

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

FEBRUARY 2024 – LENT

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

GRANT, O Lord, to Thy faithful people that they may begin the venerable solemnities of fasting with becoming piety, and may persevere to the end with steadfast devotion.

– Collect from the Mass of Ash Wednesday

HOLY Lent comes early this year, with the penitential season of **Septuagesima** beginning on the 28th of January and then **Ash Wednesday** begins **Holy Lent** on the 14th of February.

I have added **The Lenten Observance** pastoral letter to this edition of the S. Francis Exchange to aid the faithful in a well ordered and profitable Lententide; and I again make my annual appeal for your sincere sanctification this year. If they whole world would but convert the Kingdom of Christ would be firmly established in our hearts, as the Holy Prophet Joel teaches us: *Now therefore saith the Lord: Be converted to Me with all your heart, in fasting, and in weeping, and in mourning. And rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, patient and rich in mercy, and ready to repent of the evil* (Joel 2:12 – 13).

The annual observance of fasting, praying and penance is not only highly recommended it is commanded by God and His Holy Church, and those who neglect these precepts are not only ungrateful and disobedient, but are in a state of **mortal sin**, and should they die in such a state they are, alas, damned to the eternal torments of hell.

It is my duty, as your Spiritual Father, to direct your hearts and minds to Christ and the salvation of your souls; a duty that I take most seriously. If I neglect leading you to eternal salvation it is my own soul that I put in danger – and how can I lead you to heaven if I am headed for hell?



Needless to say, I do not want anyone to go to hell, and so I take my Lenten fast, prayer and penance quite seriously. This year I shall be offering all my sacrifices for your sanctification, be confident that I am praying for you in earnest. I ask that you also pray for each other this Lent, adopt a soul in need of prayer and conversion and keep it between you and God, because *thy Father Who seeth in secret will repay thee* (S. Matthew 6:6), remembering that S. Ignatius of Loyola (d. 1556), thinking of

S. Luke 6:38, tells us that God will not be outdone in His generosity! And there is the key: *generosity!* Be generous this Lent... to God, to others and to yourselves. Set firm your intention for a holy and fruitful Lent, put aside all sinful activity and seek out holy and wholesome activities instead: *vice* can only be overcome by *virtue*.

I have also recommended to the faithful that they take up the reading of the Holy Gospels, one chapter per day from *Septuagesima Sunday* (28 January) and by *Easter* they will have completed all Four of these wondrous and holy works inspired by the Lord the Holy Ghost. We must remember that Lent is not just about *giving up* but also *taking up* give up sin and take up grace! And when you complete each reading kiss the text and pray: *Through the Gospel's words may our sins be blotted out, may the reading of the Gospel be our health and protection, and may Christ, the Son of God, teach us the words of the Holy Gospel. Amen.*

I promise that such a pious practice will bring about conversion and much spiritual profit; this is the example of the saints, and if we too wish to go to heaven like them, we must follow in suit.

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: Monsignor: Is it a sin to attend Holy Mass where “Francis” *is not* named in the Canon of the Mass? Contrariwise, is it a sin to attend Holy Mass where “Francis” *is* named in the Canon of the Mass? I hope you can assuage my concern and confusion. Should I receive Holy Communion at such a Mass?
A.A.

A: This confusion comes from the improper interpretation of the question from non-Theologians, both lay and clerical. First, No Layman is authorised to teach on this matter... in regard to your question we only have a Theological Opinion, because the Church has never made an official *de fide* pronouncement concerning the *possibility* of an heretical Pope. Most Catholic Theologians favour the *opinion* that an heretic would never legitimately receive the Papacy, even if unanimously elected by the Cardinals (*cf. Cum Ex Apostolatus Officio* of Pope Paul IV 15 February 1559), I myself agree with this *opinion*. However, because we are in a time of *Common Error*, there is no consensus about the naming or omitting the name of a putative Pope in the Canon of the Mass; and if there was error or sin in either case it would *only fall upon the offering Priest*, certainly not the faithful. There is no law concerning the faithful who

attend such a Mass because its possibility has never been considered; the theological gymnastics opined by the clergy are simply not consistent with Catholic Theology or Canon Law. That being said, I would not *recommend* attending such a Mass unless there is simply nothing else available, but again, attending a Mass *Una Cum* is not a mortal sin and cannot be because THE CHURCH has not yet **officially** declared Francis-Bergoglio a non-pope. Lastly, as for receiving Holy Communion, if you are properly disposed and in a state of grace you should absolutely take the opportunity to receive Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament...it is simply not possible for Our Lord, Who is God, to “catch schismatic kooties” – the only sin comes from NOT receiving Our Lord if He has been validly Consecrated, as this is spurning and rejecting His grace, as S. Augustine teaches against the heretical Donatists, *the Sacrament does not depend upon the worth of the minister* (Contra Donatus *Book II. c. xviii*).

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

info@stfrancisoratory.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. Joseph Moreaux, Mrs. Norma Hernandez, Miss Erica Chapman, Mr. Charles Edward McClusky, Mrs.

Saint Francis Exchange
Diane Powers, Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. John Owen, Mr. Jeff Michaels and Mrs. Maria Gomez. 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

DONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent online (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!

**HOLY DAYS OF
OBLIGATION FOR 2024**

9 May 2024 (Thursday)

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

15 August 2024 (Thursday)

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1 November 2024 (Friday)

Feast of All Saints

8 December 2023 (Sunday)

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

25 December 2024 (Wednesday)

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:

4 February 2024:

Sexagesima Sunday:

Commemoration of *S. Andrew Corsini, Confessor Bishop* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

11 February 2024:

Quinquagesima Sunday:

Commemoration of *Our Lady of Lourdes* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

18 February 2024:

First Sunday in Lent:

Commemoration of *S. Simeon Bishop Martyr* and the *Suffrage of the Saints* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

25 February 2024:

Second Sunday in Lent:

Commemoration of the *Suffrage of the Saints* and for the *Living and the Dead* 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 Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Time:

10:00 am

(818) 786-2540

e-mail: info@stfrancisoratory.org

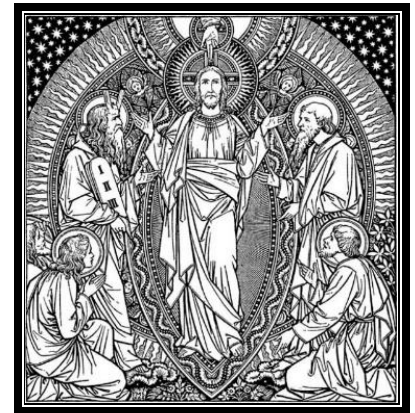
Be sure to visit our web site at:

Saint Francis Exchange
www.stfrancisoratory.org

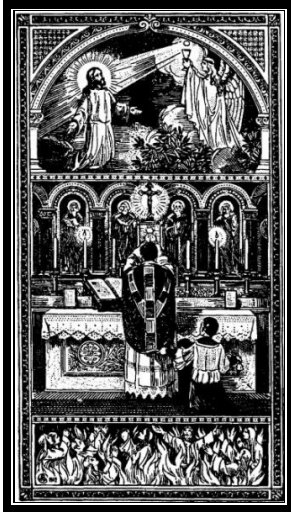
N.B. : Our Mailing Address is:
Post Office Box 8469
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



*S. Matthias, the Apostle:
Pray for us!
26th of February*



☛ **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

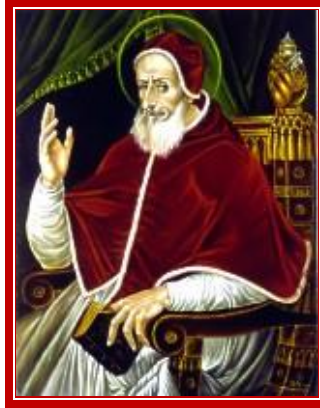
www.remnantnewspaper.com

www.traditionalmass.org

www.novusordowatch.com

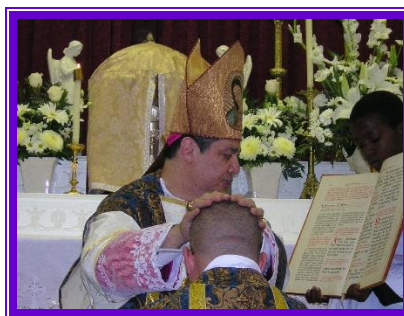
N.B.: Recommendation of a website is for information and does not constitute association with or full agreement of opinions or positions.

PETER SPEAKS:



LOOK with favour, O Lord, on Thy Household. Grant that, though our flesh be humbled by abstinence from food, our souls, hungering after Thee, may be resplendent in Thy sight. Amen.

- Lenten Prayer of S. Pope Pius V



VOCACTIONS

DO you know a young man who is willing to sacrifice all for the glory of Our Lord

Saint Francis Exchange

Jesus Christ and His Holy Priesthood? The Priestly Society of Christ the King (*Societas Sacerdotalis Christi Regis*) is looking for young men who wish to receive a fully traditional and proper formation for the **Catholic Priesthood**, if you are or know of someone who is willing to offer his life for the service and preservation of the Holy Catholic Church, and meet the requirements below, please forward them this information:

- ❖ At least 18 years of age
- ❖ High School graduate (some College studies are very helpful)
- ❖ At least of average intelligence
- ❖ Never Married
- ❖ Free from financial or familial obligations
- ❖ Able to pass a background check by Law Enforcement
- ❖ Free from any entanglements of the Modernist Vatican II sect

All serious candidates will be considered for acceptance to the *Christus Rex House of Priestly Formation*.