

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, March 8, 2020

TEMPTED II



Last Sunday in the readings we heard how the devil who successfully tempted the man and woman in the garden but failed with Jesus, continues to try and seduce humanity today.

The devil can entice us with our smartphones. He can lead us to believe that constantly looking at our phone is more important than paying attention to the people God has placed in our lives, even more important than spending time with the Lord. Rather than looking up in prayer to God, we end up looking down at the flickering screen in our hand.

The devil can enthrall us with the cult of celebrity. He can make us want to be seen as an influencer in the world of social media. He can make us think that we find meaning in life not by following the Gospel but in collecting digital followers.

The devil can beguile us with non-stop entertainment available through television, radio, podcasts, video games, the internet, cable and streaming services - diversions that are as close as our smartphone or tablet. That never-ending entertainment overcomes the silence we need to hear the gentle voice of God.

The devil can trick us into thinking that drugs, alcohol, gambling, casual sex, power, and fulfilling our every desire is the way to happiness rather than living the way revealed by Jesus.

This Lent is the time for us to become more aware of the devil's enticements so that like Jesus we too can say, "Get away, Satan!"

Father John Carlos