

St. Gertrude the Great Roman Catholic Church

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212 • Fax: (513) 645-4214 • www.sgg.org • www.traditionalmass.org

February 10, 2013

Quinquagesima Sunday

Holy Face Sunday



**The Most Reverend
Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor**

**The Rev. Anthony Cekada
The Rev. Charles McGuire
The Rev. Vili Lehtoranta**

Traditional Latin Mass

Sunday Masses

7:30 AM Low Mass

9:00 AM High Mass

11:30 AM Low Mass

5:45 PM Low Mass

Weekday Masses

See THE CALENDAR inside

New at St. Gertrude's? Welcome! In the vestibule you'll find a pamphlet explaining the traditional rules for the reception of Holy Communion. There is also a Visitor's Card to fill out if you want more information on St. Gertrude's or on the traditional Catholic Faith and the Latin Mass. A free information packet is available to newcomers; ask an Usher or inquire in the **Gift Shop**. Stop by **Helfta Hall**, our social hall, after Mass for refreshments.

Dress Code: *Ladies & Girls*—Please wear a modest dress and a head-covering. No tight fitting, low-cut, short, slit, or sleeveless dresses. No pants or shorts. *Men & Boys*—Please wear a shirt and tie, with either suit coat, jacket or sweater, and dress shoes. No T-shirts, sweat shirts, sweat pants, tennis shoes, sneakers, shorts, jeans or sports logo jackets.

Registration: Please complete a card at the Gift Shop or phone the church. Collection envelopes will be mailed.

Mass Intentions: Individual Mass intentions as well as Purgatorial Society enrollments are available in the vestibule, and may be given in with the collection or at the church office.

Votive Candles: You may light candles before the numerous shrines located throughout the main church as well as in the baptistery. The suggested donation for a seven-day votive candle is \$5.00. The suggested donation for six-hour votives is 50 cents.

Confessions: Fridays at 10:55 AM, Friday evenings and Saturday mornings (please consult *THE CALENDAR inside for times*); most Sundays before the morning Masses.

Baptisms: Saturday morning by appointment. *At least one parent as well as the sponsor (only one sponsor is required) must be practicing Roman Catholics who do not belong to the Novus Ordo religion. Novus Ordo and non-practicing Catholics may not serve as sponsors. The Church will provide a sponsor in case of necessity.* The Churching of New Mothers follows the baptismal ceremony.

Blessing of Religious Articles: First Sunday of the month after all Masses.

Blessing of Expectant Mothers: Third Sunday of the month after all Masses.

Rosary Chain: To request prayers for special intentions, or to assist in the Rosary Chain, please call the office.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ **FEBRUARY 10, 2013 •**

- **QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY •**
- **ST SCHOLASTICA, V •**
- **HOLY FACE SUNDAY •**

Today we offer our adoration and reparation to the Holy Face. The blessing of religious articles is available after all Masses, at the communion rail. Come back to Helfta Hall for our *Mardi Gras Bake Sale* and pick up some goodies to enjoy in the last few days before Lent begins.



✠ **ALTER CHRISTUS**

\$136.00 was donated this month for Masses for the sanctification and support of priests. *Thank you!*

*"I do not tremble when I see my weakness,
for the treasures of a mother belong also
to her child, and I am thy child,
O dear Mother Mary."
— St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

✠ **THIS WEEK**

Monday is the feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes** and Fr. McKenna marks his first anniversary of ordination with a Solemn High Mass. **Tuesday**, Mardi Gras, is a traditional day to celebrate before the austerities of Lent. It is the actual **Feast of the Holy Face**. The complete **Ash Wednesday** schedule will be found in *The Calendar* elsewhere in this bulletin. Remember, it is a day of Fast and complete Abstinence. **Friday** evening is the first of our **Lenten Evenings of Recollection**. We offer Mass (5:45 PM) of the devotional feast of the Crown of Thorns, followed by a Lenten Potluck Supper (*please bring a dish to share*), then at 7:30 PM we pray the Holy Face Stations, and the evening concludes with the Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the sick, and Benediction.

*"Jesus does not need our deeds,
but He does need our love."
— St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

✠ **NEXT SUNDAY**

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

Set Your Missal: Lent I, collects of Our Lady and All Saints, For the Living and the Dead, Lenten Preface.

✠ **UPCOMING EVENTS: Mark your calendar!**

LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR ADULTS – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

This one-day retreat is open to men and women, single or married, and will include Holy Mass, confessions, spiritual exercises and conferences. The day will begin at 8:10 AM and close at 2:00 PM. Continental breakfast will be provided, as well as lunchtime beverages; participants should "brown-bag" their lunches.

ADDITIONAL LENTEN RETREAT DAYS:

Wednesday, Feb. 27th:

Children's Day of Recollection

Saturday, March 9th:

Altar Boys' Day of Recollection

✠ **MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITY**

Thanks to Chris Browne we have located and purchased in Iowa a beautiful life size statue of St. Francis de Sales. If you would like to donate this statue (perhaps as a memorial to a loved one), please contact Bishop Dolan. \$600 would about cover the costs, I think. Partial donations are happily received as well.

✠ **IN YOUR CHARITY...**

....please pray for the repose of the soul of †Joyce Ramey, a former parishioner who died suddenly last week; and for all our sick, especially Becky Mattingly.

Servers: FEBRUARY 11-17, 2013

MON 2/11	11:20 AM SOLEMN HIGH: School Servers, P. Omlor, Simpsons
WED 2/13	11:20 AM HIGH: School Servers, P. Omlor, Simpsons
FRI 2/15	5:45 PM LOW: Friday Night Servers
SAT 2/16	7:30 AM LOW: Simpsons 8:10 AM LOW: M. Briggs
SUN 2/17	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: T. Simpson, Sr., T. Simpson, Jr. ACS: A. Richesson, J. Lacy TH: N. McClorey TORCH: Jack Morgan, P. Omlor, Nathan McClorey, P. McClorey, C. Richesson, M. Simpson CROSS: L. Arlinghaus 11:30 AM LOW: F. & N. Puglielli 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Ushers: FEBRUARY 17, 2013

7:30 AM	Scott Pepiot, Kent Maki, Volunteer
9:00 AM	Mike Briggs, Mark Lotarski, Steve Weigand, Paul Arlinghaus
11:30 AM	Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille, Kirby Bischel, Volunteer
5:45 PM	P. Grau

Collection Report

Sunday, February 3rd	\$4,458.00
Second Collection	\$977.00

✠ THE POETRY CORNER

Gethsemani.

In a garden
Jesus prayed
On the night
He was betrayed.
Prayed in agony of woe
Human words
Can never show,
Human hearts
May never know.

Angels came
And bent around
That sad form
Upon the ground.
Peter, John,
Your Friend,
You failed,
Heavy sleep
Your eyes have sealed
To the vision
Here revealed.

What a price
To pay for sleep,
Called by God
Your watch
To keep!
You have missed
A heavenly sight
On this darkest,
Strangest night.
God by angels'
Love attended,
God by angels'
Care defended,
Tortured God
By angels tended.

—M.E.G.S.

LUMEN CHRISTI

*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before
the Blessed Sacrament for the next
fortnight for the following intention:
**For the conversion of my children
to their true Faith**
(Joan Landry)*

Living by Love!

In Love's last ev'ning-hours you would have heard
Jesus say plainly: 'He who would love Me,
Let him be true, let him obey my Word:
Father and Son his Visitants shall be.
Our palace there, his heart a dwelling-place,
An heir to peace and happiness above;
Our will it is that he forever stays –
In our own Love.'

Living by Love...means guarding you –
ah, You
The uncreated Word, the Holy Name!
Jesus, I love You. You – God – know I do,
Love's Spirit sets me blazing with His flame.
My love of You attracts the Father – oh,
My feeble heart forbids Him to get free!
O Trinity – a Prisoner! As so
Love-locked by me.

Living by Love means 'Set unbroken course
In spreading peace and joy to all in view.'
Dear pilot! Charity's my driving-force:
In souls – my sisters – I am seeing You.
Charity...only star by which I sail –
On, by its light, undeviating move...
I've my device inscribed upon my veil:
'Living by Love.'

Living by Love means too: while Jesus sleeps,
Staying reposeful when rough waters roar.
Don't fear I'll wake you up, Lord: on the deeps,
Tranquil I'll wait to reach the Heavenly shore....
Soon Faith will take and tear apart her veil,
My Hope...a day, and then to You I fly:
Charity swells my veil out, like a sail –
By Love, live I!

– St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Promises of Our Lord to those devoted to His Holy Face

Promise made to St. Gertrude: "They shall receive in themselves, by the impression of My Humanity, a bright irradiation of My Divinity, and shall be so illuminated by It in their inmost souls, that by their likeness to My Face, they shall shine with a brightness surpassing that of many others in eternal life."

St. Mechtilde, having asked our Lord that those who celebrate the memory of His sweet Face should never be deprived of His amiable company, He replied: "Not one of them shall be separated from Me."



PRAYER OF ST. THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS AND THE HOLY FACE

O Jesus, who in Thy bitter Passion didst become "the most abject of men, a man of sorrows," I venerate Thy Sacred Face whereon there once did shine the beauty and sweetness of the Godhead; but now it has become for me as if it were the face of a leper! Nevertheless, under those disfigured features, I recognize Thy infinite Love and I am consumed with the desire to love Thee and make Thee loved by all men. The tears which well up abundantly in Thy sacred eyes appear to me as so many precious pearls that I love to gather up, in order to purchase the souls of poor sinners by means of their infinite value. O Jesus, Whose adorable Face ravishes my heart, I implore Thee to fix deep within me Thy divine image and to set me on fire with Thy Love, that I may be found worthy to come to the contemplation of Thy glorious Face in Heaven. Amen.



Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

O ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comforter of the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors, and many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

– from "Prayers of an Irish Mother," 1934

✠ LENTEN RESOLUTIONS ✠

This year, I'm going to fast in a way that effects some real good. I am going to fast from criticizing people...

Ash Wednesday dawned, I waited to be transformed, and within an hour I was mentally nitpicking, criticizing, and judging any number of people. A few days later I badmouthed someone out loud, the day after that I nakedly passed on a bit of juicy gossip, and from there the whole enterprise rapidly went downhill. Nice try, but unh-unh, I realized. Prayer without fasting is a gesture. Mercy without fasting is a gesture. Fasting is not a gesture. Fasting is consent to be consumed.

To be consumed by the fire of our own sin leaves cold, dead ashes. To be consumed by the fire of Christ's love is to have our delusions about ourselves consumed and to have our true selves left intact...

All through Lent a slow, underground fire burns, to burst into flame with the glory of the Resurrection on Easter morning. *Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* And oh, what hangs in the balance during that interval between the day of our births and the day of our deaths, when for a cosmic instant we, too – beggars all – are called to burst into flame.

– Heather King (shirtofflame.blogspot.com)



As to your Lent...I can only tell you my own experience. A mass of good resolutions, I think, are apt to end up in disappointment and to make one depressed. Also direct fault-uprooting: it makes one concentrate too much on self, and that can be so depressing. The only resolution I have ever found works is: "Whenever I want to think of myself, I will think of God." Now this does not mean, "I will make a long meditation of God," but just some short sharp answer, so to speak, to my thought of self, in God. For example:

"I am lonely, misunderstood, etc."

"The loneliness of Christ at His trial; the misunderstanding even of His closest friends."

Or:

"I have made a fool of myself."

"Christ mocked – He felt it; He put the mocking first in foretelling His Passion – 'The Son of Man shall

be mocked, etc.' – made a fool of, before all whom He loved."

Or:

"I can't go on, unhelped."

"Christ couldn't. He couldn't carry the cross without help; He was grateful for human sympathy – Mary Magdalene – His words on that occasion – other examples as they suggest themselves – just pictures that flash through the mind." This practice become a habit, and it is the habit which has saved me from despair!

Different people have different approaches to Christ. He has become all things – infant, child, man – so that we all can approach Him in the way easiest for us. The best is to use that way to our heart's content, and not to trouble about any other.

– Caryl Houslander

(British mystic, poet, and spiritual teacher †1954)



Receive thy sight, thy faith hath made thee whole

MASS OF QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

As a prelude to Lent, Jesus announces, "*We go up to Jerusalem,*" city of the Great Sacrifice. Yet, despite all His teaching that suffering is necessary as expiation for sin, His followers were blind, they "*understood not.*" (**Gospel.**) Hence, He proceeds to strengthen their weakening faith by giving sight to a blind man because of his strong faith. If faith is necessary to understand the meaning of Lenten penance, how much more necessary is charity: charity for God, charity for neighbor (**Epistle**). "For where there is love, there is no labor." The **Introit**, **Collect** and **Gradual** inspire confidence in God as we are about to "*go up*" with Him. The **Offertory** expresses gratitude for faith and pleads for its increase. The **Communion** reflects on the charity of God as our model.

"The martyrdom of the heart is no less fruitful than the shedding of blood."

– St. Thérèse of Lisieux

OUR LENTEN THEME FOR 2013. . .

Lent with the Little Flower

**Ash Wednesday: February 13, 2013 – Lent begins
with blessed Ashes and Holy Masses**

Start your Lent right, by receiving Ashes at one of the many services
we will offer on that day.

Ash Wednesday Masses are at: **7:00 AM, 11:20 AM** and **5:45 PM**.

Ashes will be given out *before and after* all Masses,
with final distribution at **6:45 PM**.

Ashes will also be distributed *after* the
3:00 PM Children's Stations of the Cross at approximately **3:20 PM**.

*Start your Lent with humble and holy Ashes, and see the new you
arise from them, as we meditate together the life, prayers, and teaching
of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face.*

*Let your Lenten sacrifices help you along the Little Flower's Little Way to God,
with the Sacrifice of the Mass, along with Stations, and your own quiet
reading and prayer.*

Continue your Lent with **Friday Evenings of Recollection:**

5:45 PM Low Mass with Sermon

6:45 PM Potluck Lenten Dinner (*bring something to share*),

7:30 PM Our Lenten tradition: a brief **Way of the Cross** followed by the
traditional candlelight sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena with
Blessing of the Sick, and closing Benediction. Holy Communion will be
distributed at the conclusion of services.

Spend your Lenten Friday evenings in Church with us!

Come when you can, leave when you must.

✠ THE MCFATHERS' NOOK ✠

We know that you are all used to reading your Bishop's Corner, but this week he has asked the McFathers (McGuire and McKenna) to come up with an appropriate update for you all. We would have named it the McFathers' Corner, but we figure the Bishop is not here to put us in the corner for "causing trouble"...so we simply will reside in our comfortable little Irish "Nook."

We two fathers are doing well and so far St. Gertrude's is still standing after a week in our care. We have even managed to care for the cats. They seem to be pretty happy as they spend a good deal of time curled up on blankets in the *Convento San Marco* sleeping. Bishop Dolan is still in Milwaukee taking care of the faithful at St. Hugh of Lincoln and he reports that all is going well up there. The faithful there, likewise, are enjoying the extended stay of their Bishop and several families have even treated him to dinner over at their houses; which reminds us to extend our plea for volunteers for *Cucina Clerical*. God will certainly reward your charity for this honorable service as you will provide the necessary "clergy fuel" to drive us to be able to better serve you all...not to mention providing us with some extra time for work.

We had good attendance for last Saturday's Feast of the Purification – also known as Candlemas, considering the fact that the weather was slightly less than cooperative. The choir provided angelic music for the Solemn High Mass. What a treasure it is to be able to have such wonderful ceremonies to give greater honor and glory to God.

Speaking of Solemn High Masses, Fr. McKenna will be the celebrant of a Solemn High Mass on Monday, February 11th for Our Lady of Lourdes. We encourage as many people as possible to come and give honor to Our Blessed Mother on this day and also help celebrate Father's one year anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He is celebrating Mass today for our St. Isidore Mission in Saybrook, IL, while the other Irish priest, Fr. McGuire, is celebrating Mass at his childhood home, the St. Clare Mission in Chillicothe.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten Season. We hope that you have taken some time leading up to Lent to think and pray about what type of sacrifices you would like to make for this year's Lent. Don't look at this wonderful season as just a time when we don't eat as much, but instead realize that it is the season during which we can gain incredible graces and really work to grow closer to God and further away from sinful temptations by giving Him our "first fruits" as a sacrifice. If you are having trouble deciding what sacrifice to make or if during Lent you find yourself tempted to break your offering...ask St. Thérèse to assist you to follow her footsteps and do all things for God.

We pray that you all enjoy these last few days before the start of the Lenten season and that yours is truly a Lent filled with much spiritual growth and fruit. Don't forget to stop by Helfta Hall after Mass today and purchase something from the Mardi Gras Bake Sale to support the parish and also satisfy your sweet tooth for a couple more days until you have the ashes reverently placed upon your head and you begin to die to yourself so that He may live within you.

– The McFathers



† POPE SENSE †

Catholic Social Teaching (continued from 2/3/13 bulletin)

Papal social teaching is unambiguous on the proper role of the state. Pope Leo XIII wrote in *Rerum Novarum* that "the foremost duty" of "the rulers of the state" is to ensure "public well-being and private prosperity. This is the proper scope of wise statesmanship and is the work of the rulers.

"Now a State chiefly prospers and thrives," he wrote, "through moral rule, well-regulated family life, respect for religion and justice, the moderation and fair imposing of public taxes, the progress of the arts and of trade, the abundant yield of the land – through everything, in fact, which makes the citizens better and happier. Hereby, then, it lies in the power of a ruler to benefit every class in the State, and amongst the rest to promote to the utmost the interests of the poor; and this in virtue of his office, and without being open to suspicion of undue interference – since it is the province of the commonwealth to serve the common good."

(to be continued)

✠ THE CALENDAR

*All Sunday Masses and most weekday Masses are webcast
Please check our website!*

MON	2/11/13	OUR LADY OF LOURDES	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass	Bishop Dolan-Good health, cont. recovery (Joseph & Elizabeth Prell & family)
	11:20 AM	Solemn High Mass	Fr. McKenna's First Anniversary
TUE	2/12/13	THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS	
		FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass	Cucina Clerical-for our cooks (The Fathers)
	11:20 AM	High Mass	Our families (Mr. & Mrs. Scott Richesson)
WED	2/13/13	ASH WEDNESDAY	FAST & ABSTINENCE
	6:50 AM	Blessing and distribution of Ashes	
	7:00 AM	Low Mass (for workers-no sermon!)	Poor souls-gratitude-Jean Ventrano (DJR), Distribution of Ashes
	10:55 AM	Confessions	
	11:20 AM	High Mass	†Theresa M. Tilger (M/M Mark Lotarski & family)
	12:20 PM	Distribution of Ashes	
	3:00 PM	Children's Stations of the Cross	
	3:20 PM	Distribution of Ashes	
	5:00 PM	Rosary and Confessions	
	5:20 PM	Penitential Litany	
	5:40 PM	Distribution of Ashes	
	5:45 PM	Low Mass	†Sr. Patricia Marie (Rebecca Hinton)
	6:45 PM	Final Distribution of Ashes	
THU	2/14/13	FERIAL DAY	FAST
		ST VALENTINE, PRM	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass	†Estrella I. Simpson-First anniversary (Tom Simpson)
	11:20 AM	High Mass	†Estrella I. Simpson-First anniversary (Tom Simpson)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass	†Shirle Downing (DJR/ER)
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice	
FRI	2/15/13	FERIAL DAY	FAST
		Ss FAUSTINUS & JOVITA, MM	
		THE CROWN OF THORNS	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass	Poor Souls (Lisa Bertnick)
	10:55 AM	Confessions	
	11:20 AM	High Mass	Bishop Dolan (Anonymous)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary	
	5:35 PM	Infant of Prague Novena VIII	
	5:45 PM	Low Mass with Sermon, Special Intention MKF	(Gerry Keaveney) Sacred Heart Novena
	6:45 PM	Lenten Pot Luck Supper	
	7:30 PM	Holy Face Stations, Sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena IV with Blessing of the Sick, Benediction, Holy Communion	

FASTING & ABSTINENCE

RULES OF FAST: The laws of fast apply to persons between the ages of 21 and 59. On a fast day one may eat one full meal and two light meatless meals, which together would not equal the main meal. Meat may be taken at the principal meal, except on days of complete abstinence. Liquids such as water, milk, and fruit juices may be taken between meals.

RULES OF ABSTINENCE: The laws of abstinence apply to everyone seven years of age and over. On a day of complete abstinence no meat, meat gravy or soup made from meat may be taken. On a day of partial abstinence meat may be taken once.

TRADITIONAL DAYS OF FAST: All the weekdays of Lent (Monday through Saturday) up until noon on Holy Saturday; Ember Days; the Vigils of Pentecost, the Immaculate Conception, Christmas and All Saints.

TRADITIONAL DAYS OF COMPLETE ABSTINENCE: Every Friday of the year; Ash Wednesday; Holy Saturday (until noon); the Vigils of All Saints, the Immaculate Conception, and Christmas.

TRADITIONAL DAYS OF PARTIAL ABSTINENCE: Ember Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the Vigil of Pentecost.

SAT	2/16/13	FERIAL DAY	FAST
	7:15 AM	Confessions	
	7:30 AM	Low Mass	Intentions of Tom Simpson (C. Simpson family)
	8:10 AM	Low Mass with Sermon	†Hannah Mae Keaveney (Swinney family)
SUN	2/17/13	LENT I	
		THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT	
	7:05 AM	Rosary	
	7:30 AM	Low Mass	†Joseph Michael Gripshover (Ken & Regina Gilliam)
	9:00 AM	High Mass	Conversion of my children to the Most Sacred Heart (Mother, Joan Landry)
	10:40 AM	Sunday Classes	
	11:05 AM	Rosary	
	11:30 AM	Low Mass	†John Donadio (Jane & Rob Brockman)
	4:45 PM	Vespers and Benediction	
	5:45 PM	Low Mass	For the People of St. Gertrude the Great

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face

Considered by Pope Pius X as “the greatest saint in modern time,” this humble, withdrawn Carmelite became, in 1925, the principle patron saint of Catholic missions and, in 1944, the secondary patron of France, equal to Saint Joan of Arc. She preached and lived the “little way” of *spiritual childhood*.

The Little Flower, as she is often called, is one of the most popular and most loved saints of the modern era. Ironically, she became a saint not by performing great miracles, but by doing little things with great love. After entering the convent as a teenager, she spent the rest of her life perfecting her “little way”—putting up with frustrating companions, obeying superiors, finishing the laundry. So ordinary did she appear that some of the sisters in her convent were unaware of her remarkable prayer life until after her death. She was only 24 when she died of tuberculosis.

Let us ask her for the graces to keep a good and holy Lent.

Thoughts from Saint Thérèse for the Beginning of Lent

The only grace I ask, O Jesus, is never to offend Thee.

By love and not by fear, does a soul avoid committing the least voluntary fault.

Yes, even if I had on my conscience every possible crime,

I should lose none of my confidence; my heart breaking with sorrow, I should go and throw myself into the arms of my Savior.

The remembrance of my faults humbles me and makes me afraid to rely on my own strength, which is nothing but weakness.

Prayer:

Act of Oblation of Saint Thérèse of the Infant Jesus

My Lord and my God! O Most Blessed Trinity! I desire to love Thee and to make Thee loved by mankind. Since Thou hast loved me so much as to give me Thy only begotten Son for my Saviour and my Spouse, the infinite treasures of His merits are mine. These merits I offer to Thee with joy, beseeching Thee to behold me only as in the Face of Jesus, and in His Sacred Heart burning with love. Moreover, I offer Thee all the merits of the saints – in heaven and on earth – together with their acts of love, and those of the holy Angels. Lastly, I offer Thee, O Blessed Trinity, the love and merits of the Blessed Virgin, my dearest Mother. To her I entrust this oblation, begging her to present it to Thee. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Thérèse

Saint Thérèse, privileged Little Flower of Jesus and Mary, I approach you with childlike confidence and deep humility. I lay before you my desires, and beg that through your intercession they may be realized. Did you not promise to spend your heaven doing good upon earth? Grant me according to this promise the favors I am asking from you.

Intercede for us all the days of our life, but especially during this holy season of Lent, and

obtain for us from God the graces we ask through your intercession. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Thoughts of St. Thérèse: “Far from being like to those great souls who from their childhood practice all sorts of macerations, I made my mortification consist solely in the breaking of my will, restraining a hasty word, rendering little services to those around me without making anything of it, and a thousand other things of this kind.”

Sister Thérèse became ill from wearing for too long a time a small iron cross, of which the sharp points were sunk into her flesh. She said afterwards, “That would not have befallen me from so slight a penance if the good God had not wanted to make me understand that the macerations of the Saints are not intended for me, nor for the little souls who will tread the same path of spiritual childhood.”

Prayer of St. Thérèse: O my God! I offer Thee all my actions of this day for the intentions and glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, by uniting them to its infinite merits, and I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them into the furnace of its merciful love. O my God! I ask Thee for myself and for those whom I hold dear the grace to fulfill perfectly Thy holy will, to accept for love of Thee the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we one day may be united in heaven for all eternity. Amen.



THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Thoughts of St. Thérèse: “I had accustomed myself never to complain when anything of mine was taken away; and when unjustly blamed I chose rather to remain silent than to defend myself.”

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

FEAST OF THE CROWN OF THORNS

Thoughts of St. Thérèse: “At prayer I was for a long time near a Sister who used to handle incessantly either her Rosary-beads or some other thing; perhaps none heard it but myself, for my hearing is extremely acute, but I cannot say how it tormented me! I should have liked to turn my head and look at the culprit so as to make her stop that noise: however in my heart I knew it was better to bear it patiently, for the love of God in the first place, and also to avoid giving pain.

“I kept quiet therefore, but was sometimes worked up to fever-heat and obliged to make simply a prayer of endurance. Finally I sought out the means of suffering with peace and joy, at least in my innermost soul; I tried to like the teasing little noise. Instead of endeavoring not to hear it – a thing impossible – I listened with fixed attention as if it had been a delightful concert; and my prayer, which was not the prayer of quiet, passed in offering this concert to Jesus.”

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Thoughts of St. Thérèse: “When someone rings for us, or knocks at our door, we must mortify ourselves so as not even to do one stitch more

before answering. I have practiced that; and it is, I assure you, a source of peace.”

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Thoughts of St. Thérèse: “In the world, on awakening in the morning I used to think over what would probably occur either pleasing or vexatious during the day; and if I foresaw only trying events I arose dispirited. Now it is quite the other way: I think of the difficulties and the sufferings that await me, and I rise the more joyous and full of courage the more I foresee opportunities of proving my love for Jesus, and earning the living of my children – seeing that I am the mother of souls. Then I kiss my crucifix and lay it tenderly on the pillow while I dress, and I say to Him: ‘My Jesus, Thou has worked enough and wept enough during the three-and-thirty years of Thy life on this poor earth. Take now Thy rest. . . My turn it is to suffer and to fight.’”

Prayer of St. Thérèse: O my God, most blessed Trinity, I desire to love Thee and to make Thee loved, to labor for the glory of Holy Church by saving souls still on earth and by delivering those who suffer in purgatory. I desire to accomplish Thy will perfectly, and to attain to the degree of glory that Thou hast prepared for me in Thy kingdom – in one word, I desire to be a saint, but I know that I am powerless, and I implore Thee, O my God, to be Thyself my sanctity. Amen.



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Lent with the Little Flower



Daily Thoughts
and Prayers
for Lent 2013