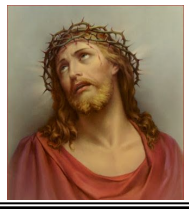
St. Gertrude the Great Roman Catholic Church

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpdolan@sgg.org • 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. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta
Rev. Stephen McKenna • Emergency Line: (513) 509-0424



April 3, 2022
Passion Sunday

¶ Passion Sunday
The Second Collection is for our seminarians. The Blessing of Religious Articles will be available after all Masses. Catechism Classes at 10:40 AM, ending early for the last of our Lenten **Short Stations** at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

¶ Evening of Recollection
The last of our Lenten **Friday** evenings of recollection is this week, feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady. We conclude as well the Sorrowful Mother Novena with the Blessing of the Sick.

¶ Easter Novena of Masses & Lily Memorials
Envelopes are available in the pews for the Easter Novena of Masses and the Lily Memorials. Please fill them out and return them to the office by **Monday, April 11th**.

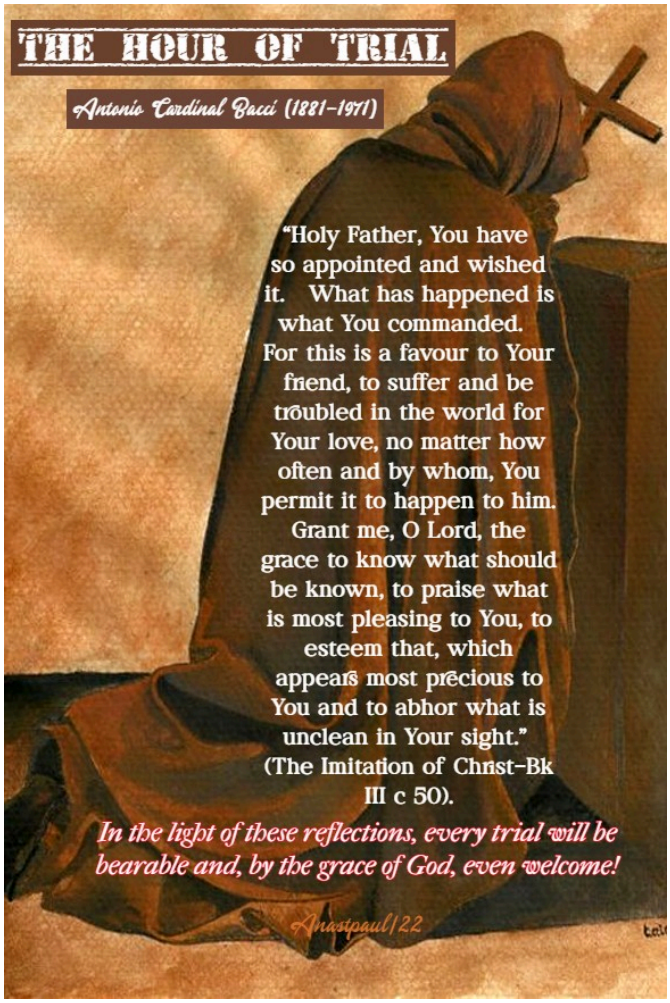
Final Lenten Friday Evening of Recollection April 8th

5:45 PM: Low Mass

6:45 PM: Lenten Supper: Cheddar potato soup, cornbread, egg salad, bread, salad, and fruit.

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

Collection Report
Sunday, March 27th……..……..$6,583.00



All are cordially invited to attend the Ordination to the Priesthood & following Reception on Wednesday, May 4, at 10:00 AM.

Please contact the church office if you are planning to attend the Reception, so we may have an estimate for the luncheon preparation.

¶ Next Sunday: Palm Sunday
Palms will be blessed and distributed at **7:15 AM**, and again at the ancient and beautiful ceremony with procession, beginning in church at **8:50 AM.** We hope the beloved tradition of processing with a real, live donkey (or mule!) will continue: parents, bring your children to participate in the procession! Those attending the 7:30 AM Mass are welcome and encouraged to stay awhile, and join in the procession too. Palms will be available at every Mass. Due to the procession, there will be **no Sunday Classes.** Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 ***Set Your Missal:*** Palm Sunday, Preface of the Holy Cross. Reading of the Passion.

The Paschal Sacraments
- **First Confessions & Testing: Saturday, April 23rd.**
- **Children's Day of Recollection: Thursday, June 2nd.**
- **Confirmations:** Vigil of Pentecost, **Saturday, June 4th.**
- **First Communion:** Pentecost, **June 5th.**

¶ Upcoming Events
- **Ordination to the Priesthood:** Wednesday, May 4
- **Young Ladies' Vocation Weekend:** June 24-26
- **YAG:** July 8-10
- **Girls Camp:** July 12-14
- **Boys Camp:** July 26-28

✠ PASSION SUNDAY THOUGHTS

How ignominious it was! He was suspended aloft in the air, as one unworthy either to live or die on earth. He was condemned at four several tribunals, dragged along the streets, and pointed at as a blasphemer, a seducer, an imposter, a glutton, and an idiot. How can you contemplate this scene and still be so tender of your reputation?

How grievous His sufferings were! Though His frame and constitution were of a delicate nature, He refused every kind of comfort, both interior and exterior. He was left alone and forsaken. …If on the cross He had attempted to court any comfort, the weight of His Body pressed the heavier on the wounds of His hands and feet, and increased His torments. If He leaned His Head against the cross, the thorns were inserted more deeply in it; and if He thirsted, His drink was vinegar and gall. Although He suffered more than all the martyrs, His interior pains were more afflicting than those of His Body. Good God, what unheard of torments! …His whole life before had been a continual suffering. "I am poor and in labors from My youth," says He by the royal Psalmist. (Ps 87:16) The pains, however, which He suffered from His Last Supper until His expiration, were excruciating and intolerable, and endured all that night, and the day following, for about twenty hours. Contemplate the cruel and loving scene, and express those feelings which condolence and affection suggest.

– Fr. Nathaniel Bacon (d. 1676)
Gifted Jesuit priest whose spiritual writings long sustained the underground Church in England.

FAVOR

Who am I to cry my lot?
Gall and vinegar are not
Bitter drink. Divinity
Has diluted them for me.

– Mary E. Caragher

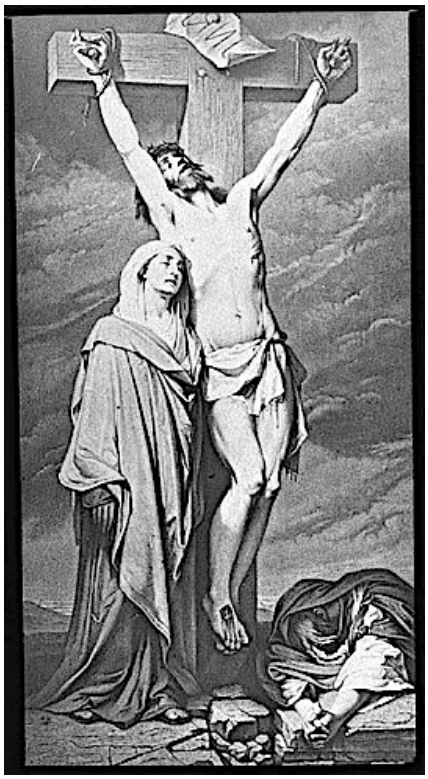
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BIG SPLIT-THE-POT RAFFLE WINNERS:

1st Prize (ticket # 0581646):
Philip Brueggemann wins $1,000

2nd Prize (ticket # 0581237):
John Brueggemann wins $185

The split-the-pot raffles raised a total of $1,444.00 for the seminarians:
7:30 Mass - $59.
9:00 Mass - $107.
11:30 Mass - $93.
Big split the pot - $1,185.

Thanks to all who participated.



SANCTUARY

I cannot cast away my cross,
Nor thorns about my brow untwine,
But I can knock at Heaven's gate
When Sorrow knocks at mine.

– Sr. Miriam

"I adore the Host which Jesus instituted to be forever the memorial of His death. I adore my Savior Who was crucified, dying and entombed on Calvary."

– Mother Katherine Drexel

✠ THE POETRY CORNER

COMPASSION

Obedience is greater than sacrifice.
(1 Sm 15:22)

Our father Abraham was set to slay
His long-awaited heir and cherished son.
With leaden heart he dragged his feet of clay
Up Mount Moriah where God's will be done.

With aged, trembling hands he lay the wood
That burdened Isaac's back upon the slope.
His only son, beguiled and secured—
Obedience to God, a ghastly hope.

"No! Do not harm the boy!" an angel cried
As in the brush a ram had caught his horns.
The father took his knife and freed his child
Then turned it on the captive in the thorns.

As Abraham took Isaac to his chest
The Lord prepared His only Son for death.

– Rita A. Simmonds
I love this story, chanted each year on Holy Saturday. Jesus is our Divine Isaac, Who willingly carried the cross up the hill, yet was not spared by His own Father. – Bp. Dolan

THIRD STATION

He fell, as falls a little child. Surprise
And puzzled wonder overran His eyes–

Bewilderment, and manlike unbelief
That sturdy limbs could prove a cause of grief.

He fell; and Mary, seeing God undone,
Could only comfort "Son! My little Son!'

– Louis J. Sanker

✠ THE BISHOP'S CORNER ✠

It seems that Nature anticipated our Passiontide, all shrouded in darkness and frozen with chill, with howling winds as well. This is the saddest Sunday of the year, and purple veils the beauty of our church—its colorful array of God's saints from all over, precious as much for the story of the statue as for the saint himself.

Passiontide begins, and in a moment, it seems, leads to Palm Sunday and Holy Week, whose days march on inexorably to the grief of Good Friday, and the anticipated joy of Easter on Holy Saturday. Resolve to be here. Pray with us, follow the schedule of services, plan and prepare to participate. Yes, and because it's St. Gertrude, eat with us! The last Friday Supper is this week, feast of the Sorrowful Mother. Holy Thursday is a bit of a potluck, but a lunch to tide you over for the Washing of the Feet, and to make a visit before you go. No food is offered on Good Friday, because it's the great fast. But the parish Easter dinner *and* Easter Egg Hunt follow the Holy Saturday Morning Vigil and Mass. It's a memorable week, and we're hoping for sun.

But first we must glance back with gratitude to Seminarian Sunday, which raised some $17,000 to help equip our four deacons with all they will need for the priesthood. But far more than money was raised last week, welcome and even necessary as these offerings are. What a generous show of support for these four young men, dedicating their lives to Christ as priests, what a vote for their future, and ours at St. Gertrude the Great, as we go forward with confidence into the gathering storm. We know that God has blessed us incredibly and that we shall not go alone. He blesses us by means of so many prayers and individual and collective sacrifices, true acts of dedication. Come what may, we will be ready. *You* are an instrument of His Providence.

A final word of admiration for Seminarian Sunday. How well everything was organized: A perfect Fund/Fun Raiser. Every detail was carefully thought out, and completely coordinated into an impressive whole. Thanks to our organizers and workers for a job more than well done.

I have no doubt, again with your help, that Holy Week will proceed the same happy way. If we do our best for God, you know that we will never be abandoned by Him. "Cast your care up, for He hath care of you."

May Our Lady of Sorrows be our consolation, and the Holy Cross our strength in these days of affliction.

– Bishop Dolan

TUESDAY IN PASSIONTIDE: HABAKKUK'S LUNCH

One of the world's oldest and oddest food delivery services appears at the end of a passage in Daniel (Dn 14:31-39), a section not included in Protestant Bibles. In the bizarre story of Bel and the Dragon, the crafty hero sits for a second time in the lion's den, as punishment for killing a sacred serpent with exploding cakes. After seven hungry lions look on for six days without devouring Daniel, the Lord contrives to repay his faithful servant with a hot lunch—a delicious end for a book that began with Daniel refusing impure comestibles. The Lord thus hijacks the Prophet Habakkuk, who was innocently carrying some boiled pottage to a team of reapers in the fields. God commissions him to tote the fare instead to Daniel's den in Babylon, to which Habakkuk—who is several month's journey away, in Judea—whines that he has no idea what this is all about. So the Lord yanks Habakkuk impatiently by the hair, wafts him by the wind and drops him down in the den, where he deposits the dinner and is promptly beamed back home.

This playful and peculiar episode has understandably perplexed readers over the centuries. …We are dealing here with the sort of audacious and delightfully enigmatic storytelling that later became such a hallmark of many of our Scriptural stories. In fact, our story is a gem of the genre, a folksy miniature with a compact and potent message.

Habakkuk, painted in the classic guise of a reluctant prophet, stands for all Israel's prophets, carrying a message of sustenance to those in exile. Despite human resistance and open ignorance, divine power accomplishes the mission. The precise choice of Habakkuk here is not accidental. He had prophesied both the rise and fall of Babylon, yet his book concludes with an act of trust in a deed of divine vindication that he confesses he cannot see coming. *For though the fig tree does not blossom…and the terraces produce no nourishment…yet will I rejoice in the Lord and exult in my saving God* (Hb 3:17-18). It then ends with the words *He enables me to tread upon the heights* (Hb 3:19)—a fitting hint at the future adventures of this flying prophet. But before he is whisked away to Daniel, Habakkuk, we note, is portentously heading out *to the fields,* which have now finally produced their fruit. The hour of salvation has arrived, in other words, quite without his recognizing the signs. The coded name of Habakkuk, which has the same numeric value as the Hebrew word for "lion," hints at the whole dynamic: *The lion has roared, who would not fear? The Lord God has spoken, who would not prophesy?* (Am 3:8). God's famished servants will be fed *by* rather than *to* a lion—by that Lion, namely, Who is the Lord alone.

– Fr. Anthony Giambrone, O.P.

✠ Holy Week 2022 ✠

Palm Sunday: April 10, 2022

7:15 AM Blessing and distribution of Palms, Low Mass
8:50 AM Blessing of Palms, Procession, High Mass

The beautiful Procession and High Mass of Palm Sunday is magnificent, and well worth the extra time. Bring the children as well as your donkey to the Procession! They have the privilege of walking together and leading the Procession.

*N.B. The Procession commences at about 9:30 AM, proceeding through the cloister and around the grounds, finishing with a brief but ancient ceremony at the church doors before re-entering the church. Please do **not** start your engine or drive your car in the parking lot during this time. Thank you for your cooperation.*

11:30 AM Low Mass
4:45 PM Vespers and Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass

Spy Wednesday: April 13, 2022

Day of Fast

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae
8:30 PM Church decorating for Holy Thursday

Maundy (Holy) Thursday: April 14, 2022

Day of Fast

9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass, Blessing of Holy Oils, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Vespers, Stripping of the Altar

(This is the Mass to attend! The birthday of the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass. Please bring your little children to walk in the procession after Mass.)

A Potluck Luncheon follows Mass

Adoration continues at the Sepulchre until 11:00 AM on Good Friday.

1:00 PM The Maundy (Washing of the feet) **
6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae
All Night Adoration continues

**** Men scheduled for the Maundy: Albert D. Kinnett, John Seyfried, Levi Giese, Bob Uhlenbrock, Hunter Lumbatis, Mike Volz, Noah Kuebler, Raphael Kuebler, Doby Curran, Collin Smith, Billy Young, Alex Ball.**

***If you cannot participate,* PLEASE contact the church office immediately to let us know! Otherwise, please plan to report to the Sacristy no later than 12:45 PM on Holy Thursday, April 14.**

Thank you,
Bishop Dolan

Good Friday: April 15, 2022

Fast and Abstinence

Adoration at the Sepulchre continues till 12:00 noon

11:25 AM Stations of the Cross
12:00 PM Tre Ore
12:15 PM Mass of the Presanctified, Adoration of the Cross
2:15 PM Tre Ore Devotions and Sermon
3:00 PM Blessing with the Relic of the True Cross, Vespers
3:00 PM Confessions
6:25 PM Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart
6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae
8:30 PM Church decorating for Holy Saturday

Come when you can; leave when you must.

Holy Saturday: April 16, 2022

Fast & Abstinence ends at Noon

8:00 AM Easter Vigil: Blessing of the Fire, Prophecies, Blessing of the Font, First Mass of Easter, Vespers, Blessing of Easter Food

A complimentary Easter Luncheon follows – all are invited

4:00 PM Confessions

Easter Sunday: April 17, 2022

5:45 AM Solemn Matins and Lauds
7:30 AM Easter Sunrise Low Mass
9:00 AM Solemn High Mass
11:30 AM Low Mass with Benediction
6:00 PM Vespers

(No 5:45 PM Mass on Easter Sunday)

Confession Schedule

Good Friday 3:00 to 4:00 PM
Holy Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 PM

Passiontide / Holy Week Volunteers

Janet and her Sacristy crew welcome all helpers the next two weeks to assist with decorating, cleaning and polishing the vessels and church ornaments, ironing altar and Mass linens, and other tasks to help set up for the ceremonies. Keep in mind our especial need for many holy helpers on Good Friday evening, after Tenebrae. If you can spare an hour or two, please call Janet at (818) 267-6985.

✠ PREPARE FOR THE DAY ✠

ONE OF THESE DAYS…

"They've taken the town. The Soviets are here." The news spread like panic through the small village of Albertyn, Poland, on October 17, 1939. I had just finished Mass and breakfast on the memorable morning when bewildered parishioners came to tell me the news. It was news we had feared but now our fears were a reality. Suddenly, our whole world, theirs and mine, had changed.

It is impossible to describe the feeling that comes over you at such a time. The feeling that somehow, in an instant of time, everything is changed and nothing again will ever be quite the same. That tomorrow will never again be like yesterday. That the very trees, the grass, the air, the daylight are no longer the same, for the world has changed. It is a feeling impossible to describe and yet one that every wife who has lost a husband knows well…. Again and again I had to force myself not to think of the question that kept returning unbidden to mind: Why has God allowed this evil to happen? Surely He could defend and protect His flock instead of having it singled out for special attack such as this. It was not a crisis of faith, any more than it is for anyone who has ever suffered a great loss or faced a family tragedy and asked himself the same questions. It was rather a crisis of understanding, and no one need be ashamed to admit he has been troubled by it. Anyone who has done much reading in the Old Testament is familiar with those questions—most especially in the days after David, in the ages of captivity when the glories of the golden age of Solomon were but a memory by the rivers of Babylon and Israel had been broken and led away in shame…. To Israel, surely, it must have seemed the end of the world, the end of the covenant, the end of God's special care for His chosen people.

OUR RESOLVE

Yet from our vantage point in history we know it was really quite the opposite. Israel's troubles were in truth a manifestation of the Lord's special providence, His special love for His chosen people. Like a fond and loving father, He was trying to wean them away from trust in kings or princes or in armies or the powers of this world. He was trying to teach them again and again that their faith must only be in Him alone. He was leading them, through every trial and in every age, to the realization that God alone is faithful in all tribulations, that He alone is constant in His love and must be clung to even when it seems all else has been turned upside down…. Their part in the covenant must be to trust in Him alone, to remain always faithful, to look to Him and not to other gods, to rely on Him and not on rulers or chariots or bowmen. He was ever faithful and so in turn must they be even when He led where they would not go, into a land they knew not, or into exile. For He had chosen them, they were His people, He would no more forget them than a mother could forget the child of her womb.

– Fr. Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.

Fr. Ciszek († 1984) was an American Jesuit priest convicted of being a "Vatican Spy" in World War II. He spent 23 years in Soviet prisons.

CO-REDEEMERS

Jesus is praying for us and offering up His sacrifice for us. This does not mean that there is nothing left for us to do. We must not suppose that we may continue in sin. Having seen in the death of Christ the malice of sin, we must separate ourselves from it and give ourselves up to penance, fasting, and mortification. We must now take part in His sufferings and perform works of expiation for our own sins and for those of our neighbor. We are responsible, not only for our own souls, but also for those of our neighbors. We are, in a sense, co-redeemers and partially responsible for their salvation. We shall perform our share of the work of redemption in so far as we penetrate into the sufferings of our Lord, Who prayed and suffered for us. We shall share in His redemptive work in the measure in which we share His spirit.

– Benedict Baur, O.S.B.

"It was thou, Virgin Mary, who gavest us this Body and Blood which raiseth our status so high that it is beyond the reach of the angels. Mayest thou be blessed throughout the world for giving us such a great gift." – St. Louis de Montfort

PRAYER FOR BENEFACTORS LIVING AND DEAD

O merciful and divine Savior! Who hast promised a reward to all who are charitable towards their brethren, saying, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy," show forth, I beseech Thee, Thy mercy, to all my benefactors, both living and dead. Give to the living Thy divine grace, and bless their riches, that they may employ their earthly goods for Thy greater honor and for the eternal salvation of their souls; to the dead give deliverance from pain if they be in suffering. Delay no longer, O Lord, to release them, through Thy passion and cross. Amen.

$17,000 was raised overall at Seminarian Sunday, for our four future priests. Thank you for your generosity and participation!

MON 4/4/22 ST. ISIDORE OF SEVILLE, BPCD *FAST*
8:00 AM Low Mass All Poor Souls in Purgatory
11:25 AM High Mass Repose of the soul of †Dr. Okerulu *(C. Simpson family)*
12:25 PM Vespers

TUE 4/5/22 ST. VINCENT FERRER, C *FAST*
7:00 AM Low Mass Alyssa Smith *(Collin Smith)*
11:25 AM High Mass Special Intention *(Jennifer Richesson)*
12:25 PM Vespers
5:00 PM Low Mass Special Intention *(Anne Marie Omlor)*
7:00 PM Tea Party Meeting

WED 4/6/22 FIRST WEDNESDAY • FERIAL DAY *FAST*
BL. JULIANA, V
8:00 AM Low Mass †Kyle McGuire *(Tom & Karen Simpson)*
11:25 AM High Mass Mary Christensen – Happy Birthday *(Keith Christensen)*
12:25 PM Vespers
3:00 PM Children's Stations, Holy Communion
5:15 PM Low Mass Marlys – her intentions *(Margaret)*

THU 4/7/22 FIRST THURSDAY • FERIAL DAY *FAST*
7:00 AM Low Mass Conversion & perseverance for Treder Family *(Michael Treder)*
8:00 AM Low Mass †Jose M. Abella – 12th anniversary 2/21 *(Tom & Karen Simpson)*
11:25 AM High Mass †Shirley Reagan – 6th Anniversary of Death *(Michelle Mikesell)*
12:25 PM Vespers

FRI 4/8/22 THE SEVEN SORROWS OF OUR LADY *FAST*
8:00 AM Low Mass John & Kim Shippers & their kids *(Bill & Terri Young)*
11:06 AM Confessions
11:25 AM High Mass †Ralph Otis – Month's Mind *(Richard & Gloria Zbilicki)*
12:25 PM Vespers
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass †Brian McMahon
6:45 PM Lenten Supper
7:30 PM Stations, Closing of the Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction
8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion

SAT 4/9/22 FERIAL DAY *FAST*
7:15 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass In thanksgiving for a quick recovery and for all those who prayed for us *(Dan & Rose Wright)*
8:10 AM Ave Regina & Sermon
8:20 AM High Mass †Kyle McGuire *(Nathalie Andreotta)*

SUN 4/10/22 PALM SUNDAY
7:15 AM Blessing & Distribution of Palms
7:30 AM Low Mass Conversion & salvation of our families *(Dan & Mary)*
8:50 AM Blessing of Palms, Procession, Solemn High Mass †Mike Briggs & family *(The Richesson Family)*
11:30 AM Low Mass Ann & Andrew Gore *(Joe Druecker)*
4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

Seven Reasons Our Lady had to Rejoice in Her Soul Upon Receiving the Body of Her Crucified Son

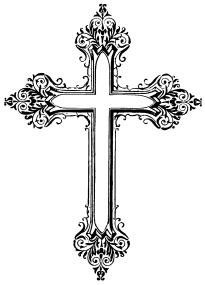
1. That the Redemption of mankind has now been accomplished.
2. That the powers of hell have been vanquished at last.
3. That Jesus, in Limbo, is consoling the Just, especially St. Joseph.
4. That every wound will turn to endless joy and bliss upon the Glorified Body in Heaven.
5. That every wound is a refuge and hiding place for Her children.
6. That Her children and the Church will one day look to this most pitiful Body and see in it everything they are enduring and draw support and strength from the sight.
7. That the Fount of God's Mercy now has as many openings as are wounds, and that no one will ever be able to close It.

THREE POWERFUL PRAYERS AGAINST THE DEVIL

The Exorcism of St. Benedict

Satan, behind me with thee!
Persuade me not to vanity
What thou profferest evils be
Drink the poison thou not me
May the Holy Cross be light to me
And never the devil my leader be. Amen.

The Brief of St. Anthony



Behold the Cross of the Lord
Flee, forces of the foe
The lion of the tribe of Judah conquers
The Root of Jesse.
(P.T. Alleluia)

Invocation of St. Thomas Aquinas to the Holy Cross

The Cross is my sure salvation.
The Cross I ever adore.
The Cross of my Lord is with me.
The Cross my refuge forevermore.
(300 days indulgence, once a day, Pope Pius IX, January 21, 1874.)

Servers

FRI 4/8 **5:45 PM LOW:** Simpson Bros. **STATIONS:** *Volunteers*
SAT 4/9 **7:30 AM LOW:** Brueggemann Bros.
8:20 AM HIGH: P. Omlor
SUN 4/10 **7:30 AM LOW:** Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: SERVERS POSTED IN SACRISTY.
11:30 AM LOW: Capetillo Bros.
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: A Capetillo

Considerations on the Passion of Our Lord for Each Day of Lent

Monday in Passion Week

The executioners then sat down before the cross, and watched Our Lord. They played dice for His garments; it was their sinful perquisite to take possession of anything that a dying criminal left. Our Lord was poor and had nothing but His garments, and these were accordingly distributed. Our Lord hung on the cross; not a word had so far passed His lips; uncomplaining, sunk in deep prayer, the sacrifice of the cross was going on for our sins, the Lamb of God was on the slaughter bench, pouring forth His Blood without giving a sign of pain. He hangs between two murderers. He is not distinguished from them in misery, except that He prays and they blaspheme.

Tuesday in Passion Week

The Jews now celebrate their triumph; they are gathered about in knots, mocking and laughing. They invite Him to descend from the cross: that then they would believe in Him. Jesus still wears the crown of thorns, and over His head, attached to the wood, are the words: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

The first words which Our Lord utters after a long silence, are words of mercy, and a prayer for forgiveness: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Jesus prays for His enemies, for His executioners, before He speaks a word of comfort to His holy Mother. He looks for no revenge, casts no threats at them, does not complain of their inhuman conduct. He only thinks that by His prayer He may save them.

Wednesday in Passion Week

In the meantime the thief on His right acknowledges his faults, defends the Lord, and begs for mercy, which he receives on the spot with a promise of being with Christ in paradise on that very day. The centurion also acknowledges the divinity of Christ, and many who are around the cross strike their breasts, and are converted.

Now that the sacrifice had been offered Jesus sees His Mother at the foot of the cross, and the disciple whom He loved. Turning to Mary He said "Woman, behold thy son," and to the disciple, "Behold thy Mother," and from that hour John, as a dutiful son, took Mary under his protection.

Thursday in Passion Week

After Our Lord had hung on the cross for three hours, a great darkness came over the whole universe. The sun refused to give light. Amid this weird darkness and silence Our Lord completes His sacrifice. When the world seems to desert you, and the horror of God's vengeance appears to surround you, take heart, raise your eyes to Jesus crucified, and pray Him to strengthen you in patience and endurance until the darkness is over, and you can again find comfort in God's mercy.

Friday in Passion Week

The Seven Sorrows

The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus, in the days of His flesh, poured forth prayers and supplications with a great cry, and was heard out of reverence. (Heb. V. 7) So the sacrifice of Christ was accepted, and the debt which you owed for your sins was expiated on the cross. You need no longer be afraid that your

wretchedness will bring on you eternal damnation; by the merits of this sacred Passion you have a hope that you may enter into eternal glory.

Saturday in Passion Week

"I thirst." The greatest affliction Our Lord had to endure on the cross was thirst. The fever after loss of blood and the severe and cruel sufferings, the torments of a whole night, had dried up the moisture of His Body. "My strength is dried up like a potsherd," was said of Him by the Prophet: "and My tongue hath cleaved to My jaws." (Ps. xxi. 16) We honor this holy thirst by abstaining during Lent from all intoxicating drink, and many souls have received great blessings from God for this veneration. It is the intention that ennobles the act, and the smallest offering accompanied by a good will pleases God. Our Lord suffered this thirst to atone for our sins, that we might not go to hell, where we would thirst for all eternity. Remember Dives in the Gospel, who begged for one drop of water to be placed on his tongue. Our Lord, dying of thirst, yearned for the salvation of your soul. This was the thirst symbolized by His bodily thirst.

Palm Sunday

At last the hour has come in which Jesus considers that He has made reparation to His heavenly Father for all the sins of mankind. The chalice has been drained—all possible humiliation had been heaped upon Him. Jesus cried, "It is consummated." All the work of salvation is now at an end. All the sufferings that the Father has ordained in His eternal providence have been undergone. "The work which Thou gavest me, I have performed."

The Passion of Our Lord

2022 Lenten Daily Thoughts and Prayers

For the restoration of the Church and the salvation of our country.