

**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**