

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

FEBRUARY 2022 – SEPTUAGESIMATIDE

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

WATCH ye, therefore, praying at all times, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are to come, and to stand before the Son of man. – S. Luke 21:36

SEPTUAGESIMATIDE is upon us, beginning Sunday the 13th of February. This is our time to begin to prepare for the great Lenten observance which shall begin on **ASH WEDNESDAY**, 2 March 2022.

The Holy Church gives us this time to transition from Christmas and Epiphany joy and feasting to the sober and fasting of **Holy Lent**. We notice this on *Septuagesima Sunday* where the **Gloria** is not prayed at Holy Mass and remains *hidden* at all Masses proper to the season until **Maundy Thursday** and **Holy Saturday**, the **Vigil of Easter**. The **Alleluia** also disappears from the Holy Liturgy after it is sung “doubled” at First Vespers of Septuagesima Sunday. A lovely and ancient custom is the “burying of the Alleluia” after this Vespers, where a scroll or plaque with the Alleluia written on it is taken to the church garden and buried, until it is “resurrected” on Holy Saturday. Here at Saint Francis, since we do not have

a proper garden, the Alleluia is “buried” under the altar cloths, since they represent the burial cloths of Christ. Even if our chapels and churches are small or “hidden” we must always do *as much as we can* to keep the Holy Liturgy of the Church as solemn and dignified as possible. Remember, the Holy Mass is *the most beautiful thing this side of heaven*. We must never allow ourselves to give God anything less than our best; like *Abel the Just*, no sacrifice is too good for the honour and glory of Almighty God. Even in our “hidden” Mass centre we come together to give proper and true worship to the honour and glory of God!



Why stand you here all the day idle?
S. Matthew 20:6

The Holy Gospel for Septuagesima Sunday Our Blessed Lord and King delivers to us the parable of the *Workers in the Vineyard* (S. Matthew 20:1 – 16); and by way of the master of the field Our Lord asks us a question: *Why stand you here all the day idle?* Indeed; why are we so inactive when it comes to our salvation and the promulgation of the True Faith? How much time is

spent in front of the television or online? And to what end?

“Liking” and “sharing” even the most pious of “posts” does nothing to build up the Kingdom of Jesus Christ; that takes action! As I remind the faithful at every opportunity, the surest way to confirm grace in the soul is by *Apostolic Zeal*. Doing good rather than just talking about it; as S. James reminds us, *faith without works is dead* (S. James 2:17).

Instead spending time sitting in front of your computer or mobile device on social media, spend time *on your knees* before God in prayer and meditation: you will do more good with five decades of the Holy Rosary well prayed than you can doing anything else online. Faithful and pious prayer at Holy Mass will do more good than *anything* you could ever do: *anything!* Let us hold to the admonition of the Apostle: *Be nothing solicitous; but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasseth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus* (Ephesians 4:6 – 7).

As always, I am most grateful for your prayers and support. 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: Dearest Monsignor, Your clarification regarding this question would be very much appreciated: In St. Matthew 24, Our Lord had been speaking about many things that were to come and said, "Amen, I say to you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done." The things He spoke of did not happen during the lifetime of the people He was speaking to. What was meant by His statement?

J. & A. S., Van Nuys, CA

A: I appreciate the opportunity to elucidate your wonderful question. The Doctors of the Church, S. Jerome (d. 420) among them, divide the statements of the Lord in two, in S. Matthew 24:2 He prophesies the destruction of the Temple: *Amen I say to you there shall not be left here a stone upon a stone that shall not be destroyed.* This was fulfilled in 70 A.D., when the Roman general (and future emperor) Titus (d. 81) looted and destroyed the Temple. This takes place approximately 37 years after the Lord's prophecy; and most people of *that generation* in fact lived through that siege.

The second usage we find in S. Matthew 24:34, where the Lord prophesies the end of the world: *Amen I say to you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.* The same doctors of the Church, and here we can even add the Apostle, S. Paul (*cf. Romans 11:25 ff.*), that by *this generation* is meant the

Jews, who shall live as a race until the end of the world, and whom we pray, shall be converted to Christ by then.

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

info@stfrancisoratory.org



*Our Lady of Lourdes
(11th of February):
Pray for us!*

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mrs. Diane Powers, Mr. McCanna Anthony Sinise, Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. Jeff Michaels and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially Mrs. Patricia Hundt-West †. *If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness please be sure to let one of the priests know so they can arrange for a sick call.*



Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!

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HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

DONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent on-line (be sure to select *donation and not payment*) or you can always be sent to our Post Office Box:

St. Francis of Assisi

PO Box 8469

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!



*St. Matthias, Apostle
(24th of February):
Pray for us!*

**HOLY DAYS OF
OBLIGATION FOR 2022**

26 May 2022 (Thursday)
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
15 August 2022 (Monday)
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1 November 2022 (Tuesday)
Feast of All Saints
8 December 2022 (Thursday)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
25 December 2022 (Saturday)
Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

**SUNDAYS OF
FEBRUARY:
THE CATHOLIC
HAND MISSAL**

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

6 February 2022:

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany:

Commemoration of *St. Vitus, Bishop and Confessor* and of *St. Dorothy, Virgin & Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

13 February 2022:

Septuagesima Sunday:

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

20 February 2022:

Sexagesima Sunday:

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

27 February 2022:

Quinquagesima Sunday:

Commemoration of *St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, Confessor* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

TO correctly participate 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 Ireland



The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys

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Sunday Mass Time:
(*please call or email for current Mass time and location*)

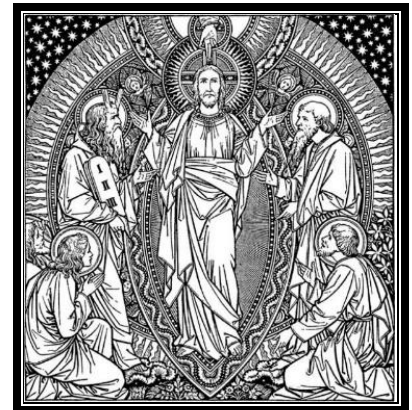
(818) 786-2540

e-mail: info@stfrancisoratory.org

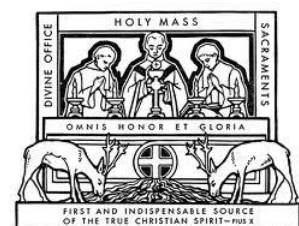
Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org

N.B. : Our Mailing Address is:
Post Office Box 8469
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



✿ **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

Holy 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

www.traditioninaction.com

www.remnantnewspaper.com

www.traditionalmass.org

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



PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL

O GLORIOUS PRINCE of the Heavenly Host, Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle and in the fearful warfare that we are waging against the principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against evil spirits. Come thou to the assistance of men, whom Almighty God created immortal, making them in His own image and likeness and redeeming them at a great price from the tyranny of Satan. Fight this day the battle of the Lord with thy legions of Holy Angels, even as of old thou didst fight against Lucifer, the leader of proud spirits and all his rebel angels, who were powerless to stand against thee, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the apostate angel, transformed into an angel of darkness who still creeps about the earth to encompass our ruin, was cast headlong into the abyss together with his

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followers. But behold, that first enemy of mankind, and a murderer from the beginning, has regained his confidence. Changing himself into an angel of light, he goes about with the whole multitude of the wicked spirits to invade the earth and blot out the Name of God and of His Christ, to plunder, to slay and to consign to eternal damnation the souls that have been destined for the crown of everlasting life. This wicked serpent, like an unclean torrent, pours into men of depraved minds and corrupt hearts the poison of his malice, the spirit of lying, impiety and blasphemy, and the deadly breath of impurity and every form of vice and iniquity. These crafty enemies of mankind have filled to overflowing with gall and wormwood the Church, which is the Bride of the Lamb without spot; they have laid profane hands upon her most sacred treasures. Make haste, therefore, O invincible Prince, to help the people of God against the inroads of the lost spirits and grant us the victory. Amen.

(Pope Leo XIII, Motu Proprio, 25 September 1888; S.P. Ap., 4 May 1934)