

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

MARCH 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Volume 4

Issue 10

LAETARE SUNDAY

IT IS IN SUFFERINGS THAT WE FIND THE TRUEST VOCATIONS

I would ask what is the best means of securing our salvation? What is it that makes Saints and the predestinate? It is first, as I have said, the vocation of God; it is the expiation of past sins, it is the precaution against relapses, and which includes all the rest, it is likeness to Jesus Christ. It does not want, assuredly, anything more to make a Saint, or to recognize one of the predestinated. Now, where are we to seek for all these advantages? In sufferings. It is there you will find them all. It is there, then, that you will find the assurance of a blessed predestination.

First, we find there the vocation of God. It is true, God calls all Christians. "Wisdom," saith the Scripture, "preacheth abroad; she uttereth her voice in the streets" (*Prov. i. 20*); she invites all the world to come to hear, but the greater number, allured by their worldly pursuits, do not listen to her voice. The Father of the family, in the Gospel, invites all his neighbors to the nuptials of His Son; but no one who is invited is willing to come. One is rich and is occupied with his property; another thinks of becoming so, and is making his purchases; a third is absorbed with the pleasures of this life. All have their excuses, so that no one profits by the nuptial feast which has been prepared for them. The Father of the family, irritated by their indifference, by their negligence, or their contempt, leaves them to their worldly occupations, which constitute their happiness and their end. He transfers the favor, which He would have shown them, to the poor, to the infirm, to the miserable, who are the objects of the world's contempt. It is they who partake of the feast; but how do they get to it? A kind of violence is done them, "and they are compelled to enter the nup-

tial guest-chamber."

They are pressed, they are, if I may say so, pushed in, they are forced to enter. Of what is this compulsion a figure? It is affliction, which detaches us in spite of ourselves, as it were, by a holy violence, from the world that we love, and obliges us to accept the invitations of our good God; those invitations we despised, whilst enjoying the pleasures of the world. Thus, the Son of God, wishing to prepare us for this application of the parable, has added to it as its conclusion - "Many are called, but few are chosen" (*St. Matt. xxii. 14*) as if He said, it is true that there are few chosen, and that many are called; but you see who are the one and who are the other. The happy ones of the world are called, and they are not chosen; but the unhappy ones, in the world's estimation, and the poor and the suffering are chosen, among the number of the elect. It is this which instructs us as to the two different means which Almighty God employs to attract us to Himself. He invites some with sweetness; there are others whom He presses and prostrates, like St. Paul, whom He puts in chains, whom He obliges, by a sort of violence, to give themselves to Him. This violence, however, does not fall upon the will for the will is always free; but it falls on what surrounds the will, I mean, on the objects of its attachments which God takes away from it with violence, to oblige it, to compel it to detach itself from them. Now it is easy to see which of these two methods is the most powerful, and therefore the most efficacious. We know, alas, that there are very few who yield themselves up to the sweet attractions of grace; and for one who sacrifices with a good heart the advantages of this life, which he might enjoy at will, there are a thousand who do not make this sacrifice, but by dint of afflictions. Again, how long does a rebellious heart hold out in combat



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HOLY MASS

Sundays: 7:00 & 10:00 am
Weekdays: 8:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Sundays

6:40—6:55 am

9:15—9:55 am

Weekdays

7:40—7:55 am

and by appointment

HOLY ROSARY

Sundays: After 7:00 am Mass
and at 9:40 am

First Saturdays: after 8:00 am
Mass

CATHOLIC
ACTION BRUNCH
after 10:00 Mass
today. All are
welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM

Fr. Rodriguez:

I have Mass intentions until April 16th, and I am preparing a second list for Bp. Morello.

HOLY WEEK

The servers have to check the schedule and attend practices with the MC.

THIS EASTER

Easter Duty means Confession and Communion at least once a year at this time.
Fr. Rodriguez.

with Almighty God! It leans as long as it can upon all its surroundings, it exhausts all human resources before coming to the point of laying down its arms, and owning itself conquered. We do as the passengers did in the ship which carried the Prophet Jonas; when they found themselves in danger of perishing with him, "each one called upon his god," the god that he knew, the god that he adored, the god that he loved. Thus we act, when God sends us afflictions, in order to lead us to Himself. There are gods whom our heart adores, and to whom it has recourse, these ' gods are riches, the fortune of relations, our patrons, our own ability, on which we always count. These are the gods in whom we place our principal confidence, and to whom we say "deliver us, save us." But these gods have no power—we soon find their weakness—and when we are plunged in a sea of bitterness, from which no human help can draw us, we then have recourse to God, we call upon Him, we recognize His justice, we submit to His Will; we are, as it were, forced to take this part, because there is no other means to console us in our trouble.

How many are there who will acknowledge, in their own experience, the truth of what I have now stated, and who will confess with sincerity and justice, that if God had not detached them from the world by afflictions, if He had not imparted a salutary bitterness to the objects of their passions, if He had not sown thorns on the path of their ambition, or of their pleasures, to disgust them, they would have preserved even to the end the criminal attachments by which they were enchained! How many have commenced to live a Christian life, only when they began to be afflicted; who did not open their eyes to the truths of the Catholic faith till they were open to the misfortunes which befell them, and who would not have wept penitential tears unless they had shed them first over their losses, their afflictions, and their infirmities. How many without the disgrace into which they fell, with some powerful patron or benefactor, without the loss of their property, or without some other great calamity, would never have dreamed of entertaining the true sentiments of Christian humility! Amused

by a vain phantom of devotion, they nourished their self-love with all the appearances of good works, in which they gloried; they thought that they were just and faithful, and applauded themselves for their pretended sanctity; yet they were further away from God by their pride than others would have been by their crimes. The hour of their conversion came, and that of salvation. God made them hear efficaciously His voice, and how? They were humbled by some signal disgrace, and humility, which is so necessary for salvation, entered their heart by the door of humiliation.

How many others are there whom God treats in the same way, and who would have passed all their days in pleasure, in joy, and in plenty if God had not recalled them to Himself, by snatching from their hands the objects of their attachments. To one He sends a painful and dangerous sickness, to another the loss of his property. With one it is the ruin of his health—he cannot go any more into company, which had been to him a snare, a temptation, and an occasion of sin. With another it is the loss of his patron and protector, and all his hopes are buried with him. Another discredited in his business, by the misfortunes of the time, is constrained to quit it. Sometimes death takes away relations and friends—a husband, or children—they cannot find consolation on this earth. There is no one but Almighty God Who comes Himself to this afflicted heart, to offer it a solid consolation in His love. At length He is recognized as the true friend, the friend at all times, the friend who continues always. Behold what passes every day; and perhaps the reader knows it by his own experience. This is what I mean by an efficacious vocation, because it has almost always its effect; it is this vocation which is the first step to be taken on the road to predestination, and which is its first marks.

What I have said of vocations, I may say also of the expiation of sin, and of the precaution not to commit it again. Both the one and the other, which we know are essentially necessary for salvation, are found, generally, in afflictions and in sufferings.

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY March 6	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	P or R	7:00 am 10:00am	Superior's Intentions Missa pro Populo.
MONDAY March 7	St. Thomas Aquinas, CD Holy Rosary	W	8:00 am 7:30 pm	Robert Dicecco, R.I.P. Holy Rosary for the Poor Souls
TUESDAY March 8	St. John of God, C	W	8:00 am	Jose Mejia, R.I.P. Catharine Granajes
WEDNESDAY March 9	St. Francis of Rome, W	W	8:00 am	Jose Mejia, R.I.P. Catharine Granajes
THURSDAY March 10	Forty Holy Martyrs	R	8:00am	Jose Mejia, R.I.P. Catharine Granajes
FRIDAY March 11	FERIAL DAY Stations of the Cross	P	8:00 am 7:00 pm	Jose Mejia, R.I.P. Catharine Granajes
SATURDAY March 12	St. Gregory the Great. PCD Sorrowful Mother Devotion	W	7:00am 5:00 pm	Jose Mejia, R.I.P. Catharine Granajes
SUNDAY March 13	PASSION SUNDAY OF LENT	P	7:00 am 10:00am	Superior's Intentions Missa pro Populo



MASS TIMES AT ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

1520 Delaware St, Paulsboro, New Jersey 08066

March 6	9:30 am.	Fr. Bachtiger
March 13	5:00 pm.	Fr. Rodriguez
March 20	9:30 am.	Fr. Batchinger
March 27	9:30 am.	Fr. Bachtiger

*Mass may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

Call Mrs. Mary Bocchino for any information: 856 228 4450 or Mrs. Windfeld 856 4564232

Devotions: Monday March 7, at 7:30 p.m.
Holy Rosary followed by Litanies of St. Joseph
And Litanies for the Poor Souls in Purgatory.



NOTICE TO NEWCOMERS

Founded in 1973 in the wake of the disastrous Second Vatican Council, the mission of Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel is to maintain and restore as far as possible the traditional faith, values and liturgical practice of the Roman Catholic Church, and to provide a haven of sanctity where men and women of good will may grow in love for God and their neighbor.

Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and ask questions. After Mass come to the Social Hall, and join us for coffee and refreshments.

We hope your visit with us is a pleasant one, and we look forward to seeing you again and welcoming you as a member of Our Lady of the Rosary.

We welcome Spanish-speaking guests, and confessions are heard in Spanish and English every Sunday and by appointment with the pastor.

With regard to the expiation of sin, who is there, that without the involuntary misfortunes of life, its sicknesses, its accidents, its annoyances, its contradictions, its sufferings, and its losses, would dream of expiating so many sins of his past life, and so many daily faults, which we commit every moment? We know, however, that there is no salvation without penance, and we cannot bring ourselves to do it, or if we do it, it is so little, and so mild, that it cannot be of much merit.

It is this thought which should comfort those who, when in affliction, fear that the penance it imposes upon them is not agreeable to God, and therefore is not an expiation for their sins, because it is involuntary. This is an error. I can assure them that the pains which God imposes are as fit to satisfy for their sins as the most austere maceration of the flesh which they could give themselves of their own choice. I think that they are, in a certain sense, even more fit to appease the justice of God, than any private and self-chosen mortifications, however great. For, first of all, these involuntary afflictions come clearly from Almighty God; they are the Will of God in our regard, since nothing can happen to us without the salutary disposition of His Providence, a character which voluntary mortifications rarely have, for they are often regulated by caprice, or self-love, or self-will.

Secondly, they are often more rigorous and painful, and therefore more satisfactory for our sins. For what comparison is there between; the fasts, the disciplines, or the hair-shirt of

a solitary, and the lively pains of an obstinate sickness, the perpetual contradiction of a wayward husband, or of a cross wife, or of a master whose whims must be borne with every moment, the extremities to which great poverty reduces us, or the trouble and the humiliation which are brought on by the loss of reputation or of fortune! Thirdly, these involuntary sufferings are often more humiliating, and therefore more fit to help us entirely to renounce ourselves. Involuntary austerities, self-love, the vanity they inspire, or the praises they attract, take away, perhaps, all their merit. But it is not so with the involuntary crosses which the Providence of God sends us for our salvation. The world does not know how to keep count of such sufferings. There is nothing brilliant in these trials, nothing which attracts applause, or which contents self-love; on the contrary, self-love is buried all entire, under the ruin of fortune, of health, or of reputation. He who has today fallen into disgrace, feels thoroughly that there is nothing in it to glory in. Thus Almighty God, by involuntary misfortunes of various kinds, prepares for His predestinated a means most efficacious, and most sure to expiate their sins—it is the purgatory of suffering in this life. But He offers them, by the same means, a precaution as effectual against sin for the future.

Confidence in the Mercy of God - pgs. 214-224

By Monseigneur Languet, 1876

Lenten Devotions:

FRIDAYS: Stations of the Cross and Rosary, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAYS: Novena to the Sorrowful Mother, at 5:00 p.m., followed by homemade soup for all.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

For up-to-date information, such as last-minute changes to the Mass schedule, special prayer requests, and other breaking news, refer to our website at:

www.rosarychapel.net