

PRAY, FAST AND STRUGGLE FOR A MORE PERFECT UNION WITH CHRIST AS A FAMILY

SUGGESTED PRAYERS, READINGS AND THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

A PSALM FOR THE MORNING (*PSALM 63, DOUAY RHEIMS*)

Hear, O God, my prayer, when I make supplication to thee: deliver my soul from the fear of the enemy. Thou hast protected me from the assembly of the malignant; from the multitude of the workers of iniquity. For they have whetted their tongues like a sword; they have bent their bow a bitter thing, To shoot in secret the undefiled. They will shoot at him on a sudden, and will not fear: they are resolute in wickedness. They have talked of hiding snares; they have said: Who shall see them? They have searched after iniquities: they have failed in their search. Man shall come to a deep heart: And God shall be exalted. The arrows of children are their wounds: And their tongues against them are made weak. All that saw them were troubled; And every man was afraid. And they declared the works of God: and understood his doings. The just shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in him: and all the upright in heart shall be praised.

A GOSPEL FOR THE MORNING (*MATTHEW 10:40-42, RSV-CE*)

Jesus said: "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me. He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward, and he who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

A PSALM FOR THE EVENING (*PSALM 69; DOUAY RHEIMS*)

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be confounded and ashamed that seek my soul: Let them be turned backward, and blush for shame that desire evils to me: Let them be presently turned away blushing for shame that say to me: Tis well, tis well. Let all that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee; and let such as love thy salvation say always: The Lord be magnified. But I am needy and poor; O God, help me. Thou art my helper and my deliverer: O Lord, make no delay.

A GOSPEL FOR THE EVENING (*JOHN 6:64-71 FROM RSV-CE*)

Jesus said: "But there are some of you that do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that should betray him. And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. Jesus said to the twelve, "Will you also go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was to betray him.

A PRAYER TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

O Saint Thomas, Doctor of the Church Militant, flourishing by virginal purity, bestow on us the desired joys of the Church Triumphant.

A MARIAN PRAYER

O Mary, Mother of all grace, Mother of mercy to our race, protect us now from Satan's power and own us at life's closing hour.

FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1625 The parties to a marriage covenant are a baptized man and woman, free to contract marriage, who freely express their consent; "to be free" means:

- not being under constraint;
- not impeded by any natural or ecclesiastical law.

1626 The Church holds the exchange of consent between the spouses to be the indispensable element that "makes the marriage." If consent is lacking there is no marriage.

1627 The consent consists in a "human act by which the partners mutually give themselves to each other": "I take you to be my wife" - "I take you to be my husband." This consent that binds the spouses to each other finds its fulfillment in the two "becoming one flesh."

1628 The consent must be an act of the will of each of the contracting parties, free of coercion or grave external fear. No human power can substitute for this consent. If this freedom is lacking the marriage is invalid.

1629 For this reason (or for other reasons that render the marriage null and void) the Church, after an examination of the situation by the competent ecclesiastical tribunal, can declare the nullity of a marriage, i.e., that the marriage never existed. In this case the contracting parties are free to marry, provided the natural obligations of a previous union are discharged.

FROM THE SAINTS

A servant of the Lord is he who in body stands before men, but in mind knocks at Heaven with prayer.

-St. John Climacus

Do not say you have acquired virtue unless you have suffered affliction, for virtue is not tested through ease and comfort.

-St. Mark the Ascetic

For the sign of Christianity is this: to be pleasing to God while earnestly shunning the notice of men.

-St. Macarius the Great

Suffering for God is better than working miracles.

-St. John of the Cross

The saints, while making progress towards this perfection, came to humility – this is why we are always saying that the man who is getting closer to God looks on himself more and more as a sinner.

-St. Dorotheos of Gaza

FAST, ABSTAIN AND/OR SACRIFICE THIS WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

The poor and those facing financial hardship

MEMORIZE AND PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Counsel the doubtful
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Admonish sinners
4. Comfort the afflicted
5. Forgive offenses
6. Bear wrongs patiently
7. Pray for the living and the dead

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

There will be no Adult Catechism/OCIA on Tuesday Evening

There will be no Book Reflection on Wednesday Evening. Reflections on the *Discourses and Sayings of St.*

***Dorotheos* will continue after the Easter Octave on Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30PM**

Friday, March 27 at 7:00PM in the Church – Lenten Reflection (Fr. Kolbe Murrey)