

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

The Newsletter and Bulletin of the Oratory of Saint Francis of Assisi

APRIL 2025 – PASSIONTIDE

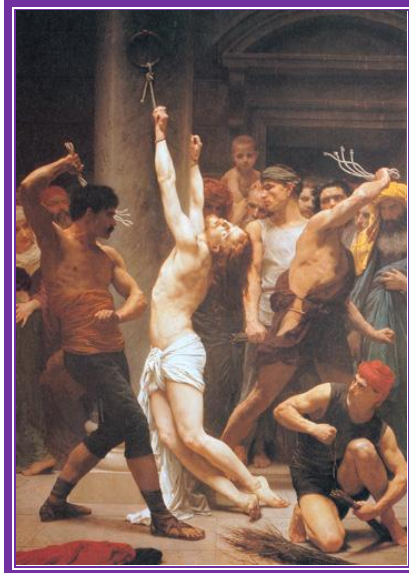
## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**I**t is truly meet and just, right and availing unto salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty and Everlasting God, Who didst set the salvation of mankind upon the Tree of the Cross, so that whence came death, thence also life might rise again, and that he who overcame by the tree might also be overcome on the tree: through Christ Our Lord.  
– Preface of the Holy Cross

**T**HE holy Cross, the Tree of Life, is for us a new Tree of Life, by which the Saviour, Who allowed Himself to *appear* conquered by death, overcomes sin and death for all and forever.

Christ's horrific Passion is often underplayed in the minds of the majority of the faithful; how blessed we are that in 2004 director Mel Gibson gifted to the entire world, both believing and unbelieving, the magnificent **Passion of the Christ**, and opened our hearts and minds to a truer reality of what Our Lord and King endured that we might be purchased back from the tyranny of evil. And yet... an ungrateful world continues to offend God with selfishness and ingratitude, doing what *feels good* rather than doing *what is good*.

By such wicked acts our sin echoes the mockery and blasphemy of the rabble in Jerusalem. They shouted *Barabbas* but we shout *Satan* - for to choose anything but Christ is to choose the devil! We must stop our poor and disordered choices and conform ourselves to Christ Jesus, as the Apostle teaches us, *Be not conformed to this world; but be reformed in the newness of your mind, that you may prove what is the good, and the acceptable, and the perfect will of God* (Romans 12:2).



He further reminds us, *With Christ I am nailed to the Cross. And I live, now not I; but Christ liveth in me. And that I live now in the flesh: I live in the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and delivered Himself for me* (Galatians 2:19–20).

If we fail to meditate upon the Passion of Christ, we will never truly understand it and show gratitude for His great and perfect Sacrifice. Blessed Peter reminds us that we must also imitate such a

generous sacrifice, *For unto this are you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example that you should follow His steps* (1 S. Peter 2:21).

Every strike, every blow, every mockery, jeer and insult, must be repaid with our own generous acts of charity: we cannot be poor examples of God's love, we cannot be reasons why our fellow humans hate or distrust God and His True Church, *outside of which there is no salvation*.

Lastly, I beg your prayers and continue to make an appeal that we spread the word of our little mission - let us build our regular Mass attendance to *at least fifty (50) families each week*. We can always add additional Masses on Sunday until we find a lasting and permanent home. We are a Holy Faith of miracles: *believe and it shall come to pass*, as Our Lord says: *Have the faith of God. Amen I say to you, that whosoever shall say to this mountain, be thou removed and be cast into the sea, and shall not stagger in his heart, but believe, that whatsoever he saith shall be done; it shall be done unto him. Therefore I say unto you, all things, whatsoever you ask when ye pray, believe that you shall receive; and they shall come unto you* (S. Mark 11:22–24).

As always, be assured of my paternal benediction and prayers, especially at Holy Mass.

I remain, in Christ the King,

Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q:** Monsignor:  
I know that you have addressed this before, but could you please, for the sake of my husband and family, review the Church's teaching on missing Sunday Mass for sports, parties, vacations and such.

I am afraid that I will be guilty of promoting sin if I do not tell him that this is a sin, but I also do not want to be a "nagging wife".

*Anonymous*

**A:** You are so right in your concern: to choose anything before our obligation to God is a *mortal sin*. The *obligation* to attend Holy Mass on every Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation comes to us, firstly, from the Ten Commandments, specifically the *precept* of Divine Worship (cf. Exodus 20:8–11) and the Roman Catechism reminds us that this observance is not optional but *absolutely necessary*. This is confirmed by the *Precepts of the Church* (the first one), as well as Canon Law (no. 1247–1249). To miss Holy Mass for any reason other than true illness or a legitimate impediment, e.g.: Military Service, Law Enforcement, Fire Safety and Medical Personnel (doctors, nurses, paramedics, etc.) is a *mortal sin*. If one falls into one of these categories one *must* communicate with their Pastor and Confessor for a dispensation, *no one can dispense themselves*. Lastly, one cannot approach Holy Communion until they have been Sacramentally Absolved by a Priest, with the assurance that one will not commit that same sin again: if

that condition is not met, the Priest must *refuse* absolution. This is the same for refusing to not stop committing *any* sin.

*If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail:*

[info@stfrancisoratory.org](mailto:info@stfrancisoratory.org)



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Y**OUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Fr. Matthew Howard, Mrs. Norma Hernandez, Mr. Charles Edward McClusky, Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. John Owen and Mr. Jeff Michaels. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died. *If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness, please be sure to let the Monsignor know so he can arrange for a sick call.*



*Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!*

## HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

**D**ONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent on-line via **PayPal** and **Zelle** (be sure to select *donation* and not payment) or you can always send it to our Post Office Box:

St. Francis of Assisi  
PO Box 8469

Saint Francis Exchange  
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469

The normal stipend for a Mass Intention is \$20.00. Please be sure to include the person's name (w/Mr., Mrs. or Miss) and if they are living or deceased. Also, be sure to indicate if you wish a **Mass Card** to be sent to that person or their family.

Your continued support is appreciated and quite needed to continue our mission of offer the true and traditional Latin Mass of the Holy Catholic Church. The True Mass and Faith are ours to protect, defend and support!

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2025

29 May 2025 (Thursday)  
*Feast of the Ascension of the Lord*  
15 August 2025 (Friday)  
*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
1 November 2025 (Saturday)  
*Feast of All Saints*  
8 December 2025 (Monday)  
*Feast of the Immaculate Conception*  
25 December 2025 (Thursday)  
*Feast of the Nativity of the Lord*

## SUNDAYS OF APRIL: THE CATHOLIC HAND MISSAL

In order to assist the faithful following Holy Mass with their hand missals here are the Sunday Masses for April:

**6 April 2025:**

**Passion Sunday:**

Commemoration of *Against the Persecutors of the Church* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

**13 April 2025:**

**Palm Sunday:**

No Commemorations.

**20 April 2025:**



**Easter Sunday:**

No Commemorations.

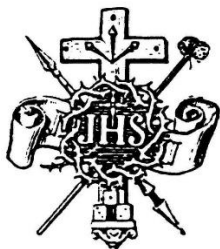
27 April 2025:

**Low Sunday:**

Commemoration of *S. Peter Canisius, Confessor and Doctor of the Church* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

**T**o participate *correctly* at Holy Mass one *silently* unites his prayers with those of the Church through pious and attentive meditation of the prayers and reading of Holy Mass.

If you are unsure how to correctly set your hand missal arrive early for Holy Mass and ask the Monsignor to assist you. It is also important to become familiar with the *Ordinary of the Mass*, those parts that never change, i.e.: Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, and the Agnus Dei. And of course the Canon of the Mass, and the *Propers of the Mass*, those which vary according to the feasts of the day, i.e., Introit, Collect(s)(after the Gloria or Dominus Vobiscum), Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, Tract or Sequence, Gospel, Secret, Communion Verse and Post Communion. On many feasts or days there are *Commemorations* (additional prayers) at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion. The careful attention to these prayers and readings will help one enter into a deeper spiritual relationship with the Holy Liturgy, the Saints and Mysteries of God.



*The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys*

**Sunday Mass Time:**

10:00 am

(818) 786-2540

e-mail: [info@stfrancisoratory.org](mailto:info@stfrancisoratory.org)

Be sure to visit our web site at:

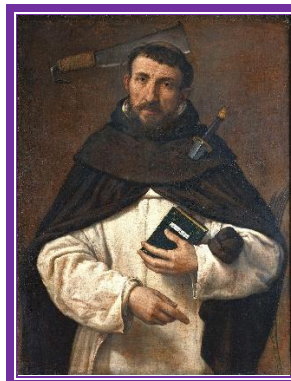
[www.stfrancisoratory.org](http://www.stfrancisoratory.org)**N.B.:** Our Mailing Address is:

Post Office Box 8469

Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



*S. Mark,  
Apostle and Evangelist,  
25 April:  
Pray for us!*



*S. Peter of Verona, Martyr  
29 April:  
Pray for us!*

**Saint Francis Exchange**

☛Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, the Popes, most especially Saint Pope Pius V in His infallible decree *Quo Primum*, have given their permission in perpetuity to offer the Traditional Latin Mass (*Missal of S. Pope Pius V* and rubrics of *S. Pope Pius X*).

**MASS GUILD**

**H**OLY MASS is offered on the First Saturday of every month for all Friends and benefactors of SAINT FRANCIS ORATORY CHAPEL Your generous donation (one time *or* monthly) enables you to be remembered upon the Altars of the Society, where *only* the traditional Latin Mass is offered, as codified and canonized by His Holiness, Saint Pope Pius V, *perpetually* approved of.

We would like to remind those who send Mass requests to PLEASE include the name of the person and/or intention with your stipend. Mass Cards will be sent to concerned parties upon request. Thank you and God bless you!

# RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

- [www.traditio.com](http://www.traditio.com)
- [www.traditioninaction.com](http://www.traditioninaction.com)
- [www.traditionalmass.org](http://www.traditionalmass.org)
- [www.novusordowatch.com](http://www.novusordowatch.com)

*N.B.: Recommendation of a website is for information and does not constitute association with or full agreement of opinions or positions.*

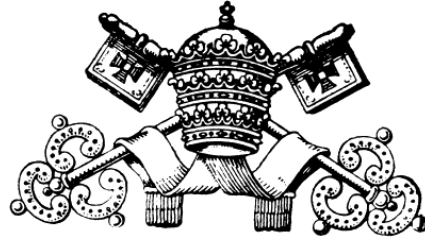
## PETER SPEAKS:



**T**HE uniqueness of each nature [of Christ] being preserved and combined in one person, humility was assumed by *majesty*, weakness by *strength*, mortality by *eternity*, and for the sake of paying the debt of our creation, an inviolable nature was joined to a passible nature; so that, because it was adopted to our relief, *one* and the same *Mediator of God*

*and men, the Man Jesus Christ (I Timothy 2:5) both could die by reason of the one, and could not die on account of the other. Accordingly, the whole and perfect nature of True Man, True God was born, complete in His own, complete in ours...*

(S. Pope Leo I, the Great, *Lectis Dilectionis Tue*, no 28, 13 June 449)



### HISTORIC IMAGES FROM S. FRANCIS CHAPEL



Saint Francis Exchange

