



Our Parish COMMUNITY

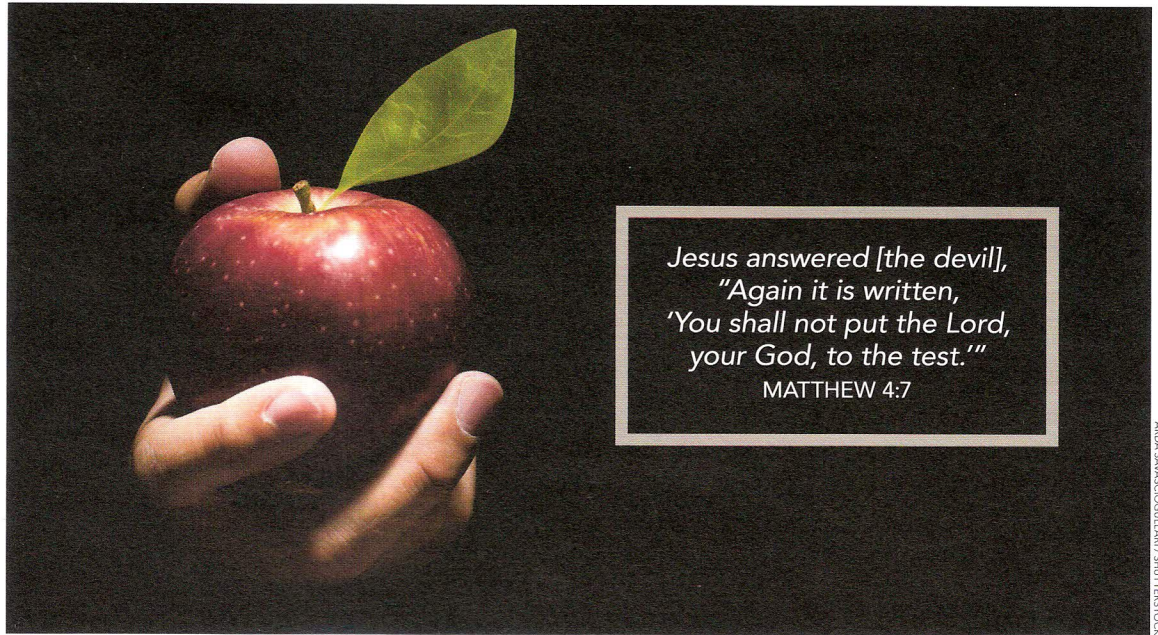
March 1, 2020

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19

Mt 4:1-11



Jesus answered [the devil],
"Again it is written,
'You shall not put the Lord,
your God, to the test.'"
MATTHEW 4:7

ARDA SVASCOGULLARI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Try It! You'll Like It!

If only temptation was obvious, we might have a better chance of avoiding it. But sometimes it's so subtle. It often disguises itself as something rather attractive. This is precisely what happened in the Garden of Eden. Scripture says temptation takes on a living form—a serpent that convinces the woman that the fruit of the wisdom tree will make them "like gods, who know good and evil" (Genesis 3:5).

Who wouldn't jump at such a possibility? Actually, who hasn't already fallen into that trap—acting as if we are God, thinking we know everything or wishing to be in complete control? Our faith certainly encourages us to become more and more like God. What made that desire wrong was the way Adam and Eve sought to become like gods in their own way, not God's way.

The Gospel passage tells us that Jesus also was tempted. Who doubts that Jesus wanted to be successful in his ministry? But what would he do to ensure success? Would he use divine power to attract a following? No! Would he call upon God to protect him from misunderstanding, rejection, even physical harm? No! Would he bargain with the devil, who obviously exercised power over many people? No! That was not the way he would be the Messiah. Unlike the couple in the Garden, Jesus recognized what was wrong even when it was disguised as something good. How good are we at recognizing temptation in our lives?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *In what ways does temptation sometimes trick you?*
- ★ *What can you do so you won't be tricked?*

