

# ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DECEMBER 9, 2007 - ADVENT II - WITHIN THE OCTAVE

Today is the Second Sunday in Advent. The **Legion of Decency Pledge** will take place at all Masses.

Early **Advent Vespers** are sung at **1:10 PM** with Benediction.



### ALTER CHRISTUS

Many thanks to those who contributed to the "little church" last Sunday. The **Alter Christus Confraternity** received \$200.00 for Masses to help support priests and their sanctification



### RAFFLE

Next Sunday, December 16th, is our **ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT CRAFT, BAKE SALE, AND RAFFLE**. Are your projects ready? Find a way to help, spread some cheer and enjoy this parish event.

Raffle tickets will be sold again today following all Masses.

All crafts and raffle prizes should be at the church by now. Baked goods may be delivered on Saturday, December 15th, for Sunday, December 16th.

### CHURCH DECORATING



This year, due to the craft, bake sale and raffle taking place on Sunday the 16th, and with Christmas near mid-week, we have decided to decorate the church a bit later than usual. Beginning **Monday, the 17th** and **Tuesday the 18th**, we would like **men** to come in the afternoon and/or evening to put up the "big" decorations (roping, wreaths, trees, lights, etc.) **Ladies**, we plan to do the "finishing" work from **Wednesday the 19th thru Saturday the 22nd**. We hope this will allow more of you to pick a time convenient for your busy schedule to come and help. If you can come, *please call* Katie 513-251-3895, Sister 513-703-1330 or the Church Office 513-645-4212. We *need to know*, and we *need your help!*



### POINSETTIA MEMORIAL

We are welcoming contributions to defray the cost of the

Christmas flowers. If you wish to make your donation in memory of a loved one, please fill out the special Poinsettia Offering envelope available in the vestibule and pews. *To have your loved one included in the special Christmas memorial program, please turn in your envelope no later than December 19th.*

### CHRISTMAS MASS NOVENA

Remember your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses which begin Christmas Day — the perfect gift! Envelopes may be found in the vestibule and the Gift Shop. Fill them out and return them to the Church Office or the collection basket. Envelopes must be turned in no later than December 19th.

### NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the Month. **CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS** will be heard *before and during* all Masses. Our special **Children's Christmas Collection** for: *Fr. Leslie's African Mission* will take place in church and in the catechism classrooms. The **Blessing of Expectant Mothers** follows all Masses. The **Christmas Craft, Bake Sale and Raffle** will be in Helfta Hall after all Masses.

**Vespers and Benediction** are at **4:45 PM**.

*Set your missal:* December 16th. **Third Sunday in Advent - Gaudete**, with the commemoration of St. Eusebius, BpM. **PREF:** Trinity.

DECEMBER 16, 2007

<b>8:30 AM</b>	John Wiesman, Kent Maki, Joe Andreotta, Tom Kamphaus
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Jim Gebel, Richard Smith, Dale Wilker, Bernie Brueggemann
<b>11:30 AM</b>	Bob Uhlenbrock, Kirby Bischel, Dennis Hille, Tim Carney
<b>5:45 PM</b>	John Seyfried

DECEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 16, 2007

<b>*MON 12/10</b>	5:00 PM Low: J. Bayer
<b>*TUE 12/11</b>	5:45 PM Low: G. Keaveney
<b>*WED 12/12</b>	6:30 AM Low: C. & T. Simpson, Jr. 5:00 PM Low: J. Bayer
<b>*THU 12/13</b>	5:00 PM Low: G. Keaveney
<b>*FRI 12/14</b>	5:45 PM Low & BENE: T. Simpson, Bayer, Ritze, Keaveney
<b>*SAT 12/15</b>	7:30 AM Low: C. & T. Simpson, Jr. 8:00 AM High: C. Ritze, J. Bayer
<b>*SUN 12/16</b>	7:30 AM Low: D. & S. Brueggemann 9:00 AM High: Chaplains: J. & A. Lotarski; AC: T. Simpson, Jr. & G. Wnek; TH: D. Poeppelman; TORCH: N. McClory, S. Richesson, P. Duff, B. Lotarski 11:30 AM Low: Brugger Brothers 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller 5:45 PM Low: G. Miller

### Collection Report

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2007 .....	\$4454.16
SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION .....	\$1341.00

*Thank you for your generosity!  
Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!*

# ✠ POETRY CORNER

## PATIENCE

By EDGAR A. GUEST

To him who waits all things will come,  
But patience is not sitting down  
Upon the curbstones of the town  
When skies are overcast and glum,  
Nor is it watching day by day,  
Indifferent to the tasks at hand,  
Content in idleness to stand  
Till something better comes your way.

The truly patient man is one  
Who, checked and hindered by the fates,  
Still bravely works the while he waits,  
And holding fast unto his dream  
Though halted now, still plays the man  
And does whatever task he can,  
However humble it may seem.

Day after day and week by week,  
Against the odds must patience fight,  
Clinging forever to the right.  
'Tis not a virtue, pale and meek,  
That merely sits beside the road  
And waits for luck to come along;  
But it's alive, alert and strong  
And bravely bears a heavy load!

## "ONLY WAITING."

(A very aged man in an almshouse was asked what he was doing now. He replied, "Only waiting.")

Only waiting till the shadows  
Are a little longer grown,  
Only waiting till the glimmer  
Of the day's last beam is flown;  
Till the night of earth is faded  
From the heart, once full of day;  
Till the stars of heaven are breaking  
Through the twilight soft and gray.

Only waiting till the reapers  
Have the last sheaf gathered home,  
For the summer time is faded,  
And the autumn winds have come.  
Quickly, reapers! gather quickly  
The last ripe hours of my heart,  
For the bloom of life is withered,  
And I hasten to depart.

Only waiting till the angels  
Open wide the mystic gate,  
At whose feet I long have lingered,  
Weary, poor, and desolate.  
Even now I hear the footsteps,  
And their voices far away;  
If they call me, I am waiting,  
Only waiting to obey.

—FRANCES LAUGHTON MACE

# ✠ THE CALENDAR

- MON 12/10/07 ST MELCHIADES, PM - WITHIN THE OCTAVE**  
 OUR LADY OF LORETTO  
**Immaculate Conception Novena IV**  
 11:25 AM High Mass *Benefactors of St. Gertrude School*  
 4:15-6:00 PM Knights of the Sacred Heart (St. Gertrude Church)  
 St. Angela Merici Girls' Group (St. Gertrude Church)  
 5:00 PM Low Mass *In Thanksgiving for Beneficial Rains*
- TUES 12/11/07 ST DAMASUS I, PC - WITHIN THE OCTAVE**  
**Immaculate Conception Novena V**  
 11:25 AM High Mass †Charles & Eleanor Richardson (M/M Mark Lotarski & Family)  
 5:45 PM Low Mass *Special Intentions - Gerry Keaveney Family (Dale & Debbie Wilker)*
- WED 12/12/07 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - WITHIN THE OCTAVE**  
**Immaculate Conception Novena VI**  
 6:30 AM Low Mass *Fr. Saavedra - Thank You Padre ("The Knights" - Sam & Seth)*  
 11:25 AM High Mass *Poor Souls In Purgatory (Dale & Debbie Wilker)*  
 5:00 PM Low Mass *In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- THUR 12/13/07 ST LUCY, VM - WITHIN THE OCTAVE**  
**Immaculate Conception Novena VII**  
 11:25 AM High Mass †Juan Capetillo (M/M A. Capetillo)  
 5:00 PM Low Mass *Benefactors of S.G.G. (Dale Wilker)*
- FRI 12/14/07 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**  
**Immaculate Conception Novena VIII**  
 Confessions  
 11:25 AM High Mass *Deceased Bischak & Hoelzle Families (Katie Bischak)*  
 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary  
 5:45 PM Low Mass, Benediction, Sacred Heart Novena, Confessions *Rita Brueggemann (John & Lisa Brueggemann & Family)*
- SAT 12/15/07 OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
**Closing of Immaculate Conception Novena**  
 7:30 AM Low Mass *Poor Souls - Joe & Sharon Intention - 50th Wedding Anniversary (Marge) - Confessions*  
 8:00 AM High Mass *Our Lady of the Poor Souls in Purgatory (Kristi Engel) - Confessions*
- SUN 12/16/07 ADVENT III - GAUDETE SUNDAY - ST EUSEBIUS, BPM**  
**CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD BEFORE & DURING ALL MASSES**  
 7:30 AM Low Mass *Special Intention (Kathy Schweitzer)*  
 9:00 AM High Mass *All Our Faithful Departed Parishioners (B. & R. Brueggemann)*  
 11:30 AM Low Mass *For the Needs of Kirby & Jean Bischel & Their Descendents (B. & R. Brueggemann)*  
 4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction  
 5:45 PM Low Mass *For the People of St. Gertrude the Great*



## THE SPIRIT'S GRACE

With parted lips and outstretched hands  
 And listening ears Thy servant stands,  
 Call Thou early, Call Thou late,  
 To Thy great service dedicate.

—CHARLES HAMILTON SORLEY

# ✠ BISHOP'S CORNER



With today's Second Sunday of Advent our triduum, or three days of Holy Masses, draws to a close. Think of it: our best way to prepare for Christ's coming *then* (end of the world) is to assist at His coming *now* upon the altar, and into our hearts in the Holy Eucharist. As these special days of observance conclude, remember that it is a pious practice to hear Mass daily in Advent. That elusive "one extra Mass a week" should be a goal for more of our families. Such blessings unclaimed!

Still, in the nature of things, most of our families will only hear Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. It is all the more important then, for the sake of love, that we train our children in reverence, and give them ourselves a good example. That way our one, precious Mass each Sunday can be heard with more recollection, more edification, more honor and glory to God.

Please don't talk in the vestibule or hallways if a Mass is being offered. Your voice carries, and is very distracting. Get out your beads and pray a decade or two.

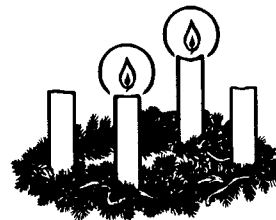
Ditto the procession of adults and children in and out all during Mass, and especially the sermon. Even I was distracted last Sunday by one little princess who clickety-clacked her way in and out more than once. Please take your children to the restroom before Mass, and be firm that wandering and water breaks are forbidden at Calvary. Children should be accompanied by an adult if they *must* leave, not allowed to stroll in and out and all around at will. If you leave during the sermon, please remain in the vestibule until it is over. Thank you so much for your thoughtful understanding for our children, clergy and fellow parishioners.

Thanks, too, for all of the great cooperation for the Christmas raffle. We are already planning our Christmas church decorating, and breaking it down into smaller units, so as to make it a bit easier. More details are coming next Sunday.

Thanks, too, to Pat Kolb for continuing and regular help with the Sunday refreshments, as she brings in her delicious home-made rolls so faithfully. Michelle Cramer is organizing a Sunday Coffee Committee and schedule, and needs a few more volunteers. But then again, who doesn't? We'd love to hear from you! Well, thank you for all you do for our beloved church!

Yours in Mary Immaculate,

—Bishop Dolan



*Our Lord describes terrifying scenes that will accompany "the time of punishment." But His final and ultimate word to the faithful is one of certainty: "When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." This certainty in Daniel is what kept the lions in the den from eating him.*

# ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D.)



**2008 COLLECTION ENVELOPES**  
The 2008 Collection envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please pick up your envelopes today.



**2008 ROMAN CATHOLIC CALENDAR**  
This year's calendar is available for purchase in the Book Store. The price is \$6.00. Every Catholic home should have a traditional calendar.

### IN YOUR CHARITY...

Please pray for Henry Sieverding, Eileen Bartels, who is in the hospital recovering from surgery, Althea LeBlanc, (now in a nursing home), Mother Mary de Montfort, and for all of our sick and shut-in.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 16th: CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR A POOR AFRICAN MISSIONARY**

Again this year we are collecting a Christmas Alms on Sunday, December 16th, both in church and in the Catechism Classes. Fr. Eldred Leslie is an elderly, poor missionary priest in South Africa. He is faithful to the true Church and Mass, and lives in very difficult conditions. A truly worthy priest and Confessor of the Faith, Fr. Leslie knew our own dear Fr. Randolph and is like him, a convert to the Faith. His only request is for money which can be used to give alms to the poor unclothed, shoeless children who besiege him whenever he steps out of his house. Please be generous. Sunday, December 23rd it will be the Adults turn. *"And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts..."*

**December 17th - 22nd:** Christmas Church Decorating

**January 4th:** Opening of 40 Hours Devotion

### LUMEN CHRISTI

For the next fortnight the Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament for:

JOAN FEY

BECKY UHLENBROCK

### THE RESIGNATION

By THOMAS CHATTERTON

O God, whose thunder shakes the sky,  
Whose eye this atom globe surveys,  
To thee, my only rock, I fly,  
Thy mercy in thy justice praise.

The mystic mazes of thy will,  
The shadows of celestial light,  
Are past the power of human skill;  
But what the Eternal acts is right.

Oh, teach me in the trying hour,  
When anguish swells the dewy tear,  
To still my sorrows, own my power,  
Thy goodness love, thy justice fear.

If in this bosom aught but thee  
Encroaching sought a boundless sway,  
Omniscience could the danger see,  
And Mercy look the cause away.

Then why, my soul, dost thou complain,  
Why drooping seek the dark recess?  
Shake off the melancholy chain,  
For God created all to bless.

But ah! my breast is human still;  
The rising sigh, the falling tear,  
My languid vitals' feeble rill,  
The sickness of my soul declare.

But yet, with fortitude resigned,  
I'll thank the inflicter of the blow;  
Forbid the sigh, compose my mind,  
Nor let the gush of misery flow.

The gloomy mantle of the night,  
Which on my sinking spirit steals,  
Will vanish at the morning light,  
Which God, my east, my sun, reveals.



### KNIGHTS OF THE SACRED HEART / ST. ANGELA MERICI GIRLS' GROUP

Due to the upcoming holiday season, the Monday afternoon meeting of the Knights of the Sacred Heart and the St. Angela Merici Girls' Group will be suspended from December 17th through January 7, 2008. Meetings will resume on Monday, January 14th.

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Schedule - Morning**  
8:00 AM: The Office of Prime  
9:00 AM: High Mass  
1:15 PM: 1st Vespers of Christmas

**Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Schedule - Evening**  
8:30 PM: The Office of Matins  
10:30 PM: Carols  
10:45 PM: Entrance of the Bishop,  
Blessing of the Crib & Vesting

11:15 PM: Midnight Mass followed by  
The Office of Lauds  
A **Potluck Supper** follows Midnight Mass. If you are planning on coming, please bring a dish to share.

**Tuesday, December 25th - Christmas Day**  
9:00 AM: Low Mass & Benediction,  
with String Quartet  
11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols  
3:30 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day



### TEMPTATION

If you were hungry in a wilderness  
And one should come and whisper in  
your ear:

"This way lies peace and comfort and  
success,"  
Could you still choose to keep your  
conscience clear?

If you were cornered and in deep despair  
And one should promise fortune for a  
wrong,

Would you sell all that you considered fair,  
Or keep the faith and try to get along?

Two years without a job he walked the  
streets,

His children hungry, cold and thinly clad,  
And then one day a chance to steal he meets.  
Could you have waited that long to go bad?

—EDGAR A. GUEST

### NOVENA PRAYER FOR ADVENT

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment, in which the Son of God was born of the Most Pure Virgin Mary, at midnight in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. At that hour, vouchsafe O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother. Amen.*

*(Traditionally said 15 times a day from St. Andrew's Day until Christmas.)*

**Two Quotes showing American complicity in the Masonic persecution of the Church in Mexico.**

*1) Some Americans had tried to help—certain bishops, certain priests, certain groups of laymen. But these had never been able to convince the bulk of American Catholics that the persecutions in Mexico were worth getting excited about, being angry about, losing their composure about, making nuisances of themselves about. Nor did the Masons of the United States fail to notice this lack of indignation, and to be emboldened by it. One example: Two days after Father Pro's murder, the American Ambassador to Mexico, Dwight Morrow, went aboard Calles' private train for a tour of the country; the recognized purpose of this gesture was "to demonstrate to Mexican Catholics that they could look for no help from Washington. —THE POINT*

**"MY DESIRE IS TO SHOW MYSELF A MOTHER TO YOU AND TO YOUR PEOPLE."**

It was in these words that the Mother of God spoke to a Mexican Indian named Juan Diego in the early winter of the year 1531. As a token of her maternal concern for Mexico, the blessed Virgin gave to Juan Diego a miraculous picture of herself, which Mexican Catholics still cherish under the title of Holy Mary Ever-Virgin of Guadalupe.

During the first three hundred years after the Guadalupe apparition, the Catholics of Mexico, under the eye of their Mother in Heaven, lived, as it were, the quiet life of Nazareth. They were intimate with the things of God, and blessed with a share of earthly things. Mexico had become for them the happy proving ground of a boundless life to come, beyond the limitations of their mountains and their coasts. It was an indifferent matter that the foreign people who first brought them the news of their Mother in Heaven had remained as their governors. Mexico, for the Mexicans, was birthplace and contentment.

Until, suddenly, as the nineteenth century began, a cry went echoing, "Mexico for the Mexicans!" Whereupon, birthplace gave way to battle ground, contentment to contention, and the Holy Mother of Guadalupe prepared her children for an extended Passiontide, whose "long Good Friday" is still within awful memory, and whose delayed Easter Sunday we must yet pray for.

\* \*

The Revolution which kicked Catholic Spain out of Mexico, and intended that the Church should go tumbling after, has been classified with those European movements of "liberation" which were sparked by the French Revolutionists of the late 1700s. The relationship is close. Mexico's Revolt was a colonial cousin, somewhat less lettered, but schooled in the same theories and—most important—tutored by the same masters: those apt and aproned enemies of the Church, the Freemasons.

Woven through the history of Mexico's Freemasonic era (from 1800 to the present) is a variable pattern of American masonic intervention. Now by means of big business, now through private individuals, now through the American Government itself, the lodges of the United States have kept a firm hand on Mexican developments. Of U.S. Government interference in Mexico,

*2) The day after Fr. Pro's execution, the American Ambassador Dwight Morrow (Charles Lindbergh's future father-in-law) and the humorist Will Rogers, who had become famous as a common-sense mocker of U.S. government foolishness, took a trip with President Calles through Mexico on the presidential train. Calles had deliberately set up the trip as propaganda intended to convince Mexican Catholics that the United States would not help them. Morrow is reported to have known this, but believed he could use the influence thus gained over Calles to turn his government in a different direction. In the next few years, the government killed 250,000 to 300,000 people, many Catholic, even after a compromise had been worked out.*

—THE CATHOLIC MARTYRS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY  
(Two somewhat different viewpoints on the subject. —Bishop Dolan)

for example, the Jesuit weekly *America*, made this briefest of summaries in its issue of June 25, 1927. "Always, an American hates to say it, there was the sinister shadow of the Power of the north, meddling always, officially and unofficially. . . Joel Poinsett, American Minister, introduced the York Rite of Masonry, and kept the Mexicans fighting over it for a dozen years. Later, President Polk made an agreement with Santa Ana to fight a fake war—which we call the 'Mexican War'—with our

forces, in return for some millions of dollars. After our Civil War, General Sheridan allowed Juarez to 'steal' American army stores, and conquer his enemies with them. In our time, Bryan and Wilson by as dark a piece of double-dealing and treachery as history can show, put Carranza into power—and we are reaping the fruits of their policy today."

The foregoing, an American hates to say it, is a lenient summary. The names and incidents could be expanded to a thick volume. The impression would remain unchanged: never did the forces of American Freemasonry act so purposefully as when they espoused the anti-Catholic cause in Mexico.

\* \*

Because the project was already one hundred years old by 1917, and the Faith was still flourishing in Mexico, the Masonic crusade in that year took on a fresh impetus. With no less an adviser than Lenin himself, the Carranza crowd (the creatures of Woodrow Wilson) drafted a new constitution. Detailed oppression of the Catholic Church became the supreme law of the land. The 1917 constitution forbade the Church to own any property, to conduct schools, to preach to the unbaptized natives, to train additional priests. It confirmed the prohibition against religious garb for priests and nuns, and further provided that the government of each Mexican state should decide how many priests it thought it needed; these would be "licensed," and all others expelled.

After the shooting of Carranza in 1920, the American lodges took up the cause of General Obregon, gave him a \$10,000,000 arms credit, and sat back contentedly while he tried to blow up the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1921, and dared to expel, bodily, the Apostolic Delegate in 1923.

*One week before the July decrees were to take effect the bishops of Mexico issued a joint Pastoral Letter, their answer to Calles: "...all public worship requiring the participation of priests will be suspended in all the Churches of the Republic."*

—To Be Continued

## MY SUNDAY AFTERNOON CATECHISM FOR ADVENT II

Having taught us on the first Sunday of Advent to sigh with the prophets for the redemption through Christ, the Church on this day reminds us, in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, of the joyful promises of God for the salvation of the gentiles, and of Jesus Christ's actual coming, in order to quicken our desires for it, and to produce in us an alacrity in making ready our hearts by penance and love.

For this reason she says in the Introit of the Mass: "People of Sion, behold the Lord shall come to save the nations, and the Lord shall make the glory of His voice to be heard in the joy of your heart." "Give ear, O Thou that rulest Israel: Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep." Glory be to the Father, etc.

### PLEASE READ SUNDAY'S EPISTLE: Romans XV. 4-13

*What are we to learn by this Epistle?*

To be grateful to God for having called us, by His grace, to the true faith, and for having received us into the bosom of His holy Church. Again, we are taught that by envy, discord, pride, and hatred we lose our salvation. Finally, St. Paul refers us to the Scriptures for instruction.

*Why do the Holy Scriptures profit us?*

1. They teach, correct and instruct us in justice, that we may serve God faithfully, and be ever ready for good works. 2. They sustain our patience in suffering, and our hope of eternal life, by many promises, and by the example of Jesus Christ and His saints.

*Why is God called the God of patience, comfort, and hope?*

1. Because He looks with patience and long-suffering upon our sinful lives. 2. Because He gives us grace to carry our cross with patience and joy, and removes our despair by spiritual consolation. 3. Because He gives us hope that after this life we shall possess Him, the object of our desire.

### PLEASE READ SUNDAY'S GOSPEL: Matthew XI. 2-10

*Why was St. John cast into prison?*

Because he rebuked King Herod, who was living in adultery with the wife of his stepbrother. This teaches us that we should not be deterred from our duty, though great suffering and misfortune should thereby befall us. Is it not nobler and more profitable to our salvation to be a martyr for truth, as St. John was, rather than to gain favor with the world by timidly looking on, or by deceitful flattery?

*Why did St. John send his disciples to Jesus?*

St. John sent his disciples to Christ so that they, too, might be convinced that He was the Messiah.

Superiors and parents should learn from this to see that their dependents and children are well instructed in the faith.

*Why did Christ merely say to the disciples of St. John: "Go and relate to John what you have heard and seen: the blind see, the lame walk, " etc.?"*

Because they ought to have been convinced from the miracles He wrought, which were the fulfillment of the prophecies, that He was the promised Messiah.

*What was the object of the question, "What went you out to see?" which Our Saviour asked?*

1. To praise the constancy of St. John, who was not to be deterred from exercising his sacred functions either by the commands of Herod or through fear of imprisonment and death. 2. To approve the austere life of St. John, that we should thereby be encouraged to crucify the flesh and to do penance.

*Why did Our Saviour say that St. John was more than a prophet?*

Because he was destined to see the Messiah, to preach Him to men, and declare Him to be the Saviour of the world. And as he was a messenger of God, to announce the coming of Christ and prepare His way, he was called an angel (Malach. iii. 7).

*Why did Jesus add, "Blessed is he that shall not be scandalized in Me"?*

On account of those who would be scandalized at His humility, His poverty, His ignominious suffering and death upon the cross, and who would, accordingly, despise and reject Him; although the more He humbled Himself for them the more they ought rather to love and honor Him.

*Why does the Church set before us this Gospel?*

In order that we, like the disciples of St. John, may, by His works, recognize Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, and that we may make ourselves worthy of the grace of redemption by doing penance earnestly and firmly, thus preparing the way of the Lord in our hearts.

### *Consolation in Adversities and Afflictions.*

*What can and should console us in adversity?*

1. A firm belief that everything is ordered by God's wise providence, and that no evil can befall us except by His permission, Who never allows us to suffer more than is for our good. 2. That if we call upon Him in adversity God will help us, whenever it is expedient for our salvation. Thus to encourage us He says, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee" (Ps. xlix. 15); and, "If God be for us, who is against us?" (Rom. viii. 31); and "Can a woman forget her infant so as not to have pity on the son of her womb? and if she should forget, yet will not I forget thee: behold, I have graven thee in My hands" (Isaias xlix. 15, 16). 3. That it is useless to resist Divine Providence, for all who have done so have been filled with shame and ignominy: "Who hath resisted Him and hath had peace?" (Job ix. 4.) 4. That our sufferings when borne with patience and submission lose their sharpness, and bring us merit and reward. "For that which is at present momentary and light of our tribulation, worketh for us, above measure exceedingly, an eternal weight of glory" (II Cor. iv. 17)