

Last week we saw that we are anointed at our baptism for combat

This week, we follow our leader into combat

Every year we begin our Lenten journey with these readings

They point out very important things for us

**First, in our reading from Deuteronomy, we have an overview of
salvation history**

**Salvation history is how we look at human history from God's
point of view**

We re-live this again from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday

Today Moses reminds them of when Joseph went to Egypt

How the Israelite nation was placed in slavery

How they grew into a great, numerous nation

How God heard their cry

He sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt

Into the Promised Land

A land flowing with milk and honey

They are to come to the sanctuary of the Lord to worship

To commemorate these events in their history

For the Israelite community

Remembering these things was central to their worship

It is important for us as well

At each Mass, we recall the words of Christ

Do this in remembrance of me

If we forget where we have been

We will not be able to find our way forward

We forget what God has done for us

If we forget what we have experienced as God's people

We run the risk of repeating our mistakes

We have a prime example of this from only a few years ago

Right after 9/11

What happened across this nation?

The churches were packed

Even in Mexico, where I happened to be, the churches were filled

What happened?

In a matter of months, we were back to where we were

We forget so quickly

We forget our saints

We forget our councils in the Church

We forget our history

We lose touch with our ancestors

We think we have to forge our own way

I think this is a big reason we lose so many of our young people today

We don't know who we are

**And we have lost our connection to the past
This is why the Mass is so important
To remember salvation history
To see how God's finger touched people from Adam and Eve
To Abraham, Noah, Moses, King David
To Joseph and Mary, to all the saints right down to our own day
God remembers us in a very special way
How many of you remember your birthday?
You may know your birthday, but none of us remembers it
But our parents do
Especially our moms
My mom could describe the day each of her children were born
Down to the smallest detail
And I would bet it is the same for all moms here
You remember, you don't just recall
God remembers each of his children in an even deeper way
And he desires that we remember what he has done for us in the
same way
When we remember in this way
We bring it alive again
We bring it into the present
And that is what we do at every Mass**

We remember Christ's passion, death and resurrection

Making it present and real in our lives

The presence of Christ in our lives is more real even than sin

In our Gospel, Christ is faced with three temptations

The same three that we face

Lust of the flesh

The physical lust that affects all of us to one degree or another

Food, sex, power, drugs, comfort

These and more are desires for creature comforts

Lust of the eyes

The desire of greed or avarice

The unquenchable thirst to gain or hoard wealth

Pride of life

Sinful pride that we all experience

These three were the cause of Eve's fall

She saw the apple was good and pleasing to the eye

She desired to be wise

In her pride she desired to be like God

The same three temptations Christ faced

Lust of the flesh

You are hungry

Look at these rocks

Turn them to bread

Eat, enjoy after your time in the wilderness

Lust of the eyes

Look at the glory of the world

You can have it all

Just bow to me

Pride

Let's go to the most public of all places in Jerusalem

To the Temple

Then we will go to the top of the tower

Where everyone can see you

And throw yourself off

Everyone will see you are not hurt

They will see with their own eyes God protects you

You will be famous and all Jerusalem will praise you

How does Jesus respond?

By not relying on his own resources

By not following Eve's example of entering into a discussion with

Satan

Jesus simply turns to Sacred Scripture

He remembers God's word

One does not live on bread alone

You shall worship the Lord, your God

And him alone shall you serve

You shall not put the Lord your God to the test

**Remembering these things, we too enter into the spiritual battle of
lent**

**Our weapons of prayer, fasting and almsgiving open our souls to
God's grace**

**So we can be his soldiers in the battlefields of life
In our schools, our workplaces, in our homes, even in our church**

Wherever we encounter Satan's attacks

In whatever form they may take on

Anointed for combat

Following the example of our general

We may be injured

We may be rejected, we may be scorned

But with him, we will be victorious on Easter morning