

HOLY MASSES

at Our Lady of the Skies Chapel

Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 PM *in Honor of Our Lady of the Skies*

Sunday, February 21 at 1:00 PM *for Domenic and Fanny Santopietro*

Tuesday, February 23 at 12:15 PM

Wednesday, February 24 at 12:15 PM

Thursday, February 25 at 12:15 PM

Friday, February 26 at 12:15 PM

Saturday, February 27 at 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 28 at 1:00 PM

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

the following sick:

Sue McCormick

Maureen Ramazzotti

Anthony DiBenedetto

Yolan DePhillips

Maureen Devine

Walter McNally

Barbara Paredes

Louise Cirillo

Lindsey Jefferies

Linda Cavello

Mike O'Sullivan

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

the following deceased:

Maureen Doyle

Anthony D'Amato

Rev. Rinaldo Borzaga

Please let us know about anybody who needs prayerful attention by calling our office at (718) 656-5348 sending us an email at jfkchapel@gmail.com.

You can schedule confessions, spiritual direction, busy person's retreats (one-on-one), blessings or inquire help in any sacramental issues by contacting our Fr. Chris. Call the office and let us make it happen...

LENTEN DAILY MEDITATIONS

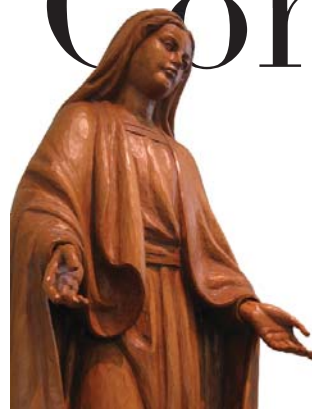
based on lectionary readings

available at www.jfkchapel.org

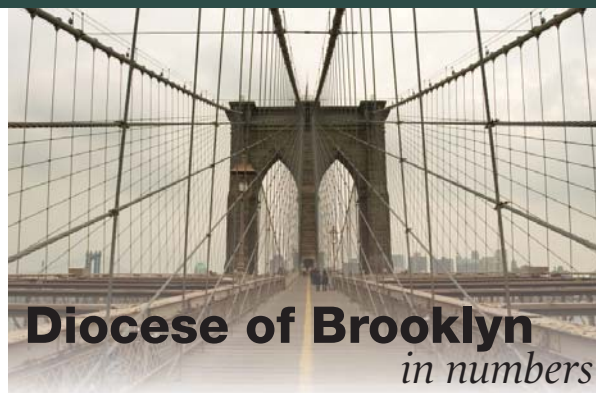


OUR LADY OF THE SKIES CHAPEL Connections

WWW.JFKCHAPEL.ORG



FEBRUARY 21, 2010 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Diocese of Brooklyn *in numbers*

Estimated number of registered households: **221,712**

Number of parishes: **197**

Countries we come from: **167**

Number of languages Mass is offered every week: **27**

Diocesan and religious order priests active in the diocese: **700**

Number of seminarians studying at the college level: **48**

Possible seminarians to be ordained priests on 2010: **3**

Religious brothers and sisters providing ministry in the diocese: **1,364**

Estimated number of individuals serviced by Catholic Charities: **100,000**

High schools, private: **21**

Elementary schools: **104**

Students educated in Catholic schools: **49,000**

Airport chapels: **1**

Chapel Hours
6 AM-10 PM

Phone: (718) 656-5348
Fax: (718) 656-8162
www.jfkchapel.org

John F. Kennedy Airport
Terminal 4 | Suite 461-037
Jamaica, NY 11430

THE word

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, *One does not live on bread alone.*" Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, "I shall give to you all this power and glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: *You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.*" Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,* and: *With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*" Jesus said to him in reply, "It also says, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

LUKE 4:1-13



the power
of temptations

SOMETHING TO sit WITH

The first Sunday of Lent is greeting us in rather harsh way, by taking us along with Jesus to the desert. The gospel story seems to be full of mystery and questions: how



do we know what happened in the middle of nowhere? Did Jesus tell his apostles about it? Why did He do that? And if He did, how did He speak about it: as a precaution, or maybe to show the disciples how weak they can be, or how powerfully the devil can mislead even their best intentions?

In the Old Testament, and in Jewish tradition for that matter, fidelity to God was proven exactly in the midst of testing. Biblically speaking, Jesus is following that tradition proving to His Father and subsequently to us about His messianic dignity, role and strength against the devil.

Although we read about three temptations of Jesus, we also notice that the devil begins two of them in a similar way: *if you are the Son of God...* What does it mean? Why the

devil constructed his questions in this fashion? Did he doubt who Jesus was, or he wanted to accomplish something completely different?

I think that the devil wanted to plant some new thoughts in Jesus' mind as to His dignity, mission and power, not in a sense of a doubt, but quite opposite, to misuse or abuse His attributes. If Jesus was as weak as we are, He could quite easily abuse the enormous power and dignity attributed to Him. By doing so Jesus would become hypocritical and thus He would create an enemy within Himself.

That's Jesus, and what about us? Our dignity, aspiration, mission and power are nowhere near Jesus', although we can abuse power very effectively. Such practice has become an integral part of human history until this day in all aspects of life.

There more to it, though: *if you are a son/daughter of God* seems to be a slogan in many of our temptations. So many times we are making mistakes and committing sins simply because we are forgetting about our own dignity as creatures of God's love. By lowering our spiritual self-esteem, the devil wants to turn our attention from who we are in God in point it out towards something else, which in every sense of the word means only one thing: a desert.