
St. Gertrude the Great Roman Catholic Church

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212 • Fax: (513) 645-4212 • www.sgg.org • www.traditionalmass.org

Lent III

(Oculi Sunday)

March 11, 2012

The Introit of this day's Mass, which begins with the word **Oculi**, is the prayer of a soul imploring deliverance from the snares of the devil.

*Place Thy fear, O God,
before my mouth, that I
may utter no vain,
careless, much less
improper and scandalous
words, which may be the
occasion of sin to my
neighbor. Strengthen me,
that I may not be deceived
by flattering words, and
become faithless to Thee.*



**The Most Reverend
Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor**

**The Rev. Anthony Cekada
The Rev. Julian Larrabee
The Rev. Charles McGuire**

Traditional Latin Mass

Sunday Masses

**7:30 AM Low Mass
9:00 AM High Mass
11:30 AM Low Mass
5:45 PM Low Mass**

Weekday Masses

See THE CALENDAR inside

New at St. Gertrude's? Welcome! In the vestibule you'll find a pamphlet explaining the traditional rules for the reception of Holy Communion. There is also a Visitor's Card to fill out if you want more information on St. Gertrude's or on the traditional Catholic Faith and the Latin Mass. A free information packet is available to newcomers; ask an Usher or inquire in the **Gift Shop**. Stop by **Helfta Hall**, our social hall, after Mass for refreshments.

Dress Code: *Ladies & Girls*—Please wear a modest dress and a head-covering. No tight fitting, low-cut, short, slit, or sleeveless dresses. No pants or shorts. *Men & Boys*—Please wear a shirt and tie, with either suit coat, jacket or sweater, and dress shoes. No T-shirts, sweat shirts, sweat pants, tennis shoes, sneakers, shorts, jeans or sports logo jackets.

Registration: Please complete a card at the Gift Shop or phone the church. Collection envelopes will be mailed.

Mass Intentions: Individual Mass intentions as well as Purgatorial Society enrollments are available in the vestibule, and may be given in with the collection or at the church office.

Votive Candles: You may light candles before the numerous shrines located throughout the main church as well as in the baptistery. The suggested donation for a seven-day votive candle is \$5.00. The suggested donation for six-hour votives is 50 cents.

Confessions: Fridays at 10:55 AM, Friday evenings and Saturday mornings (*please consult THE CALENDAR inside for times*); most Sundays before the morning Masses.

Baptisms: Saturday morning by appointment. *At least one parent as well as the sponsor (only one sponsor is required) must be practicing Roman Catholics who do not belong to the Novus Ordo religion. Novus Ordo and non-practicing Catholics may not serve as sponsors. The Church will provide a sponsor in case of necessity.* The Churaching of New Mothers follows the baptismal ceremony.

Blessing of Religious Articles: First Sunday of the month after all Masses.

Blessing of Expectant Mothers: Third Sunday of the month after all Masses.

Rosary Chain: To request prayers for special intentions, or to assist in the Rosary Chain, please call the office.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ MARCH 11, 2012 • LENT III

Our Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM and Fr. McKenna leads a short Way of the Cross at 11:10 AM. Join us this afternoon for a public Rosary as we "pray the steps" at Immaculata Church, Mt. Adams, at 3:00 PM.

✠ THIS WEEK

Maidens of the Immaculate Heart meet **Monday** at 3:30 PM in Helfta Hall. Our monthly **Requiem Mass** is on **Tuesday**. Pray for the Poor Souls. The annual Lenten Day of Recollection for children takes place this **Wednesday** from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you haven't already done so, please call the *school* (513-645-4216) by tomorrow, March 12th, to let us know if your children will attend. We honor the Five Holy Wounds of Our Lord on **Friday**. Join us after **5:45 PM** Mass for a Potluck Supper, then at **7:30 PM** for Stations, Candlelight Sermonette, and Week Seven of the Sorrowful Mother Novena and Blessing of the Sick. The evening concludes with Benediction. The Lenten fast is dispensed on **Saturday**, feast of the great **St. Patrick**. A solemn high **Mass** in his honor will be sung at **9:00 AM**, followed by a festive **breakfast** in Helfta Hall.

✠ NEXT SUNDAY: LAETARE

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available after all Masses. March Movies continue with the conclusion of "The Tree of the Wooden Clogs" at 2:45 PM, with Vespers & Benediction at 4:45 PM. **Set Your Missal:** Lent IV, collect of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Lenten Preface.

✠ UPCOMING EVENTS

Afternoon of Recollection

Bishop Dolan will conduct a "mini-retreat" on **Sunday afternoon, March 25th**. The silent afternoon starts, appropriately enough, with a silent film during lunch (nominal charge). A spritual conference, Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and First Vespers of the Annunciation complete

the afternoon. Hear Holy Mass at the start *or* at the end of this special day.

✠ IN YOUR CHARITY . .

...please pray for Rev. Mother DeMontfort, for one family in great need, for all those listed last week, and all who are sick with the 'flu or bad colds.

LUMEN CHRISTI
*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before
 the Blessed Sacrament for the next
 fortnight for the following intentions:*
 †Angela Appelhanz
(4th anniversary March 16th)
 †Jake & Elsie Kloberdong
(Mary Christensen)



✠ ALTER CHRISTUS

\$81.00 was donated for Masses for the sanctification and support of priests. Thank you for your generosity.

Our Beloved Dead – March

Name	Date of Death
Lucy G. Meyer	3-03-1988
Catherine J. Bischak	3-05-2005
Claude E. Charles	3-10-1990
John J. Kolb	3-10-2004
Margaret Sandmayr	3-17-2006
Dorothy B. Spicer	3-18-1986
Marilyn L. Ryan	3-21-1997
Howard Elmlinger	3-22-1990
William J. Smith	3-25-2003
Jack Grimes	3-27-1993

Servers: MARCH 12 - 19, 2012

- FRI 3/16 5:45 PM LOW: Regular Friday Servers
7:30 PM STATIONS: Regular Servers, A.D. Kinnett
- SAT 3/17 7:30 AM LOW: Simpsons
9:00 AM HIGH: Simpsons, School Servers,
P. Omlor MC: R. Vande Ryt
- SUN 3/18 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: MC: R. Vande Ryt CHAPLAINS: J.
Soli, T. Simpson ACS: P. Lawrence, L. Arlinghaus
TH: A. Richesson TORCH: J. Lacy, M. Simpson, J.
Morgan, T. Lawrence, P. Omlor, N. Kuebler
11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, N. McClorey
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller,
Simpsons
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Ushers: MARCH 18, 2012

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

Collection Report

Sunday, March 4th\$4,274.00
 Second Collection\$ 929.00

✠ POETRY CORNER

The Killed Calf

I had heard the rumors,
 your fall from grace:
 How you'd tossed our father's fortune
 to the dogs,
 and now
 disgraced and starving
 you're making your way home.

I am the good son.
 I fattened the calf
 in your absence.
 And now
 to welcome you
 our father says
 it must be slain.

The little cow,
 so stuffed with grain,
 teeters on its legs.
 For mercy's sake
 it must be slain.

I killed the fattened calf for you,
 though it tried to get away.
 Its eyes rolled back inside its head.
 It seized and cried
 so wracked with pain.
 (Who will know what price was paid?)

I am the good son.
 At our father's word
 I killed the calf
 that could barely stand,
 for my brother lives.

In every welcoming there is a death.
 In every home-coming,
 a hidden sacrifice.
 In every sacrifice,
 the father's will
 to forgive
 and live again.

-Rita A. Simmonds

*This excellent modern poem should make us pause
 and think this Lent.*

-Bishop Dolan

*When we are walking in the
 streets, let us fix our eyes on our
 Lord bearing His cross before us.*

-St. John Marie Vianney

✠ THE HOLY SACRIFICE ✠

THE SACRIFICE OF OUR RANSOM

The belief of the Catholic Church from the beginning, and down to this day, concerning the Mass, the Eucharistic Sacrifice, is voiced in the statements and prayers that follow:

"As it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment, so also Christ was offered once to take away the sins of many." (*Heb. 9: 27, 28.*)

To St. Ignatius Martyr, the disciple of St. John the Evangelist, the Eucharistic Sacrifice is "the Flesh of our Saviour Jesus Christ, which suffered for our sins." (*Ad Smyr. 3.*)

"The Passion of the Lord is the Sacrifice that we offer." (*St. Cyprian, Ep. 63, v. 17.*)

The Mass is "that saving Sacrifice by which the sins of the world are blotted out." (*St. Ambrose, Exhort. Virg., c. 14, v. 54.*)

Christ "from then until now takes (sins) away; not crucified again and again, for He offered One Sacrifice for sins, but by that One Sacrifice evermore cleansing." (*St. Chrysostom, Super. Epist. ad Hebr., c. 8.*)

Holy Mass was offered up for the soul of Monica, mother of Augustine. He says in set terms it was "the sacrifice of our redemption-*sacrificium pretii nostri*"-that was offered up for her.

"The Sacrifice that is offered daily in the Church is not other than the Sacrifice which Christ Himself offered." (*St. Thomas, 3a, q. 22, a. 3, ad 2.*) So, according to St. Thomas, "the Sacrifice which Christ Himself offered" was one, and one only.

"May this holy and spotless evening Sacrifice sanctify us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, which Thy Only Begotten Son offered up on the Cross for the salvation of the world." (*Secret of the Mass, Feast of the Spear and Nails.*)

"We therefore confess that the Sacrifice of the Mass is one and the same Sacrifice with that of the Cross." (*Catechism of the Council of Trent.*)

"Since religious worship must express itself sacrificially, our Divine Redeemer willed that the Sacrifice consummated on the Cross should be

prolonged forever. This is done through the Mass, which is no mere image or memorial of that Sacrifice, but the self-same, though outwardly different." (*Pope Leo XIII Encyclical Caritatis Studium, 25th July, 1898.*)



Our Blessed Lord first offered in the Supper what we offer in the Mass. Our only warrant for the offering we make in the Mass is the word He spoke in the Supper: "Do this for a commemoration of Me." We are but continuing to do in the Mass what He first did in the Supper and bade us do.

What sacrifice then did He offer in the Supper? According to the constant tradition of the Church, it is the Sacrifice of Calvary that is continued in the Mass; it is the Sacrifice of our Ransom that is offered up on our altars. Therefore, it was the Sacrifice of Calvary, the Passion He was entering upon, the Death He was about to undergo that Our Lord offered in the Supper and bade us offer in the Mass.

The belief, then, of the Church from the beginning necessarily involves the belief that the sacrifice offered by Our Lord in the Supper was the Sacrifice of the Cross, the Sacrifice of our Ransom.

One Priest, one Victim, one offering, one immolation, one Sacrifice offered up evermore in heaven and on earth. We may not sever the Supper from the Cross, nor the Mass, which binds them together, from either. These three are one, inseparably bound together by causal, liturgical, and mystical bonds, for "By One Sacrifice

He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." (*Hebr. 10: 14.*) What God hath joined together we may not put asunder. Holy Mass is the continuation both of the Supper and of the Cross. It is one sacrifice. So Supper and Cross together, constitute the One Sacrifice which is continued in the Mass.

—Rt. Rev. Alex MacDonald, D.D.

Catechism Corner

What Every Christian Must Believe

(continued)

5. We must believe that Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who had been long foretold by the prophets, was, at God's appointed time, by the power of the Holy Ghost, without having any man for His father, conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary; whom God had prepared for this wonderful Maternity in a wonderful manner: in that by a singular grace and privilege, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, she was in the first instant of her conception preserved free from every taint of original sin. Of her, who is blessed among women for evermore, was born our Lord - she still remaining a pure virgin. During the time of His mortal life Jesus Christ founded the Christian religion; and then offered Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, by dying upon a cross, to obtain mercy, grace, and salvation for us; and that neither mercy, nor grace, nor salvation can, or ever could, since Adam's fall, be obtained except through the mediation of the Son of God.

Three Eminent Good Works

Prayer

Fasting

Almsgiving

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER ✠

I hope you have been enjoying these glorious days of early Spring. I pray, too, that the soul's Spring has sprung by now for your Lent, and that there is a spring in your step as you go about your days. If so, take your Sunday afternoon drive over to Mt. Adams, and "make the steps" with us. We'll be praying the Rosary together as we go up, and some of the "Steps of the Passion" by St. Alphonsus. There's a magnificent view at the top, and we conclude with a visit to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Last weekend was certainly an excellent one for us, despite the severe weather. I was out sick for the Friday evening service, and new **Fr. McKenna** had gone to Milwaukee, where he was duly impressed with the kind welcome he received from the little flock of St. Hugh. St. Hugh's pastor, therefore, **Fr. McGuire**, was "guest preacher" here, and gave the faithful two fine sermons for First Friday, speaking after Stations about the hands. Despite the tornadoes, we had a good and faithful attendance for First Friday "all the way through" First Saturday.

Meanwhile, I was over at my house, praying the angels to come and protect us from tornadoes. I wasn't the only one. **Fr. David Baryj** of **Santa Clarita, California**, is a friend of ours, a semi-invalid priest who lives his Mass with much suffering from bad health and other crosses. Still, he had heard of our weather, and was inspired to offer his Mass that day for us, with this intention: "*For His Excellency's intentions (as they may be applicable today in this day of storms) and for the safety of the True Blessed Sacrament now and always.*" I must say how touched I was to be so remembered. I hope you will remember him in your prayers. We are not alone! Angels and priests and anonymous "pray-ers" keep us protected night and day, as well as our faithful!

We had an excellent attendance last Sunday, and I must tell you of my joy at more answered prayers in seeing dear friends and faithful return to us again for Holy Mass. May we always be the kind of church which edifies by sincere charity, and gives a warm welcome to all, "*tout court.*"

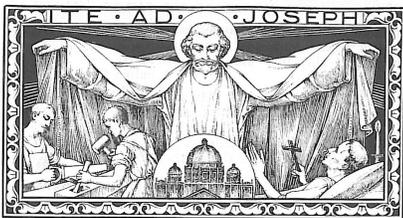
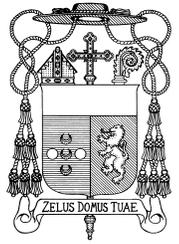
Last Sunday afternoon a good-sized group enjoyed part one of our first March Movie, "The Tree of the Wooden Clogs." Thank you to Phyllis Otis for the chili, Gloria and Bithy for the popcorn and pop, and Mark Lotarski for the setup and technical assist. Even though my Lenten Vesper plot fizzled (the dear families were on their third straight day of heavy church) still a few stayed for evening Divine Service and Our Lord's own blessing to send them on their way.

Fr. McGuire is out in the hinterlands as well as at St. Hugh, generously giving many small groups very much spiritual solace. **Fr. McKenna** flew back to Boston last week for a quick visit in order to conduct his first funeral, the burial of the faithful man to whom he had given his first Last Rites on the day of his First Mass. If our firsts and lasts are with Jesus and Mary, all will be well. **Fr. Larrabee** is down in the toe of Texas today, ministering to Laura Rios and her family in Harlingen. He travels through Kentucky on Wednesday with a similar purpose.

I'm sure the children will enjoy Fr. McKenna at Wednesday's Lenten Retreat. Don't forget this annual grace "for the children." For the Irish (and Irish in spirit), there's St. Patrick's special Mass on Saturday morning, and some lovely music with a wee bit of breakfast afterwards.

"God bless ye," and good St. Joseph guide your ways this week.

—Bishop Dolan



Some Saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us *in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.*"

—St. Thomas Aquinas

O St. Joseph, my loving father, I place myself forever under thy protection. Look upon me as thy child, and keep me from all sin. I take refuge in thine arms, so that thou mayest lead me on the path of virtue and assist me at the hour of my death. Amen.

—St. Clement Mary Hofbauer (feast, March 15th)

ST. JOSEPH AS HEAD OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The dignity of any office of authority is in proportion to the excellence of those over whom such authority is exercised. What then must have been the dignity and perfection of St. Joseph! To rule over the angels would be a small privilege compared with the privilege of ruling God Himself and His holy Mother. What prudence, what discretion, what purity of intention, what perfect unselfishness, what intense love of God and of men must have been found in St. Joseph! How humble he must have been, how thoughtful, how kind, how considerate, how wise, how faithful to God's holy inspirations! Next to Our Lady, it is impossible to suppose that any saint could approach the dignity of St. Joseph.

Watch St. Joseph as a superior. Notice how he gives his orders, firmly and decidedly, without hesitation, but yet kindly, and gently, and considerately. St. Joseph had to command others besides Jesus and Mary. To all he showed the same thoughtful, tender, watchful affection and respect. Am I like St. Joseph in dealing with those over whom I have authority?

Our Lord obeyed St. Joseph with the most perfect, unquestioning obedience. He, as man, was St. Joseph's natural superior; He, in His sacred humanity, had authority over all creation. He therefore, the Lord of all, raised St. Joseph to be lord over Him. This exalts still more the position of St. Joseph, who derived his authority over Jesus from our Lord's own choice of him.

✠ THE CALENDAR

Weekday webcast Masses are marked with a 

MON 3/12/12 ST GREGORY THE GREAT, PCD FAST
8:00 AM Low Mass †Andy & Virginia Marosi (*Jane & Rob Brockman*)
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Poor Souls (*Connie Kamphaus*)
12:20 PM Vespers
3:30 PM Maidens of the Immaculate Heart

TUE 3/13/12 FERIAL DAY FAST
8:00 AM Low Mass †Stella Simpson (*Paul & Karen Puglielli*)
 **11:20 AM Requiem High Mass** Purgatorial Society
12:20 PM Vespers
5:00 PM Low Mass †Stella Simpson (*Paddy Omlor*)
6:30 PM Choir Practice

WED 3/14/12 FERIAL DAY FAST
9:00 AM Opening of Children's Day of Recollection
 **11:20 AM High Mass** †Stella Simpson-30 days (*Bob Bruggemann*)
12:20 PM Vespers
2:45 PM Closing Stations and Benediction
5:00 PM Low Mass †Stella Simpson-Month's Mind (*Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Gunsher*)
6:30 PM Choir Practice

THUR 3/15/12 FERIAL DAY FAST
ST CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER
8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls-Gratitude †Stella Simpson (*DJR*)
 **11:20 AM High Mass** †Stella Simpson (*Gloria & Richard Zbilicki*)
12:20 PM Vespers
5:00 PM Low Mass In honor of the Holy Ghost for Joshua Gunsher's Intentions (*Bishop Dolan*)

FRI 3/16/12 FERIAL DAY FAST
THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS
8:00 AM Low Mass †Stella Simpson (*Robert Wnek Family*)
10:55 AM Confessions
 **11:20 AM High Mass** †John Kolb (*Patsy McConnell Family*)
Benediction
12:20 PM Vespers
5:15 PM Rosary and Confessions
5:45 PM Low Mass The Poor Souls who are most forgotten (*Regina Gilliam*) **with Homily, Sacred Heart Novena**
 **6:45 PM Lenten Potluck Supper**
7:30 PM Stations, Sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena VII & Blessing of the Sick, Benediction, Holy Communion

SAT 3/17/12 ST PATRICK BPC
ST JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA
7:15 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass †Stella Simpson (*Tom Simpson*)
9:00 AM High Mass For our Priests (*Christopher P. Browne*) **followed by Breakfast**

SUN 3/18/12 LENT IV LAETARE SUNDAY
ST CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BPCD
7:30 AM Low Mass †Stella Simpson (*Tom Simpson*)
9:00 AM High Mass †Stella Simpson (*The Lawrence Family*)
10:40 AM Sunday Classes
11:10 AM Bishop's Lenten Rosary
11:30 AM Low Mass †Ralph Patton-Happy Birthday (*Patton Family*)
2:45 PM March Movies
4:45 PM First Vespers of St. Joseph, Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass For the People of St. Gertrude

The thought of the priceless advantages that are to be derived from devout assistance at Mass, ought to be a stimulant for us to hear it not only on Sundays, but also on week days, whenever possible. Should illness or some other serious reason prevent us from doing so, let us send our Guardian Angel in our stead with the following prayer:

O holy Angel at my side, go to the church for me, Kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be. At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, And place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne.

At holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love, My Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from heaven above.

Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, That Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suff'ring souls relieve.

And when the priest Communion takes, Oh, bring my Lord to me, That His sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be.

Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface; Then bring me Jesus' blessing home, the pledge of every grace.

BISHOP SHEEN ON CHARITY:

This week's daily considerations for Lent have been selected from the works of Bishop Fulton Sheen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Thought: Perfect charity casteth out fear.

(1 St. John iv:18)

Meditation: When you fail to measure up to your Christian privilege, be not discouraged, for discouragement is a form of pride. The reason you are sad is because you looked to yourself and not to God; to your failing, not to His love. You will shake off your faults more readily when you love God than when you criticize yourself... You have always the right to love Him in your heart even though you do not love Him in your acts....

Do not fear God for perfect love casts our fear. God is biased in your favor... God is more lenient than you because He is perfectly good and, therefore, loves you more. Be bold enough, then, to believe that God is on your side, even when you forget to be on His. (PREFACE TO RELIGION)

Prayer: O Lord, save us from ourselves as our own worst enemies. Help us to shake off our faults as Thy apostles shook the dust off their feet. Give us the grace of perseverance so that we do not abandon our Lenten observance and settle for less than we can be. Amen.

Lenten Action: As Blessed John of Vollombrosa declared, "I am resolved, with the help of Christ, to waste no more time." Plan your Lenten observances so as to make the best use of this time.

MONDAY IN LENT III

Thought: Judge not, and you shall not be judged.

(St. Luke vi:37)

Meditation: Judging our fellow human beings is as perplexing as the perceiving of colors on a spinning top. When a person is at rest, or in a fixed state,... we think we can very well judge his character. But when

we see him in the whirl and motion of everyday life... all his goodness and badness blur into indistinctness. There is so much goodness at one moment, badness at another, sin in one instance, virtue in another, sobriety at one point, excess in another, that it is well to leave the judgment to God....

The way we judge others is very often the judgment which we pronounce on ourselves.... Every dramatist, scriptwriter, novelist, and essayist who attacks the moral law has already lived against it in his own life. These men may not know it, but in their writings they are penning their own autobiography....

(GUIDE TO CONTENTMENT)

Prayer: Merciful Lord, cleanse our hearts and souls from the fetters of resentment and the bitterness of brooding over wrongs, real or imagined. Keep us, if only for today, from the temptation to appoint ourselves judges of others. Let us recognize that condemnation of others is always sparked by selfishness, and let us remember that Thou art our only sure and final judge. Amen.

Lenten Action: Joyfully abstain from all judgments of people, events, or things for at least one day. Contribute to your parish for each lapse.

TUESDAY IN LENT III

Thought: "I am the true vine; and my Father is the husbandman....Abide in me; and I in you."

(St. John xv:1,4)

Meditation: Love has three and only three intimacies: speech, vision, and touch. These three intimacies God has chosen to make His love intelligible to our poor hearts. God has spoken: He told us that He loves us: That is Revelation. God has been seen: That is the Incarnation. God has touched us by His grace: That is Redemption. Well indeed, therefore, may He say: "What more could I do for my vineyard than I have done? What other proof could I give of my love than to exhaust myself in the intimacies of love? What else could I do to show that my own Sacred Heart is not less generous than your own?"

If we answer these questions aright, then we will begin to repay love with love....Then we will return speech with speech which will be our prayer; vision with vision which will be our faith; touch with touch which will be our Communion. (THE ETERNAL GALILEAN)

Prayer: Keeper of the Vineyard, the Vine which grows to life through death on the cross, watch over us, and protect us. Make us ever aware of the needs of those who live around us. Let us help them to grow vigorously by the light of Thy Resurrection. Amen.

Lenten Action: Use one of the three intimacies of love (speech, vision, or touch) to demonstrate charity to another. Say the short prayer "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, be my salvation" at points throughout the day.

WEDNESDAY IN LENT III

Thought: Contend not in words, for it is to no profit....study to present thyself approved unto God, a workman...rightly handling the word of truth.

(II Timothy ii:14,15)

Meditation: Because kindness is related to charity, it follows that the kind person loves another not for the pleasure the other person gives, not because the other person can do us a kindness in return, but because the other person is lovable in himself. The basic reason why everyone is lovable is because God made him. If we were evolved from the beast, none of us would be deserving of any love....

To a great extent the world is what we make it. We get back what we give. If we sow hate, we reap hate; if we scatter love and gentleness we harvest love and happiness. Other people are like a mirror which reflects back on us the kind of image we cast. The kind person bears with the infirmities of others, never magnifies trifles, and avoids a spirit of fault finding. (WAY TO HAPPINESS)

Prayer: Father of Light and Ever-Changeless God, open our hearts to Thy unlimited truth and let us show by our deeds, and not just by our words, that we are workers in the service of Thy Truth. Amen.

Lenten Action: Bear with those who irritate you if only for today. Make every effort not to magnify the importance of the "small stuff."

THURSDAY IN LENT III

Thought: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven, against all ungodliness and injustice of those men that detain the truth of God in injustice....because that when they knew God they have not glorified him as God, or given thanks; but became vain in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Romans i:18,21)

Meditation: If you want to know about God, there is only one way to do it: get down on your knees. You can make His acquaintance by investigation, but you can win His love only by loving....

Most people who deny God do not do so because their reason tells them there is no God, for how could reason witness against Reason? Their denial is rather because of "wishful thinking." They feel they would be happier if there were no God, for then they could do as they pleased....

Think a little less about whether you deserve to be loved by Him; He loves you even though you are not deserving. It is His love alone that will make you deserving. Most of us are unhappy because we never give God a chance to love us; we are in love only with ourselves.

(PREFACE TO RELIGION)

Prayer: Father, keep Your children from foolish ways during this Lent and always. Purge us of our love of, and preoccupation with, ourselves, and make sure that we give You a chance to love us fully. Amen.

Lenten Action: Honor God by making sure that you kneel in prayer today.

FRIDAY IN LENT III THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS

Thought: "If one strike thee on thy right cheek, turn to him also the other....and whosoever will force thee one mile, go with him two." (St. Matthew v: 39,41)

Meditation: Why should we turn the other cheek? Because hate multiplies like a seed. If one preaches hate and violence to ten men in a row, and tells the first to strike the second, and the second to strike the third, the hatred will envelop all ten. The only way to stop this hate is for one man to turn his other cheek. Then the hatred ends. It is never passed on. Absorb violence for the sake of the Savior, who will absorb sin and die for it. The Christian law is that the innocent shall suffer for the guilty. Thus Jesus would have us do away with adversaries, because when no resistance is offered, the adversary is conquered by a superior moral power. (THE LIFE OF CHRIST)

Prayer: Dear Father, may we go the extra mile in Thy service during this Lent. Amen.

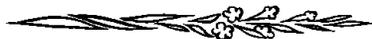
Lenten Action: Be prepared for setbacks on this Lenten journey. Accept them in stride and find a practical way to overcome any obstacles.

SATURDAY IN LENT III FEAST OF ST. PATRICK

The Lenten fast is traditionally dispensed in our country for St. Patrick's Day (and Bishop Sheen would certainly agree)...

Today, revisit and reflect again on one or more of this week's meditations. Ask St. Patrick to obtain for you the graces to grow in charity and persevere in your good Lenten resolutions.

Prayer: O God, who didst vouchsafe to send the blessed Patrick, Thy confessor and bishop, to declare Thy glory to the nations: grant, through his merits and intercession, that what Thou commandest us to do, we may be Thy mercy be able to accomplish. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



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Lent 2012 Charity



The Sacred Heart: pen-and-ink drawing by Saint Margaret Mary or one of her novices (1685)

"The measure of love is to love without measure."

-St. Francis de Sales

Daily Considerations
and
Prayers for Lent