

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 20, 2008 - SEPTUAGESIMA - SS FABIAN, P & SEBASTIAN, MM - CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE III

Today is Septuagesima Sunday, the opening of our Pre-Lent season, during which we pray and plan for a good Lent. **CONFESSIONS** will be heard *before and during* all Masses. The **Blessing of Expectant Mothers** follows all Masses. **Catechism classes** are at **10:35 AM**.

✠ CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE

Our annual devotion for the conversion of different non-Catholic groups continues this week. This devotion concludes Friday with the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

OFFICIAL CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE PRAYER

Antiphon: That they all may be one, as Thou, Father, in Me and I in Thee; that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

V. I say unto thee that thou art Peter.

R. And upon this Rock I will build My Church.

Let us pray: O Lord Jesus Christ, Who saidst unto Thine Apostles: Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: regard not our sins, but the faith of Thy Church, and vouchsafe to grant unto her that peace and unity which are agreeable to Thy Will. Who livest and reignest God forever and ever. Amen.

An indulgence of 300 days during the octave of prayers for the unity of the Church from the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter at Rome (Jan. 18) to the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25). A plenary indulgence on the usual conditions at the end of the exercise.



Tuesday, January 22nd:

PRO-LIFE DAY OF PRAYER.

This is the **35th Anniversary of Roe-v-Wade**. Following the 11:25 AM Mass, the **Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed for**

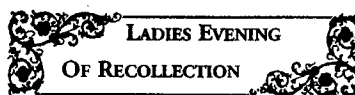
Adoration all afternoon in reparation for the crime of abortion. There will be a **Children's Holy Hour** at **2:30 PM**. At **5:00 PM** a **Holy Hour** consisting of the Rosary and Pro-Life Devotions will be offered, concluding with **Benediction** at **5:45 PM**. This Day of Prayer ends with the **Votive Mass of the Holy Innocents** at **6:00 PM**. Won't you come and spend time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and beg God's forgiveness on our country and plead that He spare us from His just and righteous anger for this horrible crime?

✠ SORROWFUL MOTHER NOVENA

Our annual Novena to the Sorrowful Mother with the Blessing of the Sick continues this Friday evening after the 5:45 PM Mass. Call or write in to the office the *first names* of those for whom you would like us to pray, as well as the names of your sick.

✠ INFANT OF PRAGUE

Our novena in honor of the Divine Infant continues this Friday at 5:35 PM. Come with confidence to honor our loving little King.



Friday, January 25th, come for **Mass and Benediction** at **5:45 PM**. Confessions follow Mass. At approximately **7:30 PM** there will be a *Spiritual Talk* and an opportunity for questions and discussion. Refreshments conclude the evening. All ladies of the parish are invited.

✠ HUSBANDS

JANUARY 27, 2008

7:30 AM John Wiesman, Kent Maki, Joe Andreotta, Tom Kamphaus
9:00 AM Jim Gebel, Richard Smith, Dale Wilker, Bernie Brueggemann
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Kirby Bichel, Dennis Hille, Tim Carney
5:45 PM John Seyfried

✠ WIVES

JANUARY 21 - JANUARY 27, 2008

•MON 01/21 5:00 PM LOW: G. Keaveney
•TUE 01/22 5:00 PM LOW: J. Bayer
•WED 01/23 6:30 AM LOW: T. & C. Simpson, Sr.
•THU 01/24 5:00 PM LOW: C. Ritze
•FRI 01/25 5:45 PM LOW: G. Keaveney, J. Bayer, C. Ritze, M. Derksen
•SAT 01/26 7:30 AM LOW: C. & T. Simpson, Jr.
8:00 AM HIGH: G. Keaveney, M. Briggs.
•SUN 01/27 7:30 AM LOW: D. & S. Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MC: D. Poepelman; TH: R. Hill; ACS: B. Lotarski, T. Kunkel; TORCH: T. Simpson, J. Simpson, Jr., P. Duff, A. Richesson
11:30 AM LOW: N. Puglielli, G. Wnek
1:10 PM Vespers & Benediction: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: M. Derksen

Collection Report

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008 \$5554.19

*Thank you for your generosity!
Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!*

✠ POETRY CORNER

THE ROCK

BY ADA RAPHAEL FEDERSPIEL

I fished the lake of Galilee,
And fisherman respected me
Until one day Christ came, and then
Decreed that I should fish for men.

He called me Rock - I, who was sand!
And gave me love - His one command -
He said that I must teach His flock -
His lambs and sheep - He named me Rock!

I followed Him - I, who was sand -
And loved Him for His just command -
For miracles and kindness shown
And providence unto His own.

In Pilate's court I thrice denied
That I was ever at His side -
When He hung dying, far away
I stood, on that most grievous day!

Fear tore at me, I ran and hid
For shame - remorse - for all I did,
But He had named me "Rock", and so
His grace enabled me to grow,

'Til I became the Rock He willed
With every human's weakness, stilled
I heed His voice - I lead His flock -
He guides me still, I am the Rock.



Forty Hours, two thousand
and eight,
At Saint Gertrude the
Great,
Was a love affair,
beyond compare,
For those of us
who were privileged
to have been there.

—JOHN SEYFRIED



What happiness do we not feel in the presence of God, when we find ourselves alone at His feet, before the Holy Tabernacle!... "Come, my soul, redouble your ardor! You are here alone to adore your God! His look rests on you alone!"

—ST. JOHN VIANNEY

Let us pray the Lord our Savior that His brightness illumine our hearts, that it banish all our darkness, that it ward off from our hearts all black and sinful thoughts, that it enlighten our darkness; that the shadows may scatter and brightness dwell within.

—ST. JEROME

✠ THE CALENDAR

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER



MON 01/21/08 ST AGNES, VM - CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE IV
"That Protestants throughout the world might find their way back to Holy Church."

11:25 AM High Mass *The Arlinghaus Family (The Kunkels)*

TUES 01/22/08 SS VINCENT & ANASTASIUS, MM - CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE V

"The Conversion of America."

A SPECIAL PRO-LIFE DAY OF PRAYER & REPARATION

11:25 AM Votive High Mass of the Holy Innocents & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament *Pro-Life (Rosary Confraternity)*

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CONTINUES ALL AFTERNOON

2:30 PM Children's Holy Hour

5:00 PM Holy Hour with Rosary & Pro-Life Devotions

5:45 PM Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

6:00 PM Low Mass *In Honor of the Holy Innocents, in Reparation for Abortions*

WED 01/23/08 ST RAYMOND PENNAFORT, C - ST EMERENTIANA, VM - ESPOUSALS OF OUR LADY - CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE VI

"The return to the Sacraments of lapsed Catholics."

6:30 AM Low Mass *Special Intention - Deceased (Troy Burns)*

11:25 AM Votive High Mass of the Espousals of Our Lady *Sr. Mary Magdalen & Katie Bischak - With Love & Gratitude (Kathy Cozzens & Boys)*

5:00 PM Low Mass *Special Intention for Charlene (GPK)*

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

THUR 01/24/08 ST TIMOTHY, BPM - CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE VII

"The conversion of the Jews."

11:25 AM High Mass *Eldon & Ernie - Their Special Intentions (Kathy, Sam & Seth Cozzens)*

5:00 PM Low Mass *Chris Ritze from A Friend*

7:00 PM Compline

FRI 01/25/08 CONVERSION OF ST PAUL - CONCLUSION OF THE CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE VIII

"The Missionary Conquest of the World for Christ."

11:00 AM Confessions

11:25 AM High Mass *In Honor of St. Joseph (Tom & Stella Simpson)*

LADIES' EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary

5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena V

5:45 PM Low Mass, Sorrowful Mother Novena II & Blessing of the Sick, Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction *Special Intention (J. Landry)*

7:30 PM (N.B. Special Time) Spiritual Talk, Q & A and Refreshments

SAT 01/26/08 ST POLYCARR, BPM

7:15 AM Confessions

7:30 AM Low Mass *Faithful Departed of Our Parish (Bernie B.)*

8:00 AM High Mass, Confessions *Special Intention for Priests and Religious (GPK)*

SUN 01/27/08 SEXAGESIMA - ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BPCD

7:30 AM Low Mass *†Robert Bloemker - 7th Anniv (Kathy Schweitzer)*

9:00 AM High Mass *For the People of St. Gertrude the Great*

11:10 AM Christmas Hymns with Hands & Voice: 2 Offerings from Our Sunday School Kindergarten Class

11:30 AM Low Mass *Our Children (P. & K. Puglielli)*

1:10 PM Early Vespers and Benediction

5:45 PM Low Mass *Poor Souls in Purgatory (PO)*

Fr. Cekada having returned from sunny Florida after his seminary professor week, it is now my turn to travel. I have gone to the snowy north, my second trip in seven days. Last week I made my traditional January trek to Michigan to visit my mother. This weekend I am visiting St. Hugh's chapel, which has experienced some nice growth lately. Our Milwaukee congregation has very enthusiastically received Fr. McGuire as their new resident priest, and is booming with activity. Once a month Fr. McGuire comes down to visit us, and he helps us with Confessions as well, as he is doing today.

I do want, in writing, to thank you all for Christmas cards and gifts, so very much appreciated, as well as contributions of time and talent, and of course "your tithes," too. God reward your devotion to our church.

Thank you as well for making for another beautiful 40 Hours Devotion. Please allow the Holy Ghost to make this devotion a success, by blessing you with increased love for the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Mass. Nourish, cherish, this devotion by coming between Sundays.

Truth to tell, there are two graces St. Gertrude's Church has never (yet) been granted: a vocation to the priesthood, and a solid core of souls who attend daily Mass, or almost so. Do you think there's maybe a link? The only gung-ho daily Mass devotees are not "native" to St. Gertrude, but have moved here lately, and specifically, for what we offer. Thank God for them, and pray for lasting fruit from so many faithful 40 Hours and Corpus Christi Octaves over the years.

Attendance this year *was* a little thin for the opening, (and that on a First Friday!) as well as for afternoon adoration, although the closing was a pleasant surprise — a pretty good crowd. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament be thanked! I figure that slightly over fifty percent of our "every Sunday parishioners" whom I number at about 300, participated in 40 Hours, one way or another. That's actually pretty good! If we had 3000, as parishes did in the old days, that would have made for the packed churches we remember before the changes. God bless you for your piety, dear "parishioners."

This week we persevere praying for the conversion of Non-Catholics, and turn to Our Sorrowful Mother as well, as we continue Her novena on Friday. Christmas will soon be over (come on Friday to honor the Infant too,) and Lent will be here. One day the world will be over, and so will you. Let us pray and attend church while we may.

With a blessing,

—Bishop Dolan

✠ PRAYER FOR SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

BLESS, O LORD, this new liturgical season which opens today. By penetrating its spirit may we be disposed, with Thine aid, for a serious reform of our spiritual lives. Let us then, with St. Paul, "run in the race" that we may "receive the prize." Infuse in us, O Lord, new strength to take up more eagerly the course which will lead us to win the "incorruptible crown" of sanctity. As we begin this prelude to Lent, the traditional time for spiritual reform, grant unto us a generous spirit to struggle to overcome ourselves, to conquer evil and achieve goodness; denial of self by humility; denial of the body by physical mortification. Only those who struggle and exert themselves will win the prize. Therefore let us also run in such a way as to obtain the reward. Amen.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D.)

✠ PALMS NEEDED!

Please bring your old palms to church *during this week* (not next Sunday). There will be a box in the vestibule in which to deposit them. They are needed in order to prepare ashes for distribution on Ash Wednesday.

✠ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of the Month, and the Twelfth of Our Mother of Good Counsel. Closing ceremonies follow the High Mass. Do come back to Helfta Hall at 11:10 AM for a charming Christmas offering of *Hymns with Hands and Voices*, performed by our Sunday School Catechism class. Early **Vespers and Benediction** will be at **1:10 PM**.

Set your missal: *January 27th, Sexagesima*, with the commemoration of St. John Chrysostom, BpCD. Preface of the Trinity.

Pro-Life ✠ The Rosary Confraternity will meet at 9:30 AM in front of the **Auburn Avenue Abortion** clinic to *pray the Rosary* on **Saturday, January 26th**. A light breakfast will follow the 8:00 AM Mass before proceeding to the abortion clinic.

✠ UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 2ND - CANDLEMAS
Saturday, February 2nd, is First Saturday and the feast of the Purification / Candlemas. Join us for the Procession & "Mass of Candles" at 9:00 AM, followed by our annual *Winter Soup Lunch & Mardi Gras* - bring some soup or dessert.

Plan to spend this lovely feast of Our Lord and Our Lady with your "church family" by bringing your children to take part in the procession. After Mass we will share a family lunch of bread, wine, soup and desserts.

As you did last year, bring your *favorite* soup in a crock pot, and the church will supply a variety of tasty breads and wines. You may wish instead to bring some delicious dessert — it's almost Lent! In any case, do come!

In the spirit of this feast of the Presentation, *present* yourself and your children, as Our Lady presented her only Son. Make the *offering* of your delicious soup or dessert as St. Joseph offered two doves. Your extra effort for God and your "church family" will not be forgotten by Him.

"Only the pure in heart can make a good soup."
—LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN,

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 6TH: Ash Wednesday - already!

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 20TH: Children's Day of Recollection



✠ THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS

First Testing & First Confessions: Saturday, April 12th. (Baptismal Certificate must be presented before testing, and form filled out.)

• **Obligatory Day of Recollection for all First Communion Children:** Thursday, May 8th.

• **Confirmation:** Saturday, May 10th.

• **First Holy Communion:** Sunday, May 25th.

Parents, please remember to submit to the Office *by March 11th*, the Baptismal certificates of children not baptized at St. Gertrude the Great. If your child is not enrolled in the school or Sunday School, please let us know if you are planning on bringing him to be tested in April. Unless we have the Baptismal certificate, we will be unable to do the necessary testing. Sometimes it is difficult to tell if a child is ready for the Sacraments. Please consult the priest. The Church earnestly desires all children to receive Our Lord as soon as possible.

"Know you not that they that run in the race, all run indeed, but one receiveth the prize? So run that you may obtain. And every one that striveth for the mastery refraineth himself from all things: and they indeed that they may receive a corruptible crown: but we an incorruptible one."

WHY WE CAN REFORM

Our helper is God, and He is such that no one can withstand Him. As long as we continue to look to this strong loving helper, we cannot be weakened by the thought of our own frailty. It seems this is what that dear lover Paul saw when he said, "I can do all things in Christ crucified, Who is in me and strengthens me." For when Paul felt the annoyance and pricking of the flesh, he found strength not in himself, because he

knew he was weak, but in Christ Jesus. It was because of Christ Jesus and that fine strong armor God had given him, his strong freedom, that he could say, "I can do all things." For neither the devil nor anyone else can force me to commit a single deadly sin against my will. We can never be overcome unless we give up this armor and turn it over to the devil by our willing consent. The temptations and wiles of the devil, the flesh, and the world may come shooting poisoned arrows — the flesh with ugly thoughts and sensations, the devil with his assorted temptations and deceit and trickery, the world with its pretentiousness and pride. But unless lady freedom consents to these disordered suggestions, she never sins, because sin is in the will alone. And God has given us this as a favor, not as our due.

—ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA



FOR ALL FALLEN AWAY

O Mother of Sorrows, by thine own love of innocence and hatred for whatever offends almighty God, plead with the Sacred Heart of Thy Divine Son for the conversion and forgiveness of all the fallen away. There is no one, most powerful advocate, whose case is so desperate, or whose crimes are so many, but that Thou canst obtain for him the grace of repentance. Thy prayer is all powerful with the Heart of Jesus. He can refuse Thee nothing which Thou dost ask of Him by the memory of His bitter passion, which Thou didst share with Him for the salvation of sinners.

May the memory of those agonized hours, during which Thou didst stand beneath His cross and see Him dying for the salvation of all mankind, prevail with Thy most tender heart to obtain from Him the conversion of all our fallen away and especially of those who are the most wicked and abandoned.

Pray that His Sacred Blood may not have been poured forth for them in vain. Help us also, most gracious Mother, to rise from our sins, to awaken altogether from the sleep of sloth and indifference, and to be joined to the number of Thy most loving and faithful children, both here, and through the ages without end in heaven. Amen.

✠ TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE FAMILY - THE CATHOLIC HEARTH, 2001

The danger of the present time [written in 1933] lies, principally, in the family, the cell of human society. If there is to be any hope for betterment, the families one by one must be restored to Jesus, must be renewed by His Divine Spirit. His Eminence, Michael Cardinal Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich, in an earnest appeal implores parents to conform their lives to the principles of the Gospel. He issues his appeal under the heading, "Ten Commandments for the Family."

At the beginning of the new year, when each one is anxious to obtain heaven's benediction on his home, these precepts are well worth serious consideration:

1. *Thou shalt value thy life and make good use of thy time!*

Life given at birth is something precious in the sight of God. Infinitely more precious is that life, since Christ redeemed man with His Precious Blood and destined him for eternal life. We are not absolute proprietors of our lives—we are only administrators, and one day will be obliged to render an account of them. We may not fritter away our life thoughtlessly, disgrace it by sin, squander it in dissipation, bury it alive through slothfulness, nor throw it away by suicide. Life is not a dream, not a play nor a carnival frenzy; *life is a mission, a duty, a responsibility.* "Our days upon earth are as a shadow" (1 Chron. xxix. 15). The eternal God gives us but one hour, but one minute, never two hours or two minutes, at a time, so that we may make use of and fill our *every* hour and *every* minute. *Full* days shall be found with us (Rev. iii. 2), that with *full* sheaves we may return home to our Father (Ps cxxv. 6).

2. *Thou shalt live by faith!* (Rom. i 17.) "Now, this is life eternal: that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" (John xvii 3). Faith in God gives a higher sense and a firmer goal to life. In the Name of God, spend not your days and nights thoughtlessly, aimlessly!

"Goal after which I strive, Fountain at which I rest, Bread from which I live, My God, my All art Thou." He who really lives by faith will judge the things of this world and the events of this life with the eye of faith, will not grow too much attached to the goods of this world, nor sell his soul for a few farthings. Such a soul will see the hand of Providence in all things, recognize the love of God even in the sufferings of this life, and even see the bright side of death. "The just

man liveth by faith" (Rom. i. 17).

3. *Keep the commandments!* "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. xix. 17). "Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is all man" (Eccles. xii. 13). The ten commandments are the foundation school for every morally regulated conduct of life. To adore no strange gods (I), to have reverence for the Divine (II), to keep the Lord's day holy (III), to honor father and mother (IV), to practice Christian charity and preserve the moral honor (V, VI, IX, X), not to desire or damage the neighbor's goods (VII), not to bear false witness (VIII)—this is the whole man according to the will of God. In ordinary life we practice the love of God when we conform our life to His commandments (John xv. 10, 14), and not for anything in the world offended Him by mortal sin, but for His love fulfill the duties of our state of life and carry our cross. *The love of God must remain the soul and impelling power of the Christian rule of life.*

4. *Ora et labora—pray and labor!*

"He who knows how to pray well will also know how to live well." Through prayer the grace of God will be given you to regulate your life and keep it orderly. Therefore let no day pass without your praying the "Our Father" and the "Hail Mary,"—the more the labor and care, the more fervent the prayer. But your prayer must not be a lifeless, lip service, nor be choked by a multiplicity of devotional exercises. Your piety must not be of a type to repel others. Remember your Creator not only when sickness and domestic cares force you on your knees to beg, but pray also for the everlasting goods of the soul in the spirit of the first three petitions of the "Our Father."

Hand in hand with daily prayer is labor, the diligent and conscientious discharge of the duties of your state of life. Prayer and work should look toward each other like the two angels on the ark of the covenant (2 Mos. xxv. 20). On the scale of God, all honest avocations have the same weight—farmer or manufacturer, laborer or merchant, employer or employee, physical or mental labor. In the sight of God nothing is big and nothing is small. It is the purity of intention which must ennoble and elevate labor.

5. *Cast thy care and temptations upon the Lord!* (Ps. lxiv. 23.)

Cares of all shapes, forms and descriptions,—sufferings and sickness, disappointments, calumnies and self-made crosses—accompany the ways of man, even the

faithful and the good. Yes, the good are by preference asked: "Can you drink of the chalice?" (Mark x. 38.) Happy are they who in hours of trial look up to the Savior on the Cross and waver not in their faith! "If we have received good things at the hand of God, why should we not receive evil?" (Job ii. 10.) "To them that love God, all things work together unto good" (Rom. viii. 28). Prayer and visits to the church do not always take away the cross; however, they give strength to carry the cross with resignation. The sick who offer their sufferings for the salvation of souls can become missionaries in the kingdom of God on their sick-bed. Those, however, who curse and kick against the goad in their sufferings (Acts ix. 5; xxvi. 14), place a second and much heavier cross upon their shoulders, the cross of the thief on the left.

Whether the temptations, the enticement to sin, come from our own corrupt nature, where "the flesh lusteth against the spirit" (Gal. v. 17), whether the sweet allurements come from our fellow-beings, whether the demons of the abyss lay their snares, or whether God Himself sends this plague of gnats to punish an infidelity in His service or to purify fidelity,—in all cases our Savior has prescribed two means of defense: "*Watch* ye and *pray* that you enter not into temptation!" (Mark xiv. 38).

Watch means: keep your will in readiness. Do not run into the occasions of sin. You must not see everything, not read everything, not nibble at forbidden fruits nor wish to take part in everything. To live for God requires self-denial.

Prayer means to fly to God like children run to their father when dogs bark at them. Only he who forms his life in the grace of God will obtain the mastery. "God will not suffer you to be tempted above that which you are able" (1 Cor. x. 13). In the hour of temptation, remember mortal sin is the greatest misfortune that can befall man. *Mortal sin* destroys the supernatural life of the soul and also in the natural life throws everything into confusion. How many hopes of life are shattered by immorality and drunkenness! How much vigor of life fettered in chains! How much family happiness buried! Whoever has had the misfortune to commit a mortal sin should make an act of perfect contrition and go to confession as soon as possible.

(To be continued.)

MY SUNDAY AFTERNOON CATECHISM FOR SEPTUAGESIMA

Why is this Sunday called Septuagesima?

The word means *seventy*. According to the First Council of Orleans, in the year AD 545, many pious ecclesiastics and lay persons of the primitive Church used to fast seventy days before Easter, and their fast was called, therefore, Septuagesima, a name which was afterwards retained to distinguish this Sunday from others. The same was the case with the three following Sundays; many Christians beginning their fast sixty days before Easter, whence the name Sexagesima; others fifty days, whence Quinquagesima; others forty days, whence Quadragesima.

Why did the first Christians fast seventy days?

Alcuin and Amalarius say that the captivity of the Jews in Babylon first suggested it; for as the Jews were obliged to do penance seventy years, that they might thereby merit to return into the promised land, so Christians sought to regain the grace of God by fasting for seventy days.

Why does the Church, from this Sunday until Easter, omit all joyful chants, as the Te Deum, Alleluia, Gloria in excelsis?

To remind the sinner of the grievousness of his errors, and to exhort him to penance. To incite us to sorrow for our sins, and to show us the necessity of repentance, the Church at the Introit in the name of all nations unites her prayers with David, saying: "The sorrows of death surrounded me, the sorrows of hell encompassed me, and in my affliction I called upon the Lord, and He heard my voice from His holy temple. I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my firmament, my refuge, and my deliverer" (Ps xvii. 5-7, 2, 3).

PLEASE READ SUNDAY'S GOSPEL: Matthew XX. 1-16

In these parables what is to be understood by the master of a family, the vineyard, the laborers, and the penny?

The master of a family is God, Who calls all men as laborers to His vineyard of the true religion, or Church, and to receive the promised penny, which is the divine grace and eternal salvation.

How and when does God call men?

By the instruction of parents and teachers, by preachers and confessors, by spiritual books, edifying conversation, good examples and inspirations; in early youth, in manhood, and in old age—which stages of human life are also signified by the different hours of the day.

Who are the laborers in the vineyard?

Those who work, combat, and suffer for God and His honor, for their own salvation and that of others, particularly spiritual teachers.

How should we work in the vineyard of the Lord?

As in a vineyard men must dig, destroy the weeds, cut off what is useless and bad, manure, plant, and bind, in like manner must we, in the spiritual vineyard of our souls, destroy the weeds of vice by rooting out sinful inclinations and their causes, and by real penance. In other words:

1. We must hate every sin.
2. We must produce in ourselves a fervent desire to destroy vice.
3. We must earnestly beg God's grace, without which we can do nothing.
4. We must attend zealously at instructions, sermons, and catechism.
5. We must often go to Confession and Communion, and follow our confessor's directions.
6. Every morning we must make firm resolutions, and every night an examination of conscience.
7. We must read in some spiritual book, treating of the predominant sin which we have to root out.
8. We must venerate some saint who in life committed the same sin, as for instance, Mary Magdalen, who from being a great sinner became a great penitent.
9. We must fast, give alms, and do other good works.

Why did the last man, as mentioned in the Gospel, receive as much as those who came first?

Because God does not reward men according to the time of their labor, but according to the zeal, love, fidelity, and humility with which they have concurred with His grace (Wis. iv 7, 8, 11; ii Cor. ix. 6).

What is meant by "many are called, but few chosen"?

It is as if Our Savior should say, Do not wonder that the last shall be first, and the first last, for many will not be received at all. From among the Jews and Gentiles He has called many, but few only have followed Him, and of these again only few can be the chosen. How many Christians are there who do not accept His calling, or who fail to live according to their vocation, neither cooperating with His grace nor trying forcibly to enter the kingdom of heaven!

Prayer

O most merciful and benign Lord, Who, without any merit of our own, hast called us, Thy unworthy servants, out of mere mercy, into Thy vineyard—the Church—and commanded us to work therein, grant us grace, we beseech Thee, never to be idle, but as faithful servants to be always doing Thy holy will. Whatever we have heretofore left undone, we will in future endeavor to do with persevering zeal, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION / CANDLEMAS / MARDIS GRAS
WINTER SOUP LUNCH

WHEN: February 2nd

TIME: Immediately After 9:00 AM Mass

WHERE: Helfta Social Hall

WHAT: Soup or Dessert

WHO: Everyone in the Parish

Everyone is invited to join Bishop Dolan, Father Cekada, and Father Ramolla for a casual, relaxing, warm winter get-together of bread, wine, soup and dessert. This family-style lunch marks the joyful end of the Christmas season, and the celebration of *Mardi Gras*, with Lent just days away. Bishop Dolan is making soup and invites you to share your favorite soup, too! If you don't have a favorite soup, bring a delicious dessert. The church will supply the bread and wine, other beverages and paper supplies. As we did last year, for the sake of convenience bring your soup in a crock pot so there will be a way to keep it hot.

