

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor • Rev. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta

Rev. Stephen McKenna • EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424



March 20, 2022 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT SS. PHOTINA & COMPANIONS, MM

¶ OCULI SUNDAY

Blessing of Expectant Mothers after all Masses. Catechism Classes at 10:40 AM, ending early for our Lenten **Short Stations** at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

¶ THIS WEEK

On **Monday** comes St. Benedict, and on **Tuesday** St. Isidore, patron of farmers.

The **Children's Lenten Day of Recollection** is on **Wednesday**, beginning at 9 AM and closing with Stations at 2:45 PM. *Please be sure to call the school if your children will be attending: 513-645-4216.*

St. Gabriel the Archangel's feast on **Thursday** precedes the great feast of the **Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** on **Friday**. **Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers will be in the early afternoon. Our evening schedule is as usual. Remember to send us the first names of your sick to be remembered in the Sorrowful Mother Novena.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT IV/LAETARE

Next Sunday is **Seminarian Sunday!** The Bookstore will be closed. Please come to Helfta Hall for lots of choices. The auction will be going on and we have an array of wonderful items. Catechism Classes at 10:40 AM, ending early for our Lenten **Short Stations** at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Fourth Sunday of Lent, second collect of St. John Damascene. Preface of Lent.

Blessed Joseph, remember us,
intercede with the help of your prayers
to your adopted Son and may you likewise
make the blessed Virgin, your spouse,
to be favourable towards us,
for she is the mother of Him who,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns world without end.
Amen

St. Bernadine of Siena
(1380-1444)



Anastpaul/20

THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS 2022

- **FIRST CONFESSIONS & TESTING:** **Saturday, April 23rd.** *Baptism certificate and form must be submitted by April 1st.* ****CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE NECESSARY FORM.****
- **CHILDREN'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION:** **Thursday, June 2nd.**
- **CONFIRMATIONS:** Vigil of Pentecost, **Saturday, June 4th.**
- **FIRST COMMUNION:** Pentecost, **June 5th.** *(Due to a late Easter, First Communion Sunday is Pentecost, June 5, NOT June 19.)*

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Young Ladies' Vocation Weekend:** June 24-26
- **YAG:** July 8-10
- **Girls Camp:** July 12-14
- **Boys Camp:** July 26-28

Please pray for the repose of the soul of †**Sean Murray**, who died on Saturday, March 12th.



Friday Evening of Recollection

5:45 PM Low Mass

6:45 PM Lenten Supper: Tuna casserole, vegetable soup, deviled eggs, salad and fruit.

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

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

Meal volunteers still needed for Friday, April 1st!

The last day for **Seminarian Sunday donations** will be this Wednesday the 23rd. Please give us time to get everything sorted and ready for the big auction. We look forward to seeing you and your fat wallet! Remember it is a great cause. We need priests!

The Lost & Found will be going away. It has been growing and the space will need to be cleared for Seminarian Sunday. Last chance to claim lost items!

Collection Report

Sunday, March 13th.....\$5,264.00

MARCH NINETEENTH

St. Joseph has no recorded lines in the drama of Redemption. Nor is he given many Gospel appearances.



Because of this, and because he was a humble carpenter and a good provider, he seems not ranked high intellectually. A mistake. St. Joseph knew more than many, given numerous stage appearances and some important lines.

Joseph of the Quietude,

What secrets you must keep!

More things than John or Matthew wrote

You dreamed of in your sleep.

To Paul was given a glimpse of God That blinded him with light;

Joseph, you talked with God all day, And kissed His Face at night.

ST. JOSEPH'S GLORY IN HEAVEN

Isolano, among the Oriental traditions which he collected, gives a touching instance of the love with which Jesus spoke of Joseph while on earth, saying to His disciples, to whom the knowledge of His divine origin had already been revealed: "I conversed with Joseph in all things as if I had been his child. He called Me son, and I called him father; and I loved him as the apple of My eye."



"Let him who has hate in his heart, or anger against another, put it wholly from himself, if he wishes to be saved... And you must understand, that whatever it is that you deny yourself through fasting must be given entirely to the poor, not kept back for yourselves!"

— St. John Chrysostom

Our Beloved Dead – March

Lucy G. Meyer	3-03-1988
Eldon Neukam	3-03-2021
Catherine J. Bischak	3-05-2005
Ralph J. Otis	3-08-2022
Claude E. Charles	3-10-1990
John J. Kolb	3-10-2004
Sean Murray	3-12-2022
Robert Duff	3-13-2013
Richard VandeRyt	3-16-2020
Margaret Sandmayr	3-17-2006
Owen M. Zver	3-17-2021
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

Masses offered privately by Bishop Dolan

Bishop Dolan (*Collin Smith*)

†Joseph Belansky (*Collin Smith*)

Special Intention Deceased (*Nathaniel Arnold*)

†Joseph Nowacki (*Mr. & Mrs. Lotarski*)

Repose of the soul of †Sean Murray
(*Pierce Kiernan*)



[Our Lord] Appearing one day to Marina de Escobar, accompanied by the saint [Joseph], He said to her: "See, here is My father, and whom I regarded as such upon earth; what think you of him?" It was, we might almost say—if it be permitted to

do so without irreverence,—as if He were proud of him, proud of having had him for a father on earth, and desirous to show this holy soul his glory. The Bollandists also relate how Jesus appeared one day to St. Margaret of Cortona, and told her He took great pleasure in her devotion to His foster-father, Joseph, who was most dear to Him, and expressed His wish that she should every day pay him some special act of homage.

TWO SIDES OF WAR (ALL WARS)

All wars are planned by older men
In council rooms apart,
Who call for greater armament
And map the battle chart.

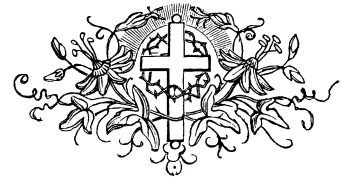
But out along the shattered field
Where golden dreams turn gray,
How very young the faces were
Where all the dead men lay.

Portly and solemn in their pride,
The elders cast their vote
For this or that, or something else,
That sounds the martial note.

But where their sightless eyes stare
out

Beyond life's varnished toys,
I've noticed nearly all the dead
Were hardly more than boys.

— Harry Grantland Rice



"He is Holy Joseph, because according to the opinion of a great number of doctors, he, as well as St. John the Baptist, was sanctified even before he was born. He is Holy Joseph, because his office, of being spouse and protector of Mary, specially demanded sanctity. He is Holy Joseph, because no other Saint but he lived in such and so long intimacy and familiarity with the source of all holiness, Jesus, God incarnate, and Mary, the holiest of creatures."

— Cardinal Newman

AGAINST COMMUNISM

"May God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let all those who hate Him flee before His Face! May the thrice Holy Name of God overthrow all their plans! May the Holy Name of the Living God split them up by disagreements! May the terrible Name of the God of Eternity stamp out all their godlessness!" (*Ejaculation given by Our Lord to Sr. St. Pierre for our battle against Communism, April 6, 1847.*)

Behold, all wonders in one week. Winter left and Spring served only to introduce sultry Summer. Still, those fine mornings and now prolonged evenings offer beauty, a beauty from the hands of God which beckons us to a bit of quiet and prayer. Well, maybe more than a bit, for Lent must be a time of prayer if it be anything at all. The penance should serve the prayer; clear the way, and our distracted minds and wills as well.



All this week we've been watching and waiting for **Fr. Valerii**, praying. He is near a big city close to the Polish border, which I hope he will soon be able to cross on his way to Ireland. A good soul offered immediately to receive him when I put the question out on the internet. If it be God's will he will relocate to Knock in County Mayo, where once Our Lady appeared to second and support a priest of hers, a man most devoted to the Immaculate Conception, but caught up in the controversies of the day.

Our Lady of Knock is Our Lady of Silence, for she said nothing, but held her hands out as a priest would at the Mass. St. John standing next to her preached but no one heard a word. The Word of God, a Lamb, appeared with angels over an altar. It seems a good home, Knock does, for a priest in these perilous times.

The Communist ruler of Ukraine has announced the coming of the all digital, all controlled economy, "social credit" along with the "vaccination passport." This is the purpose of the war, the second stage of the Great Reset. Just so you know.

Thank God we have the Mother of God, and such great Saints as St. Joseph of Nazareth and St. Patrick to intercede for us, and to teach us by their example. Prayer, the Mass, silent virtue, and never compromise the Faith.

We always have a lovely Mass for St. Patrick's, and two days later, St. Joseph. These observances are traditionally linked with food, even, especially, in Lent. Such is Catholic life. So much more than just "making" Mass, though it's a start! Our Lady of Knock is most of all Our Lady of the Mass. It is the Mass that matters.

For the Mass, you need priests. Some of us are working so hard to make next week's Seminarian Sunday a grand success. But you must come, and participate! These fundraisers, we like to say, are "fun raisers" as well. That too is the Catholic way.

Lent is already half over come Thursday. Feel a pang of regret, and rededicate yourself to a good finish. In the Mass, Jesus Christ offers Himself to the Father. Our Mass must see us bring our sufferings as well as our joys to the altar, silently.

Blessed Lent!

– **Bishop Dolan**

CHILDREN'S LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION



Wednesday, March 23

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

*This special Lenten recollection day is intended for **all children**, ages 6 through 17, and will include Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, and age-appropriate spiritual talks. Your children should come **dressed in church clothes**, and should bring their **prayer book and rosary**. As usual we are offering a **free hot lunch** for the children.*

9:00 AM Opening Talk

11:25 AM High Mass, followed by lunch

2:45 PM Stations of the Cross, Benediction

Parents! Grandparents! Godparents! Please make every effort to have your children attend this spiritually enriching day.

Please call St. Gertrude the Great School (513-645-4216) by Monday to let us know if your children will attend.

MARCH TWENTY-FIFTH

The feast of the Annunciation has always been popular with painters. Perhaps the setting will account for this; also contrasts of persons and situations. The Blessed Virgin was, is and always will be the world's First Lady. And never in the world's history has there been a First Lady so reticent, so retreating from glamour and publicity, so white and bright in beauty of soul and body. She lived a simple life before she came into her privilege of selection, and pursued that simple life after she had achieved her virgin motherhood. Mary of the Little House is the nearest approach in God's creation to God Himself.

*Mary of the Little House, why did you never choose
A big house in Jerusalem, when Gabriel brought the News?
"The humble are exalted—Joseph was my spouse.
God's Son became the Son of Man, within a Little House."*

SEMINARIAN SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

Start your day with Mass

Have breakfast with friends. available after each morning Mass.

ENJOY A HOT BREAKFAST!

Hot Ham with Cheesy Potato Casserole, and Fruit Cup

Your choice of Orange Juice or Coffee

Only \$5 a plate or \$25 a family

SWEET TREAT



BAKE SALE



Purchase your "DAY OF, \$1" Split the Pot Tickets

Drawings will be 30 minutes after the end of Mass.

Winnings will be half of ticket proceeds sold before & after Mass. You must be present to win.

Three Drawings on Sunday morning.



We have gotten many donations. Thank you.

Any more donations need to be in the pew in Helfta Hall before Wednesday.



Silent Auction

Bring your wallets & be ready to bid. Numbers available at the door.

Highlights include:

Hand Carved Sacred Heart, Ecce Homo Statue, Original Paintings, Toys, Signed Prints, Set of Catholic Encyclopedias, Vintage & Rare Books, Handmade Soaps, Home items, Handmade Quilts & Crochet Items, Steamer Trunk, Dolls, Cards & Stationery, Religious, Kitchen Items...

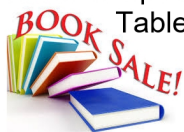
WE WILL TAKE CHARGE CARDS!

SILENT AUCTION ENDS AT 3:00

Raffle & "Advanced Sales, \$5" Split the Pot Winners will be Drawn about 3:00

Buy It Now

Look for Special Table &



WAYS TO HELP:

Show up & offer to help set up or clean up

Bring some baked goods to sell! Drop them off Saturday or Sunday



Sell tickets! See Gloria or Paddy or stop in the bookstore & we will get you selling.

A FAVOR OF OUR QUEEN

The following striking instance of the Blessed Virgin's care for those who confidently invoke her aid is recorded by a zealous Polish priest, a resident of Eastern Siberia:

"Whilst on a recent tour of visitation among the villages of my extensive parish, I stopped at a small hamlet, where I was cordially welcomed and hospitably entertained at the house of a family exiled in 1865 by the Russian Government. Before their banishment they resided at Grodna and were in easy circumstances. The father has now been dead some years; the management of a farm in the vicinity of the village, on the produce of which the family mainly depend for their means of subsistence, is carried on by his sons. One room in their house is set apart to serve as a chapel, and it is here that the priest says Mass whenever he passes that way. Far removed as they are from any church or chapel, and able only at long intervals to approach the Sacraments, these people are all exemplary Catholics. The mother especially is an excellent woman, a veritable valiant woman such as the Gospel eulogizes; and Heaven seems to reward her piety by extending over her household a special protection.

"Whilst I was there I was told that not long ago, at the time when their corn was ready to be cut, the sky suddenly became overcast, and it was only too apparent that a heavy thunderstorm was approaching. Alarmed at the ominous sights and sounds, the eldest son hastily entered the room where his mother was sitting and exclaimed: 'Mother, there is going to be a terrible storm! Our crops will be destroyed,—we shall be ruined!' The mother rose and looked out of the window; she saw that her son's fears were indeed well-founded. In fact, rain, mingled with hailstones, was already beginning to fall. Turning to her children, she said, with unruffled composure: 'My children, we can do nothing to avert this catastrophe. If Almighty God is pleased to take from us what He has given us, may His holy will be done!' She then ordered the shutters to be closed; and, after lighting the blessed tapers before the images in her little oratory she called together all the members of the household, and, kneeling down, recited with them the Litany of Loreto. This ended, they sang some hymns in praise of the Blessed Virgin. Meanwhile large hailstones were heard pattering upon the roof and beating violently against the shutters; and when, their prayers being concluded, they once more looked over the fields in the near vicinity, they bore the appearance of a sheet of ice.

"As soon as the storm had sufficiently abated, the eldest son mounted his horse and rode out to the farm to ascertain the extent of the damage that had been done. To his astonishment he found that his crops had not

sustained the slightest injury; whereas the surrounding lands were in a most pitiable condition, whole acres of ripened corn having been beaten down and entirely spoiled by the violence of the wind and rain."

Which is it easier to believe: that our Blessed Mother heard the prayers of the widow and her sons, or that the hailstorm, which wrought destruction on all sides, by mere chance suddenly stopped the very moment it reached their farm? Surely the question admits of but one answer.

—Ave Maria, 1934

Dedicated to isolated Catholics who keep the Faith and long for the Mass.

AN IRISH BLESSING

*I wish you not a path devoid of clouds,
Nor a life on a bed of roses.
Nor, that you might never need regret,
Nor that you should never feel pain.*



*No, this is not my wish for you. My wish for you is:
That you might be brave in times of trial
When others lay crosses upon your shoulders.
When mountains must be climbed and chasms crossed,
When hope scarce shines through.
When every gift God gave you might grow along with you,
And let you give the gift of joy to all who care for you.*

That you might always have a friend who is worth that name.

*Whom you can trust.
And hope will be, in times of sadness,
Who will defy the storms of life by your side.*



*One more wish for you:
That in every hour of joy and pain, you may be close to God.
This is my wish for you and those who are close to you.
This is my hope for you, now and forever.*

— Author Unknown

MARCH SEVENTEENTH

Tradition has it, St. Patrick plucked a shamrock from an Irish field and used its three leaves and single stem to illustrate the Holy Trinity. Theologians find the illustration inadequate. Yes. But the homely figure suggested to the imaginative druids, chiefs and storytellers the reality of the Incomprehensible. Today as always the lowly, lovely shamrock clings to Ireland even as Ireland clings to the Trinity.

*Patrick of the Crosier, you reddened half the sea
When you flashed your three-leafed shamrock
With the glow of the Trinity.*

*Since then at dawn and sunset,
Is aflame with light of the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.*

MON	3/21/22	ST. BENEDICT, AB	<i>FAST</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention (<i>Anne Marie Omlor</i>)	
	11:25 AM	High Mass Nathaniel Arnold (<i>McGinnis Family</i>)	
	12:25 PM	Vespers	
TUE	3/22/22	ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER, C	<i>FAST</i>
		<i>ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA, W</i>	
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Isaac Smith (<i>Collin Smith</i>)	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Joseph D. Murphy – Happy Birthday (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Prell</i>)	
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Joseph Andreotta (<i>Roberta Taylor</i>)	
	12:25 PM	Vespers	
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Raymond Arthur (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)	
WED	3/23/22	FERIAL DAY • CHILDREN’S DAY OF RECOLLECTION	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Tristan VandeRyt (<i>K/V</i>)	
	11:25 AM	High Mass Nicole McGinnis (<i>Chad McGinnis</i>)	
	12:25 PM	Vespers	
	2:50 PM	Stations, Benediction, Holy Communion	
	5:15 PM	Low Mass †Joan Fey – Rest in peace (<i>The Kolenich Family</i>)	
THU	3/24/22	ST. GABRIEL, ARCHANGEL	<i>FAST</i>
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention (<i>William Long</i>)	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Carl & †Elizabeth Miller (<i>Rob Wnek</i>)	
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Fr. Anthony Cekada (<i>Andrew Nunley</i>)	
	12:25 PM	Vespers	
FRI	3/25/22	THE ANNUNCIATION • THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Michael Robbins – Happy Birthday (<i>Angela Robbins</i>)	
	11:06 AM	Confessions	
	11:25 AM	High Mass Mr. & Mrs. Luke Hogan – Congratulations! (<i>William Long</i>)	
		Exposition & Adoration after Mass until 3:00	
	2:00 PM	Vespers & Benediction	
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary	
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Deceased Family Members of Delawder & Wilker Families	
	6:45 PM	Lenten Supper	
	7:30 PM	Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mother Novena VII, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion	
SAT	3/26/22	FERIAL DAY	<i>FAST</i>
	7:15 AM	Confessions	
	7:30 AM	Low Mass The intentions of Fr. Denis McMahon – in thanksgiving (<i>Margaret Rosenberg</i>)	
	8:10 AM	Ave Regina & Sermon	
	8:20 AM	(approx.) High Mass Our †Grandma (<i>Simpsons</i>)	
SUN	3/27/22	LENT IV, LAETARE • ST. JOHN DAMASCENE, CD	
	7:05 AM	Rosary	
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Thanksgiving for all God’s blessings (<i>Dan, Mary & family</i>)	
	9:00 AM	High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great	
	10:40 AM	Catechism Classes	
	11:15 AM	Short Stations	
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Jeanne Hille (<i>Maria Kunkel</i>)	
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction	
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Special Family Intention (<i>S. Kurtz</i>)	

WHAT EVERY CATHOLIC MUST BELIEVE

We must believe that the Church is *Apostolic*, because it was founded by Christ on the Apostles and is governed by their successors; *One*, because all its members are one in the same faith, have the same sacraments and sacrifice, the same visible head, the Pope; *Holy*, because its Founder, Jesus Christ, is all-holy, its doctrines are holy, its means of sanctification are holy, its members are holy; *Universal* or *Catholic*, because it will carry out until the end of time Christ’s command to teach the truth to all nations. We must also believe that the Church is *Indefectible*, because it will last, as Christ founded it, until the end of time; *Infallible*, because, by the special assistance of the Holy Ghost, it cannot err when it teaches or believes a doctrine of faith and morals.

SUNDAY SEVEN: *Seven Joys that Come from Meditation Upon the Sacred Passion*

1. The joy that we have consoled Jesus for the pains we have caused Him by our sins.
2. The joy that we have answered to His appeal for our love.
3. The joy that we are repenting of past sins.
4. The joy that we are cooperating with Him in His work of man’s redemption.
5. The joy that follows upon a clearer knowledge that He has redeemed us.
6. The joy that He is enabling us to form staunch resolutions to amend our lives.
7. The joy in knowing that through the power of His Most Precious Blood the devil is frustrated in his hatred of us.



By the instrumentality of St. Patrick the faith is now as fresh in Ireland, even in this cold nineteenth century, as when it was first planted. Ask him to obtain for you the special grace of his children, to prefer the loss of every earthly good to the least compromise in matters of faith.

– Up-to-date advice from an old book.

How do you and I introduce ourselves? Here’s how, in his “Confession,” St. Patrick introduced himself: “I, Patrick, a sinner, the most unlearned and the last of all the faithful, and held in contempt by very many.”

Servers

FRI 3/25	5:45 PM LOW: Simpson Bros. STATIONS: <i>Volunteers</i>
SAT 3/26	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 8:20 AM HIGH: P. Omlor & Kolenich
SUN 3/27	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM SOL.HIGH: MCS: C. Richesson, D. Simpson CROSS: J Kolenich TH: T. Lawrence ACS: C. Arlinghaus, J. McGinnis TORCH: N. & M. Kolenich, J. Stewart, B. McGinnis 11:30 AM LOW: Name 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller 5:45 PM LOW: A Capetillo

CONSIDERATIONS ON THE PASSION OF OUR LORD FOR EACH DAY OF LENT



MONDAY IN LENT III

The priests, the high priests and the Pharisees, the great enemies of the Lord, had held a meeting in expectation of bringing the prisoner for accusation and condemnation. This was the court to which the innocent Jesus was dragged; these were all His enemies. They all tried to destroy Him and now the opportunity seems to present itself, and they are going to make the best of it. They are going to condemn Jesus; they encourage false witnesses, that they may make a show, at least, of the justice of the condemnation. It is considered necessary to put Jesus out of the way. "It is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not." (John xii. 50) In all this Our Lord is silent; not a word does Jesus utter in self-defense. How easily could the divine wisdom confound human ingenuity, the skill of the lawyers, and the malice of the high

priests. But Jesus held a mysterious silence, in which we must adore Him.

TUESDAY IN LENT III

Peter, the great disciple of Jesus, he to whom the Lord had given so much, whom He had brought to Mount Thabor, for whom He paid taxes as for Himself; this Peter denies His Master. When Our Lord had been apprehended, Peter followed from afar, to see what would be the end of all this tragedy. He went on at some distance from Our Lord, until he reached the courtyard, where he could see all that was passing. There, among the soldiers, servants, and curiosity-seekers, he stood, as if he had no interest in the affair except that which would bring any stranger there. They would not have known him, only for a woman who sat in such a way that the light fell on Peter's face, and she immediately declared, "This man was with Him." But Peter denied that fact; another and a third asserted that Peter was with Christ, for he was a Galilean—but Peter denied the accusation with an oath.

WEDNESDAY IN LENT III

We ought, right here, to think of the reasons of the terrible treason of Peter. We may suppose that his crime was no smaller than was that of Judas. We know what was the fate of Judas—what will be the fate of Peter? The cause of Peter's fall was his presumption. He imagined that he was strong enough to go to heaven, and to lead a good life without watching or praying—of course he would go to prison or death with Jesus. Instead of following the Lord closely, right

among the soldiers who apprehended Him, he followed a long way off, giving as an excuse that he wished to see the outcome of the affair. He follows and places himself in the very occasion of sin. He knew he could not be there long without being detected, but he resolved to deny, and even to take false oaths to secure himself.

THURSDAY IN LENT III

When Peter had thus, with indescribable meanness, denied Our Lord, Jesus turned and gave him a look of compassion. Then Peter recollected the words of Jesus, that before the cock would crow he would have denied Him thrice. Great was the sorrow in the heart of Peter after this look; he remembered himself, and filled with shame walked out and wept bitterly. This look which the Lord gave Peter was merciful and kind; so loving that it drew him back again from the sin into which he had fallen; it encouraged him to look for forgiveness, and did not drive him to despair. Judas too acknowledged his sin, but he felt no repentance; he despaired of this great kindness of God. Instead of throwing himself at the feet of Jesus, he committed another crime—that of suicide. To Peter came a flood of tears. There is no doubt that his sorrow for this great offense lasted all his lifetime; he could not think of the circumstance but the picture of his infidelity arose before him.

FRIDAY IN LENT III

THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS

The infidelity of Peter should lead us to think of our own condition. How often have we

sinned? How often have we been unfaithful to Jesus Christ? How often have we betrayed Him? Did we ever feel the tears of sorrow gushing from our hearts? And if we did have sorrow and repentance in the Sacrament of Penance, did we not soon forget it all, as if our faults were less serious than they really are? Often the Lord looks at us when we are in sin, often we have felt that His eyes were on us, full of love, of mercy and goodness; but we were in sin, in the occasion of it, and we would not give it up even though we added more sorrow to that which Our Lord was already suffering. Set your hope, however, in the Lord; look up to Him with pleading eyes, that He may give you the strength, the will, and the grace to rise from your fall. Say to your sins, and your companions in sin, go away from me. Yes, our sins more than any other misfortune should make us despise the world, with all its sinful allurements.

SATURDAY IN LENT III

Pilate put the question to the Lord, “Art Thou the King of the Jews?” He wanted to hear from Christ’s own lips whether He pretended to the earthly crown of a kingdom, over which the Roman power held sway. But Our Lord had no kingdom on this earth, and He answered, “For this was I born, and for this came I into the world, that I should give testimony to the truth.” Pilate did not want to be convinced of the truth, and he answered indifferently, “What is truth?” The Lord came into this world to spread the truth of the Gospel; He wished to teach us that truth which makes us truly free. The Lord wishes to show us the way in which we should walk in order

to reach Him. But the world is not anxious for such enlightenment, any more than Pilate. For two thousand years the Church of God has been teaching truth. But the world does not accept the teaching of Jesus as truth; the world is too proud to receive this humble teaching. And yet Our Lord’s voice rings clear, “Every one that is of the truth, heareth My voice.”

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Pilate went out to consult with the Jews, the accusers of Christ, and he told them that he found no cause of death in Christ. He admitted that there might be some rebellion which ought to be punished, and that he would administer a severe punishment and then would set Him free. See Our Lord, humbly standing before this unjust judge; see the soldiers, as soon as the order was given, tear off His garments, drag Him over to the column of marble, and there bind Him. Then they take the stout cords, on the ends of which are leaden balls with spikes, and whirling them over their heads, they let them fall cruelly on Christ’s shoulders. The blood spurts from every wound, and soon the place about the column is covered with blood. The crime of that flagellation was so great that no human words can express it. In what a dreadful state Our Lord was left after it was over—how exhausted! From the soles of His feet to the crown of His head there was no sound spot in Him.

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The Passion of Our Lord



2022 Lenten Daily Thoughts and Prayers

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