

**There is a story of a woman shopping for a new dress, who found the most stunning one she had ever seen. But it was outrageously expensive--\$900. Despite the mortgage and overdue household bills, she just had to have it and so she bought it with her credit card.**

**That evening she modeled the dress for her husband, who asked her how much it cost. When she told him, he leaped out of his chair and exclaimed: “how could you? You know we’re skimping to pay the mortgage and other bills!” She explained that she was tempted beyond her ability to resist. Her husband replied: “when you’re tempted, tell the devil to get behind you.” “I did,” she answered, “and then he whispered in my ear and said: “it looks great from the back too!”**

**Temptation afflicts all of us and the devil knows our weaknesses and uses all his tricks, just as he did as we heard in two of our readings from the Scriptures for this Mass on this first Sunday of Lent.**

**This season is a call to recognize our weaknesses and faults and to combat the temptations to evil in our lives. We are not alone for we have the example of the Lord Jesus and his grace to assist us.**

**Sin entered into human history at the very outset of creation. The first reading from the Book of Genesis, tells us how God created the first humans and cared for them with love, providing for their every need. God gave to Adam and Eve only one commandment, which he expected them to obey.**

**Succumbing to the temptation of the Devil, disguised as a serpent, they disobeyed and sinned and lost their innocence and privileges. This original sin has been passed down through as a sort of a spiritual congenital defect of the human race. It manifests itself as a self-centered inclination to be attracted to what immediately gratifies us, no matter if it is right or wrong.**

**It may be a temptation to harshly criticize or abuse our authority over others, or to lie to cover up mistakes, or to cheat in business dealings, or overindulge in food or drink. It may be a temptation to shirk our responsibilities at home or work or our religious duties.**

**Today’s Gospel tells us about Jesus’ temptations which he faced before beginning his public ministry. He was tempted in a similar way that Adam and Eve**

**and all of us are. In his human nature he could have succumbed.**

**To each of the three temptations, Jesus relies on God's Word of Scripture to repel his tempter. The Scriptures are indeed a powerful weapon to overcome temptations and to assure us of God's loving care. God will provide for our needs for hunger, both physical and spiritual. He will protect us from everlasting dangers. He alone is to be worshipped.**

**In the second reading, Saint Paul contrasts the sin of Adam and Eve, which brought death to humanity, with the grace of redemption and eternal life won for us by Jesus by his death and resurrection. Jesus is the new and triumphant Adam.**

**Like Adam and Eve and Jesus, we are also tempted in many similar ways to disobey God and to seek to satisfy our often selfish and sinful desires. Lent is an opportune season to confront these temptations. The traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and charity can and do help us to defeat temptation and sin, no matter how enticing they may be.**

**Jesus is indeed our Savior! May he continue to save us from sin which leads to spiritual death and to save us for eternal life and happiness.**