

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 39:2-8, Douay Rheims*)

With expectation I have waited for the Lord, and he was attentive to me. And he heard my prayers, and brought me out of the pit of misery and the mire of dregs. And he set my feet upon a rock, and directed my steps. And he put a new canticle into my mouth, a song to our God. Many shall see, and shall fear: and they shall hope in the Lord. Blessed is the man whose trust is in the name of the Lord; and who hath not had regard to vanities, and lying follies. Thou hast multiplied thy wonderful works, O Lord my God: and in thy thoughts there is no one like to thee. I have declared and I have spoken they are multiplied above number. Sacrifice and oblation thou didst not desire; but thou hast pierced ears for me. Burnt offering and sin offering thou didst not require: Then said I, Behold I come.

A Gospel for the Morning (*John 3:22-30, RSV-CE*)

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the land of Judea; there he remained with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people came and were baptized. For John had not yet been put in prison. Now a discussion arose between John's disciples and a Jew over purifying. And they came to John, and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore witness, here he is, baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "No one can receive anything except what is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom; the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice; therefore, this joy of mine is now full. He must increase, but I must decrease."

A Psalm for the Evening (*Psalm 39:8-18; Douay Rheims*)

In the head of the book it is written of me; That I should do thy will: O my God, I have desired it, and thy law in the midst of my heart. I have declared thy justice in a great church, lo, I will not restrain my lips: O Lord, thou knowest it. I have not hid thy justice within my heart: I have declared thy truth and thy salvation. I have not concealed thy mercy and thy truth from a great council. Withhold not thou, O Lord, thy tender mercies from me: thy mercy and thy truth have always upheld me. For evils without number have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I was not able to see. They are multiplied above the hairs of my head: and my heart hath forsaken me. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me, look down, O Lord, to help me. Let them be confounded and ashamed together, that seek after my soul to take it away. Let them be turned backward and be ashamed that desire evils to me. Let them immediately bear their confusion, 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 a beggar and poor: the Lord is careful for me. Thou art my helper and my protector: O my God, be not slack.

A Scripture Reading for the Evening (*Proverbs 12:21-24, RSV-CE*)

No ill befalls the righteous,
but the wicked are filled with trouble.
Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,
but those who act faithfully are his delight.

A prudent man conceals his knowledge,
but fools proclaim their folly.
The hand of the diligent will rule,
while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

A Prayer to St. Thomas Aquinas

O Thomas, honor and glory of the Order of Preachers and teacher of the ways of God, bring us to eternal delights.

A Marian Prayer

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

988 The Christian Creed - the profession of our faith in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and in God's creative, saving, and sanctifying action - culminates in the proclamation of the resurrection of the dead on the last day and in life everlasting.

989 We firmly believe, and hence we hope that, just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives forever, so after death the righteous will live forever with the risen Christ and he will raise them up on the last day. Our resurrection, like his own, will be the work of the Most Holy Trinity:

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you.

990 The term "flesh" refers to man in his state of weakness and mortality. The "resurrection of the flesh" (the literal formulation of the Apostles' Creed) means not only that the immortal soul will live on after death, but that even our "mortal body" will come to life again.

991 Belief in the resurrection of the dead has been an essential element of the Christian faith from its beginnings. "The confidence of Christians is the resurrection of the dead; believing this we live."

How can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.... But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

From the Saints

I mean that he who cares for nothing for the good things of the world has dominion over them all.

-St. Teresa of Avila

The evil one quiets down for a time to induce carelessness, and then, attacking unexpectedly, perverts the thought and destroys.

-St. Theodore the Studite

Fast, abstain and/or sacrifice this Wednesday and Friday

For the staff at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

Memorize and Practice the Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry Give drink to the thirsty

Clothe the naked Shelter the homeless

Visit the sick Visit those imprisoned

Bury the dead

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday, October 26 from 9:30 - 11:30AM or 6:00 - 9:00PM in PC-B – Foundations of Faith (Catechism Study)

Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 PM in Aquinas Hall – Adult Catechism/OCIA; Topic: Priesthood and Religious Life

Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 PM in Aquinas Hall – Book Reflection - St. John Chrysostom's Letters to St. Olympia: Letters 11-13