

## St. Louis Catholic Church

### 1st Sunday of Lent

If it looks good and if it tastes good it's probably bad in some way. You know the saying, "it's too good to be true". Temptations confront us every day of our lives. We are always faced with a choice between good and bad, truth and lies, light and darkness, death and life. Adam and Eve remind us today that the lure to do or say something contrary to our nature and calling is as old as the beginning of times.

Christ the new Adam also faced temptations in His life especially in the wilderness as He fasted and prayed. Adam and Eve were enticed by Satan to become like unto God. That made sense to them. Why not? Their choice to do it "their way" led to alienation from God, themselves and one another. As we look farther in the book of Genesis we find Adam and Eve hiding from God, ashamed of their nakedness and blaming one another for their sin. Their choice to eat fruit from a certain tree led to death, sin and suffering for the entire human race.

The new Adam had choices also. Feed the crowd, dazzle the crowd and gain power. Not bad. Christ could take care of needs that were imminent, He could draw crowds and use power for good things for His people. Led by the Spirit in the desert, He fasted and prayed. When tempted He discerned, "is this right, of God, and what I am supposed to do"? He knew that He came into this world for more. He said no. By His right choices He soon would reverse the consequences of the old Adam.

Reflect for a moment how the new Adam and the new Eve, Jesus and Mary, are faced with another enticing tree. Yes, the tree of Calvary. Jesus chose the hard decision to be put on that tree--victim and SINLESS--to reconcile, redeem and save us all. Reflect on who is at the base of the tree. It is the new Eve and she points to the fruit of that tree--the Body and Blood of Jesus. Eat this fruit and you will live. Christ had said "He who eats of my flesh and drinks my Blood will live forever.

Good reason to choose to go to Mass every Sunday if not daily! It is that food or fruit that helps us make the right and best choices when we are tempted. What are our temptations? Anger? Addictions? Selfishness? Lack of prayer? Laziness? Pornography? Immoral lifestyle? Pride? Greed? Unforgiving? We are human and they comfort us all.

Lent is the Acceptable Time. Begin each day as Christ began His 40 days. Pray the Spirit leads us to choose God's way. It is harder sometimes but it is personally fulfilling. Instead of the song "My Way" we are called to sing "I Did It God's Way". If it looks good, tastes good, sounds good, then think twice, but more importantly, pray THRICE.

God Bless,  
Msgr. John McArthur