

# MARCH 7, 2025



The Art of War is an ancient Chinese military treatise dating from the 5th century BC). The work, which is attributed to the ancient Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu is required reading for any officer responsible for those enlisted soldiers in combat. One very important warning is to know your enemy well before going to battle. Every First Sunday of we hear of the Temptation of Jesus by Satan while fasting and praying in the desert for 40 days. We would do well to know our Enemy the Devil and the different strategies employed to lead us astray. Here are 5 Strategies employed to lead us from the light of God's Grace to the darkness which is sin.

- ♦ **DISTRACTION**. It is likely there has never been so many ways we can become distracted from keeping our relationship with God a priority. Games, hobbies, internet, binge watching streaming services, porn, and more. Distractions can become more of a priority than God.
- ♦ **DECEPTION** is something the Devil excels at. This is why he is sometimes called the Prince of Lies. "It's not really a sin." "You deserve it." "Just one time won't matter." Sundays gospel tells us the Devil can even quote scripture Satan will try anything to separate us from Christ.
- ♦ **DISCOURAGEMENT** can come upon us suddenly and even surprise us. Not too long after his greatest triumph, the Prophet Elijah became so disheartened that he wished he was dead. We be discouraged by what people say about about or to to us. It is easy to lose hart when we find ourselves repeatedly give into the same sin.
- ♦ **DISCONTENTMENT** arises from the thought or feeling that your life is less than it could be especially in comparison to what others may have or be in their lives. It could be family, job, house, standing in a church, or community. In doing so, we fail to count, appreciate, and give thanks for the blessings we do have.
- ♦ **DIVISION** is something Satan wants to create in every church no matter how large or small it may be. This problem developed soon in the Church as the Letters of Saint Paul and the Acts of the Apostles make clear. "I urge you in the name of Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose." (1 Cor. 1:10)

Seeking God's help when being tempted is the best way to overcome the snares of traps Satan sets for us. "*Though I walk through the valley of death. . .*" (Psalm 23)

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523

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Parish website

Faith in West Virginia

This Sunday's Readings

Wednesday Bible Handout

<https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/march-12-2025/?wpdmdl=2260&refresh=67cb4538b16921741374776>

This Sunday's Bulletin

<https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/march-9-2025-3/?wpdmdl=2263&refresh=67cb4538a0e451741374776>

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<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/030925.cfm>

[https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/march-12-2025-3/?wpdmdl=2263&refresh=67cb4538a0e451741374776](https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/march-12-2025/?wpdmdl=2260&refresh=67cb4538b16921741374776)

<https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/march-9-2025-3/?wpdmdl=2263&refresh=67cb4538a0e451741374776>

## Live, Local, and Late-breaking

Please note: Saturday afternoon March 8 at 3:45 pm in the Parish Hall. **TRUMP, WOMEN RELIGIOUS, the POPE, and YOU** is the title of a panel discussion about two statements from the Leadership of Catholic Women Religious and Pope Francis. Each panelist will make a statement. There will be time for questions, comments, suggestions, and what we hope will be civil discourse.

**SATURDAY MASS** now begins at 5:00 pm.

### **Prayer for Lent: Letting Go**

O God, help us to use this season of Lent  
to examine our attachments,  
and to sense where You invite us  
to live more simply and deeply.

Shine the light of Your love  
into the private corners of our lives  
where we have acquired so much clutter  
that it has begun to restrict our freedom.

Grant us the strength to free ourselves  
from appetites and needs that drive us  
into taking, having and wanting  
more than we need or have time for.

Teach us that in letting go  
we become free, rather than deprived,  
generous rather than covetous,  
and spacious rather than restricted.

We offer You our Lenten observance,  
and today we place our feet  
on the road to Easter, and walk  
the Way that You have walked before us. **Amen.**

~ written by Ann Siddall and posted on the **Stillpoint Spirituality Centre** website.

### **POEM**

Take up your cross and follow Jesus,  
and you will inherit everlasting life. There is no other way to life  
and to true inward peace  
than the way and discipline of the cross.  
Go where you will, seek what you want,  
you will not find a higher way,

nor a less exalted but safer way,  
than the way of the cross.

Arrange and order everything to  
suit your desires and you will still  
have to bear some kind of suffering,  
willingly or unwillingly.

— Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471)

### **MYSTIC MORSELS**

God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.

— Pope Francis

Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven.

— Saint Catherine of Sienna

### **CARBONATED GRACE**

There was a man who was overweight and he decided that he had some excess pounds to lose. He was very diligent and stuck to his diet very strictly. He even had a new route to work so that he wouldn't drive by his favorite bakery in the morning. However, one day, he came into work with a big coffee cake. His coworkers started to scorn him and he said that he could explain. He said "you see I "accidentally" drove past my favorite bakery today and I saw all these delicious coffee cakes out on the display case. So I prayed. I prayed to God and said, 'if you really think I should have this delicious coffee cake, have an open parking spot right in front of the bakery.' And sure enough there was one on my 8th time around!"