

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

☩ FEBRUARY 7, 2010 • SEXAGESIMA •

• **ST ROMUALD • The Blessing of Throats** follows all Masses today. Extra confessions are being heard today to mark Shrovetide (Confession Time) in preparation for a good Lent.

The special second collection is for our seminary, which needs our generous support especially at this time.

☩ THIS WEEK:

A Trinitarian saint comes **Monday, St. John of Matha**. Next on **Tuesday** Our Lady's Champion, **St. Cyril of Alexandria** and on **Wednesday** our weather saint who shows us how to pray, **St. Scholastica**. A High Mass marks **Our Lady of Lourdes** on **Thursday**, whilst the saints of the **Seven Sorrows** come **Friday**, when we pray the **Sorrowful Mother Novena** and bless the sick. **Our Lady's Saturday** ends this week so dedicated to her.

☩ CATECHISM CLASSES

Mrs. Bischel will be teaching grades 6-8 for the rest of the school year. Please bring your children, parents, and work with them during the week for their ever so important lessons in our faith. This goes doubly for the little ones preparing for First Communion, who need to learn their catechism and prayers by heart.



☩ SORROWFUL MOTHER NOVENA

This Friday we continue our Novena to the Sorrowful Mother with the Blessing of the Sick. Call or write in to the office the *first names* of those for whom you would like us to pray, as well as the names of your sick.

Collection Report

Sunday January 24th\$3,607.00

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

☩ NEXT SUNDAY: HOLY FACE SUNDAY

The Blessing of religious articles follows all Masses, as does our St. Valentines Day bake sale.

Set your Missal: Quinquagesima, commemoration of St. Valentine and of Our Lady and All the Saints.

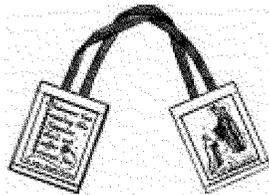


☩ REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy goes to Bud and Karen Patton on the death of her mother, Catherine Blanchard, last week as well as to the relatives of Jack O'Brien, who also died recently. Please keep them, and all of our departed in your prayers.

☩ PALMS INTO ASHES

Please bring your blessed Palm to be burned for Ash Wednesday. Please drop off this sacramental in the vestibule any time this week. God Bless You.



THE SCAPULAR IS A PRAYER

The Scapular is a great missionary sacramental. After the Rosary, the Scapular is the most highly indulgenced sacramental in the Church. What terrible shame that so many ignore Our Blessed Mother's request and even more have never heard of it, what a great loss of grace for mankind. Become an apostle of the Brown Scapular.

"O Mother of Mount Carmel, when my last hour shall sound and I take thy holy Scapular into my trembling hands, fill my heart with confidence in thee, and do thou, my loving Mother, receive my soul and offer it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus." Amen.

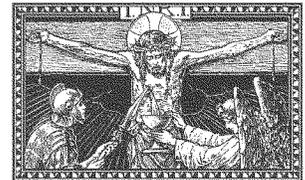
(Hail Mary three times)

✠ POETRY CORNER

NUNC DIMITTIS

"Now dismiss Thy Servant, Master,
Spoke of yore blest Simeon old;
"For my eyes have seen the Saviour
Whom the prophets had foretold."
The Old man in love ecstatic
Takes into his feeble hands
Him, Who rules the earth and heavens,
Meekly clothed in swathing bands,
Turning to the Virgin Mother,
Sinless, pure, and undefiled;
Tells her of the sword of sorrow
She will feel because her Child
Who had come as loving Saviour
Of our poor and fallen race,
Would to many cause perdition,
For they spurn His saving grace.
May I, too, when life is fading,
And I yearn for heaven's rest,
As of old the hoary Simeon
Fold the Saviour to my breast,
And, like him, say, "Nunc dimittis,"
Take Thy servant Lord in peace,
Let the "Light revealed to Gentiles"
Shine for me, and never cease.

—Sister M. Gonsalva, O.S.F.



Servers

FEBRUARY 14, 2010

•SUN 2/7 7:30 AM Low: A. & S. Brueggemann
9:00 AM High: CHAPLAINS: R. VandeRyt, J. Lotarski
TH: T. Simpson
AC'S: A. Richesson, F. Puglielli
TORCH: J. Lacy, A. Wanke, J. Simpson, N. Puglielli
11:30 AM Low: A. D. Kinnett, A. Richesson
5:45 PM Low: Divine Providence

Ushers

FEBRUARY 14, 2010

7:30 AM Kent Maki, Scott Pepiot, Volunteer, Volunteer
9:00 AM Mike Briggs, Mark Lotarski, Steve Weigand
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille, Kirby Bischel, Volunteer
5:45 PM John Seyfried

☩ CARD OF THANKS

To the Sacred Heart and the Infant of Prague, Our Mother of Good Counsel and Lady of Hope, St. Gertrude the Great and the Holy Souls in Purgatory; for answered prayers.

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	2/8/10	ST JOHN OF MATHA, C
	11:20 AM	Low Mass In thanksgiving (<i>Mary Flowers</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass All deceased for whom we are bound to pray (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)
TUE	2/9/10	ST CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BPCD
		ST APOLLONIA, VM COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION
	11:20 AM	High Mass Lotarski Family
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Poor souls for Mattingly family conversions
WED	2/10/10	ST SCHOLASTICA
	11:20 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls – St. Gertrude’s needs
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Justin
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
THUR	2/11/10	OUR LADY OF LOURDES
	11:20 AM	High Mass In Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes, for all of our sick
	5:00 PM	Low Mass In honor of the Mother of God, thanksgiving for petitions granted (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)
FRI	2/12/10	THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls for Mattingly family conversions
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:20 AM	Low Mass Stella Simpson (<i>Bill Schauble</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions and Rosary
	5:35 PM	Infant of Prague Novena VII
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Bishop Dolan’s mother (<i>C. Simpson family</i>) Sorrowful Mother Novena and Benediction Confessions
SAT	2/13/10	OUR LADY’S SATURDAY
	7:15 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>)
	8:00 AM	Sermon, Low Mass For our Parents, Godparents and Sponsors (<i>Rosemary, Caroline, Veronica Briggs</i>)
SUN	2/14/10	QUINQUAGESIMA
		ST VALENTINE, PRM
	7:30 AM	Low Mass †Dale Downing 7th Anniversary (<i>Shirley Downing</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass John Donadio (<i>Jane Donadio</i>)
	10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Special Intention Deceased
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude’s



✠ BISHOP’S CORNER

It is Sexagesima, the middle Sunday of the pre-Lenten season. The church it seems bare in its post-Christmas sobriety, a good sign of the seriousness of the soon coming forty day fast. Still, joy fills our hearts, engendering generosity towards the good God who is ever so good to us.



Last Sunday I asked for prayers, too, for our seminary which was under attack, even as we promised our prayers for the Poor Souls all Lent. On Monday the pro-Seminary prayers were answered, and we give all the credit to Our Lady and the Poor Souls. Set aside a double Lenten Alms in your planning: Masses for the Holy Souls, and a special gift to the Seminary, which is our lifeblood, who should be its as well.

What a joy it was to be graced at Candlemas with so many priests, all of whom have some seminary connection. Fr. Ercoli joined us from the seminary, I had just been there for the retreat, busy Fr. Cekada is a visiting professor there, and Fr. McGuire and Fr. Larrabee are both graduates of this fine house of priestly training. Completing our number is the Rev. Mr. Guillaume Hecquand, a seminarian from France, who is with us through Easter, and will be ordained a deacon here March 25.

We have only **today**, but our duties **today** include preparing priests for tomorrow, for our children. Thank you for your assistance. Thank you, too, for helping to feed us **today**. Give us a call if you can drop off a meal. The church will reimburse your expenses if you'd like, and God will richly reward you.

Thanks so much to all of those cooks who worked in God's kitchen or their own to prepare the simply beautiful Candlemas, glowing with the light of Christ, and the soup supper, warm with charity's fire. It was a splendid feast, and we were so happy to have ten members of the Patton family with us (and from so far!) Bud Patton celebrated his birthday with us, as did the Rev. Mr. Hecquand, both born on the Purification.

Thank you for persevering in prayer for our church, for your Novenas and home holy hours (please continue them) and rosaries. Our church and school (such an important part of the parish) life continues steady in our New Year, going from strength to strength. It has been especially encouraging to welcome many visitors since Advent. Make a point to smile and say hello, won't you?

One of our faithful suggested a nice idea to show our love for our fallen away members. If you know of someone in this boat (or actually, out of the boat!) why, just drop off or send a Sunday Bulletin from time to time, perhaps with a friendly note. Be sure the bulletin **will** be read, especially the "good parts." Thank **you** for your love for your church, and everyone in our St. Gertrude family!

With a Blessing,

–Bishop Dolan



DENYING SELF AND TAKING UP
THE CROSS

It is those He loves that God strikes and chastises, for He chastises every child He accepts. Chastisement now is the lot of those destined to rejoice in eternity. Those who complain of their harsh treatment, however, cannot approach the Most High: on the contrary, if they fail to endure the chastisement of their heavenly Father with patience and love, their inheritance of heavenly joy will be forfeited. All who grumble at being scourged by the Lord should know for certain that they will incur the punishment due to grumblers.

So, my dear brethren, do not complain about the chastisement that comes to you from our Lord, nor grow weary when He rebukes you. *Of course, discipline is never pleasant; at the time it seems painful, but afterward it bears the fruit of peace and goodness in those who have been trained by it.* The Lord's discipline weakens sensuality, and strengthens spiritual virtues: the flesh loses what it can well spare, and the spirit gains virtues it lacked. Thanks to the Lord's discipline virtues are increased, vices restrained; earthly attractions are spurned, heavenly joys loved.

Supposing our health is seriously impaired or strong temptation assails us, or we suffer the loss of worldly goods – we who hope for an eternal reward should draw strength from such sufferings, since we know that the fiercer the battle, the more glorious will be the victory. We give proof of ardent longing for God if our way to Him is not always smooth and pleasant, but sometimes harsh and rugged. We cannot now return to eternal joys except through temporal loss, and should therefore regard all that goes against our natural desires as highly advantageous because of our hope for everlasting bliss...

Working within us like a surgeon, God condemns and cuts away whatever in us is infected by sin, cleansing us from corruption with the knife of affliction.

–Blessed Ogerius of Locedio

Blessed Ogerius of Locedio († 1264) was a disciple of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux and an abbot.

THE SON CAME TO GIVE HIS LIFE

Love achieves all things! Love is giving. When this donation is not yet perfect it is desire; when it is accomplished, love is peace; when it is eternal it is bliss. To give is love's essential function and whoever loves does not look upon himself and does not pamper himself! For a soul that really loves the Lord, of what importance are honors, wealth, social position, the future, suffering and even death itself? The important thing is that Jesus is pleased, even though the soul suffers; that He rejoices, even though the soul grieves; that He smiles even though the soul weeps. When a person truly loves, the "ego" disappears and dies so that Jesus alone may live within the heart.

"Truly," a soul used to say, "Love is a death and a life; the most complete death, and the happiest life." O, Manuel, son of my heart! The greatest thing that exists after God, the only divine task that a creature may accomplish, is to love Him and give Him glory, offering himself up to the Lord...How unknown is this love upon earth, but happy are those who have received that enlightenment of the cross.

For the world to love is to enjoy yourself; it thinks in its selfishness that love consists above all in receiving consolation, satisfaction, etc. It is exactly the contrary: love is nourished by giving, by self sacrifice, with the holy fuel of suffering.

–Venerable Concepcion Cabrera de Armida
(Conchita)

Venerable Concepcion Cabrera de Armida (Conchita †1937) was a wife, mother, and writer in Mexico.



THE HUMOR OF THE SAINTS

One of my favorite stories about Padre Pio happened during the early 1960's.

Italy was in crisis. The Red Brigade was sparking violence in Rome, and it was considered dangerous to travel around the country. For protection, people began carrying pictures of Padre Pio.

During this time, Padre Pio had to leave his village to visit Rome, and one of the other friars asked him, "Aren't you worried about the Red Brigade?"

"No," he said. "I have a picture of Padre Pio."

Just for Fun

"Who was the first man, Bobby?" asked the teacher.

"George Washington," answered Bobby promptly.

"No, Bobby," exclaimed the teacher, "You ought to know better. Adam was the first man."

"Oh, well!" said Bobby, determined to prove himself right, "I wasn't counting foreigners."

A BIT OF HUMOR FOR HALF OF OUR
PARISH

"The only chance is a brain transplant," the doctor explained. "But brains are very expensive."

"How much?" the relatives asked.

"For a male brain, \$500,000, for a female brain, \$200,000."

The relatives stood around in shock. "But why the difference in price?" someone asked.

"Standard pricing practice," the doctor said. "Women's brains have to be marked down because they're used."

DRAWN TO THE BREAD OF LIFE

The continuous presence of Jesus with His Church militant until the end of the world is the source of incalculable benefits to us. All the gifts and blessings of the incarnation and the redemption are thereby made unceasingly available to souls in a measure that is proportionate to their eagerness to receive them. In describing the wonderful effects of the Eucharist it is customary to compare them to the effects of bodily nourishment, which is taken as a symbol of the transformation wrought in the soul by the “bread of life”

Our primary attention must always be centered on Him who is the bread of life and on His Divine Person, who in all of His dealings with us never ceases to exercise His office of Redeemer...

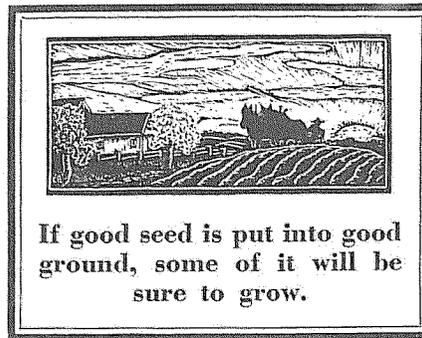
According to Saint Thomas, Christ bestows upon each individual person the same life of grace which He brought to the world by His visible coming. Indeed, if we but had faith as then, the miracles of the Gospel could again become daily occurrences. Jesus passing through our midst in an invisible, but not less efficacious manner, would again cure the sick, raise the dead to life, and go about doing good to all. The same cause continues to operate, and the same effects could once more follow. As formerly when the crowds of Palestine touched the hem of His garments, so upon contact with Christ in the host the same great power of redemption would again go forth from Him, and He would again come to us to cure our sorrows and infirmities. The Christ of Tiberias would again rise up majestically to face the waves and calm the tempest of our souls. All men would hearken to the one voice of the Savior. Christ’s invitation to them still stands: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened.” No one is excluded. We have His assurance that “him who comes to Me I will not cast out.”

All that is needed is to approach and allow ourselves to be saved.

Christ, the source of life, addressed His clear call to all generations: “If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink.” Only one condition is laid down: to thirst.

—Father M.M. Philipon, O.P.

Father Philipon (†1972) was a French Dominican priest, theologian and author.



“REMAIN IN ME”

When a soul has understood the greatness of...life, when it has grasped that the wellspring of it is to be found in union with Christ through faith and charity, it aspires to the perfection of that union; it seeks the fullness of the life that it should, in accordance with the thought of God, possess within itself. That union – might it be just a dream, the soul asks itself?

No, it is not a dream, it can – it should become a reality, sublime that it may be.

No, it is not a dream; it can – it should – become a reality, sublime as that may be.

It is indeed true that all the efforts of human nature, left to itself a distance from Christ, are not able to advance us one step in the achieving of that union, in the birth and development of the life it brings forth. It is God alone who gives us the seed-germ and the growth; we care for the plant, we water it: that is necessary, indispensable, says Saint Paul; but the fruits of life are produced only because God causes the sap of His grace to rise within us.

God gives us incomparable means of keeping alive this sap within us. For it is infinite and sovereignly efficacious Goodness who wishes to make us sharers of His nature and of His bliss, God is also

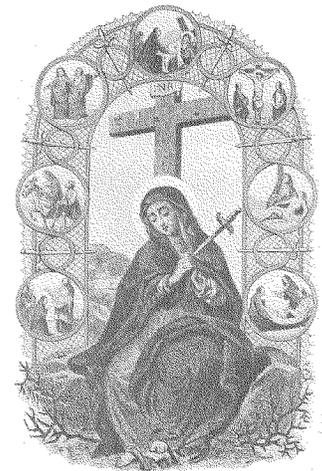
Eternal Wisdom who proportions the means to the end, with a strength unequaled except by the gentleness with which He acts...

Now, if after having seen how at Baptism God gives us the seed of this life and the first-fruits of this union, and if, having seen to what general law their growth is subject, we then wish to know in particular the means that God gives us, we shall see that they come down principally to prayer and to reception of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

God has made a promise in regard to the souls that addresses itself to Him: ‘If you ask the Father anything in My name,’ said Jesus, ‘He will give it to you’, and that is why Jesus adds that you should “ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.” That joy is the joy of Christ: “that they may have My joy made full in themselves,” the joy of His grace, the joy of His life, which, like a divine river, flows from Him into us, to rejoice us: “The stream of the river makes the city of God joyful.”

—Blessed Columba Marmion

Blessed Columba (†1923) was abbot of the Benedictine abbey of Maredsous, Belgium.



O Christian, who is in continual battle with Amalek, that is, with a multitude of demons, learn how to fight. The enemy is only conquered on the mountain of perfection, on the peak of virtue, with prayer as the arms of battle. The humility of prayer is better than the might of all human preparation.

—Saint Thomas of Villanova