

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212 • www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org
Traditional Latin Mass: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM



Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor
Rev. Anthony Cekada, Rev. Charles McGuire,
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta, Rev. Stephen McKenna

March 9, 2014

Lent I

Invocavit Sunday

St Frances of Rome, W
St Dominic Savio, C



AND BEHOLD, ANGELS CAME
AND MINISTERED TO HIM

¶ LENTEN ANGEL SUNDAY

The Church's Angel Sunday solemnly opens our Lenten season today. The ushers will be distributing Lenten coin folders. Please take yours home and return it, filled with change, on Good Friday. Sunday classes are at the usual time of 10:40 AM, and Lenten Vespers at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS



We received \$113 in alms for the support and sanctification of priests. Thank you!

Heavenly Father, help us to worship God alone. When we are tempted, send the angels to minister to us.

¶ EMBER DAYS

This week come the *Ember Days*, which are days of **fast** for all so bound, with *partial abstinence* (**Wednesday** and **Saturday**) and *full abstinence* (**Friday**) for everyone aged seven and up.

★ ALTAR BOYS DAY! ★

This coming Saturday, March 15th, is our second annual Altar Boys Day!

All altar boys are expected to attend, beginning at **9:00 AM** with Holy Mass, followed by a day of *fun – games – excitement – prizes – pizza – rubrics!* The day concludes approximately 2:30 PM.

Parents: thank you for your cooperation! If your boys are unable to attend or if you have any questions, please call Mr. Vande Ryt at 513-658-4751.

Lumen Christi

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament for the next fortnight for the following intention:

Richard & Elizabeth Smith

(Mr./Mrs. Joseph Prell & family)

¶ NEXT SUNDAY

The blessing of expectant mothers will be available after all Masses.

Set Your Missal: Lent II with collects of Our Lady & All Saints, and For the Living and the Dead. Preface of Lent.

O Saint Joseph, foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ and true spouse of Mary the Virgin, pray for us.

(Indulgence of 300 days – Raccolta #459)

¶ WEEKDAY LENTEN SPECIALS

The students of St. Gertrude the Great School sing **Vespers** of the weekdays of Lent, *every school day* following the 11:20 AM Mass (approximately **12:20 PM**). Join our boys for this brief but beautiful service!

At **3:00 PM** on *Wednesdays*, we offer the traditional **Children's Stations of the Cross** (*adults welcome!*) followed by distribution of Holy Communion.

At **7:30 PM** on *Fridays* we offer Stations of the Cross, followed by a candlelight meditation, Sorrowful Mother Novena and Blessing of the Sick, Benediction & Holy Communion. Make it an evening "of recollection" by supersizing to **5:45 PM** Mass, followed by supper.

¶ OUR SICK

Dr. Jack Powell was hospitalized at Christ, where he used to practice, for serious pneumonia, and received Extreme Unction from Fr. McKenna. Pat Harpen is still holding his own, and has been transferred to his own home with Hospice attending. Keep him and Ina and their sons in your prayers. It looks like Elizabeth Smith, suffering with some dementia, will be in a nursing home. Richard, bent over with back problems, made it for ashes on Wednesday. We were so happy to see him. Jeff Kamphaus is doing poorly, as is his mother Connie. Much pain. Husband Joe called, and Mary Lois Themann pulled through her cancer surgery very well. Angela Segrist came Wednesday, too. She has been through a lot. We missed Kim and some of the ladies for sick calls. Probably doctors' appointments. This is just some of the news, as I remember it. Each prayer you say for our dear sick is precious.

– Bp. Dolan

¶ UPCOMING: Mark your calendar!

★ **St. Joseph's Day – Children's Day of Recollection:** Wednesday, March 19th

★ **First Confessions & Testing for First Communion children:** Saturday, April 5th

★ **Girls' Camp**

Wednesday, July 9th–Friday, July 11th

★ **Boys' Camp**

Tuesday, July 22nd–Thursday, July 24th

Collection Report

Sunday, March 2nd\$2,265.00
Second Collection\$677.00

✠ DUST AND DESERT ✠

WELCOME TO LENT! For the next forty days, we will be journeying through the “desert” of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving as we travel toward the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection at Easter.

Now, we all know that a desert is uninhabitable, full of danger, and lacking in such necessities as food and water. Why would anyone want to go there? Only, it seems, out of obedience to God. Mark tells us that it was the Spirit who “drove” Jesus into the desert (*Mark 1: 12*). The Spirit pressed him to enter this place of testing and temptation.

Where did Jesus find the strength to survive the desert’s harsh conditions and resist temptation? In the word of God, He survived because he depended on God and all that he had promised.

As it happened to Our Lord, so it now happens to us. The Holy Spirit wants to move us into the desert, to separate us from the comforts of everyday life so that we can focus on overcoming the sin and moral weakness that separate us from God. But we don’t go there alone. The Spirit will help us in our weakness (*Romans 8:26*). He will guide us and encourage us when we are tempted (*1 Corinthians 10: 13*).

Of course, we must play our part. We have to be willing to “compete well for the faith” (*1 Timothy 6:12*). So plan to fast. Make time for prayer every day, and immerse yourself in God’s word. Be generous to those who are in need. Return to the Lord in these ways, and He will bless you.

Let’s make this Lent a time of openness to God’s favor. Let’s ask Him to fill us with his grace, love, wisdom, and strength so that we can pass every test that lies ahead. If we are open, we will not be disappointed!

“Lord, open my eyes to Your presence here in the desert. Help me to overcome the sin that separates me from You so that I can rejoice with You on Easter Sunday.”



LED BY THE SPIRIT

One reason we need the Church is that, by its nature, Christianity is solitary. I sometimes lament my “exile,” but I’ve traveled to Catholic enclaves, and the people there say they have their own set of challenges. The minute we feel safety in

numbers, we tend to start judging. *They only have two kids to our six: are they contracepting?* We don’t like to share the limelight. We like to think our security lies in something besides God. God will be our pinch hitter, but for matters of real import, *we’ll* be in charge. *We’ll* build ourselves up with our reputation as “holy.” Depending on our temperament, station in life, and political leanings, *we’ll* convert the most people. *We’ll* publicly pray the most novenas. *We’ll* speak the most “truth to power.” That kind of behavior never authentically converts anyone. What converts, Christ learned in the desert, is a heart that has been purified by inner silence, solitude, and a long, slow crucifixion. As writer Madeleine L’Engle observes: *“We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.”* — Heather King



TO WHAT SHALL YOU RETURN?

Do not fear a torn heart.
Fear more a locked door
with rust
where your being should be.

For now you are dust
Your conversion
but crust
on a heart never broken to bleed.

— Rita A. Simmonds

Let us be raised to the One who made the dust of our lowliness into the body of His Glory.

— St. Leo the Great



Please pray for the recently deceased †Fr. Damaso Loya. Father assisted us some years ago for several months at St. Gertrude, in Sharonville. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

A DIG THROUGH DUST

I dream a dig through dust:
a pit I cannot tell how deep,
Sheol, the grave perhaps,
timber long since riddled to ash.
I scratch and sieve for goods;
ornaments, spindle-whorls and bones.

Find none. A post-hole then
whose tree and cross-tree raised a roof;
I comb the flinty ground
for sherds, grain, signs of the sacred
or profane, black layers
of occupation; and find none.

But for three Roman nails,
rust-cankered. Post-hole then, and grave.
Out of the dig’s raised dust
a man – a gardener – appears
to set a seed in it.

Water, he says. I wake in tears.

— Paul Hyland

DUST

Sweet sovereign Lord of this so
pined-for Spring,
How breathe the homage of but one
poor heart
With such small compass of thy
everything?

Ev’n though I knew this were my
life’s last hour,
It yet would lie, past hope, beyond my
power
One instant of my gratitude to prove,
My praise, my love.

That ‘Everything’ – when this, my
human dust,
Whereto return I must,
Were scant to bring to bloom a single
flower!

— Walter de la Mare

Servers: MARCH 10-16, 2014

FRI 3/14 5:45 PM LOW: Friday Night Servers

SAT 3/15 7:30 AM LOW: Simpsons
8:10 AM LOW: M. Briggs

SUN 3/16 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: MC: T.G. Simpson
ACS: S. & L. Arlinghaus
TH: J. Simpson TORCH: M. Simpson,
C. Rios, A. Soli, J. Lacy
11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, P. Omlor
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

✠ THE BISHOP'S CORNER ✠

What an interesting and worthwhile week was ours. Thanks be to God. We started by praying to the Angels of West Chester, and all available angels, for protection in the coming storm. We were indeed protected, and provided for wonderfully.

It was Holy Face Sunday, and Our Lord promises that souls will thus “settle the affairs of their household.” We had enough people for each Mass, for congregation and servers and singing. A record number followed the Mass on our webcast. As far as I know, no one was hurt trying to come to church, although some turned back, or were turned away because of the ice. Fr. Cekada and I carefully negotiated our way down the grassy hillside by the Pieta. By the 11:30 the ice and sleet had melted under the salt, and things were quiet here until before Vespers when the snow started. Thank you, holy angels. Divine Jesus, through Thy Face and Name, save us.

As I mentioned in my Ash Wednesday sermon, we all enjoyed the sunlight which followed the storm, and melted the snow, leading into another effort at Spring. Mardi Gras, the Feast of the Holy Face, and St. Casimir occupied us on Tuesday, with paczki, hamburgers and brownies shared with the students at our little pre-Lenten party.

Prayer exercised the “coalition of the willing” for the rest of the week. First Friday we honored St. Thomas Aquinas with a Solemn Mass, and the Sacred Heart with our Communion of reparation and all night adoration. The first of our Friday Stations were before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed.

I don't know about you, but I always do a lot of cooking in Lent. Ash Wednesday afternoon saw me out of “my fancy duds” and in an old cassock for soup making. Ditto for Friday. Nothing like homemade vegetable soup for Lent.

I'm grateful for our weekday Cucina Clerical cooks, braving the mysteries of vegan meals. Of course we love our Sunday regulars as well, when we let up a little for the “little Easter” Sunday is. God reward your charity, dear cooks. Bring along something meatless for our Lenten Friday potlucks, won't you? This annual tradition at our church feeds both soul and stomach, and very well. After supper, there are Stations and the Sorrowful Mother Novena with Benediction.

We had a tremendous turnout for Ash Wednesday, both of faithful and visitors. The early morning Masses with ashes before and after worked well, especially for our workers. More and more are coming at the very early hour of 6 AM. Seventy-five assisted at the Solemn Mass at

midday, and another good group for the final ashes in early evening. God reward your sacrifices.

Now, perfect *your* sacrifices this Lent by *the* perfect sacrifice, the Mass. Offer God to God in daily Mass during the week. What a lift it gives, and what glory to that God who is pretty much forgotten, even by His own, all week long.

Pat Harpen for years was a devout regular at the weekday school Mass, and on Saturday morning, until the secretly growing cancer sapped his strength. His is a beautiful example, which will not go without its reward. The same eternal reward is available to you. Any takers?

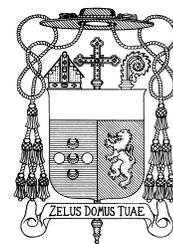
March is the month of St. Joseph, and of vocations. We were so pleased to have a religious vocation recently from the ranks of our young men, and hope God will call some of them to the holy priesthood as well. Pray with us for vocations. Esteem the priesthood and religious life, the integral Catholic Faith, the Kingship of Christ, lived in the family. These things foster vocations.

The vocation to the married state is under unprecedented attack by Pope Bergoglio and his cardinals. They are plotting an even more open “Catholic divorce” than the scandalous annulments provide. Nobody is saying anything (except, of course, **Fr. Cekada**; see “Divorce, Bergoglio style” at fathercekada.com) because they have long lost even a sense of the natural law. The Novus Ordo seeks only a way to “go along to get along” with the godless and corrupt culture today.

Stay informed about your faith and the daily Bergoglio attacks against it. Read **Bishop Sanborn** and Fr. Cekada, and listen to **Restoration Radio**. When people talk about “how wonderful the pope is” be ready to add something of value to the conversation.

Our first full week of Lent features the Ember Days. Even children do a little extra on Wednesday and Saturday in the way of meatless lunches. Join the children for Wednesday stations, or the beautifully sung weekday Masses during Lent, followed by Vespers, if you're not a night driver. Of course, you could also pray to today's St. Francesca of Rome, patroness of night vision. On the Church's Angel Sunday, we this year honor a saint who also saw hers. Her companions never saw the angel, but they did benefit from the light the angel shed, as they moved through the dark streets of Rome.

Rome is dark, Cincinnati is dark, everywhere is dark. The Church is eclipsed. *(Continued, inside back cover)*



✠ ARCHBISHOP THUC: A MEMOIR ✠

In response to a recent inquiry, Fr. Francis Miller, OFM forwarded a copy of his 2005 missive on the subject of his memories of Archbishop Thuc. We are reprinting them here as a matter of justice, as the unfounded attacks against the good Archbishop continue, even so many years after his death:

Pax et Bonum

My name is Francis, a solemnly professed religious of the Order of Friars Minor, O.F.M.: Franciscans. My entrance into Religion was August of 1980, in Rochester, New York, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 3376 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester, NY 14616. I was ordained to the Priesthood in 1985 by Bishop Louis Vezelis. Currently I dwell in Lafayette, LA and serve at the Church of Christ the King, where the Traditional Mass, and Faith, of the Roman Catholic Church is offered. I write this short testimonial to review my memories of ArchbishopArch Bishop Peter Martin Ngo Dinh Thuc, and to give a first-hand witness in order that others may know more of His Excellency.

About the middle of October, 1982, it was announced that Archbishop Ngo Dinh Thuc would join our life in the Friary at Rochester, New York. Preparations were made to receive him, and an escort was sent to smooth the way for his coming. Upon his arrival, His Excellency joined immediately into the rhythm of our religious life and schedule: midnight Office, meditation and community meals. For every Divine Office he joined us in Chapel. His Mass was offered where the public might and did attend. On Sundays he would occasionally offer Holy Mass both in Rochester and in Buffalo, New York at Sacred Heart Church. The year and almost four months that I knew and lived with His Excellency ran much like this.

Other activities: His Excellency looked after all his personal needs by himself. These included care for needs of daily living such as bathing, dressing, etc. Often he would go into the yard and walk though the grass, sometimes with a seminarian, for fifteen to twenty minutes almost every day. Winter was more difficult as New York weather must be considered. The house staircases within the Friary, two of which he negotiated several times a day, were never a major barrier to him. But for the most part he walked unassisted outside of ice, stairs new to him or without a banister. He used no walker but we encouraged the cane, which he used sometimes. His posture was only a little stooped, his gait short and occasionally studied, especially on the stairs. This may be both because he was not limber and strong. However his sense of duty gave him determination were he had an end in view to do much physically. At Holy Mass He was willing to sing the Mass and did a beautiful job there as well as singing the Divine office with the community. I never knew the Archbishop to drive a car.

His Excellency desired to be useful and help as best he was able. His energy was not that of his youth, but it allowed him to offer himself in several ways. At that time, the house had seven seminarians in their first year of Latin. He taught them regularly in a class room setting using Latin and Spanish to speak with them. When an occasion arose for His Excellency and Bishop Louis to travel to Mexico I accompanied them as an aide. His Excellency was most insistent on greeting the parents of the seminarians whom he had instructed in Rochester. Small exchanges were made, which were tokens of respect and gratitude for their parental sacrifices for Holy Mother Church, and His Excellency delighted to have greeted these good families. He was able to speak with them, with his newly learned Spanish, of their sons. Acapulco, Guadalajara and Colima were the locations of these homes and travel between the last of these two cities is no small feat on such highways. This is an example of His Excellency's determination of purpose of meeting with the family in Colima, Mexico.

It was very often the case that I would accompany His Excellency to the doctor's office for his regular visits. He particularly enjoyed these visits, as the good doctor spoke excellent French. It was the doctor's opinion that his health was good, except for some difficulties he had with sweets affecting the good Bishop's blood sugar levels. This was the only concern of the good and respected Doctor. In all of my conversations the Doctor never was expressed concern for Archbishop's mental condition. He rather stated that I need not worry at all that His Excellency was quite competent. He holds this position to this day.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: Of all the memories of my life, among the sweetest and most edifying were to watch His Excellency offer Holy Mass. His observance of the rubrics was impeccable. His poise, prayerfulness and attention were keen. He truly prayed the Mass. Many times he required help to rise from a genuflection and for this reason the older cleric friars stood by his side to assist Him. Many times his example caused me to aspire to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as well as did the Archbishop. Anyone who attended His Mass could not miss his keen attention and devotion at the Altar. Here he was at his finest and edified us all.

Other Memories: On a winter's day we walked to the chapel, a distance perhaps of 100 feet, over pavement. The ground was frozen, and the Archbishop lost his footing. Slipping, he fell upon his back. Immediately fear and shame came upon me for not taking better care of him for a broken hip could be too much for a man of his age. Rocking to an upright position he began to laugh *Ça ne fait rien de tou. Un peu souffrance pour le pourgatoire*, which means "it does not matter at all. A little more suffering for purgatory." While on the ground, He offered his hands, and we pulled him to his feet. We then went into the chapel for Prime, Holy Mass and meditation. He never complained of the incident. Another often repeated saying of His Excellency was: *Un petit croix pour bon Dieu*: A small cross (to offer to) for the good God.

To return for a moment to the Mexican seminarians, it was for their sake that he began to practice and perfect his Spanish. His mastery of languages permitted him to make quick progress with that language over the months he was in Rochester.

Among the young seminarians who joined the house that year, two Mexicans drew the Archbishop's attention in particular. They were quick of mind, cordial and focused. Had he been able to patronize them, they might have enjoyed great favors, if I dare speculate. His encouragement and interest made a difference in their enthusiasm for the studies and work before them.

Among the practices taken up at the Friary with the coming of the Archbishop was the speaking of Latin, exclusively, one day a week. On that day the Archbishop's voice would ring through the house. Latin was as easy for him as his mother language, Vietnamese. His fluency overwhelmed our untrained ears, and the days offered an opportunity for him to exercise and direct his

(Continued on back cover)

✠ THE CALENDAR

All Sunday Masses, school day Masses, Friday evening and Saturday morning Masses are webcast at www.sgg.org

MON	3/10/14	FORTY HOLY MARTYRS	FAST
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †MaryAnn & Leo Brophy (<i>Rob & Jane Brockman</i>)	
	11:20 AM	High Mass Pat & Ina Harpen (<i>Richard & Gloria Zbilicki</i>)	
	12:20 PM	Vespers	
TUE	3/11/14	FERIAL DAY	FAST
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls II (<i>John & Teresa Boyd</i>)	
	11:20 AM	High Mass Poor Souls (<i>Timothy Hopkins</i>)	
	12:20 PM	Vespers	
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Special intention Tommy (<i>G. Keaveney</i>)	
WED	3/12/14	ST GREGORY THE GREAT, PCD	FAST
		EMBER WEDNESDAY	PARTIAL ABSTINENCE
	11:20 AM	High Mass Honor of St. Joseph for Pat Harpen (<i>Patrick & Anne Marie Omlor</i>)	
	12:20 PM	Vespers	
	3:00 PM	Children's Stations of the Cross, distribution of Holy Communion	
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †John Wagner (<i>R. Vande Ryt</i>)	
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice	
THU	3/13/14	FERIAL DAY	FAST
	6:00 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls-esp. our loved ones & forgotten Souls (<i>Boston parishioners</i>)	
	11:20 AM	High Mass †Betty Richter (<i>The Wilkers</i>)	
	12:20 PM	Vespers	
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Justin Yeager (<i>Rob & Jane Brockman</i>)	
FRI	3/14/14	EMBER FRIDAY	FAST
		THE LANCE AND NAILS	
	10:55 AM	Confessions	
	11:20 AM	High Mass H.O. Hinton-recovery (<i>Patton family</i>)	
	12:20 PM	Vespers	
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary	
	5:45 PM	Low Mass †Tom Peter-3rd anniv. 2/18 (<i>Simpson family</i>)	
	6:45 PM	Lenten Pot Luck Supper (<i>please bring a dish to share</i>)	
	7:30 PM	Stations of the Cross, Candlelight meditation, Sorrowful Mother Novena with Blessing of the Sick, Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction, Holy Communion	
SAT	3/15/14	EMBER SATURDAY	FAST / PARTIAL ABSTINENCE
		ST CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER, C	
		ALTAR BOYS DAY!	
	7:15 AM	Confessions	
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Deceased friend (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>)	
	8:10 AM	Sermon, Low Mass †Bernard Wilker (<i>The Wilkers</i>)	
	9:00 AM	Low Mass For our servers (<i>Bishop Dolan</i>), Opening of Altar Boys Day	

✠ THE BISHOP'S CORNER

(Continued from page 3) Don't stumble or fall. You won't, if you stay with your angel, and honor the Holy Face, a powerful devotion for our day.

Keep your traveling padres in your prayers. **Fr. McKenna** visits the still frozen north every three weeks or so. **Fr. Cekada** makes his way to Tampa this afternoon via Atlanta, for his teaching week. Tomorrow I must start preparing for a big Mexican trip, which will take me for the first time to Baja California for next weekend with **Fr. Hernan** and his flock in La Paz. After that it's on to Vera Cruz State and Dos Rios, which I have visited many times now. We are going to stop at Guadalupe on the way, as well as at the "Doctor's office" (the Baby Dr. Jesus) and a new – for me – shrine of Our Lady. I will be gone almost a week.

Pray for me, and I will for thee! God bless you all for a blessed Lent.

In St. Joseph,

– Bishop Dolan

PS: Altar Boys – don't miss *your* wonderful day this Saturday!



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

SUN	3/16/14	LENT II
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Patrick Harpen (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass Holy Family-gratitude (<i>M/M David Marko</i>)
	10:40 AM	Sunday Catechism Classes
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass David Mann family (<i>Rob & Jane Brockman</i>)
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

✠ MEMOIR OF ARCHBISHOP THUC

(Continued) students in their lessons. The Archbishop enjoyed these days, even though he saw us struggle in our Latin.

Overall impressions: As a young man, I did not always understand His Excellency's opinions and judgments. His wisdom often surprised and still surprises me even as I've grown older. The western mind must appreciate that he was of the mandarin culture and was certainly not egalitarian. From those who belonged to his household he expected reverence and obedience. He was careful to be charitable and fulfill the duties towards those who had a claim upon him, but, again in charity, he himself would not be a burden or overreach. He trusted others, and that was clearly a habit with him.

His Excellency was attentive to the world around him. He took interest in his students, their progress and their interest. His health was good, except for some the concern about sugar. His sense of humor was good, and he was long suffering. He was proud of his healthful appearance, but not absorbed by such things. He kept the religious schedule exactly, and his prayerful offering of the Holy Mass was a thing to be admired. In short, I never witnessed any loss of the faculties of reason and memory. Even in his interests in the world around him he was lucid. Above all, He loved Our Lord and Holy Mother Church and this was obvious to me and I believe to all who witnessed him in action.

Francis Miller, O.F.M.
P.O. Box 5103 Lafayette, LA 70502
November 29, 2005
All Franciscan Saints' Day

Postscript from Fr. Miller, February 26, 2014:

Archbishop Ngo was not one to speak to freely when needed (agitated by others). He generally would go silent and suffer abuse. Knowing him so well taught me to listen and wait for a better disposed moment to approach a subject. He knew what he was up to, clearly. Again, he had his favorites, some may fault him, but this choice seemed based on the good will of the person, intelligence and sometime generosity toward himself. He did go out of his way to make himself lovable to the youngest of the Mexican Seminarians, 13 years old at that time, and that is generosity on his part. No one who ever was known to attend the Archbishop's Mass ever accused him of not being attentive, devout and exact in his rubrics of the Mass. He is renowned for his beautiful Masses. Never did I see any defect in the Mass's action, his only clear weakness being occasional difficulty in genuflecting at the altar, for which reason I stood beside him to steady and lift him throughout the moments of the Mass this might occur. In fact you will find many praise his rubrics and piety throughout his life.

With such experience as this it is impossible to concede that he did not know what he was about when conferring sacraments as I never witness reason to doubt the clarity of the mind. As a much older and experienced man that impression only grows stronger.

As His doctor told me over and over again on 3 separate (by over 20 years time) "only someone who never knew Archbishop Ngo would make such an accusation".

Further, I heard in a debate between Bishop Sanborn and Dr. Robert Fastiggi that a claim was made that the good Archbishop reconciled before his death. This point I could not concede as:

1. No signed document was ever brought forward, though they show

him smiling in a picture, pen in hand suggesting he had done so.

2. Among his last words to me as he was being abused in New York during the terrible events that lead to the loss of our shared household he said: "They want me to sign a reconciliation and renounce all that I have done, (laughing now he continued) Why would I do this; (then very serious) this would destroy the work God gave me to do of preserving the Sacraments for the future, I cannot do that!"



✠ SUNDAY SEVEN

Seven Things You Will Wish You Had Done at the Moment of Death

1. To have consistently striven to live in the state of grace.
2. To have repented frequently for past sins.
3. To have endeavored to make good the harm you have done others, by restitution either of goods or name.
4. To have chosen the hard things of life rather than the ways of comfort.
5. To have visited the sick, consoled the afflicted, and buried the dead.
6. To have given alms generously but secretly to the poor and to the Church.
7. To have spent much time in prayer.



A Lenten Prayer

O Lord Jesus, my Divine Redeemer, Who didst fast forty days and forty nights in the desert for my sake and the glory of Thy Eternal Father, help me observe this Lent more perfectly than ever in the past! Following Thy example, and with Thy assistance, may I persevere in penance, fastings, prayers and good works as befits my state of life and abilities. Help me thereby atone for my past sins, gain merit and future glory, and make reparation for the sins, outrages and apostasy of our times. May this Lent be for me an occasion of greater purification, the rooting out of my faults, and my more perfect formation into Thy image. Allow me not to yield to modern abandonment of traditional penances, but rather adhere to them with greater vigor, humility, and purity of purpose. In this Lent may I redouble my prayers and efforts for my own personal sanctification and the triumph of Thy Kingdom over the rising forces of evil and world disorder: and so to prepare myself not only for the holy days of Easter, but for the ultimate triumph of Thy Sacred Heart and our Immaculate Queen over the kingdom of Satan and Antichrist. Amen.

The first act is one of *respect*. On coming before the Blessed Sacrament, the adorer prostrates himself to the ground like the Magi Kings, moved thereto by the sentiment of a lively faith in the personal presence of his Lord and God; thus he adores Him with his whole being by this profound act of respect and, as it were, of self annihilation before the divine Majesty.

EMBER FRIDAY IN LENT

FEAST OF THE LANCE AND NAILS

The second act is one of *gratitude*. The adorer thanks our Lord for receiving him as the child of His predilection and for having invited him to His court. The third act is one of *humility and contrition*: "But who am I, O my God, to be so honored and loved? Do you forget that I am but nothingness and sin?" And this act of sorrow and humble love purifies the soul.

I adore Thee, O Jesus, true God and true Man, here present in the Holy Eucharist, humbly kneeling before Thee and united in spirit with all the faithful on earth and all the blessed in heaven. In deepest gratitude for so great a blessing, I love Thee, my Jesus, with my whole heart, for Thou art all perfect and all worthy of love. Give me grace nevermore in any way to offend Thee, and grant that I, being refreshed by Thy Eucharistic presence here on earth, may be found worthy to come to the enjoyment with Mary of Thine eternal and ever-blessed presence in heaven. Amen. (Indulgence of three years – Raccolta No. 183)



EMBER SATURDAY IN LENT

With all our heart and voice, we acknowledge, we praise and we bless Thee, God the Father unbegotten; Thee, the only begotten Son; Thee, the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, O Holy and undivided Trinity. (Indulgence of 500 days.)

The fourth act is the *oblation (offering)* of the adorer's self, of his mind, of his heart, of his will, of his senses, of his liberty, of his life to the service of his Good Master and to His greater glory. The fifth and last act is one of *union* with the adorations of the Church and of each one of her members, and with the adorations of the Blessed Virgin when she was on earth, especially when she knelt before the adorable Host.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

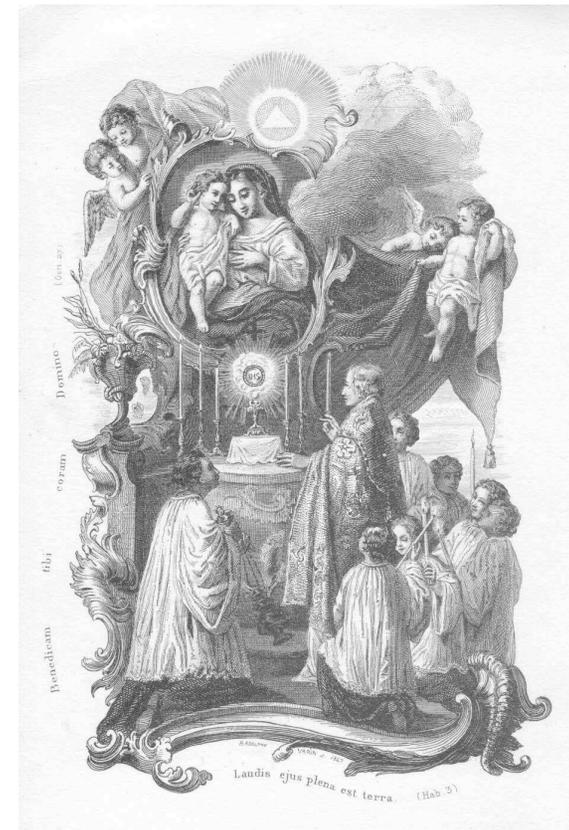
Keep well in mind these points: love adores, then gives thanks, weeps over its sins, and consecrates itself entirely to the greater glory of Jesus. "Love, render thanks, repent, and give yourself."

In order to give each one of these sentiments its full scope and force, we will do well to associate ourselves to the acts of adoration, of thanksgiving, and of love of the saints, especially those who have been the most devoted to the Most Blessed Sacrament, and above all the Most Blessed Virgin, Mother and Queen of the children of the Cenacle, and Saint Joseph, the first model of adorers.

Jesus, abiding in the Blessed Sacrament, I adore Thee. Thou art present before me, truly present as Thou wert in life: Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity.

St. Gertrude the Great Church
4900 Rialto Rd., West Chester, Ohio 45069
(513) 645-4212
www.sgg.org

Come, let us adore Him



Lent 2014

Daily meditations & prayers
First Week of Lent

MONDAY IN LENT I

INDULGENCED DEVOTIONS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

1. For reciting the invocation, *“Jesus, my God, I adore Thee here present in the sacrament of Thy love,”* whilst devoutly genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament enclosed in the tabernacle, one hundred days indulgence each time.
2. For reciting the same invocation whilst adoring with a double genuflection the Blessed Sacrament solemnly exposed, three hundred days each time.
3. For making an exterior act of reverence in passing by a church where the Blessed Sacrament is kept, one hundred days each time.

(The Holy Father granted these indulgences as asked by the archbishop of Port-au-Prince, S. Cong. Indul., July 3, 1908.)

Eucharistic adoration is the greatest act of holiness on earth. It is prayer according to the four ends of the Holy Sacrifice, a prayer which brings into play all the virtues, of which it is a summary. It is the perfect homage of man, of his body and of his soul, of his freedom and of his heart, of his works and of his thoughts at the Eucharistic service of Jesus Christ; it is the holocaust of the entire man.

TUESDAY IN LENT I

My God! I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I beg pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!

(Prayer taught by the angel at Fatima.)

Adoration should be a real meditation. In order to follow a natural order in his thoughts and sentiments, the adorer should look upon adoration as a visit to a king. Such a visit comprises three steps: the preparation, the subject to be

treated, and the conclusion.

Preparation: There are the remote preparation and the immediate preparation.

The first consists in preparing the subject matter and disposing in good order the ideas we are to expose to the King; and then in dressing properly for the occasion.

The immediate preparation is our introduction into the apartments of the King. We must be on time for our reception and not keep the King waiting. On being introduced to the King, we bow profoundly and then thank Him in a few words for His gracious kindness in granting us an audience, wretched and poor though we be. If we are to pay him any compliments, we do so immediately. Before treating of the subject of our visit, we apologize for our lack of experience and competence, all the while protesting our good will. We try to get the ministers and the Mother of the King interested in our case. Such is the introduction, and such should be that of our adoration.

EMBER WEDNESDAY IN LENT

We adore Thee, Almighty Father, and with hearts overflowing we thank Thee that Thou hast given us Thy divine Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer, and that He hath bequeathed Himself to us in the most august Eucharist even to the end of the world, revealing unto us the wonderful love of His Heart in this mystery of faith and love. Amen.

The remote preparation of our adoration consists in preparing the subject to be dwelt upon in our adoration, in determining two or three points, that is, truths or key ideas. As to the sentiments, they cannot be foreseen, as they are the spontaneous outcome of the contemplation of the truth and goodness of God – the outcome of medita-

tion itself. But we should foresee the homage we are to offer at the conclusion, what we shall present or promise to our Lord, and the requests we plan to make before leaving His Presence.

After having prepared our subject of meditation, we should attend to our personal appearance to make sure we are decent and respectable. The Church requires neither elegance nor splendor in adorers, but seemliness in their person. Adoration is, in a very special manner, a festive form of worship in keeping with which both the dress of the adorer and the devout homages he presents should be in harmony.

THURSDAY IN LENT I

O Word of God, dear Jesus our Redeemer, we adore Thee and with hearts overflowing we thank Thee for having taken human flesh upon Thee and become for our redemption both Priest and Victim in the sacrifice of the Cross, a sacrifice which, through the exceeding love of Thy Sacred Heart, Thou dost renew upon our altars at every moment. O High Priest, O Divine Victim, give us the grace to honor Thy holy sacrifice in the most adorable Eucharist with the homage of Mary most holy and of all Thy holy Church, triumphant, suffering and militant. We offer ourselves wholly to Thee; of Thine infinite goodness and mercy do Thou accept our offering, unite it to Thine own and grant us Thy blessing. Amen.

The immediate preparation for Eucharistic adoration consists in recollecting ourselves even before coming into the presence of the King of kings, surrounded on His throne by the entire heavenly court and waiting before us in His great goodness; in making *five acts* which serve as an introduction of the soul into the presence of Jesus.