



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
parishoffice@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. Anthony Cekada
Rev. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna

March 22, 2020

LENT IV • LAETARE SUNDAY

ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER, C
ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA, W



¶ LAETARE SUNDAY

Today is Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Short Stations are at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ THE ANNUNCIATION

The great feast of the Incarnation is a true prolife day of prayer. This year we are begging God to spare us from His just punishments for abortion and all of our heavy crimes and sins. Low Mass: 8 AM & 5:10 PM. High Mass: 11:25 AM, followed by Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In place of Children's Stations, Vespers will be sung at 2:30 PM. Rosary and Benediction are at 4:30 PM. Could you *please* make the sacrifice to come?



Lenten Friday Evening of Recollection – March 27th

5:45 PM: Low Mass

6:45 PM: Lenten Supper:
Vegetable lasagna, soup, salad,
bread, lemonade

7:30 PM: Stations of the Cross,
Sorrowful Mother Novena, Bless-
ing of the Sick, Benediction

8:30 PM (approx.): Distribution
of Holy Communion

¶ HELP NEEDED!

This Saturday, March 28th, we will be covering the statues in church with purple for Passiontide. If you are able, please come to help.

BEG GOD FOR MERCY *Come to Mass & Adoration for the Annunciation*

Wednesday, March 25th

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: PASSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday opens Passiontide. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Short Stations will be at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Passion Sunday, second collect Against the Persecutors of the Church. Preface of the Holy Cross.

Servers

ALL ALTAR BOYS ARE INVITED TO

ALTAR BOYS DAY

IN HONOR OF

†RICHARD
VANDERYT

*Saturday,
March 28th*

*8:20 AM High
Mass*

*Lunch provided
2:30 PM Closing*



Please pray for the repose of the soul of †Richard VandeRyt, who died suddenly on Monday, March 16th. His Requiem was yesterday. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

¶ SUNDAY ENVELOPES

If you are unable to come to Mass, please don't forget your obligation to contribute to the support of your church. You may mail us your envelopes or include them with your next Sunday collection.



THY KINGDOM COME

What is expressed in the second petition of the Pater Noster?

In this second petition, we beseech God that His Kingdom may come.

"Thy Kingdom come" does not refer to unreasoning creatures; for these creatures, deprived of liberty, necessarily obey God's orders. They remain where they have been placed, and do not depart from the law that moves them. Stars always gravitate in the same orbit. Spiders have not varied the design of their webs, and bees always follow the same recipe for making honey.

What a lesson for us! We are supposed to be more reasonable than they—yet we have long disobeyed God's law and upset the established order!

This petition of the Pater Noster *envisages God's reign in every heart.*

We are begging God to reign over individuals, over families, over states—over the whole world!

God is a King of Love, and it is through love that He wills to reign.

For twenty centuries we have repeated this prayer: "Thy Kingdom come!" Then how is it that the true God should be unknown to so many millions? How is it that He has so few friends who open their hearts wide to His burning love?

Let us first ask ourselves just how sincere we are ourselves, when we tell God to reign in our hearts through His love.

Are we not the first sometimes by our dislikes, our resentments, our suspicions, our jealousy, our detractions, our slanders, our attachments, and selfishness, to close our hearts to Love?

Just so long as we, who have certainly received more light and divine favor than many others, are lax in the service of the King of Kings, and rebellious to His Law of Love, there will always be numberless societies and individuals to prolong the

cry of the rebellious angels: "*Non serviam!* I will not serve!"

Just so long as we are lacking in generosity and true love, there will always be multitudes to repeat the horrible blasphemy of the Jews confronting Christ in the praetorium of Pilate. "We will not have this Man rule over us! ... His blood be upon us and upon our children!"



¶ CATECHISM CORNER

The Eight Beatitudes, continued:

4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for justice; for they shall be filled.
5. Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart; for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Our Beloved Dead – March

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Lucy G. Meyer	3-03-1988
Catherine J. Bischak	3-05-2005
Claude E. Charles	3-10-1990
John J. Kolb	3-10-2004
Robert Duff	3-13-2013
Richard VandeRyt	3-16-2020
Margaret Sandmayr	3-17-2006
Dorothy B. Spicer	3-18-1986
Marilyn L. Ryan	3-21-1997
Howard Elmlinger	3-22-1990
Williams J. Smith	3-25-2003
Mary Rose Peter	3-26-2017
Margaret Soli	3-30-2017

Collection Report

Sunday, March 15th.....\$5,478.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

DAILY BREAD

*Give us this day our daily bread we pray,
As though it came straight from the hand of
God,
As though we held an empty plate each day,
And found it filled, by miracle, with food,
Although we know the ones who plough
and sow,
Who pick and plant and package whilst we
sleep
With slow backbreaking labor, row by row,
And send away to others all they reap,*

*We know that these unseen who meet our
needs
Are all themselves the fingers of Your hand,
As are the grain, the rain, the air, the land,
And, slighting these, we slight the hand
that feeds.
What if we glimpsed You daily in their toil
And found and thanked and served You
through them all?*

—Malcolm Guite

SONNET OF THE VIA CRUCIS

- I. For me sweet Innocence is doomed to die
- II. Upon the cross which He receives with smiles;
- III. But, as He goes, He falls 'mid jeering aisles,
- IV. While Mary's eyes meet His, and two Hearts cry.
- V. He totters, Simon helps Him, passing by,
- VI. A woman wipes His Face, despite the files
- VII. Of soldiers, and again He falls 'mid riles—
- VIII. Yet, can console those women weeping nigh.
- IX. Christ, help me carry on, though oft I fall,
- X. And strip from me whatever earth can give;
- XI. Come, crucify my flesh, my will, my all,
- XII. And let me die for love of You, and live.
- XIII. In Mary may I rest after the strife,
- XIV. And then, entombed with You, arise to Life.

—Fray Angelico Chavez

Trying days these, to be sure. But it's Lent, and the penances God gives rather than of our own choosing are always more fruitful. Still, so many are left confused, frightened, not knowing what to do except panic... Let us gently remember them, especially the brethren, in our prayers.

In a way, prayers define us at St. Gertrude the Great. To keep us the perfect prayer of the Mass, in all of its solemnity, when so many no longer are able to, is a great grace. An unmerited blessing is this work which has devolved to us. It is surrounded each day by so many of our beloved devotions, especially in Lent, and completed these days of prayer by our daily Vespers. "My soul doth magnify the Lord." If we are anchored in prayer and spiritual reading, we may still suffer, but we are at peace. Try it. The peace of St. Joseph...

Three so happy days have so far marked our sober Lent. On March 11 we welcomed about fifty children between our own students and our homeschooled children, for the Children's Day of Recollection. It was a great day, with the participation of the Fathers, and passed quickly. It was nice to see as well "the next crop of children" now nearing First Communion age. The only sadness each year is the absence of the children who need it most, those attending public and Novus Ordo schools. They are also the ones absent more Sundays than not from Catechism and Mass. Whatever are their parents thinking? Pray to the great plague saint Charles Borromeo these days. He also is the patron saint of Sunday Schools and Catechism.

Last week we had Solemn Mass for both St. Patrick and St. Joseph. The beautiful Masses were enhanced with touching, stirring music and drew both of them a nice little group. But others came throughout the morning for Mass. Both days Mark Lotarski provided an elegant reception. We are grateful! Come to weekday Mass. Pray for those who can no longer have Sunday Mass. Show your grateful appreciation by praying for others.

In addition to the plague prayers, the St. Joseph and Lenten devotions, the Mass and Vespers, I am also requesting prayers to St. Charles Borromeo, whom I mentioned above. He is the "go to saint" for plague (and we have a threefold one), for Catechism classes, as well as the patron of seminarians. This is always a worthwhile intention to be sure.

Stay calm this week. Cut out the news. Barely glance at headlines. Read some sensible articles on the internet, which may open your eyes, but most of all read your bulletin, your Lenten devotional, and your

Lenten book. Life will look different, I assure you.

Oh, and do come Wednesday for Mass or Adoration. If enough of us would pray before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed, surely God would hear and spare. We have so much to pray for!

Oremus!



– Bishop Dolan

THE SEVEN PETITIONS OF LIFE (CONCLUDED)

Character is decided by our choices; the man who chooses the seven values listed in this prayer is a good man. The "Our Father" is the perfect prayer; it petitions God to grant the gifts that would perfect our human natures.



Our Lord, Who gave us this prayer Himself, never in His life used the term "Our Father" of God, when He was speaking in His own name. He always made the distinction between "Your Father" and "My Father" to indicate the distinction in our status: for He was the natural Son of God and we are the adopted children. It was after He had spent a long time on the mountaintop in prayer that His disciples, asking Him how *they* should pray, were told, "When you pray, say..." And then He gave them this prayer which, when fully meant, has made men saints for the past two thousand years...the prayer that begins, "*Our Father Who art in Heaven*," and ends with the confession of our helplessness to save ourselves from sin unless God Himself shall, of His Grace, "*deliver us from evil*."

– Bishop Sheen

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

– J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

WHAT IS IT TO BE A MOTHER?

(by Father Michael Muller 1873)

Mothers are destined, by God, to bring up children for heaven. This is their grand mission. What a happiness, what an honor for a mother to give angels to heaven!

Would to God she only knew the real dignity and importance of her mission, and comprehended the qualifications in the moral and religious order that best prepare her for the duties of her sublime calling! What mission can be more sublime, more sacred, what mission can be more meritorious before God than that of giving to the young child the primary lessons of religion? There is indeed nothing more honorable, nothing more meritorious, nothing which conducts to higher perfection, than to instruct children in their religious duties. This instruction of children is a royal, apostolic, angelic, and divine function. Royal, because the office of a king is to protect his people from danger. Apostolic, because our Lord commissioned apostles to instruct the nations, and, as St. Jerome says, thus made them the saviors of men. Angelic, because the angelical spirits in heaven enlighten, purify, and perfect each other according to their spheres, and their earthly mission is to labor without ceasing for the salvation of man. St. Peter Chrysologus calls those who instruct others in the way of salvation, "the substitutes of angels." Indeed this mission of mothers is divine; they are called to carry on the very work of God Himself. Everything that Almighty God has done from the creation of the world, and which He will continue to do to the end, has been, and will be, for the salvation of mankind. For this He sent His Son from heaven, who enlightened the world by His doctrine, and who still continues to instruct His people by His chosen disciples. Those mothers, then, who direct their children in the paths to heaven, who allure them from vice, who form them to virtue, may fitly be termed apostles, angels, and saviors.

Oh! what glory awaits those mothers who perform the office of angels, and even of God Himself, in laboring for the salvation of the souls of their children. If this employment is honorable for mothers, it is also not less meritorious for them. What is the religious instruction of children, but conferring on a class of our race, the weakest and most helpless, with inconceivable labor and fatigue, the greatest of all blessings? For while the physical development of the child advances with age, it is not so with the mental; for religious instruction only can develop the noble faculties of the soul. The soul of a child, so to speak, would continue to live enshrouded in Pagan darkness, if the mother did not impart and infuse the light of truth. All the gold in the world is but dross in comparison with true religious knowledge.

Our Savior says: "Whosoever shall give to drink to one of these little ones, even a cup of cold water, shall not lose his reward." (*Matt. x. 42.*) May we not infer that those mothers who bestow upon children the treasures of divine knowledge will receive an exceedingly great reward? If God denounces so severely those who scandalize little children:

"But he that shall scandalize one of these little ones, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he there drowned in the depth of the sea" (*Matt. xviii. 6*), what recompense will mothers not receive who instruct and sanctify them?

Mothers who give their efforts and means to this object, choose the surest way to appease the anger of God, and to insure their own salvation. They choose the best means of attaining a high degree of perfection. Almighty God gives to each one the graces proper to his vocation. Mothers, therefore, who are devoted to the religious instruction of their children, must rest assured that God will give them extraordinary graces to arrive at perfection. "Whoever," says our Lord, "shall receive one such little child in My name, receiveth Me." (*Matt. xviii. 5.*) Whosoever, then, believes that our Savior will not allow Himself to be surpassed in liberality, must also believe that He will bestow His choicest blessings on those mothers who instruct their children in the knowledge of God and the love of virtue.

What obligations have not the "angels" of children "who always see the face of the Father Who is in heaven" (*Matt. xviii. 10*), to pray for these mothers—their dear colleagues and charitable substitutes, who perform their office and hold their place on earth. The children will pray for their mothers, and God can refuse nothing to the prayers of children, and their supplications will ascend with the prayers of the angels.

Do you desire, O Christian mother, to be saved? Do you wish to acquire great treasures in heaven, and to attain great perfection in this life?—Employ yourself diligently in the religious instruction of your children. Do you wish to gain the love of our Lord, and to deserve His protection?—Teach your children to fear and love God; you cannot do anything more pleasing to His Divine Heart.

It is related in the Gospel that mothers brought to Him little children, that He might touch them. And the disciples rebuked them that brought them. And when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said to them: "Suffer little children to come to me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God: and embracing them, and laying His hands on them, He blessed them." If Jesus was displeased with those who prevented little children from coming to Him, what love and tenderness will He not have for those mothers by whose means they come to Him?

Oh! how consoled will they not be in their last hour, when they shall see the souls of those whom they prepared for heaven, accompanied by their good angels, surrounding their bed of death, forming, as it were, a guard to protect them from the snares and assaults of the enemy!

This is a happiness which those mothers may confidently expect who labor assiduously to give their children a good religious education. Ah! would to God, I say once more, that mothers would understand their sublime mission on earth!



The Holy Face is the Soul's Spring
PRAYER OF ST. GERTRUDE

O Lord Jesus, delightful and majestic is Thy Countenance, where there radiates the beauteous aura of the divinity. Incline Thy adorable Face towards me that I may draw so close as not to be near but rather within Thee. When will I come to contemplate that coveted, desirable and adorable Face of my Jesus, whose beauty my soul has long thirsted to behold? When will I appear before Thy throne to look upon Thy delightful Face, whose divine splendor in itself fulfills the desire of the saints and brings forth praises of exultation from the heart and lips? Grant forthwith, that I may be hastily delivered from this land of exile, that I may behold Thy most gentle Countenance. How can eyes be satiated in beholding and ears in hearing of the glory of Thy Countenance! Without Thee, Heaven and earth and all things are like total bleakness. Thy adorable Face alone is my solace and the placidness of Spring. O Jesus, sprinkle my members with the blood that streams from the wounds of Thy glorious Head, crowned with thorns. The ineffable perfume of that blood and of those sufferings shall banish slothfulness and torpidity from the soul and adorn it anew, as it comes to pass in the Springtime when the frost of Winter is over. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. BENEDICT LABRE

Jesus Christ, King of Glory, came in peace. God was made man. The Lord was made Flesh. Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. Christ walked in peace through the midst of them. Christ was crucified. Christ died. Christ was buried. Christ rose again. Christ ascended into heaven. Christ conquers. Christ reigns. Christ commands. May Christ defend us from all evil. Jesus is with us. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

A PRAYER IN TIME OF AFFLICTION, WARS, PESTILENCE, ETC.

Francis John Bartholomew, a Passionist Monk of Ss. John and Paul at Rome, a most holy man, who had frequent revelations, once saying Mass, thought of the scourges about to fall on the world—wars, famine, pestilence, etc., when the following prayer was revealed to him, and he was told that whosoever recited it, with devotion, would be preserved from all dangers, with which the whole world will be visited:

O Jesus, Divine Redeemer, be merciful to us and to the whole world. Amen.

O Powerful God! O Holy God! O Immortal God! have pity on us, and all who are in the whole world. Amen.

Pardon and mercy, O my Jesus, during these present dangers. Pour on us Thy most Precious Blood. Amen.

O Eternal Father, be merciful to us. By the Blood of Jesus Christ, Thy only Son, be merciful to us, we beseech Thee. Amen, Amen, Amen.

O God, be appeased by the supplications we address to Thee, and through the intercession of the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, the glorious St. Joseph, and all the Saints, defend us from all dangers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA

Blessed Joseph, keep us in mind, and help us with thy prayer. Plead our cause before Him Who was reputed thy Son, and move also in our behalf thy most blessed virgin Bride, the Mother of Him Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Ghost for all eternity. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH TO THE FOURTEEN HOLY HELPERS IN TIME OF NEED

Pray for us, all ye Holy Helpers! That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Almighty God, Who crowned the fourteen Holy Helpers with external glory on account of their excellent virtues; and distinguished them especially that we should have recourse to them in our necessities, we pray Thee give us the grace to imitate their virtues, and to die a happy death, through their merits. Grant us pardon for our sins, Thy assistance in all our good works, so that we may continue in Thy love to the end, and after this life be rewarded with the crown of eternal happiness. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



"By the very nature of His work the Redeemer had to associate His Mother with it. For this reason we invoke her under the title of Co-Redemptrix." — Pius XI

✠ CALENDAR

MON	3/23/20	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Mrs. Mary McGuire (<i>Dave & MaryAnn Marko</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Don Pfannenstiel (<i>Colleen Eldracher</i>)
	12:25 PM	Vespers
TUE	3/24/20	ST. GABRIEL, ARCHANGEL <i>FAST</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Kyle McGuire – Happy 80 th Birthday!
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Lorraine Gates (<i>Mary Lacy</i>)
	12:25 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Anthony & †Karen Hable (<i>K. & J. Bischel</i>)
WED	3/25/20	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BVM <i>FAST</i> DAY OF PRAYER FOR MERCY
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>P.T. & A.M. Omlor</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass To appease the wrath of God (<i>Bishop Dolan</i>), Exposition <i>All Afternoon Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to appease the anger of God</i>
	2:30 PM	Annunciation Vespers (No Stations) <i>Adorers needed 3:20 – 4:55</i>
	4:30 PM	Rosary & Benediction
	5:10 PM	Low Mass In honor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor – Thanksgiving (<i>Sarah Burns</i>)
THU	3/26/20	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i>
	☞ 7:00 AM	Low Mass My Godparents (<i>John Brueggemann</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Mary Rose Peter – 3 rd Anniversary (<i>Simpson family</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Margaret Soli & †Mary Rose Peter (<i>Jim Soli</i>)
	12:25 PM	Vespers
FRI	3/27/20	ST. JOHN DAMASCENE, CD <i>FAST</i> <i>THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Rachel K. Matties Health (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>)
	11:06 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Edward J. Martin (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski & Family</i>)
	12:25 PM	Vespers
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph & for the Poor Souls – Special Intentions (<i>TRCS</i>)
	6:45 PM	Lenten Supper
	7:30 PM	Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mother Novena VIII, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	3/28/20	ST. JOHN CAPISTRAN, C <i>FAST</i> ALTAR BOYS DAY
	7:15 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Fr. Stephen McKenna Anniversary (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>)
	8:05 AM	Ave & Devotions
	8:20 AM	High Mass & Sermon My family & friends (<i>Rich VandeRyt</i>)
	After Mass	Help us to cover the statues!
	2:30 PM	Conclusion of Altar Boys Day

THY WILL BE DONE

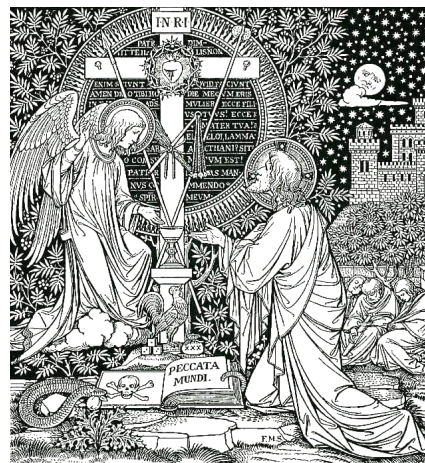
These words are a sweet refuge prepared for us by the good God in the midst of the arid and weary desert which we call life.

Thy will be done! Repeat these words when heart-broken by solitude and crushed by neglect, and they will be for you a consoling friend, a sustaining support, a loving heart which will remain always with you.

Thy will be done! Repeat these words, timid and anxious heart, uncertain of the path to follow, and knowing no longer of whom to seek counsel, and they will be to you a light which will guide you in the way to heaven.

Thy will be done! Repeat these words with every breath, with every pulsation of your heart, with every movement of your lips. God will always understand them as you intend them. Sometimes as a prayer, as an act of resignation, as an act of faith in time of trouble, as an act of hope in time of fear—always as an act of love!

Thy will be done! Yes, then, my God, Thy will be done! Thy will be done! I say it from the depths of my soul; and into the abyss of these supreme words I cast myself, my body, my soul, my whole being, and all that I love here below! Thy will be done!



Servers

SUN 3/29 7:30 AM **Low:** Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM **High:** MCs: J. Lacy, C. Richesson TH: D. Simpson ACs: M. Simpson, C. Arlinghaus TORCH: T. & D. England, J. & N. Kolenich
11:15 AM **Stations:** MC: D. Simpson CROSS: C. Arlinghaus ACs: T. & D. England
11:30 AM **Low:** A. McClorey, P. McClorey
4:45 PM **VESPERS & BENEDICTION:** G. Miller
5:45 PM **Low:** G. Miller

SUN 3/29/20 PASSION SUNDAY
7:05 AM **Rosary**
7:30 AM **Low Mass** †Rich VandeRyt (*Christopher Browne*)
9:00 AM **High Mass** †Margaret Soli (*Mary & children*)
10:40 AM **Catechism Classes**
11:15 AM **Short Stations**
11:30 AM **Low Mass** †Richard VandeRyt (*Joseph McMahon*)
4:45 PM **Vespers & Benediction**
5:45 PM **Low Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great



MONDAY IN LENT IV

"Give us this day our daily bread."

(Luke xi. 3.) While waiting for the Kingdom prepared for us and laboring to obtain it, we have need of sustenance for body and soul, and we ask God to give us what is necessary for both the one and the other.

God is our Father, and He will not refuse food to His children. He is our Master, we are working for Him, and He will supply us with all that is needful to keep us strong in His service. Let us renew our confidence in Him.

We beg bread for the body and for our natural support; this implies whatsoever is necessary; not indulgence, not luxuries. We ask for food day by day and for each day, because we need it daily, and it must come to us from God either by a fresh gift, or by the preservation of what He has already given us: we ask for it for one day only, *"this day,"* because, having a Kingdom waiting for us, we do not look forward to a long protracted sojourn in the world we now inhabit.

TUESDAY IN LENT IV

The bread we ask for our soul is the word of God, that word which is our daily sustenance, the graces, lights, inspirations and consolations, which gladden us, strengthen us and preserve our supernatural life: *"our super-substantial bread"* (Matt. vi 2). This bread is the Holy Eucharist, the bread of the angels which is our nourishment also; it is our daily bread, because we need it day by day; every day invites us to receive it, and we ought to be in a state fit to receive it daily: *"So live as to deserve daily to receive."*

Our first concern, as Jesus has taught us, has been to seek the kingdom of God—His justice, His interests; that His Name be

praised, His kingdom come, His will be done. This being so, "all these things"—the needs of our temporal life—"shall be added unto you." Then why now ask for our daily bread, which clearly is one of our most immediate needs? The Master seems to be inconsistent.



WEDNESDAY IN LENT IV

But we must take things in their context. We are not to be anxious, worrying, fearful. For our own sakes it is good that even when He sees our needs, we should ask like little children. It will help us to cultivate precisely that childlike, trusting spirit which is so pleasing to the Father. For when we ask, we exercise the spirit of childlike trust. Unless we confidently hoped to be heard, we should hardly persist in asking, as He would have us persist. It fosters humility, another virtue so dear to His Heart. Also, we are more apt to give thanks for the gift won by asking; and gratitude means so much for producing nobility of character, for prompting to generosity, the desire to make some return for God's goodness. Petition is a needed reminder to forgetful children that it is the heavenly Father who is the Giver of all good gifts. When eternal Wisdom teaches us and urges that we ask and seek and knock, we may be sure there is wisdom in our asking, even when we ask for the daily bread for this day, which our heavenly Father knows we have need of. We do well, indeed, to ask; but with the full confidence of a child toward the best of fathers; not solicitous, not anxious.

THURSDAY IN LENT IV

"This day." Jesus might have said, "day by day;" instead He says, "this day." For we are not to be anxious about the morrow. Then there are

so many other needs that He might have included—health, strength, security, peace. He bids us ask for our bread for this day. It is a token of all those essential corporal, material, temporal needs which are known to our Father in their every detail, in their multitudinous number. He wants us to ask; it is good for us. "This day, our bread" sums up to that simple, undoubting, unanxious, childlike trust which such a Father deserves. "Bread"—food. It is a very mundane, material thing we are bid to pray for. Food appertains to our animal nature. Only a year before, when Satan had tempted Jesus to provide bread for His own hungry body, Jesus had replied: "Not by bread alone does man live...." Ah, yes! There it is. Not by bread *alone*. The God who gave man soul and body does not forget nor despise either, nor does He ask us to do so. But He views both in proper perspective, with a correct esteem of values. If Jesus' self-appointed interpreters were possessed of some of this poise and sameness of judgment, we should be spared at least the extremes of Puritanism and Manichaeism on the one hand, and those of unbridled indulgence on the other. By the very fact that God has created the body and its needs, they are all invested with a claim to our reverence; and since God became Incarnate and the Word dwelt among us, like to us in all things without sin, even a certain sacredness surrounds them all—that is, to those who have learned to



think in their hearts.... How much this can add to the richness of life, even a little reflection will show.



FRIDAY IN LENT IV

THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

Even in the natural order the sharing of the common meal, the invitation to one's table, has from time immemorial been recognized as a gesture of equality, the seal of friendship and brotherhood. The festive board, the banquet, holds the place of honor for the manifestation of mutual joy and good will.

Since the night when Jesus took bread and blessed and broke, and gave to His disciples, the common board, the breaking of bread has, for those who understand, a new and sublime connotation. It silently reminds them of the Banquet which He daily spreads, and to which He invites not only select friends, but to which He calls men and women from the highways and byways, from far and near; it reminds them of that Bread which, broken by Jesus Himself and shared with all who will come to the Feast, should be as no other banquet can be, the token and pledge of universal fellowship, of the common brotherhood of all.

SATURDAY IN LENT IV

Ever since Jesus took bread and changed it into His Body, all food, and particularly bread, ought to be an object of reverence—in remembrance. Grace before and after meals, besides their additional significance, ought to help cultivate this reverence. Where this Christian reverence that carefully gathers up the crumbs lest some foot tread upon them is observed, there is not much danger of reckless and—in the face of so much distressing poverty—shameful waste. The poor will not be forgotten.

How is the Christian practice of saying grace in common before and after meals observed in my home? What use is made of the

common meal to foster genuine family spirit? To strengthen and make more attractive the ties that bind the family together?

PASSION SUNDAY

How do we thank God for the material bread He gives us every day? Too often, alas, we respond to God's daily benefits by daily offenses!

Every day the Good Lord prepares our food; either by sending rain to make the seeds sprout, or cold to destroy destructive insects, or else by bringing the sun's rays nearer the earth to ripen our crops. There is no day in which God is not occupied with us; no instant wherein His solicitude for us slackens. His goodness is daily and unceasing, just as our falls and backslidings are daily.

This is the way a priest one day in a sermon deplored a man's ingratitude towards God: "When you think of Him least of all," he said, "while you are busy displeasing Him, He is mindful of you and works for you, and destines for you the moil and toil of creation. Consider the nobility and gentleness of this truly royal and divine Heart. At the very moment that you are most forgetful of Him, or even offending Him, He causes the dew from heaven to fall on your hills; He causes the fruits on your trees and the vegetables in your gardens to grow. He creates the delights of your table, and says to you—not in words, but in deeds—'The displeasure you cause Me is extreme. You commit sin, which causes Me infinite displeasure. But for all revenge, behold these perfumed flowers, these delicious fruits, I give you. "Taste, and see that the Lord is good." ' And is He not indeed good to shower down upon you so many delights, in return for the vexations you offer Him every day?"



LENT 2020

THE OUR FATHER



“GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD”

How to Meditate:

Say a little prayer to the Holy Ghost to start. Read over the text slowly. Pause, reread it prayerfully. Sit quietly with it. Pray in your own words. Conclude with the Our Father.

Act of Spiritual Communion

I beseech Thee, O Father of compassion, vouchsafe to forgive the souls of the faithful departed whereinsoever they have not received the most blessed and adorable Sacrament of the Altar with pure and perfect desire, devotion, and love; or have received it unworthily, or seldom or not at all.

And in satisfaction for these their sins I offer Thee the consummate holiness and the devotion of Thy Son, together with that most ardent love and ineffable yearning desire whereby He bestowed upon us this most inestimable treasure. Amen.