

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 55, DOUAY RHEIMS)

Have mercy on me, O God, for man hath trodden me under foot; all the day long he hath afflicted me fighting against me. My enemies have trodden on me all the day long; for they are many that make war against me. From the height of the day I shall fear: but I will trust in thee. In God I will praise my words, in God I have put my trust: I will not fear what flesh can do against me. All the day long they detested my words: all their thoughts were against me unto evil. They will dwell and hide themselves: they will watch my heel. As they have waited for my soul, For nothing shalt thou save them: in thy anger thou shalt break the people in pieces, O God, I have declared to thee my life: thou hast set my tears in thy sight, As also in thy promise. Then shall my enemies be turned back. In what day soever I shall call upon thee, behold I know thou art my God. In God will I praise the word, in the Lord will I praise his speech. In God have I hoped, I will not fear what man can do to me. In me, O God, are vows to thee, which I will pay, praises to thee: Because thou hast delivered my soul from death, my feet from falling: that I may please in the sight of God, in the light of the living.

A GOSPEL FOR THE MORNING (MATTHEW 10:29-33, RSV-CE)

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

A PSALM FOR THE EVENING (PSALM 56; DOUAY RHEIMS)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me: for my soul trusteth in thee. And in the shadow of thy wings will I hope, until iniquity pass away. I will cry to God the most High; to God who hath done good to me. He hath sent from heaven and delivered me: he hath made them a reproach that trod upon me. God hath sent his mercy and his truth, And he hath delivered my soul from the midst of the young lions. I slept troubled. The sons of men, whose teeth are weapons and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens, and thy glory above all the earth. They prepared a snare for my feet; and they bowed down my soul. They dug a pit before my face, and they are fallen into it. My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready: I will Sing, and rehearse a psalm. Arise, O my glory, arise psaltery and harp: I will arise early. I will give praise to thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing a psalm to thee among the nations. For thy mercy is magnified even to the heavens: and thy truth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth.

A GOSPEL FOR THE EVENING (JOHN 6:52-59 FROM RSV-CE)

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever." This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Caper'na-um.

A PRAYER TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Pray for us Blessed Thomas. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

A MARIAN PRAYER

Allow me to praise you, O sacred Virgin. Give me strength against your enemies.

FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1309 Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.

1310 To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act.

1311 Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents.

1312 The original minister of Confirmation is the bishop. In the East, ordinarily the priest who baptizes also immediately confers Confirmation in one and the same celebration. But he does so with sacred chrism consecrated by the patriarch or the bishop, thus expressing the apostolic unity of the Church whose bonds are strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation. In the Latin Church, the same discipline applies to the Baptism of adults or to the reception into full communion with the Church of a person baptized in another Christian community that does not have valid Confirmation.

FROM THE SAINTS

This truly is the vision of God: never to be satisfied in the desire to see Him. But one must always, by looking at what he can see, rekindle his desire to see more.

-St. Gregory of Nyssa

For just as there are two coinages, the one of God and the other of the world, and each of them has its own stamp impressed upon it, so the unbelievers bear the stamp of this world, but the faithful in love bear the stamp of God the Father through Jesus Christ, whose life is not in us unless we voluntarily choose to die into his suffering.

-St. Ignatius of Antioch

...bodily ease keeps us distant from God, and keeps our mind far away from being concerned about Him.

-St. Isaac of Ninevah

FAST, ABSTAIN AND/OR SACRIFICE THIS WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

For Deacon James Witulski, Deacon Joseph Diaz and Deacon Martin Ricart

LEARN ABOUT THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Peter, Andrew, James (son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddeus, Simon (the Zealot), and Judas.

Opportunities for Christian Formation this Week at the Parish

Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30PM in the Church – Lenten Reflection and Exposition (Fr. Matthew Dimock)

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30PM in Aquinas Hall – Book Reflection: Discourses and Sayings of St. Dorotheos of Gaza, Topic: “On the Fear of God” and “On the Need for Consultation”

Sunday, March 15 at 10:30AM in the CCM Lounge – Donuts and Dogma