

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

MARCH 2016 – LENT AND PASSIONTIDE

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

HIM, who knew no sin, he hath made sin for us, that we might be made the justice of God in him.

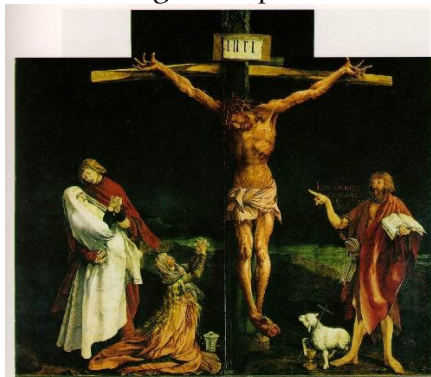
– 11 Corinthians 5:21

SAINT PAUL reminds us that our filth and sin necessitated Our Beloved Lord JESUS, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, to take our sin upon Himself and become a *sin offering* in order to redeem us. Because of our infirmity we *continually* need a Saviour, and the Collect from Passion Sunday reminds us of that: *We beseech Thee, Almighty God, mercifully look upon Thy family: that by Thy great goodness it may be governed in body, and by Thy protection be preserved in mind.* This prayer centres the true focus: the *great goodness* of God. Our Lord reminds us, many times, that God is good, and that all He does *is good*: “And God saw all the things that He had made, and they were very good” (Genesis 1:31). The Lord also teaches us, again, many times, that we must imitate that same good in all we do before men. God is the source of all good because He is *the Good*.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, being God, is good; and He *does* good. He came into this world

by His Most Holy Incarnation to save us; and His entire earthly life was spent in that saving action of good. He healed, He comforted, He taught, and He raised us from our spiritual *and* physical death, and by His own sorrowful Death and Passion redeems us.

Let us remember how this good is accomplished for us: Our Lord is raised upon the Tree of Life, the Holy Cross, and affixed to it: *so must the Son of Man be lifted up* (S. John 3:14). S. Thomas Aquinas reminds us that man has become unclean due to the soiling of his soul by sin, and that our soul was created in noble dignity, virtue and beauty; therefore by only such a great price can our soul be cleansed and purified. The Passion of Christ is made horrific not only by our sin, but also on account of the sublime dignity of the soul: its nobility demands a greater price!



Behold the Wood of the Cross on which hung the Saviour of the world!

Our sin is in direct opposition to the goodness of God; sin mocks and defiles His

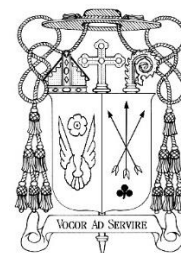
great goodness. The Saintly Benedictine, Dom Columba Marmion, teaches us that one of the greatest means of overcoming sin (he uses the term *destroying* sin) is to have a supreme hatred of it, “one makes no pact at all with an enemy one hates. To have this hatred of sin, it would be necessary for us to know its deep malice and diabolical ugliness. But who can understand the malice of sin? To measure it, we would have had to understand God Himself whom it insults. And that is why the Psalmist cries out, *Who hath an understanding of sin?* (Psalm 18:13)¹

Let us make proper and well-ordered use of the goodness of God by overcoming our attachment to sin. Let us enter into Passiontide with purpose and vigor: make good and holy confession and strive to live in His grace by building the habit of grace. Sin can, and *must* be conquered! *Christus Vincit!*

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 suffering King,

Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian



¹ Christ, the Life of the Soul, Book Two: chapter 3, paragraph 4.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Where did the tradition of commemorating **Lætare Sunday** during the season of Lent originate? I have heard it mentioned that on this particular Sunday during Lent we are allowed to break the fast... is this correct?

In Christ, DR, Oceanside CA.

A: There are a couple of important points to this question: first, the name **Lætare Sunday** comes from the very ancient tradition of naming Masses for the first few words of the Introit, in this case, *Lætare, Ierusalem* (Rejoice, Jerusalem), from the Prophet Isaias (66:10-11). Twice in the midst of our two penitential seasons, *Gaudate* on the third Sunday in Advent and *Lætare* on the third Sunday in Lent, we are given a spiritual "break" to remind us, the faithful, that even in penance we must remain *supernaturally* joyful, for the promises of Christ are in our grasp. The assignment of this Sunday goes back *at least* to the seventh century.

The purple vesture at Holy Mass gives way to the joyful rose colour (*not pink*), we are allowed by place flowers on the Altar and the organ may be played. Another beautiful custom is to observe "Mothering Sunday" on *Lætare*, a more ancient and beautiful custom than the secular "Mother's Day". More beautiful because it focuses on the supernatural graces of Catholic motherhood, and it aligns the

virtues of the mother of the family with the virtues of the Mother of God.

Lastly, indeed, the fast and other sacrifices are *not* observed on this Sunday, nor are they observed on *any* Sunday during Lent.

If you have a question, please feel free to send them via mail or e-mail (info@stfrancisoratory.org).



**Saint Joseph
(19th March):
Pray for us!**



PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. Alfredo (Freddy) Cortes, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mr. & Mrs. William Schiermeyer, Mrs. Denise Huizenga, Mr. John

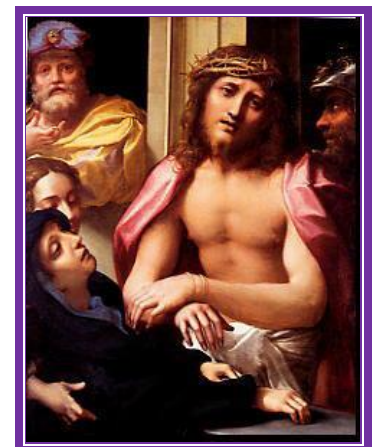
Saint Francis Exchange

Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially for Msgr. Robert McKenna, O.P. †, and Miss Kristie Tysdal †. 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.



FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY

OUR First Friday and First Saturday devotions will be on the 4th and 5th of March. First Friday Mass is at 7:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; First Saturday will be at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Devotions to the Immaculate Heart.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2016

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|---------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 March 2016 | <i>feria</i> | 8:00 AM | Private Intention | Anonymous |
| 02 March 2016 | <i>feria</i> | 8:00 AM | Private Intention | Anonymous |
| 03 March 2016 | <i>feria</i> | 8:00 AM | Private Intention | Anonymous |
| 04 March 2016 | S. Casimir | 8:00 AM | Mr. Felipe O. Mendoza† | Msgr. Sebastian |
| 05 March 2016 | <i>feria</i> | 8:00 AM | <i>Friends and Benefactors</i> | |
| 06 March 2016 | FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT | 10:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 07 March 2016 | S. Thomas Aquinas | 8:00 AM | Rev. Fr. Matthew Howard | Msgr. Sebastian |
| 08 March 2016 | S. John of God | 8:00 AM | Mr. Clifford Perkins† | Miss Pamela Perkins |
| 09 March 2016 | S. Frances of Rome | 8:00 AM | Private Intention | Anonymous |
| 10 March 2016 | Forty Holy Martyrs | 8:00 AM | Private Intention | Anonymous |
| 11 March 2016 | <i>feria</i> | 8:00 AM | Mrs. Josephine Perkins† | Miss Pamela Perkins |
| 12 March 2016 | S. Gregory the Great | 8:00 AM | Holy Souls | Mr. Alan Cohen |
| 13 March 2016 | PASSION SUNDAY | 10:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 14 March 2016 | <i>feria</i> | 8:00 AM | Private Intention | Anonymous |
| 15 March 2016 | <i>feria</i> | 8:00 AM | Holy Souls | Mr. Alan Cohen |
| 16 March 2016 | <i>feria</i> | 8:00 AM | Private Intention | Anonymous |
| 17 March 2016 | S. Patrick | 8:00 AM | Mrs. Patricia McClusky† | Msgr. Sebastian |
| 18 March 2016 | <i>Seven Sorrows BVM</i> | 8:00 AM | Holy Souls | Mr. Alan Cohen |
| 19 March 2016 | S. Joseph | 8:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 20 March 2016 | PALM SUNDAY | 10:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 21 March 2016 | Monday in Holy Week | 8:00 AM | Holy Souls | Mr. Alan Cohen |
| 22 March 2016 | Tuesday in Holy Week | 8:00 AM | Holy Souls | Mr. Alan Cohen |
| 23 March 2016 | SPY WEDNESDAY | 8:00 AM | Mr. William Lewis† | Mrs. Diane Powers |
| 24 March 2016 | MAUNDY THURSDAY | 7:00 PM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 25 March 2016 | GOOD FRIDAY | 8:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 26 March 2016 | HOLY SATURDAY | 8:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 27 March 2016 | EASTER SUNDAY | 10:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 28 March 2016 | EASTER MONDAY | 7:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 29 March 2016 | EASTER TUESDAY | 7:00 AM | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> | |
| 30 March 2016 | Easter Wednesday | 7:00 AM | Holy Souls | Mr. Alan Cohen |
| 31 March 2016 | Easter Thursday | 7:00 AM | Holy Souls | Mr. Alan Cohen |

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!



Sunday Mass Time:

10:00 am – Parochial Mass
with Homily

Daily Mass Times:

Tuesday through Saturday
8:00 am

First Friday 7:00 pm

Confessions one half of an hour before Holy Mass

16826 Saticoy Street

Entrance and Parking around back

Van Nuys, CA 91406-2776

(818) 786-2540

e-mail:

info@stfrancisoratory.org

Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org



☛ 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*).



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY:

Procession and Holy Mass
begins *promptly* at 10:00 am

SPY WEDNESDAY:

The Office of Tenebræ begins
at 7:00 pm

HOLY THURSDAY:

Solemn Pontifical Mass at 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY:

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of
the Lord begins at Noon:

- ❖ Stations of the Cross
- ❖ Sermons on the Passion
- ❖ Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

HOLY SATURDAY, the Vigil of Easter:

Solemn Pontifical Mass at 9:00 am
(with Baptisms)

EASTER SUNDAY:

Solemn Pontifical Mass at 10:00
am