



"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026

TRUST, OBEDIENCE AND GRACE

Mighty to Save

Lent begins not with triumph, but with testing. It does not begin with certainty, but with vulnerability. And yet we pray to discover that God is "mighty to save."

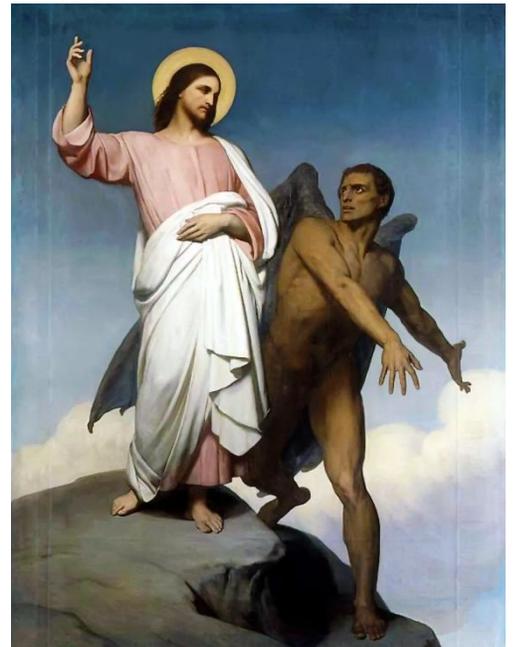
In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness. That detail matters. The wilderness is not an accident; it is part of the journey. Jesus is tempted in three fundamental ways: to turn stones into bread, to throw Himself down for spectacle and divine protection, and to grasp power over the kingdoms of the world. In each case, the temptation is not simply to do something "bad," but to define His identity apart from trusting obedience to the Father.

The story from Book of Genesis echoes this pattern. The first humans are not tempted with obvious evil. They are tempted with a distortion: "You will be like God." The serpent plants the suspicion that perhaps God is withholding something good. Temptation begins when trust is eroded. The fruit is attractive; the logic seems plausible. The deeper issue is not hunger or curiosity, but the desire to secure life on our own terms.

St. Paul, writing in his Epistle to the Romans, frames this drama in sweeping terms: through one man's disobedience many were made sinners; through one man's obedience many will be made righteous. Lent reminds us that temptation is not a minor moral inconvenience. It is woven into the human story. And yet grace is greater still.

So what is a true understanding of temptation?

First, temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted and yet did not sin. To be tempted is to be human. We are "assaulted by many temptations," as the Collect for this Sunday says, not because we are uniquely weak, but because we live in a fractured world. In our time, temptations often come dressed in respectable clothing: relentless consumerism, the illusion of self-sufficiency, the craving for attention and validation, the quiet despair that whispers nothing will ever change. We are tempted to reduce life to comfort, faith to private opinion, and neighbor to competitor.



Second, temptation often appeals to something good but twists it. Bread is good. Safety is good. Influence can be good. But when these become ultimate, when they replace trust in God, they enslave rather than free. In a culture that prizes autonomy and control, we are tempted daily to believe we can save ourselves: through technology, through ideology, through accumulation, through denial of our limits.

This is why the Collect's plea is so urgent: "Come quickly to help us." Lent is not a season of heroic self-improvement. It is a season of honest dependence. God "knows the weaknesses of each of us." That line is profoundly personal. Our temptations are not generic; they touch our particular histories, fears, and longings. And yet the promise is equally personal: "let each one find you mighty to save."

In Christ's obedience, we see what humanity was meant to be. Where Adam grasped, Jesus trusted. Where suspicion poisoned, obedience healed. Where sin spread, grace abounded all the more. God's saving power is not abstract. It is embodied in a Son who entered our vulnerability and remained faithful.

As we begin Lent, perhaps the most faithful response is not to make grand promises, but to practice small, steady trust. Fasting may reveal our attachments. Prayer may uncover our restlessness. Almsgiving may loosen our grip on what we thought we needed. These are not ends in themselves; they are ways of clearing space to discover again that God is indeed "mighty to save."

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7 + Romans 5:12-19 + Matthew 4:1-11
+ Psalm 32:1-8

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10:00 AM. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY **February 22nd, 2026** **The First Sunday in Lent**

10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5 - 12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

Christian Formation for Adults (the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Youth and adults around Noon after the Mass in the Library

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

www.allsaintschurch.org

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