

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
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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

February 14, 2016

LENT I

INVOCABIT SUNDAY

ST. VALENTINE, PRM



¶ LENTEN ANGEL SUNDAY

The Church's Angel Sunday solemnly opens our Lenten season today. The ushers will be distributing the Lenten coin folders. Please take yours home and return it, filled with change, on Good Friday.

The Blessing of Religious Articles is available after all Masses today. Sunday classes are at 10:40 AM. Stop by Helfta Hall after Mass to pick up some St. Valentine's Day treats in the Bake Sale! Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT II

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion Rail after all Masses. Sunday classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers and Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 Set Your Missal: Lent II, with collects of Our Lady and All the Saints and Against the Persecutors. Preface of Lent.

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS

 We received \$555.00 this month for the support and sanctification of priests. God reward your generosity!

¶ 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.



AND BEHOLD, ANGELS CAME AND MINISTERED TO HIM.

FOR A VALENTINE TO MARY

Of yore you wrote upon my lips
White melodies;
And your finger-tips
Touched on my heart sweet ecstasies.
As when a bird 'mid flowers poses,
My heart was wreathed,
Like yours, with roses...
And even though, somehow un-
sheathed,
Their petals dropped, wilted and
torn,
And like a bird
Among a thorn
My heart at first seemed left un-
heard,—
I feel your heart, your lips, your
fingers
Still play in mine
The tune that lingers
On this thorn-
crowned valen-
tine.



-Fray Angelico Chavez

¶ WEEKDAY LENTEN SPECIALS

The older boys of St. Gertrude the Great School sing Vespers of the weekdays of Lent with the priests, every school day following the 11:20 AM Mass (approximately 12:20 PM). Join our boys for this brief but beautiful service! Also, at 3:00 PM on Wednesdays, we offer the traditional Children's Stations of the Cross (adults welcome!) followed by distribution of Holy Communion.

¶ LENTEN FRIDAY EVENINGS

Come to our Lenten Friday Evenings of Recollection. Confessions and Rosary are at 5:15 PM, followed by the Infant of Prague Novena. Mass is at 5:45 PM with the Sacred Heart Novena following. After Mass, enjoy a Lenten Potluck Supper in Helfta Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Stations of the Cross are at 7:30 PM, followed by a candlelight sermonette, the Sorrowful Mother Novena, and the Blessing of the Sick. The evening closes with the distribution of Holy Communion.

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 24th: Children's Day of Recollection.

¶ OUR SICK

Please remember Fr. Cekada, who has continuing back problems, and Joan Landry in your prayers, as well as for all of our sick and shut in.

BEGINNING LENT: HOW TO PRAY

“Go into your room” (Mt 6:6)—that is, into the most private part of your home, or rather, go into the most intimate place in your heart. Recollect yourself completely. “Shut the door” (Mt 6:6). Shut your senses, and let no foreign thoughts enter: “Pray in secret.” Open your heart to God alone. Let Him be the keeper of your innermost sorrows...

Bring your attention to rest upon some important truth that captures your mind and heart. Consider, weigh, and taste it; ruminate upon it; enjoy it. Truth is the bread of the soul. You do not need to swallow each morsel whole. Nor do you need always to be passing from one truth to another. Hold on to one, embracing it until it becomes a part of you. Attach your heart to it even more than your mind...

Make a simple, lively act of faith in His presence. Christian soul, place yourself entirely under His gaze. He is very near...

He awaits you. Run. Fly. Break your chains; break all the bonds that tie you down to flesh and blood.

-Bishop Jacques-Benigne Bossuet
Bishop Bossuet (†1704) was a French bishop and theologian.



Collection Report

Sunday, February 7th.....\$4,810.50
Second Collection.....\$1,098.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.



BE KIND

Every year when Ash Wednesday rolls around, Catholics usually ask one another what they're giving up for Lent. Sometimes there's also some good-natured teasing about the perceived degree of difficulty: “Is that all? That's not hard!”

This Lent (...) why not do this: *Be kind*. Kindness is an underappreciated way to lead a Christian life. Let me suggest three ways to be kind.

First, *don't be a jerk*. You may be sick, tired, or upset about some minor catastrophe that happened at work or at home. That doesn't mean that you have to pass along your anger or frustration to others. Once I said to a friend, with mock seriousness, “My life is such a cross.” “Really?” he said. “For you or for others?” While it's important to share your struggles with friends, you don't need to make others miserable.

Second, *honor the absent*. Stop talking about people behind their backs. Few things are as damaging to our spiritual lives as denigrating other people. It's a serious lack of charity, and needless to say, it makes the other person feel terrible if they discover what you said—which they usually do.

Third, *give people the benefit of the doubt*. St. Ignatius Loyola mentions this at the beginning of his *Spiritual Exercises*. Whenever there is any doubt about what someone said or did, give them the “plus sign.”

Being kind may be harder to do than giving up chocolate, but it's a lot more helpful for your spiritual life—and for everyone else's.

-Fr. Martin, SJ

THE GARMENTS OF GOD

As many as touched it were healed.

God sits on a chair of darkness in my soul.

He is God alone, supreme in His majesty.

I sit at His feet, a child in the dark beside Him;

My joy is aware of His glance and my sorrow is tempted

To nest on the thought that His face is turned from me.

He is clothed in the robes if His mercy, voluminous garments—
Not velvet or silk and affable to the touch,

But fabric strong for a frantic hand to clutch,

And I hold to it fast with the fingers of my will.

Here is my cry of faith, my deep avowal

To the Divinity that I am dust.
Here is the loud profession of my trust.

I need not go abroad
To the hills of speech or the hinterlands of music

For a crier to walk in my soul where all is still.

I have this potent prayer through good or ill:

Here in the dark I clutch the garments of God.

-Jessica Powers
Jessica Powers (Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit, 1905-1988) was a Discalced Carmelite nun and member of the Carmel of the Mother of God, Pewaukee, Wisconsin.



“Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.”

-Longfellow

Blessed Quadragesima, or Lent, Sunday. This is our liturgical Angel Sunday as well. May they guide you through the cold and ice of these first days in the desert, fasting with Christ. You wouldn't know it, but the weather hasn't really been so bad. It's just Winter.

For the second year in a row our little school Mardi Gras party was snowed out, and many stayed home from Ash Wednesday services as well, though not so bad as last year. We had a good flow of faithful and visitors all day long for Masses and ashes. On holy days and feasts of devotion we always have a good group of "unknowns." Last night I was thinking that maybe they were angels, sent to fill up the places left empty by our own faithful.

I'm writing this on the feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes**, patroness of the sick. Please say a prayer for all of our sick and shut in, especially **Fr. Cekada** who has a serious back problem, and also **Fr. McGuire** who tends to our sick, and **Fr. McKenna** who has continuing back issues himself, and is on a long marathon drive today from Milwaukee to North Dakota, bringing blessed ashes and candles and The Mass for isolated Catholics. Today is Father's fourth anniversary of Ordination. God bless and protect our priests and our sick.

To complete the priests' news, **Fr. Lehtoranta** has at last received his working papers from the INS. This means he will be able to renew his driver's license and resume more easily his visits to the sick and to Kroger for bread and salad, as well as to St. Clare for Holy Mass. Thank you, 19, for all of your help!

Fr. Cekada goes to the seminary this afternoon. Last week he was busily mapping out the music for High Mass on the Sundays of Lent, among other things. These other things include an entertaining and enlightening video on R&R Pope Fictions, and the launching of an appeal for the first of our church heating/air conditioning units, whose shelf life will soon be up. Thanks for a little extra Lenten generosity. They're expensive.

Ditto for the St. Valentine's Bake Sale this morning. Thanks for your help as you enjoy a little treat or two for Sunday, before resuming the fast on Monday. Do remember the Spring (?) Ember Days this week. Carnivores, young and old, should eat meat just once at the principal meal, on Wednesday and Saturday. On Friday of course we abstain. How odd (I really can't get over it!) that our Kentucky cousins are now eating hamburgers on Friday as their one solitary gesture of solidarity with the Novus Ordo Pope. Imagine it! Friday abstinence is no more for them. Their parents and grandparents, what must

they be thinking? They used to say that the reason most Catholics accepted the changes is because it was easier. Indeed.

Let me include a plea for faithful obedience to the fasting laws of the true Church, real mortification notwithstanding. That's the point! Love this world, and you will perish with it. Love Lent, and you will love God...and life!

Be generous. Come again to Mass this week. Come to Stations. Pray for the coming of Spring, and the soul's Spring most of all.

Bishop Dolan



P.S. One of our young people kindly enquired after Caravaggio last Sunday. He is indeed in the land of the living, and loving it, as cats will. He's mostly mended from his wounds, and patiently awaiting the next Spring which will enable him to resume rabbit hunting. He's still pretty faithful at his morning prayers in my lap, but he falls asleep during meditation. Alas.

THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD...

Why do I lunge for control instead of joy? Is it somehow more perversely satisfying to flex control's muscle? Ah—*power*—like Satan. Do I think Jesus' grace too impotent to give me the full life? Isn't that the only reason I don't always swill the joy? If the startling truth is that I don't really want joy, there's a far worse truth. If I am rejecting the joy that is hidden somewhere deep in this moment, am I not ultimately rejecting God? Whenever I am blind to joy's well, isn't it because I don't believe in God's care? That God cares enough about me always to offer me joy's water, wherever I am, regardless of circumstance. But if I don't believe God cares, if I don't want or seek the joy He definitely offers somewhere in this moment—I don't want God.

In His presence is fullness of joy. *He is in this moment.*

The well is always here. God is always here—precisely because He does care.

† SORROWFUL MOTHER NOVENA



Our annual Sorrowful Mother Novena continues now every Friday evening. Come to receive the Blessing of the Sick. Submit the first names of your sick, those in the Armed Forces, and the mercenaries. Just call or email the church office. The Infant of Prague Novena continues *before* the 5:45 PM Friday Mass, and, as always, the Sacred Heart Novena is during Benediction.

Warning! ☠ Politics. Presented as a public service in an election year, because you won't see it anywhere else. Feel free to copy and distribute.

What if all the remaining presidential candidates really want the same things? What if they all offer essentially the same ideas couched in different words? What if these primary races have become beauty pageants largely based on personality and advertising?

What if our system of governance is so deep into the fabric of big government in the second decade of the 21st century that all the presidential candidates really believe that most voters actually want the government to care for them?

What if all major candidates in both major political parties promise a federal government that can right any wrong, regulate any behavior, tax any event, solve any problem and borrow unlimited amounts of money?

What if the federal government is broke? What if it is politically committed to spending more money than it collects in revenue? What if all the candidates believe in borrowing money today and again borrowing money next year to pay off today's debts? What if rolling over federal debt never pays off or even pays down the principal?

What if none of the candidates cares about increasing the inflationary pressures and tax burdens on generations of Americans as yet unborn? What if they all want to spend hundreds of billions of dollars a year more than is collected in revenue? What if they all refuse to address the issue of how to pay back responsibly all the borrowed money from the past 100 years?

What if today we are the victims of this borrowing and spending mentality begun by President Woodrow Wilson and followed by nearly all of his successors up to President Obama? What if all the candidates in the presidential primaries plan to continue this self-destructive process?

What if the modern federal government has never paid back a loan in full without using borrowed money, and none of the candidates running for president cares about that, and all have indicated that they would continue to do the same? What if, as of today, nearly 20 cents of every dollar collected in revenue must legally be paid to lenders to the federal government as interest on their loans? What if American military leaders have argued that the government's debt is a greater threat to national security than is ISIS?

What if, when these candidates talk about curing cancer or eradicating the heroin epidemic or providing clean water, they are doing so to tug at your heart-strings? What if they are all mimicking President Obama's politically successful demonstrations of empathy? What if these issues—genuine problems in contemporary America—are

not federal problems because they do not spring from areas of governance delegated by the Constitution to the federal government? What if health, safety, welfare and morality are the core of the states' responsibilities and not the federal government's?

What if all these candidates don't care about the Constitution and its guarantees of personal freedom, its checks and balances, and its division of governmental powers, even though, before entering office, they will be required to take a solemn oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution?

What if the candidates all want to rearrange borders of countries in the Middle East using the American military? What if they all think they can use the blood of young Americans to force democratic governmental structures upon foreign peoples whose cultures have rejected repeatedly the concepts of majority rule, due process and natural rights over the course of a thousand years of religious civil wars? What if the candidates all fail to see that the more innocents we kill abroad, the more we use force to tell others how to live, the more harm comes to us—to our people, to our culture and to our freedoms?

What if all the candidates for president favor the government using torture, detaining persons without trial, continuous surveillance of all the telephone calls, emails, and text messages of all persons in America—even though these behaviors are profoundly unconstitutional, morally un-American, uniquely destructive of personal liberty in a free society and fail to enhance public safety?

What if all these candidates—in differing degrees—reject the concept of limited government? What if they all want to bribe the rich with bailouts and the middle class with tax breaks and the poor with welfare? What if these candidates and their supporters and their attitudes about the role of government in our lives have reduced government at this sad time in our history to a game whereby everyone tries to live at someone else's expense?

What if none of the candidates recognizes that government is an artificial creation based on force and ought to be exercised minimally? What if none of them understands that prosperity comes from the free choices of investors, workers, and consumers, and not from the decisions of the federal government's central planners?

What if none of these current candidates acknowledges that individuals are sovereign, our rights are inalienable, our property belongs to us, our souls are immortal, and that the government works for us—not the other way around?

What ever happened to the right to be left alone? Where is a candidate who will defend it? What are lovers of liberty to do?

-Andrew P. Napolitano

THE NINE CHOIRS OF ANGELS

1. Seraphim

Name means the burning ones, and they are Attendants at the Throne of God. They praise God singing, "Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts!" (*Isaiah 6:1-7*)



2. Cherubim

Name means the Fullness of Wisdom, and they Contemplate God's providence. Assigned to protect special places. (*Exodus 25:18-21; Ezekiel 10:14; Revelation 4-6*)

3. Thrones

Represent the steadfastness of the love of God. They contemplate God's power and judgment, and they appear as the most unlike the others when revealed. (*Ezekiel 10:17; Colossians 1:16; Daniel 7:9*)

4. Dominions

Lord over the lower choirs and humanity. They take illumination from the higher hierarchies and govern the universe. (*Ephesians 1:21; Colossians 1:16*)



5. Virtues

Run the operation of movement in the universe. They are often associated with planets, elements, seasons, and nature. (*Ephesians 1:21*)

6. Powers

Assist in governing the natural order. They are warrior angels tasked with fighting the war against the demonic choirs. (*Ephesians 1:21, Ephesians 6:12*)



7. Principalities

Princes of the lowest triad assigned to care and guard communities, kingdoms, states, and parishes. They are associated with transitions in power. (*Ephesians 3:10, Ephesians 1:21*)



8. Archangels

Leader angels assigned to communicate and carry out God's important plans for man. Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael are the only 3 names we know. (*Jude 9, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, The book of Tobit*)



9. Angels

Angels are closest to the material world and humanity. The lowest choir is where we get the majority of our personal guardian angels. (*Luke 22:43, Matthew 18:10, Hebrews 13:2*)



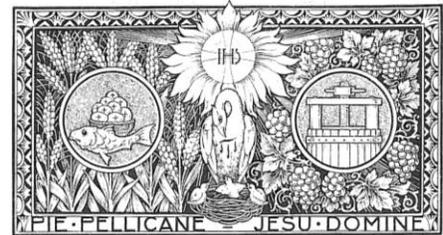
THE EMBER DAYS OF LENT

REPARATION THOUGHTS

Our Lord is above all the victim of sinners in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

He is absolutely in their power there. They may take Him, trample Him on the ground, outrage Him in every way. He is silent under all. They may refuse Him a church to dwell in, turn Him out from among them as the "Anti-God" infidels are still doing. He is silent. But in the Mass He offers Himself day after day, all the world over, as their victim. In lonely tabernacles He prays unceasingly and waits for their conversion. He puts up with being abandoned, ill-treated, uncared-for; He will never take back His gift of Himself.

For all this we owe Him reparation. Reparation is, indeed, the chief duty of adorers of the Sacred Heart. We learn from the three favored disciples of Jesus how much He suffers from the black ingratitude of men, and how He demands reparation from those at least who profess to be His friends.



*The Priest, the portal in this world
Through which the Christ will pass,
Unfolding like a snow-white rose
In priestly hands at Mass.*

*His sacrifice no equal knows
His value beyond cost,
For with him we have everything
Without him we are lost.*

-Katie Watkins Furman

Pray for priests!

MON 2/15/16 FERIAI DAY
 COMMEMORATION OF STS. FAUSTINUS & JOVITA, MM
11:20 AM High Mass For all who cook for us & for our devoted drivers (*The Fathers*)
12:20 PM Vespers

TUE 2/16/16 FERIAI DAY
8:00 AM Low Mass Anne Marie & Paddy Omlor (*Patrick Omlor*)
11:20 AM High Mass Thank you St. Anthony (*Mary Brueggemann*)
12:20 PM Vespers
5:00 PM Low Mass †Bishop McKenna (*Boston friends*)

WED 2/17/16 EMBER WEDNESDAY
 THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT
8:00 AM Low Mass For Mary & Pauline (*Patrick Omlor*)
11:20 AM High Mass †Elizabeth Smith (*Mr. & Mrs. Lotarski & family*)
12:20 PM Vespers
3:00 PM Children's Stations, Holy Communion
5:00 PM Low Mass Fr. McGuire (*Ken & Colleen Schroepfer*)

THU 2/18/16 FERIAI DAY
 COMMEMORATION OF ST. SIMEON, BPM
8:00 AM Low Mass †Tom Peter (*C. Simpson family*)
11:20 AM High Mass Julia Richesson – Blessed Birthday (*Fr. Lehtoranta*)
12:20 PM Vespers
5:00 PM Low Mass †Fr. Martin Stepanich, O.F.M., S.T.D. (*Samantha*)

FRI 2/19/16 EMBER FRIDAY
 THE LANCE AND NAILS
8:00 AM Low Mass †Phil & †Johnny Donadio (*Rob & Jane Brockman*)
10:55 AM Confessions
11:20 AM High Mass †Paul Puglielli, Sr. – 10th Anniversary 2/19 (*Diane Puglielli*)
12:20 PM Vespers
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena VIII
5:45 PM Low Mass In honor of St. Martina for †Janice West (*Katie West*)
6:45 PM Lenten Potluck Supper
7:30 PM Stations, Sermonette
Sorrowful Mother Novena V, Blessing of the Sick
Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
8:30 PM (approx.) Holy Communion

SAT 2/20/16 EMBER SATURDAY
7:10 AM Confessions
7:30 AM High Mass †Albert Barré, Jr. & †Norman Barré (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)
8:20 AM Sermon & Low Mass †Elizabeth Smith (*Mike Briggs family*)

SUN 2/21/16 LENT II
7:30 AM Low Mass Rob & Jane Brockman (*from children*)
9:00 AM High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
10:40 AM Sunday Catechism Classes
11:30 AM Low Mass Beth & Joe Prell (*Becky & John Ellis*)
4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass †David MacDonald–51st Anniversary Feb. 21 (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)

L: GLORIABOR IN INFIRMITATIBUS MEIS
 To dwell a day and night upon the sea,
 With buoyant heart sustained by sun and star;
 To preach in every land, though forced to flee;
 Of stones and scourges bearing every scar;



To walk through perils in the wilderness,
 Through cities, showing brethren true or false
 The hardened witness of God's tenderness,
 Though flesh be weak and marble have its faults.

And yet, to glory not in such a force
 Transcending oceans and the tyrant's chain,
 But give all honor, and without remorse,
 To fragile weakness and each piercing pain,

Is patience bearing fruit on fertile soil
 Where those who hear grow stronger as they toil.

-Joseph MacKenzie
 Dominica in Sexagesima
 Anno MMXVI

FRANCISCO, ANGEL OF REPARATION

"Francisco, who did not hear the Angel speak, nor would he hear the Virgin speak later, asked Lucia: 'The Angel gave you Holy Communion, but what did he give to me and Jacinta?' 'It was also Holy Communion,' Jacinta responded with ineffable joy. 'Did you not see the blood dripping from the Host?' 'I felt that God was within me, but I did not know how it would be!,' Francisco responded. And lying prostrate on the ground, he remained there for a long time with his sister, repeating the Angel's prayer: 'Most Holy Trinity, etc.' Among all the apparitions with which Heaven favored him, this was the one which surely had the greatest impact on the good soul of Francisco. The words of the Angel asking him to give comfort to God, saddened because of so many outrages and sins, struck his sensitive heart deeply. From then on, his goal was to give comfort to the Lord. Whereas Jacinta became the apostle on behalf of sinners, Francisco wished to be the comforter of Jesus."

Servers

SUN 2/21 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: T. Simpson, A. Richesson TH: L. Arlinghaus ACs: P. Omlor, T. Lawrence TORCH: C. Richesson, C. Arlinghaus, M. & D. Simpson
 11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, P. McClorey
 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

OUR REPARATION RULES, CONCLUDED



MONDAY IN LENT I – DEPRIVE

Our sixth rule is to practice reparation by depriving ourselves of something we now have that we could, if we wanted to, do without.

- It may be some luxury in the home,
- Or some delicacy at table,
- Or some comfort in our way of living,
- Or some trinket, or indulgence that we could just as well do without.

Call it mortification or self-denial; whatever the name, the basic idea is to expiate for sins of self-indulgence by giving up. When we sin we offend God by choosing some creature to which we have no right. When we practice mortification, we make reparation by choosing to deprive ourselves of some creature we have a right to—why, in order to undo the harm caused by sin and thus propitiate the offended justice of God.

TUESDAY IN LENT I – SACRIFICE

I have saved sacrifice for the end because it synthesizes everything we have so far said.

- What is sacrifice? Sacrifice is the surrender of something to God.
- Sacrifice is the heart of penance and reparation.

When we sacrifice, we let go with our wills of whatever we could legitimately possess and

enjoy because we want to make up to God for having stupidly chosen some creature in preference to the Creator.

We return to where we began by stressing that when we sacrifice, we do **more** than we would have done; we give up more than we would have given up; we surrender more of what we like in order to—in plain English—prove to God that we love Him.

There is an episode in the Gospels that perfectly synthesizes this cardinal mystery of sin and penitential reparation.

Remember after the Resurrection when Christ asked Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than the others do?” Why the question? Because Peter had sinned; sinned more than the others who had remained faithful to the Master. Peter was expected to love Christ more. Why more? Because he had more to sacrifice in order to expiate more because he had so deeply sinned in denying the Saviour.

WEDNESDAY IN LENT I

We have our seven rules of Meditation. Review them today, and often during Lent.

As we look into our hearts we must humbly confess that truly, we have sinned, sinned often, sinned deeply, sinned willfully.

But God is good. He gives us the privilege of not only expiating what we have done wrong, but actually becoming more pleasing to Him by our penance and reparation.

It was no pious statement that St. Paul gave us when he said, “Where sin abound-

ed, grace has even more abounded.” In other words, in God’s providence, He allows us to sin so we might repent and become saints.

THURSDAY IN LENT I

The Fatima children had experienced supernatural visions the year before when an angel (quite possibly the archangel Michael) visited them three times in 1916. He called himself the Angel of Peace and taught them the first of these Fatima prayers, also known as the Pardon Prayer, that spring:

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.

He later referred to himself as the Angel of Portugal and taught them the second of our Fatima prayers covered here in his last appearance that autumn, amazingly, while leaving a Host (the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ) and a golden chalice both suspended in mid-air!

Most Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.

FRIDAY IN LENT I

THE LANCE AND NAILS

After that the Angel rose, took again in his

hand the chalice and the host. The host he gave to me and the contents of the chalice he gave to Jacinta and Francisco, saying at the same time,



Eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ terribly outraged by the ingratitude of men. Offer reparation for their sakes and console God.

Once more he bowed to the ground repeating with us the same prayer thrice: Oh, Blessed Trinity etc. and disappeared. Overwhelmed by the supernatural atmosphere that involved us, we imitated the Angel in everything, kneeling prostrate as he did and repeating the prayers he said.

It was in this way that catechized in prayer, reparative suffering, and the doctrine of the Holy Eucharist, and strengthened by the Bread of Angels, that the children of Fátima were prepared for the visitation of the Queen of Portugal, the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

SATURDAY IN LENT I

The following year, Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco first saw Our Lady of Fatima on May 13th, 1917. She appeared to be “more brilliant than the sun,” as Lucia later put it. Indeed, in the second apparition in June she opened her hands to reveal a light so radiant that “we saw ourselves immersed in God,” again according to Lucia.

As World War I raged on, Our Lady asked the children to pray the rosary daily for world peace. She further requested that they bear sufferings **in reparation** for the many offenses committed against her Son, as well as for the

conversion of sinners. She appealed for prayer and penance from all of us as well.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

“How are we to make sacrifices?” Lucy asked.

“Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an **act of reparation** for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. You will thus draw down peace upon your country. I am its Angel Guardian, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and bear with submission, the suffering which the Lord will send you.”

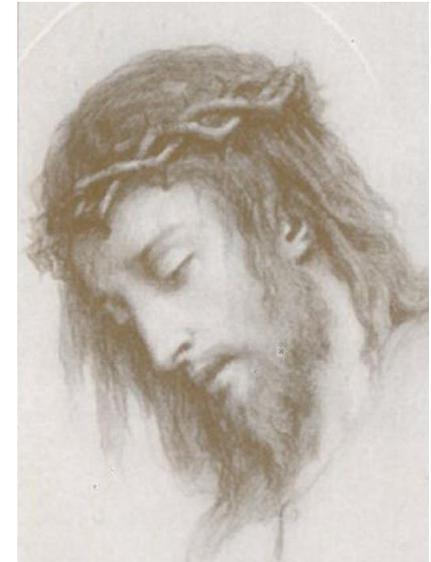
The following Fatima prayers came from Our Lady herself. When she appeared to the children in July, 1917 she taught them this prayer, to be said when offering up personal sufferings, sacrifices, or acts of penance:

Oh my Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



St. Gertrude the Great Church
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Reparation Notes



Daily Thoughts and Prayers
for Lent 2016

An Offering for Lent – St. Therese

O my God! I offer Thee all my actions of this Lent for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, my every thought, my simplest works, by uniting them to Its infinite merits; and *I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them into the furnace of Its Merciful Love.*

O my God! I ask of Thee for myself and for those whom I hold dear, the grace to fulfill perfectly Thy Holy Will, to accept for love of Thee the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we may one day be united together in heaven for all eternity. Amen.