

CHUTZPAH ... THE NERVE!

This Sunday's Gospel account from the Gospel of St. Luke really gives us an insight into the devil or Satan as he is also known.

Jesus is Baptized by John in the Jordan river, and the Holy Spirit comes upon Him in the form of a Dove. God the Father speaks about how Jesus is His Beloved Son in Whom He is well-pleased. Pretty powerful, right? Then the Spirit leads Jesus out into the desert to fast and pray for forty days. In some ways the harsh desert and demanding fasting weakens Jesus a bit.

"Aha! Here's my chance", thinks the devil. So he goes after Jesus at least three times playing on the human weakness. Hunger, pride, taking the easy way out are very tempting. After all, who really wants to be working and preaching for three years only to be betrayed by one of His closest friends, misunderstood and rejected by the religious leader of the times, and finally made to suffer in a most excruciating manner resulting in his painful death? The devil is smart and uses every trick in his bag of misery at the end of the long period of prayer and fasting. And Luke tells us that Satan is not finished---he will return to try Jesus and tempt Him again. Doesn't seem like Satan is hesitating to go after the Son of God Himself. Pretty cheeky, right?

So if Satan goes so far as to harass Jesus, don't you think that he might attack you at whatever point of weakness you have? Use this wonderful period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that we call Lent, to strengthen yourself against the attacks of the devil. Call upon St. Michael and the other angels to protect and help you during this, your own forty days.

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