



*“For God formed man to be imperishable;  
the image of his own nature he made him.  
But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world,  
and they who belong to his company experience it.”  
(Wisdom 2:23-24)*

These closing lines of the first reading this week give us a summary of God’s creation of Man, and our subsequent fall. In the book of Genesis, we hear how God created Adam and Eve in his own image. What this means is that we are made to be like Him, to participate in His goodness so that we can love Him perfectly. God wants us to be “imperishable” and to last eternally. This is why we have an immortal soul, so that we can continue to live on after our life on earth has ended.

But death has entered the world through sin. The reading specifically points to “the envy of the devil” as the cause of death in our world. This does not mean that Satan has such power over creation that he can create something like death, for only God can truly create. But Satan, and all the angels, had a choice. They could choose to follow God, or to try and follow their own path. Satan, and the angels who followed him, chose to reject God. Out of pride for themselves, and envy at seeing God’s plans for humanity, they left God.

In our own lives today, we are faced with the same choice, just spread out over time. While the angels only needed a moment to choose, we take a lifetime to choose between good and evil. Fortunately, this means that we have countless opportunities to turn to Christ: asking Him to guide us, following Him in our lives, and asking Him for forgiveness for the times when we did not follow Him. Through Christ’s infinite mercy, and the graces He won for us on the cross, we can always turn back to Him. God is always waiting for us, not so that He can condemn us for our sins, but so that He can offer us forgiveness. We were made in “the image of His own nature” to be together with God. Let us turn to Him each day, asking for mercy and forgiveness for the times we have sinned, and for guidance to follow His commands, to love Him with our whole being, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.