



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

First Sunday of Lent

March 9, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“Pilgrims of Hope in the Lenten Season”

Ash Wednesday gently ushers us into the serene Season of Lent, a sacred time bestowed upon us to reflect on God's boundless goodness, kindness, and mercy. This divine goodness springs from the profound sacrifices Jesus endured for our sake, paving the way for us to savor the gift of salvation through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are reminded that life cannot be without temptations. Jesus Himself faced the devil's allurements to satisfy His hunger, to gain power and glory, and to seek comfort and security. Though He could have easily succumbed, He chose not to, knowing that these seemingly delightful temptations could lead to the triumph of evil over goodness. By resisting these enticements, Jesus made a significant sacrifice, foregoing satisfaction, power, prestige, comfort, and security.

Jesus' temptation reveals a clear reality: people are tempted. The allure of temptation is often beautiful and enticing, seemingly capable of providing the happiness and comfort we long for. Temptations offer an easier path—stealing to avoid toil, neglecting the poor to hoard resources for personal pleasure, being unfaithful for momentary thrills, and lying to escape difficult situations. However, does yielding to these temptations bring true peace of mind or lasting joy? It does not.

During this Lenten journey, we are called to confront our true selves and address the changes needed in our lives. We are invited to delve deeper into our hearts and minds, redirecting our paths to live in grace rather than sin. Though temptations are real, we are also capable of turning away from them, as Jesus demonstrated. He is our strength, enabling us to overcome the devil's enticements and triumphantly live in peace and joy through Him.

This year, the message of the Jubilee Year of Hope further enriches our Lenten reflections. Pope Francis has called us to be "pilgrims of hope," emphasizing that hope and kindness touch the very heart of the Gospel. The Jubilee Year invites us to embrace God's love, mercy, and compassion, even amidst the challenges and temptations we face. It is a time of grace, mercy, and reconciliation, encouraging us to open our hearts to the hope found in Christ, who is the Light of the world.

As we journey through Lent, let us remember that the door of God's heart is always open. The Jubilee Year of Hope reminds us that we can always return to Him, seeking His forgiveness and love. By embracing this message, we can find the strength to overcome temptations and live in the peace and joy that Jesus offers.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual