

THE RECTOR'S REFLECTION

Excerpt from Pope Leo XIV's Message for Lent 2026:

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity."^[2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly."^[3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic."^[4]

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at

work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

^[2] Augustine *The Usefulness of Fasting*, 1, 1.

^[3] Benedict XVI, *Catechesis* (9 March 2011).

^[4] Paul VI, *Catechesis* (8 February 1978).

(*Courtesy of Vatican.va*)

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday

8:30 AM – Holy Mass

6:00 PM – Holy Mass (1962)

(*Ashes will only be distributed at the Masses and not at other times during the day nor "on demand"*)

Thursday, February 19

7:00 PM – Dante Reading Group – Purgatory Canto 8

Friday, February 20

5:15–5:45 PM – Confessions

6:00 PM – Stations of the Cross followed by soup and bread in Pryor-Hubbard Hall

Saturday, February 28

9:15 AM – Meeting of Fellowship Committee in Conference Room

OFFERTORY

- **February 7-8**

○ Offertory	\$2,537.00
○ Online Giving	<u>\$302.83</u>
○ Total	\$2,839.83

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for Jacob Szul + as requested by Marge Hansen.

MASS INTENTIONS

February 14 – February 22

Saturday, February 14

8:30 AM – Vinny Callanan +

4:00 PM – Zita Aruliah +

Sunday, February 15

9:00 AM – Int. of Virginia Silva

10:30 AM – Int. of Victor Pioli

12:00 PM – Marianna & Kazimierz Karwowski +

Tuesday, February 17

8:30 AM – Christopher John Mazurek +

Wednesday, February 18

8:30 AM – Int. of Fr. Peter Lenox

6:00 PM – Ewa Indyk +

Thursday, February 19

8:30 AM – Int. of Marguerite Ackerlund

Friday, February 20

8:30 AM – Int. of Javier Tremaria

Saturday, February 21

8:30 AM – Int. of Jim Jagodzinski

4:00 PM – Int. of Maureen Gilmartin

Sunday, February 22

9:00 AM – Int. of David Whitehead, Sr.

10:30 AM – Int. of Fr. Brian Gannon

12:00 PM – Arthur R. Powers +

PRAYER INTENTIONS - Each week in the Oratory Bulletin we include the names of those who need our particular prayers. Please contact the office if you would like to add someone to our prayer list.

Kathy Romano, Joe and Lucille Faugno, Anna DeLuca, Susan Brown, Timothy Burns, Emily Dexter, Jorge Chiavirria, Gerald Owczarczak, Matthew Krakowiak, Michael Majoris, David Knapp, Brian O'Donnell, Ralph Nilson, Michael Jansen, Andrew B. Slagle, Jim Jogodinski

Rest of the souls of Nancy Define, Michael Peloso, Ryan Yannalfo, Lucy Procaccini, Gabriella Patterson, Michelle Leigh Gray, Edith Wald, Michael Rossi, Michael Tejada, Madeline Hanusovsky, Nikolaos Soukeras, James Crawford Grace, Michael Marushak, James Lomuscio, Monsignor Joseph W. Pekar

ORATORY NEWS

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be on **Saturday, February 28** at 9:15 AM to continue planning for the St. Patrick Day Party on March 15. The committee will continue to discuss future events, such as a summer cookout, Ferragosto and outdoor movie nights. Open to all. (Note the date change due to multiple scheduling conflicts with members.)

FRIDAYS IN LENT – STATIONS & SOUP

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays in Lent at 6 PM. All are invited to gather in Pryor-Hubbard Hall after Stations for soup and bread, provided by the generosity of our members. Please signup to bring a large container of soup and/or bread to share. Confessions will be heard prior to Stations from 5:15-5:45 PM. Special Masses will be offered on Friday, February 27 (Ember Friday) and March 6 (First Friday) at 7 PM.

ONLINE GIVING

OSV Online Giving has gone live for the Georgetown Oratory. You can create an account and consider the giving options by scanning the QR code below. You will see multiple funds for your contributions and can establish frequency and quantity for any of them. For example, you can setup a weekly gift for the "Sunday Offertory" fund and a one-time contribution for Ash Wednesday or for snow removal. On weekends with second collections, you can access your account and make a one-time gift to that fund, if desired. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the office and/or Fr. Novajosky.

(NB: For those who have been using DonorBox, I am asking you to switch to OSV Online Giving. The reason for the switch is that OSV already provides our envelopes and they will be doing our website so it brings the three things into one place.)



PROCESSIONAL

**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel-host,
Be praise and glory evermore.**

Words: William Kethe d. 1594

Tune: OLD HENDREDTH

Mass Readings:

Glory & Praise #868

RCDM pg. 274



GEORGETOWN ORATORY

30 Church Street, Redding, CT 06896
(203) 544 - 8245

**Dominica in Quinquagesima /
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 15, 2026**

Rev. Michael P. Novajosky, Rector
frnovajosky@diobpt.org
(203) 493-1829 (call or text)

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday

4 PM (Saturday Vigil) 9 AM 10:30 AM 12 Noon (1962)

Tuesday & Thursday

8:30 AM

Wednesday

6 PM (1962)

Friday & Saturday

8:30 AM (1962)

ADORATION

First Friday 9 AM – 8 PM

CONFESSIONS (in the oratory)

Wednesday 5:15 – 5:45 PM

Saturday 7:00 – 8:15 AM

By request at any convenient time

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 9 AM – 1 PM

WEBSITE

georgetownoratory.org

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