

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor • Rev. Anthony Cekada  
Rev. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna  
TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Cook a meal for the priests! Sign up here: <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/622747/>



## March 19, 2017 LENT III

### ¶ OCULI SUNDAY

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available today after all Masses. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM, with short Stations following at 11:15 AM. First Vespers of St. Joseph with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

### ¶ ALTAR BOYS' DAY!

Altar Boys: Come and enjoy a day of games, informative talks, and *fun!* Our annual Altar Boys' Day is this Saturday, the feast of the Annunciation, March 25. The day begins with High Mass at 8:20 AM, and closes at approximately 2:30 PM. Brunch will be provided.

### ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT IV - LAETARE

Next Sunday is Sisters' Sunday! Come back to Helfta Hall after the morning Masses for breakfast, cookie and craft sale, and silent auction. Please see the ad elsewhere in the bulletin for more information.

Sunday Classes will be at 10:40 AM, with short Stations following at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.  *Set your mis-sal:* Lent IV. Second collect of Our Lady & All the Saints, third for the Living & the Dead. Preface of Lent.

### LENTEN FRIDAY EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

5:45 PM: Low Mass followed by Lenten Supper: *Clam chowder, bread, salad & fruit salad*

7:30 PM: Stations, Meditation, Sorrowful Mother Novena VII, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction

8:30 PM (approx.): Holy Communion

### *Lumen Christi*

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

Special Intention  
(Brian Dooley)



BLESSED IS THE WOMB THAT BORE THEE

### ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

Monday, March 20

11:20 AM High Mass  
& Blessing of the Bread

St. Joseph's Table  
(bring some food for the poor)

Hot Cross Buns & Pizza lunch  
to which you are invited.

FAST IS DISPENSED  
for those who attend the Mass.

### ¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember our sick, our shut in, the Rosary Chain intentions and the repose of the soul of †Ruth Miller, mother of Guy and Jason Miller.

### *Collection Report*

Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.....\$4,178.00

### ¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

Girls' Camp: July 12-14

Boys' Camp: July 25-27

### ¶ MASS STIPENDS

From time to time we run low on Mass Stipends. Now would be a good time to request a Mass. Look upon it as a Lenten alms, a most powerful act of charity for living or deceased, or for the atonement of past sins. People don't think of that. Have a Mass offered as well out of charity for the Poor Souls or to ask them a favor.

### ¶ SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

The Rosary is a most powerful prayer, all the more so when prayed publicly. But everyone has his own speed in reciting the words, and sometimes we're not aware the volume is on high. The results can be...a little distracting. Say your Rosary *soft* and *low*, a sweet murmur of prayer, and give yourself, and your neighbor, the quiet needed for meditation.

### FATHER DONKEY

Don Orione (1872-1940) was an Italian priest and disciple of St. John Bosco. He and other priests founded "the Little Work of Divine Providence" for the works of mercy. He did his utmost for the salvation of souls. "My vocation in life," he said, "is to learn to live like one of God's little donkeys, a real little donkey of Divine Providence." For a little donkey, this charitable and energetic priest had an ambitious prayer: "Lord, set me down at the gates of hell so that by Your mercy I may keep them shut against all comers!"

## JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY

When Mary became miraculously the Mother of the Savior, this undertaking received the most ineffable consecration. Her maternity was the supreme fulfillment of her virginity, the divine flower of her giving, the crowning of that love which from the first moment took her utterly out of her own possession, the lily of poverty.

In taking Mary to his home in the fulfillment of the ceremony which rendered their marriage definitive, Joseph participated in the



maternity of his spouse in the measure in which he was vowed to her virginity.

That is to say that he was entirely consecrated to

it and that it accomplished his own fecundity, as it did Mary's, in that marvelous fruit which was the work of the Holy Spirit.

Thus it was that she could later say with the most moving tenderness and the most exquisite humility: *Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing* (Lk 2:48).

Jesus was truly the issue of their marriage; their virginity was fruitful, their flesh exultant and at peace, in the super-eminent realization of the life-bearing impulse. And as the bond that united them was the divine Person of their Child, their marriage was at once holy and eternal, combining a unique degree of all elements of the perfect union—*fides, proles, sacramentum*: fruitfulness, fidelity, indissolubility.

-Fr. Maurice, O.S.B.

## ST. JOSEPH

Greatest of saints, we kneel to thee,  
Thine aid beseeching  
In life and death; lest, haply, we  
Should fail of reaching—  
Our pilgrimage from Egypt past—  
The home of Nazareth at last!

-E. Merryweather



## A GOSPEL THOUGHT

Why did the woman lift up her voice?

This was by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost to shame the Pharisees who, blinded by pride, neither professed nor acknowledged the divinity of Christ, whilst this humble woman not only confessed Jesus as God, but praised her who carried Him, whom heaven and earth cannot contain. Consider the great dignity of the Blessed Virgin, Mother of the Son of God, and hear her praises from the holy Fathers. St. Cyril thus salutes her: "Praise to thee, Blessed Mother of God: for thou art virginity itself, the scepter of the true faith!" and St. Chrysostom: "Hail, O Mother, the throne, the glory, the heaven of the Church!" St. Ephrem: "Hail, only hope of the Fathers, herald of the apostles, glory of the martyrs, joy of the saints, and crown of the virgins, because of thy vast glory, and inaccessible light!"



## "MOTHER" THEIR DEATH CRY

*"After the battle that day you could not hear yourself talk any more in the trenches for the cries of the wounded. It was like one great uninterrupted wail... Then, little by little, silence came, as a good many of them died. What we heard sound longest on the battlefield, from one end to the other—was the word 'Mother!' It is always those who are dying who call like that; we know that now." - Letter from a War Nurse.*

"Mother! they cry in anguish at the last,  
These strong young soldiers  
stricken unto death.  
"Mother!" All sweet with mem'ries  
of the past,  
That name, they gasp it forth with  
failing breath.

But woe for them! No mother's  
hand may now,  
Howe'er fain, the earthen pillow  
smooth;  
No mother's soft caress can reach  
the brow.  
No mother's voice the suffering  
spirit soothe.

So here they lie in battle's dread  
abyss,  
These youthful victims of the na-  
tions' wrath;  
And each one, dying, crave his  
mother's kiss  
And, friend or foe, one longing  
each one hath.

Mother of God, although their lips  
may frame  
No prayer to thee, no tribute to thy  
power,  
When each poor lad invokes his  
mother's name,  
Be thou his Mother in that last  
dark hour.

-Dennis A. McCarthy

*A pathetic picture of the horrors of war. There is great consolation to a Catholic mother in sending her boy to war in knowing that there is one mother that will always be near him and to whom he can turn. Dedicated to the victims of our perpetual war.*

These are busy days for us church folk: the feasts to celebrate, the fast to cultivate, devotions to be done; and God's grace most of all to be won. What a help surely are the recollections, as well as all of the above. It all points to the above, to God and Jesus and Mary and Heaven, lest we forget. Oh, and our failures remind us of our own weakness, lest we forget to be humble. Win, win. But, "Remember, O thou man."

The good Lord suspended our Spring and sent some more Winter, which froze the daffodils and darkened the yellow array of Forsythia. How cold it feels after the sweetness of a little warmth in March. But on the other hand, the feasts these Lenten days warm and cheer us. St. Patrick was grand with its Solemn Mass with touches of green everywhere, and the so touching music offered in praise of the adorable Trinity. I'm sure St. Joseph will be no different, but you'll have to come back tomorrow, won't you? The feast days of Lent have a joy all their own.

The Children's Day of Recollection gathered some forty-three for spiritual talks and holy exercises, as well as a nice chance to get together during the lunch hour. Thank you to the Fathers, cooperating parents, and the "usual suspects" who made it happen. Everything seemed to flow quite smoothly as we considered Mary, our model and mother. After the St. Patrick's Day break, we look forward to resuming our Friday Evening of Recollection, as well as Saturday's for the Altar Boys.

Next Sunday is Sisters' Sunday, as we rejoice in the rose of Laetare, or Rejoice Sunday. We wish the Sisters a happy St. Benedict's Day this week, followed by St. Isidore, Mother Isidore's name day. Sr. Jeanne Marie has to wait till August.

Katie took the cats to the vet last week for their annual, and Puccini did me proud for his good behavior. He got right up on the examining table, and even purred a bit. **Fr. Cekada** always thought Caravaggio a tad on the heavy side, but the veterinarian assures us it's all muscle. Bunnies, beware! Even a mouse or two perhaps.

**Fr. Siordia**, "down old Mexico way," is in a world of trouble to keep his church from a competing traditional group (some traditionalists are fiercely competitive, enough to do an Olympics, I think!) as well as the Novus Ordo. A very complicated situation. Pray to Our Lord of the Expiration for him?

**Fr. Mardones** told me a most edifying story about a poor woman to whom he gave Extreme Unction last week in Ciudad Juarez. The family is so poor that there are no windows to keep out the cold, only openings crudely covered. And it gets bitterly cold in the desert.

But in the midst of her privations and pains she assured Father that she would never complain, for she accepted everything as the Will of God. May this modern day Lazarus soon receive the reward of her faithful patience.



Similarly, **Fr. Nkamuke** told me recently of the death of a young man for whom they had been caring, hospitalized since January with Cerebral Typhoid. This is contracted from the water which, Father explains, "we all drink." The doctor sent him home to die, lest he should die on the premises. He died on the way. And he had aspired to the holy priesthood. He received his Last Rites from Father, who also covered the medical expenses, as there was no one else. These are some of the charities we help with through the Bishop's Fund.

God reward your regular support of our apostolate, your contributions both to His Glory on the altar, and in the least of His brethren. Alms cover a multitude of sins, and should distinguish our Lent. Give something extra to the school, which does such a fine job, or to the Bishop's Fund for the truly destitute. Cover your sins.

God love you, Mary keep you!

—Bishop Dolan

#### MORE GOSPEL THOUGHTS

Like the Pharisees, all heretical teachers who, by their false doctrines, draw the faithful from communion with Christ and His Church, are similar to the devil, the father of heresy and lies. May all those, therefore, who think they can serve Christ and the world at the same time, consider that between truth and falsehood, between Christ and the world, there is no middle path; that Christ requires decision, either with Him, or against Him, either eternal happiness with Him, or without Him, everlasting misery.

Who are understood by the dry places through which the evil spirit wanders and finds no rest?

"The dry places without water," says St. Gregory, "are the hearts of the just, who by the force of penance have drained the dampness of carnal desires." In such places the evil one indeed finds no rest, because there his malice finds no sympathy, and his wicked will no satisfaction.

Why does the evil spirit say: I will return into my house?

Because he is only contented there where he is welcomed and received: those who have purified their heart by confession, and drive Satan out of it, but labor not to amend, again lose the grace of the Sacraments by sin, and thus void of virtue and grace, offer a beautiful and pleasant dwelling for the devil.



## THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS: 2017

Please note these important dates:

FIRST CONFESSIONS & TESTING: Saturday, May 6. (Baptismal certificate must be already presented, and registration form completed. Contact the church office for the necessary form.)

CHILDREN'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION: Thursday, June 1.

CONFIRMATION: Saturday, June 3.

FIRST COMMUNION: Pentecost Sunday, June 4.

Parents, please note: the Baptismal certificates of children not baptized at St. Gertrude the Great must be submitted to the church office by Saturday, April 15th. If your child is not enrolled in the school or in Sunday catechism, please let us know if you are planning on bringing him to be tested on May 6th.

It is sometimes difficult to know if the children are ready, but if they know their basics, and are reverent at Mass, they probably are! Please speak with Bishop Dolan.

Please note the following:

- Children and parents must be attending Mass and (and the children Class) every Sunday, in order to receive the Sacraments.
- No child will be tested without his Baptismal Certificate. Sponsors must be members of St. Gertrude the Great, or a church affiliated with us. Please ask if you have a question.



Had Jesus Christ any Father on earth?—Jesus Christ had no Father on earth: St. Joseph was only His Guardian or Foster-Father.

No father on earth: The Conception of Our Lord was the miraculous work of the Holy Ghost. Man had no share therein.

St. Joseph:

Foreshadowed in the Old Law—The patriarch Joseph. *Gen. xxxix*

Model of sanctity and holiness. "Joseph being a just man." *Matt. i. 19*

Model of the working man. He labored as a carpenter.

Model of those in office and position, as head of the Holy Family.

Model of the interior life: Always in the company of the Saint of Saints, practicing all virtues: faith, patience, purity, etc.

Patron of a happy death. He died in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Powerful protector of the Faithful.

Honored by the Church: every Wednesday; during the month of March; Mar. 19 (Chief Feast); Solemnity of St. Joseph: Wednesday after Second Sunday after Easter.

Guardian and protector:

In the wants of life (working at Nazareth; in Egypt).

In dangers and trials, e.g. the Flight to Egypt, the return journey.

Foster-Father:

Taking the place of a father, whom the Divine Child loved and obeyed as a father. Yet the Blessed Virgin calls him father—"Thy father and I have sought Thee." *Luke ii. 48*

Union of Mary and Joseph: *Was a true marriage* (St. Thomas



Aquinas). "Joseph, husband of Mary." *Matt. i. 16* "Joseph, her husband." *Matt. i. 19* "A virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph." *Luke i. 27*

The Church celebrates a feast of the Espousals B.V.M., Jan. 23.

*Most befitting:* To protect the honor of Mary; to protect the honor of Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus was called Son of Joseph *Luke iv. 22*; *John i. 45* Mary was to be the model of all states in life: Child, wife, mother and widow.

Befitting that Mary and the Child might have protection and support, and to conceal from the devil the birth of Jesus from a virgin.

*Most pure and holy:* Mary and Joseph had made a vow of virginity. The vow of each was known to the other by revelation. Their example was followed by others: Ss. Cecily and Valerian, S. Edward the Confessor and Editha, Emperor Henry II and Cunegunda.

Lessons: Confidence in the power of St. Joseph, trust in his love, imitation in one's state of life, invocation in trials, and especially in death.



MADRE MIA

Madre Mia,

You cannot say you can't,  
And you won't say you won't—  
So you will,—won't you?

*"Madre Mia" is Spanish for "my mother."*

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# Sister Sunday is Next Week, Will You be There?

Check out the menu for further convincing!

**Hot Sausage Strata, Meat-Eaters Breakfast Ham, and Kentucky-Style French-Toast with syrup on the side to soothe a sweet tooth. Fruit lovers, we have you covered!**

**Only \$2.00 a Plate so come on back and get some breakfast!**

Apple Juice, Milk, and Coffee will also be available, along with some good old fashioned water served straight from the kitchen.



**Come and Socialize with the Sisters!**

*The Sisters will be in Helfta Hall after every morning Mass so come on back and visit! Get some bidding done after the nine-o-clock Mass while the sisters are on duty in the classroom, and stay around to socialize after Lenten Devotions.*

*Get your tickets for Split-the-Pot Today!*

**It's Not Too Late! You can still volunteer!**

*Get your tickets for Split-the-Pot Today!*

*Young Men and Ladies are welcome to volunteer along with adults.*

*We are looking for helpers after the first and the third Masses on Sister Sunday: serving breakfast, making change at the craft & bake sales, selling raffle tickets.*

**Volunteers, Please Contact the Sisters: [mail@sistersofourladyofreparation.org](mailto:mail@sistersofourladyofreparation.org) or call (513)-376-6011**

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## OUR SISTERS



As we prepare for another "Sisters' Sunday," I thought I should explain a bit about the sisters in black you may see in church. The Sisters of Our Lady of Reparation are an independent group of three sisters, inspired by the Benedictine ideal, which admits of many interpretations. Their foundress and superior is Mother Isidore. Sr. Jeanne Marie is an invalid, whom the other sisters care for each day. They have one novice sister.

The sisters recite the day hours of the Benediction Office daily, along with the Rosary. They make a weekly Holy Hour for priests. The "Reparation" in their name refers to prayers offered especially for priests including fallen ones. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in their chapel, and our priests visit there to renew the Real Presence.

The sisters are running the

Sunday Catechism classes this year, and help clean the church for an hour each Monday afternoon. They also help us by attending Sunday afternoon Vespers, and lately have been sending a meal or two each month to the priests. They are *very* good cooks!

Aside from that, the sisters stay busy with a wide variety of projects, including art work, harp playing, visiting, and a really big dog, Kiara, whom they keep neatly manicured. They also travel for llama care. While not affiliated with us, we're certainly happy to have them nearby. It's a blessing to see sisters again. God reward them, and your charity to them.



Why did Christ call those happy who hear the word of God and keep it?

Because, as has been already said, it is not enough for salvation to hear the word of God, but it must also be practiced. Because Mary, the tender Mother of Jesus, did this most perfectly, Christ terms her more happy in it, than in having conceived, borne, and nursed Him.

Why is it said: The last state becomes worse than the first?

Because a relapse generally draws more sins with it, and so it is said: the devil will return with seven other spirits more wicked than himself, by which may be understood the seven deadly sins, because after a relapse into sin conversion to God becomes more difficult, as a repeated return of the same sickness makes it harder to regain health; because by repetition sin easily becomes a habit and renders conversion almost impossible; because repeated relapses are followed by blindness of intellect, hardness of heart, and in the end eternal damnation.

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# CALENDAR

# ✠ "OPINIONISTS" WAY BACK WHEN

<b>MON</b>	<b>3/20/17</b>	<b>ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF OUR LADY</b> ST. PHOTINA & COMPANIONS, MM <b>11:20 AM High Mass</b> †Ralph Patton Happy Birthday (Mar. 20) (Patton Family) <b>Blessing of Bread, St. Joseph's Table, &amp; lunch</b> <b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> Holy Souls in honor of St. Joseph (Joyce Disher)
<b>TUE</b>	<b>3/21/17</b>	<b>ST. BENEDICT, AB</b> <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> †Stanley Schappacher (Mary Black) <b>11:20 AM High Mass</b> †Maury (Rebecca Hinton) <b>12:20 PM Vespers</b> <b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> †Maria Bellavia & our intentions (Mr. & Mrs. Bellavia)
<b>WED</b>	<b>3/22/17</b>	<b>ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER, C</b> ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA, W <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> Fr. Thielen (Alter Christus Confraternity) <b>11:20 AM High Mass</b> †Russ Vanek (Rob & Jane Brockman) <b>12:20 PM Vespers</b> <b>3:00 PM Children's Stations &amp; Holy Communion</b> <b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> †Leo Brophy III (Rob & Jane Brockman)
<b>THU</b>	<b>3/23/17</b>	<b>FERIAL DAY</b> <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> Purgatorial Society for March <b>11:20 AM High Mass</b> Holy Souls in thanksgiving & for our intentions (Mr. & Mrs. Bellavia) <b>12:20 PM Vespers</b> <b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> Bishop Dolan & his priests (Alter Christus Confraternity)
<b>FRI</b>	<b>3/24/17</b>	<b>ST. GABRIEL, ARCHANGEL</b> THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> †Chris Smith (Rob & Jane Brockman) <b>10:55 AM Confessions</b> <b>11:20 AM High Mass</b> Fr. Nkamuke (Alter Christus Confraternity) <b>12:20 PM First Vespers of the Annunciation</b> <b>5:15 PM Confessions &amp; Rosary</b> <b>5:45 PM Low Mass</b> Theresa Simpson – Happy Birthday! (Jacinta Simpson) <b>followed by Lenten Supper</b> <b>7:30 PM Stations, Meditation, Sorrowful Mother Novena VII, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction</b> <b>8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>3/25/17</b>	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – ALTAR BOYS' DAY!</b> <b>7:10 AM Confessions</b> <b>7:30 AM Low Mass</b> All priests (Alter Christus Confraternity) <b>8:10 AM Ave &amp; Sermon</b> <b>8:20 AM Opening of Altar Boys' Day of Recollection: High Mass</b> †Irene Ulanowski (Theresa Simpson)
<b>SUN</b>	<b>3/26/17</b>	<b>LENT III</b> SISTERS' SUNDAY <b>7:05 AM Rosary</b> <b>7:30 AM Low Mass</b> †Stanley Schappacher (Paul O'Connell Family)

## ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA

St. Cyril, of Alexandria, strove to win back the heretic Nestorius, who denied the Divine Maternity. Nestorius was obdurate and insulting. St. Cyril was personally meek, but aggressive in his arguments.

As always happens, there were pacifists who, although they did not accept Nestorius' errors, thought it would be best not to reply to him for fear of further embittering him, increasing the scandal, and wounding charity. In response to this, Cyril criticized those who were *more afraid of affirming the truths of the Catholic faith than of falling into heresy*:

"What! Nestorius dares to suffer men to say in public and in his presence that he who calls Mary the Mother of God is to be anathema! He hurls his anathema, by means of his partisans, at us, at the other Bishops of the Catholic Church, and at the ancient Fathers, who in all ages and places in one accord have acknowledged and honored the holy Mother of God! And have we not the right to repay him in his own coin and say, 'If anyone denies that Mary is the Mother of God, let him be anathema'?"

"If our fear of some disturbance is stronger than our zeal for God's glory and thus prevents us from speaking the truth, how shall we dare in the presence of the Catholic people to celebrate the holy martyrs, whose glory lies in the very fact that by their lives they made example of the words: 'To fight for justice even unto death'?"



### Servers

<b>MON 3/20</b>	<b>11:20 AM HIGH: CLERICAL CHAP:</b> Fr. McGuiere <b>CHAPLAIN:</b> N. McClorey <b>TH:</b> J. Simpson <b>CROSS:</b> P. McClorey <b>MITER:</b> C. Richesson <b>CROZIER:</b> N. McClorey <b>ACS:</b> D. McConnell, M. Simpson <b>TORCH:</b> P. McClorey, A. McConnell, D. Simpson, C. Richesson <b>11:30 AM LOW:</b> Nicholas & Nathan McClorey <b>4:45 PM VESPERS &amp; BENEDICTION:</b> G. Miller
<b>SAT 3/25</b>	<b>8:20 AM HIGH:</b> R. VandeRyt <b>TH:</b> M. Simpson <b>ACS:</b> T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus <b>CROSS:</b> P. McClorey <b>TORCH:</b> 6 servers
<b>SUN 3/26</b>	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> Brueggemann Bros. <b>9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS:</b> R. VandeRyt, J. Simpson <b>TH:</b> P. Omlor <b>ACS:</b> C. Richesson, M. Simpson <b>TORCH:</b> D. Simpson, C. Arlinghaus, T. Lawrence, J. Stewart <b>11:30 AM LOW:</b> Peter & Nathan McClorey <b>4:45 PM VESPERS &amp; BENEDICTION:</b> G. Miller <b>5:45 PM LOW:</b> G. Miller

<b>9:00 AM High Mass</b>	In honor of the Divine Infant Jesus – Prayers Answered (Mr. & Mrs. David Marko)
<b>10:40 AM Catechism Classes</b>	
<b>11:15 AM Short Children's Stations</b>	
<b>11:30 AM Low Mass</b>	All of our priests (Alter Christus Confraternity)
<b>4:45 PM Vespers &amp; Benediction</b>	
<b>5:45 PM Low Mass</b>	For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

## MONDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. Mary is a pattern of faith. She looked upon her Babe in the stable of Bethlehem, saw Him flee from Herod, saw Him persecuted throughout life, saw His cross, His death; and she firmly believed this Child to be the King of heaven and earth.

2. Thou, too, shouldst have such a lively faith. Perform all thy tasks in the contemplation of God; pray, work, suffer, because God wills it.

### PRAY

O Mother of the faithful, Holy Mary, help me to live through the faith, to use the faith given me in holy baptism as the motive of all my actions, and to follow all its precepts, so that I may ever become more and more virtuous. Amen.

*Let us pray to obtain through our Blessed Mother the virtue of faith.*

### PRACTICE

Recite the acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity, today, in honor of Mary, and make this one of the devotions which you will resolve to practice in her honor.

*O Mary, by the love thou didst bear to Jesus Christ, help me to love Him. – St. Brigid*

## TUESDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. From faith springs the virtue of hope and desire to possess God. Thou mayest see how great this virtue was in Mary, if thou considerest but a few acts of her life.

2. Because of her firm trust in God, Mary is called the Mother of holy Hope. If thou shouldst ever become faint-hearted because of thy sins, turn to Mary.

### PRAY

O Mary, my sweet hope, be praised, and give me the joy ever to honor thee as the foundation of all my hope. If doubts come, if I become dejected and faint-hearted, then hasten to help me, that I may not fall. In particular, assist me in the hour of my death,

that I may not lose my trust in the goodness and mercy of God nor my love of thy Divine Son. Amen.

*Let us pray to obtain an unfaltering hope in God through the petition of our Blessed Mother.*

### PRACTICE

Excite within you a great reverence for Mary, and avoid every thing that would indicate a want of due respect. Always remember that although Mary be a creature, she is infinitely superior to all other creatures. They are the servants of God: SHE IS HIS MOTHER.

*Hail, Daughter of God the Father! Hail, Mother of God the Son! Hail, Spouse of the Holy Ghost! Hail, Temple of the Most Holy Trinity! – Simon Garcia*

## WEDNESDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. “Pray without ceasing” (Luke xviii. I). From no one else can we receive a better example of this regard than from Mary.

2. Since Mary loved prayer so much, she possessed an interior love of seclusion, knowing well that he who associates much with men can converse little with God.

### PRAY

Holiest of Virgins, loving Mother Mary, I earnestly desire a love of prayer and seclusion such as thou didst possess. Cause my heart to turn ever more from creatures to the Creator, and to find in conversation with Him my only true joy. Amen.

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may obtain the grace of continual and devout prayer.*

### PRACTICE

On this day beg of Mary, with peculiar earnestness, to procure for you the grace of a happy death. It is a most salutary practice of pious Christians to set apart one day in each month, in which they make a preparation for death. If cir-

cumstances prevent you from adopting this practice, you can at least have no difficulty, when preparing for the sacraments, to make the thought of death influence you in a particular manner once a month. “Blessed is the man,” says the devout A’Kempis, “that has always death before his eyes, and every day disposes himself to die.”

*Open to us the gate of mercy, O Holy Mother of God! – St. John of Damascus*

## THURSDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. To secure a firm foundation for perfect union with God, the mortification of one’s external senses is necessary. Mary knew this, for she renounced all earthly things.

2. This mortification must be constant, because self-love cannot be mortified at once. Mary, therefore, guarded her senses with the greatest care and excluded all vain impressions.

### PRAY

O Mary, rightly called Our Lady of Victory, because like thy Divine Son thou hast gloriously overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, help me in the battle against myself and the enemies of my soul, to gain the crown prepared for me. Amen.

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may obtain the virtue of mortification.*

### PRACTICE

Offer up a prayer for the diffusion of the Catholic faith.

*As the eyes of the handmaid are turned toward her mistress, so are my eyes turned to thee, O Holy Mother of God!*

## FRIDAY IN LENT III

### THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS

### PONDER

1. Attachment to earthly things is a great hindrance to union with God. Endeavor to detach thy heart from all creatures and transitory objects.

2. This detachment from all creatures does not consist therein that one hate them, because everything which God created is good; but it consists therein, as the Apostle says, “to possess them, as though one did not possess them” (I Cor. vii. 30).

### PRAY

O good Mother Mary, help me to subject myself entirely to God, willingly to give Him all that I am and have, and being detached from all temporal things for love of Him, to strive for the perpetual possession of the highest good. Amen.

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may obtain the grace of detachment from creatures.*

### PRACTICE

Visit some sick person, in honor of Mary.

*To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve!*

## SATURDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. Mary mortified herself; she was detached from all creatures; therefore the love of God could reign completely in her heart.

2. Because Mary had so great a love toward God, she surely desires nothing so much from her clients, as that they also love God as much as they are able.

### PRAY

“Ah, Mary, thou Queen of love, of all creatures the most amiable, the most beloved, and the most loving, as St. Francis de Sales addressed thee—my own sweet Mother, thou was always and in all things inflamed with love toward God; deign, then, to bestow at least a spark of it on me. Thou didst pray thy Son for the spouses whose wine failed: ‘They have no wine.’ Wilt thou not pray for us, in whom the love of God, Whom we are under such obligations to love, is wanting? Say also, ‘They have no love,’ and obtain for us this love. This is the only grace for which we ask. O Mother, by the love thou bearest to Jesus, graciously hear and pray for us. Amen” (St. Alphonsus).

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may receive the love of God.*

### PRACTICE

Recommend to the heart of Mary some one of your friends, whom you know to be living in the habit of mortal sin, or in the neglect of the positive duties of religion.

*Let those be silent in thy praise, O Sacred Refuge of Sinners, who have not experienced thy mercy! – St. Bernard*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### PONDER

1. The true love of God consists in the performance of all things for love of Him. The greatest deed has no value in God’s sight if it has not been done for love.

2. The love of God shows itself also in suffering. When Jesus was about to die for us, He said: “I go, that the world may know that I love the Father” (John xiv. 31).

### PRAY

O Mary, teacher of love, teach me to love God as thou lovest Him, and to show my love, particularly by doing and suffering all for my God as He wills it. I wish to walk the path of troubles and sufferings, and daily to follow thy Divine Son until I obtain the reward of loving God with thee in heaven for all eternity.

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may obtain the grace to do all things for the love of God.*

### PRACTICE

Give some alms today in honor of Mary. Be thus the comforter of the afflicted, and the help of Christians.

*If thou dost abandon us, what will befall us,  
O life of Christians! – St. Germanus*

## Lent with Our Lady 2017

**There never was a more opportune time** than now for the serious consideration of this part of Our Lady’s recommendations: **“MEN MUST AMEND THEIR LIVES, AND ASK PARDON FOR THEIR SINS... MEN MUST NO LONGER OFFEND OUR LORD, WHO IS ALREADY OFFENDED TOO MUCH.”** These were her words at Fatima.

Let us be on guard against sin and cease to offend God. Let us bring about true conversion by sincere penance. This is necessary if we wish to avoid a continued and further chastisement from the hand of God. Will we hearken to the admonition and recommendation of the Mother of God—Our Lady of Fatima?

**“Now, therefore,”** saith the Lord, **“be converted to Me with all your heart, in fasting and in weeping, and in mourning”** (Joel, XI, 12).

## RELIEF FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother most merciful, to thee do we plead the cause of the poor suffering souls in purgatory, especially those most abandoned. In obedience to thy request at Fatima, we beg for their relief. O Mother most merciful, we ask thee to lessen their toll of expiation. Deign to accept our humble prayers and sacrifices in reparation and payment for the punishment that is due from them. We pray that through the treasures of your Divine Son, your own special merits, and those of the saints, that God may be mindful of our prayers on behalf of the suffering souls in Purgatory, and bring them into His Kingdom to love and serve Him forever. Amen.

**Our Lady of Fatima, Mother most merciful, inflame our hearts with the love of Reparation.**

*“Keep me company,” Mary’s plea*

*Ponder, pray, resolve with me*