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply "**It is written:** *One does not live on bread alone but on 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 upon 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.

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***



Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert

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### **Gospel Glossary**

**it is written:** Jesus answers each of the Devil's temptations with a quote from the Book of Deuteronomy.

**the holy city:** Jerusalem

**parapet:** a low protective wall

**prostrate:** to lie face down in a gesture of worship or submission

**ministered:** cared for or supported

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- God calls us individually to be touched by his Word. When during my day will I set aside time to sit quietly and listen to the Lord?
- What are the obstacles in my "desert" that keep me from listening to the divine voice?
- Lent is the time for renewal. How can I open my heart to allow the pain of my offenses to lead me to God's reconciling love?

## Closing Prayer

*Lord our God,  
In this time of repentance, we  
call out for your mercy. Bring us  
back to you and to the life your  
Son won for us by his death on  
the cross, for he lives and reigns  
for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

**First Sunday in Lent**