

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Two temptations: one in the Garden of Eden and one in the desert with different outcomes.

One temptation of our earthly parents, Adam and Eve. The other of Jesus, our spiritual source of the gift of Sanctifying Grace. The Man who gives us new life and whose light guides us on our road back to our Heavenly Father.

Two very different results by the same CUNNING serpent the devil.

The same temptations: 1.) **greed** 2.) **vainglory /pride** 3.) **avarice / extreme greed**

*** The cunning serpent tells Eve that if she eats from the fruit that her eyes will be opened.

If she eats from the fruit she will be as a god.

If she eats of the fruit gain knowledge of good and evil

*** With Jesus, the cunning devil took a different tact.

The devil wants Jesus to prove that He is the Son of God which was displayed at His Baptism.

He quoted Scripture. And Jesus answered the devil with Scripture.

Turn the stones into bread. MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.

Throw yourself down from the mountain and God will catch you.

YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD GOD.

You can have the whole world if you fall down and worship me.

YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND HIM ALONE

“What good is it if one gains the whole world but loses his soul?”

So, the first temptation resulted in judgement and condemnation; but Jesus brought about the precious gift of acquittal. Because Jesus paid the price, that our fathers were not able to pay, we received total forgiveness of our sins. All we have to do is admit our sinfulness, make amends, confess our sins to the priest and receive absolution. Absolution is a formal release from guilt or punishment.

Our sins no longer exist.

We are allowed to walk in freedom of conscience. Free to be at peace.

But most of all free to forgive others which a great thing to do during Lent. Pick a relative or a friend

co-worker that you are estranged from and reestablish a relationship with them. Pray before you approach them and see if you can learn something about them that you can appreciate. Then God will know you as **a mender of the breach.**