



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org • traditionalmass.org

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

Most Rev. Charles J. McGuire, *Pastor* • Rev. Stephen McKenna, *Asst. Pastor*

Rev. Vili Lehtoranta, *Chap. to Oblates & School* • Rev. Thomas Simpson • Rev. Anthony Brueggemann

March 26, 2023 PASSION SUNDAY



¶ PASSION SUNDAY

Passiontide begins today. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM, with **final Short Stations** at 11:15. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

Final Lenten Friday Evening of Recollection – March 31st

5:45 PM Low Mass

6:45 PM Lenten Supper: *eggplant parmigiana, pasta, bread, veggies, fruit, drinks*

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

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

¶ EASTER NOVENA OF MASSES & LILY MEMORIALS

Envelopes are available in the pews for the Easter Novena of Masses and the Lily Memorials. Please fill them out and return them in the collection basket, bookstore, or the office by **Palm Sunday, April 2nd**.

¶ FIRST SATURDAY

7:10 AM Confessions & Rosary

7:30 AM Low Mass

8:10 AM Devotions & Benediction

8:20 AM First Saturday Meditation

8:30 AM High Mass

First Saturday Intention: In reparation for blasphemies against the Perpetual Virginity of Mary.

PLEASE NOTE: All Night Adoration for April takes place on Holy Thursday evening.



Lumen Christi

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament during the next fortnight for the following intention:

Raymond Cardinal Burke – Miraculous Healing

(Maureen Scanlon)

Wedding Banns

Third time: Andrew Kiernan & Eliza DeRienzo

Collection Report

Sunday, March 19th\$6,592.00

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: PALM SUNDAY

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

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



¶ HELP WHERE YOU CAN!

Lenten dinners continue on Friday evenings. We thank all our wonderful cooks for their efforts. The numbers this year have been impressive. If you can lend a hand, please do so.

Holy Thursday luncheon is coming soon. The church will supplement the meal with mac-n-cheese, tuna salad, and rolls, but **please try to bring something to share** to the traditional potluck.

Holy Saturday dinner follows all the ceremonies in church. Easter starts at noon traditionally and a full dinner is provided for the parish. **Please help with cleanup**; we would be most grateful. An **egg hunt** follows the dinner for ages 12 and under. The cloister garden area is for tots under 4 years. The area for the older children will be designated.

May the rest of your Lent be fruitful.

HOPE IN THE LORD

We are so inclined to mistrust; to be anxious seems to us so natural a thing that often we try to withdraw from the peace that God has given us. We wonder if it can be an illusion, we scrutinize to see if we may not have reason to be disturbed. Perhaps it occurs to us to say: How is it possible to live in peace, without uneasiness, in this sad exile so far from our blessed fatherland, exposed to the loss of our happiness forever? Could the Israelites live without worry when they were wandering over the desolate sands of the desert, so far from the Promised Land and so exposed to the possibility of never reaching that land overflowing with milk and honey? There are at least two justifiable motives for anxiety. First, will that happy day ever come in which the intense yearning of my soul for close union with God will be satisfied? Or shall I remain like Moses, contemplating the Promised Land from Mount Nebo, without ever setting foot therein?

A second apparently legitimate reason for anxiety is this: If God loves me, if I am in His arms, from this viewpoint I should have no fear; but my frailty and my malice, which daily become more evident to me, will they not withstand the holy security of divine love? It is true that Jesus carries me in His arms, but do I not have the unfortunate prerogative of extricating myself? Jesus certainly loves me, but shall I also love Him? Shall I be faithful?

Do these causes of anxiety exist in reality? No. At first sight they seem warranted, but our Lord placed in our soul some gifts so rich that they of themselves establish us in peace. One of these gifts is the divine virtue of hope, a heavenly virtue, yet a forgotten virtue. How few souls give this neglected virtue the importance that it deserves! Practically minded, we are preoccupied with

more human virtues, more in touch with earth: mortification, humility, obedience. Some persons look upon hope as an impractical virtue, almost useless. Nevertheless, hope is an eminently practical virtue; it is the virtue that drives far from our heart the specter of discouragement, the most frequent dangerous temptation in the spiritual life. As the inseparable companion of suffering, it confirms and strengthens peace in our soul.

— Luis Maria Martinez



FIRST COMMUNICANTS

First Confessions & Testing:

Saturday, April 22.

****Baptismal certificate must be already presented, and registration form completed by April 9th.**

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE NECESSARY FORM. **

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

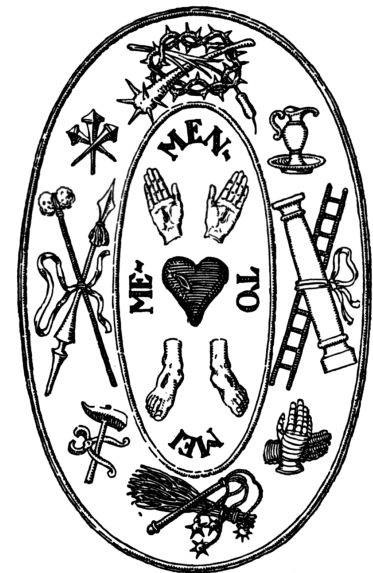
HEART OF JESUS

Salvation of Those Who Hope in Thee

Dear Lord, I am undone. The weight
Of anxious care
And heavy toil have made my state
Approach despair.
And, worse than all, towards sin I
tend
More than before. O what will be the
end!

I gaze at a picture in my room:
Jesus bowed low
In the blood-stained Olive-garden's
gloom.
As I gaze, I know
That grace has come, that strength
and hope
Are mine once more, with all my ills
to cope.

— Rev. John J. Rauscher, S.M.



The Laetare Sunday Sodality of Charity

craft table profits were \$264.

The office holders donated half, \$132, to the Oblate Sisters, and the Sodality kept the other half. Thank you to all our benefactors. The next Sodality meeting will be on May 6th.

✠ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the recovery of the niece of Rita Grau, Amberly Johnson, who is in the hospital.

Life here at St. Gertrude's is most certainly never dull. There is always something going on so it is never hard to find things to do. Along with many people and much activity comes a variety of stories which are often edifying, often hilariously entertaining. Well here is one that is a little of both. One evening, it was during the five o'clock Mass, our cute new cat (which, by the way, has been given more names than ever a person or animal has been given) managed to escape its pen unnoticed. Well, that is until she was noticed! Mass was going on at one of the side altars when the kitty peeked around from behind the main altar and was noticed by a parishioner who came to see why there was a cat in the sanctuary. The cat, feeling threatened, sought refuge beneath the altar. Danger having eventually gone away she came out and quietly went back where she belonged. St. Francis de Sales often used anecdotes about animals to explain spiritual topics. How about this one?! Learn from the cat with many names. When any danger threatens, flee for refuge to the altar where Our Lord truly lives. There you will find true consolation and every heavenly help.

Joe Bayer came by the other day to discuss plans for a new addition to the rectory. Although things are still being thought out I thought his first idea was brilliant. It was to add a wing with extra bedrooms and a larger dining room and kitchen area onto the east side of the house. I will keep you posted on this project. It is necessary so that all the priests be in one house, which will keep up priestly morale, I think; as well as make the other house available for our Oblates. The Oblates do so much work in the school and sacristy that I would imagine it is sometimes very difficult to have the extra trips to and from the church. This project would also allow us to receive new oblates in the future.

Things are coming along for **Fr. Nkamuke's** consecration. Tickets have been booked and episcopal items have been purchased thanks to **Fr. Brueggemann** and **Bp. da Silva**. Bp. da Silva will also be coming to St. Gertrude's to assist at the consecration. Still, we cannot overlook Holy Week! The schedule is included in this week's bulletin for the sake of people coming from afar. I hope it helps everyone to plan their days a little in advance.

Fr. McMahon was kind enough to make our triple candle, used in the ceremonies on Holy Saturday morning. He shipped it all the way from New York so we are hoping it arrives safely, otherwise

Fathers Simpson and **Brueggemann** have to make a new one and I am quite sure they don't need any more work added to their load.

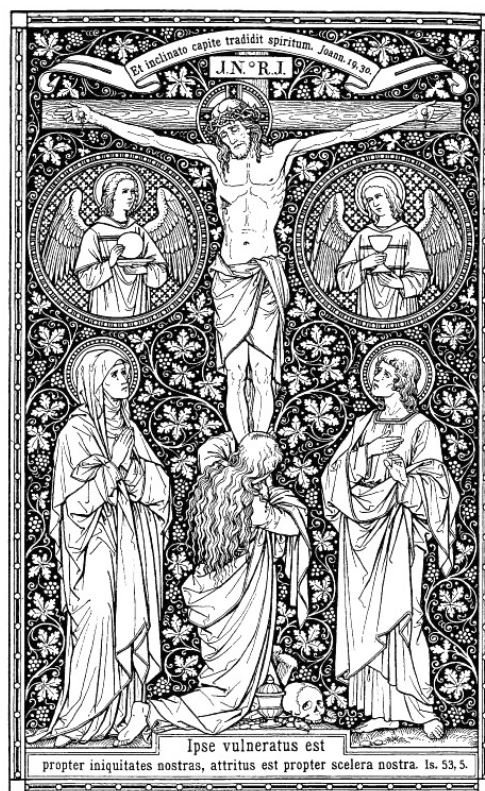
Update: it has arrived safely. Deo gratias!



Fr. Lehtoranta and I are here taking care of things this weekend while the other priests are at various missions throughout the country. **Fr. McKenna** is making a quick jaunt to Dallas for Sunday Mass. The mission in Dallas is growing since their recent move to another location and soon they might have to go to two Masses on the Sundays we visit them. Fr. Simpson is spending Passion Sunday at St. Hugh of Lincoln and will be stopping in Chicago to offer Mass on his way home. Finally, Fr. Brueggemann is at Sacred Heart Church in the Boston area. Sacred Heart has about 150 parishioners and is usually served by **Fr. Richards** from the Companions of Jesus and Mary. The church is an old one built during the early half of the 1900s and has a seating capacity of a thousand people. On the property is a beautiful rectory that one only hears about from stories of priestly life before the changes of Vatican II.

Passiontide! It is here again. Let your thoughts be turned to the sufferings of Our Savior Who endured all of them willingly in order to redeem all mankind. Turn back to Him, for in Him you will find everlasting life. Lord Jesus crucified, have mercy on us!

— **Bishop McGuire**



✠ HOLY WEEK 2023 ✠

PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 2, 2023

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

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

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

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

SPY WEDNESDAY: APRIL 5, 2023

FIRST WEDNESDAY – DAY OF FAST

- 6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae
8:30 PM Church decorating for Holy Thursday
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MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY: APRIL 6, 2023

FIRST THURSDAY – DAY OF FAST

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

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

A Potluck Luncheon follows Mass

**Adoration continues at the Sepulchre
until 12:00 PM on Good Friday.**

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

** Men scheduled for the Maundy: Albert D. Kinnett, John Seyfried, Levi Giese, Bob Uhlenbrock, Ben Capetillo, Tim Capetillo, Hunter Lumbatis, Mike Volz, Noah Kuebler, Raphael Kuebler, Collin Smith, Alex Ball, Joe Bayer.

If you cannot participate, PLEASE contact the church office immediately to let us know! Otherwise, please plan to report to the Sacristy not later than 12:45 noon on Holy Thursday, April 6.

Thank you, Bishop McGuire

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 7, 2023

FIRST FRIDAY – FAST AND ABSTINENCE
Adoration at the Sepulchre continues till 12:00 noon

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

Come when you can; leave when you must.

HOLY SATURDAY: APRIL 8, 2023

FAST & ABSTINENCE ENDS AT NOON

- 8:00 AM EASTER VIGIL: Blessing of the Fire, Prophecies, Blessing of the Font, Holy Baptism, First Mass of Easter, Vespers, Blessing of Easter Food

A complimentary Easter Luncheon follows – all are invited

- 4:00 PM Confessions
-

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 9, 2023

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

(No 5:45 PM Mass on Easter Sunday)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

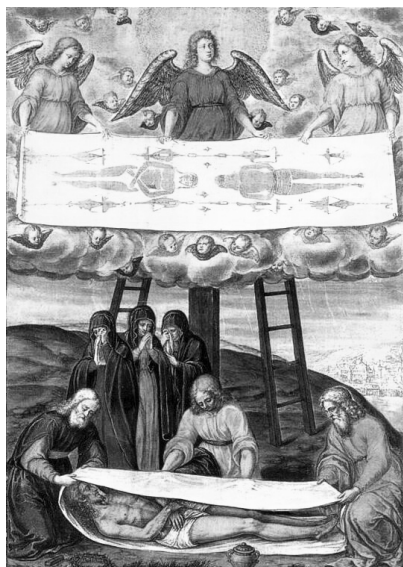
Good Friday 3:00 to 4:00 PM
Holy Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 PM



PASSIONTIDE / HOLY WEEK VOLUNTEERS

The Sacristy crew welcomes all helpers the next two weeks to assist with decorating, cleaning and polishing the vessels and church ornaments, ironing altar and Mass linens, and other tasks to help set up for the ceremonies. Keep in mind our especial need for many holy helpers on Good Friday evening, after Tenebrae. If you can spare an hour or two, please call the church office at (513) 645-4212.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES AND THE HOLY SHROUD



This visit of Francis to Milan was characterized by another incident, which brought out strikingly not only the intensity of his faith, but also the loving and trustful spirit by which it was adorned. Cardinal Frederick Borromeo (cousin and successor of St. Charles Borromeo) permitted him to officiate in the ceremony of exposing to public veneration the holy napkin or sudarium preserved at Milan. The heat and pressure in the church being extremely great, Francis' face was so drenched with perspiration, that a few drops fell on the holy relic he held with passionate devotion before him. The occurrence greatly distressed the Cardinal, who even sharply reproved the Saint for his carelessness. Francis, however, in the confidence of the love which he felt for his Lord, showed no uneasiness; but affectionately seized on the beautiful significance of the circumstance, as showing the goodness of our Lord, Who allows us to mingle our sweat with that which fell from His holy Body, and to consecrate all our toils by a continual reference to His.

— St. Francis de Sales, by Ornsby

ABOUT PRAYER

Whoever speaks of a life of prayer (whether it is spoken or mental) also speaks about times for prayer. Then an objection arises: we are overloaded with work, we have no or little time to pray. That is a hasty type of reasoning, a little like the hurried driver who, under the pretext of having a long way to go, wanted to avoid losing time and refused to stop for gas. A Christian should know to stop and pray. The time he could give to the Lord certainly depends upon his circumstances; above all on his greater or lesser faith and generosity. Let us respect our true priorities: "The time that we determine to give to God in prayer, let us give it to Him with our free and unencumbered thoughts, with the resolution of never taking it back, no matter what happens to us, and keep this time for things which no longer belong to us." (*A letter from St. Francis de Sales to St. Jane Frances de Chantal.*) — *Fifteen Days of Prayer with St. Francis de Sales*



DEVOTION TO THE PASSION

Pain is a desperately difficult thing to bear; is bodily or mental pain worst?

But the soul made miraculously to feel the pain of sense, and this by God—this must be terrific. Will it ever happen to us? Yes, to most of us, probably to all, for a long time, and to such a degree that the very angels shudder at the vision of it. Let us think of this.

I. Of course, the great thing is to be saved: yet purgatory presents most serious reflections.

1. Any terrible punishment hanging over us is a fear.
2. Its uncertain severity: yet all *divine* punishments are necessarily severe.
3. Thus death is not a rest, but the beginning of a punishment.
4. All little carelessnesses are laying up more fire for us.
5. Our own experience of the little charity there is for the Holy Souls: it is astonishing how little.

II. It seems from revelations as if the length of purgatories were increasing. Why?

1. From want of bodily penances.
2. From the increase of comforts and luxuries.
3. From the worldliness of modern devout people.
4. From the quickness, multitude, and variety of occupations.
5. From a singular want of discernment of God and His claims, brought about by the atmosphere of heresy and unbelief.

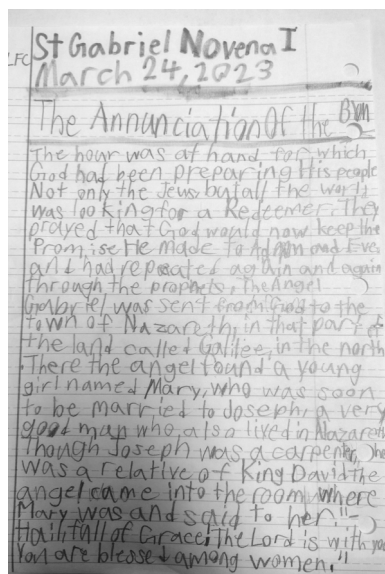
III. The Carmelite revelation about Purgatory and Devotion to the Passion.

1. The Passion obviously the standing, unintermitting devotion.
2. Only from it can true contrition come, because only from it comes a real understanding of sin.
3. From it also comes the spirit of mortification and robust piety.
4. It supplies instincts and principles of a Christian sort more than any other devotion.
5. It is the best protection against the self-indulgent and self-dispensing spirit of worldliness.
6. How acceptable to our Lady: Because it is the tenderest worship of Jesus and so most like her own; Because it roots the love of Him most deeply in us—which is her grand joy, her double love, yet single love, of Him and of us; Because it is the continuation of her own Dolors, and of the worship they were to Jesus; Because it best enables us to understand her; Because her Maternity of us came out of it.

The heart can have tears even when the eyes have none. One tear of the heart over the Passion of our Blessed Lord! how much of the cruel fire beneath the earth has it the power to quench—and how piercingly we shall one day moan forever so little a quenching!

— Faber's Works, "Notes on Doctrinal Subjects"

MON	3/27/23	ST. JOHN DAMASCENE, CD
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Sr. Mary Claretia (<i>Gabrielle Swinney</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Reparation in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe (<i>Janet Strauss</i>)
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Katherine Kunkel (<i>K/V</i>)
TUE	3/28/23	ST. JOHN CAPISTRAN, C
	7:00 AM	Low Mass †Rob Zapp, †Jerry & †Terry Evans, †Sean Murray & †Rich VandeRyt (<i>A.M.B.</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Fr. Lehtoranta – Ad multos annos! (<i>Smith Family</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Fr. Anthony Brueggemann (<i>Theresa Couch</i>)
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Reparation in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe (<i>Janet Strauss</i>)
WED	3/29/23	FERIAL DAY
	7:00 AM	Low Mass The new ordained priests (<i>Theresa Couch</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls in thanksgiving for prayers answered (<i>Judy</i>)
	11:25 AM	Requiem High Mass Purgatorial Society
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	3:00 PM	Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion
	5:10 PM	Low Mass Poor Souls most in need (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
THU	3/30/23	FERIAL DAY
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Souls entrusted to my charge (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Jay Tseng – special intentions (<i>H.Y.</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Christina Arthur (<i>Matthew Arthur</i>)
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Conversion of our families (<i>Dan & Mary</i>)
FRI	3/31/23	SEVEN SORROWS OF OUR LADY
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Damian & Theresa Arthur (<i>Matthew Arthur</i>)
	11:05 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass In thanksgiving to St. Martin (<i>Levi Giese</i>)
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Our children, Grandchildren, Godchildren (<i>Dad & Mom</i>)
		Sacred Heart Novena
	6:45 PM	Lenten Supper
	7:30 PM	Stations, Sermonette, Closing of the Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction
	8:30 PM	(<i>approx.</i>) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	4/1/23	FIRST SATURDAY • FERIAL DAY
	7:10 AM	Confessions & Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Catherine Gardner
	8:10 AM	Ave Regina, Benediction
	8:20 AM	Meditation
	8:30 AM	High Mass For the conversion of Pamela Miller (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Ballesteros</i>)



St. Gabriel Novena I
March 24, 2023

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The hour was at hand for which God had been preparing His people. Not only the Jews, but all the world was looking for a Redeemer. They prayed that God would now keep the promise He made to Adam and Eve, and had repeated again and again through the prophets. The Angel Gabriel was sent from God to the town of Nazareth, in that part of the land called Galilee, in the north. There the angel found a young girl named Mary, who was soon to be married to Joseph, a very good man who also lived in Nazareth. Though Joseph was a carpenter, he was a relative of King David. The angel came into the room where Mary was and said to her, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. You are blessed among women.”



– A student of St. Gertrude the Great School

Servers

FRI 3/31	5:45 PM LOW: Caggese
SAT 4/1	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:20 AM HIGH: M. Simpson, Caggese
SUN 4/2	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM SOL. HIGH: SERVERS POSTED IN SACRISTY. 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller, Seminarian 5:45 PM LOW: Seminarian

SUN	4/2/23	PALM SUNDAY
	7:15 AM	Blessing & Distribution of Palms
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Brother Michael
	8:50 AM	Blessing of Palms, Procession, Solemn High Mass William H. Young IV – Happy Birthday! (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III</i>)
	11:30 AM	Low Mass My mother, †Shiv Jen Cheng – rest in peace (<i>H.Y.</i>)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

DAILY MORNING PRAYER

Lord, I lay before Thee my weak heart, which Thou fillest with good desires. Thou knowest that I am unable to bring the same to good effect, unless Thou bless and prosper them, and therefore, O Loving Father, I entreat Thee to help me by the merits and Passion of Thy dear Son, to Whose honor I would devote this day and my whole life. – *St. Francis de Sales*

MONDAY IN PASSION WEEK

The sweet Jesus was scourged, crowned, condemned, mocked, and rejected as man, devoted, destined, and dedicated to carry out and endure the opprobriums and ignominies due in punishment to all sins, and He served as a general sacrifice for sin, being made as it were an anathema, separated from and abandoned by His Eternal Father.

The divine Savior wished to die in the flames of love, because of the infinite charity He bore towards us, and by the force and power of love; that is to say, He would die in love, by love, for love, and of love. This is what He Himself says: *No one takes away My life, but I lay it down of Myself, for I have power to lay it down and to take it up again.—He was offered, says Isaias, because He wished it.*

– *Consoling Thoughts of St. Francis de Sales*

TUESDAY IN PASSION WEEK

He wished, even after His death, to have His side opened, that we might see the

thoughts of His Heart, which were all thoughts of love, and that we might go to Him with confidence in order to hide ourselves in His side, and to receive from Him an abundance of graces and benedictions. In this manner, from the first moment of His life until the present hour, has the kind Jesus been continually drawing arrows, if we may so speak, from the quiver of His love, with which to wound the souls of His lovers, showing them clearly that they can never love Him near so much as He deserves. My God, could He show more love to sinners than to become a perfect holocaust for their sins? Ah! if we could see the Heart of Jesus such as it is, we should die of love for Him, since we are mortal, as He died of love of us, while He was mortal, and as He would die again, if He were not now immortal. Nothing has so much power to wound a loving heart as to see another heart wounded for love of it.

– *Consoling Thoughts of St. Francis de Sales*

WEDNESDAY IN PASSION WEEK

Since Our Lord has so much loved us, that He has equally redeemed all, bedewed us with His divine Blood, and called us to Himself, without excluding anyone; since He has become all ours, to make us all His, giving us His death and His life to deliver us from eternal death and to procure us the joys of eternal life, that we may belong to Him in this mortal

life and yet more perfectly in the next; what remains, what conclusion have we to draw, unless that living we should no longer live for ourselves, but for Jesus Christ Who died for us; that is, we should consecrate to Him every moment of our life, referring to His glory our works, our thoughts, and our affections?

– *Consoling Thoughts of St. Francis de Sales*

THURSDAY IN PASSION WEEK

My soul, live henceforward amid the scourges and the thorns of thy Savior, and there, as a nightingale in its bush, sing sweetly: Live Jesus, Who didst die that my soul might live! Ah, Eternal Father! What can the world return Thee for the present Thou hast made it of Thy only Son? Alas! to redeem a thing so vile as I, the Savior delivered Himself to death, and, unhappy me! I hesitate to surrender my nothingness to Him Who has given me everything.

– *Consoling Thoughts of St. Francis de Sales*

FRIDAY IN PASSION WEEK

THE SEVEN SORROWS

St. Paul, the incomparable master, the great doctor of the infant Church, made Jesus Christ on the cross the delightful object of his love, the sweet subject of his discourses, the end of all his aspirations in this world, and the foundation of all his hopes in eternity. “I have judged myself,” he says, “to know nothing but my Jesus

crucified; God forbid that I should ever glory in any other thing than in the cross of my Jesus, and think not that I have any other life than that of the cross; for I assure you that I so feel and behold everywhere the cross of my Savior, that by His grace I am altogether crucified to the world, and the world is entirely crucified to me.” Blessed is the soul which thus everywhere finds Jesus Christ crucified!

– *Consoling Thoughts of St. Francis de Sales*

SATURDAY IN PASSION WEEK

It will be useful always to carry the crucifix about with us, to kiss it often with love, to look upon it with respect and tenderness, saying at times:

O Jesus, the beloved of my heart, permit me to press Thee to my breast as a bundle of myrrh; I promise that my mouth, which is so happy as to kiss Thy holy cross, shall abstain from deceits, from murmurs, from every word that might displease Thee; that my eyes, which behold Thy tears and Blood flowing for my sins, shall look no more upon the vanities of the world, or anything that might expose me to offend Thee; that my ears, which hear with so much consolation the seven words pronounced on the cross, shall take no more pleasure in empty praise, in useless conversation, in words that wound the neighbor; that my mind, after having studied with so much relish the mystery of the cross, shall be closed against all vain or

evil thoughts and imaginations; that my will, submissive to the laws of the cross and to the love of Jesus crucified, shall have only charity towards my brethren; that, in fine, nothing shall enter into or depart from my heart, without the permission of this holy cross, the sacred sign of which I trace upon myself at rising and at going to rest, and in all the sorrows of life.

– *Consoling Thoughts of St. Francis de Sales*

PALM SUNDAY

Do not look forward to the occurrences of this life with fear, but accept them with perfect confidence that, as they happen, God will protect and deliver you; He has guarded you until the present, hold fast by the hand of His Providence, and He will assist you on all occasions: and where you cannot walk, He will carry you. What should you fear, belonging to God, Who has so emphatically assured us, that *all things work together for good to those who love Him?*

The true servant of God is not solicitous about the morrow; he performs faithfully what God requires of him today, and will perform what God will require of him tomorrow, and the same the next day, and the next day, without a word. Thus he unites his will, not to the means of serving God, but to the service and good pleasure of God.

– *Consoling Thoughts of St. Francis de Sales*

Lent with St. Francis de Sales



Daily Thoughts and Prayers
Lent 2023