

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

JESUS IS DENIED THREE TIMES BY PETER

(Voice of Jesus)

As the bright light and genial warmth of day is a specimen of the joys of heaven; so the gloom and damp coldness of night is a figure of the horrors of hell. Many of My faithful servants have much to suffer during the darkness of night, because the demons choose it to wreak their hatred against them. For this reason, during the whole night of My passion, all manner of insults and afflictions were heaped upon Me. The most painful of all to My heart was the thrice-repeated denial of My apostle Peter.

I had selected him as the head of My apostles and of My whole Church. I had repeatedly given him special marks of My confidence and predilection. I warned him of the danger. He had warmly and strongly protested that, rather than deny Me, he would go with Me to prison and to death. With this intention, Peter followed Me to the hall of Caiphas. But he did not venture to accompany Me into the judgment court, where I was tried and condemned.

Peter remained in the entrance hall, sitting down with the crowd of dissipated and insolent servants of the Jewish priests. Here he was noticed by a bold servant girl, who accused him of being one of My disciples. Her words attracted the attention of all bystanders. All fixed their eyes upon Peter. He was alarmed, forgot his promise, and denied having any knowledge of Me. Almost immediately after this denial, according to My warning, the cock crew.

After a little while another servant-maid, seeing Peter, insisted before the crowd, that he was one of My disciples. This second time Peter not only denied Me, but confirmed his first and present denial by an oath that he knew Me not. In these unhappy dispositions Peter remained for about an hour, when a

kinsman of Malchus, who had taken a special notice of him in the Garden of Gethsemani, when My apostle cut off the ear of the latter, and who were both near relatives of the supreme pontiff Caiphas, accused him in the presence of all of being My disciple. Peter warmly attempted to defend his denial, and in so doing he gave occasion to all of remarking his Galilean accent. This was promptly seized as a confirmation of the charge brought against him for the third time.

Peter became both alarmed and excited. He not only denied Me again, "*but he began to curse and swear that he knew Me not.*" Immediately after this the cock crew aloud the second time.

Peter heard this voice of warning. His conscience was deeply agitated. But he was not converted. A stronger and more efficacious grace was necessary to change and convert his heart. I was in the same hall, and not far from My wretched apostle. Most ardently I desired his repentance, But charity and prudence prevented Me from speaking to him, for, had I done so he would have been disgraced before all as guilty of perjury; because all would have perceived that I knew him, and that, in spite of his three denials, he was in reality My disciple.

Not to expose him to this public infamy, I was forced to avoid giving him any sign of recognition that could be observed by any of the persons in the hall. This circumstance was more painful to My heart, and more dangerous for Peter, than the treason of Judas. Because Judas, through the very nature of his treason, threw himself into My arms, and I immediately made use of this favorable opportunity to attempt his conversion by reminding him of his crime, and inviting him to repentance. But the nature of Peter's denial deprived Me, and him, of that advantage.

I remained in profound recollection for some little time. I kept My eyes cast down. I

February 25, 2018
SECOND
SUNDAY IN LENT
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Our Lady of the Rosary

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HOLY MASS

Sundays: 7:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays: 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Sundays

6:40—6:55 a.m. 9:15—9:55 a.m.

Weekdays

7:40—7:55 a.m.

and by appointment

HOLY ROSARY

Sundays: After 7:00 a.m. Mass
and 9:40 a.m.

First Saturdays: after 7:00 a.m.
Mass

If you are planning to attend the 45th Anniversary Dinner, please fill out the form on the bottom of the announcement sheet, put it in an envelope along with a check made out to the Chapel, or cash, and write on the envelope, 45th Anniversary. You can put it in the basket, or give to an usher.

MASS INTENTIONS:

I have Mass intentions until MAY 8, 2018. I've sent a list for Bp. Morello from NJ.

CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

Who commits a sin against the second Commandment?

A sin is committed against the second commandment of God by anyone who:

- 1) utters the Holy Name *frivolously or angrily,*
- 2) *ridicules* holy things,
- 3) *blasphemes* against God,
- 4) *swears rashly or falsely,*
- 5) *breaks a vow.*

To *swear* (in the colloquial usage) means to speak God's Name or other holy names in anger.

To *curse* means to seriously wish evil on oneself or others, e.g. illness, death, eternal damnation.

To *blaspheme* means to speak disdainfully about God and holy things or to insult them.

One blasphemes in *thought* when one thinks evil of God; in *word* when one assigns to God or holy objects insulting or mocking names; in *deed* when one destroys crosses, holy images or other religious objects out of hatred or contempt.

Under the Old Covenant, blasphemy against God was punishable by death.

fervently prayed for Peter. He felt very unhappy. His interior anguish was momentarily increasing. I knew that he gave Me several shy and timid glances, which I did not return. This increased his agitation and interior trouble.

Peter began to fear that I would reject and abandon him. At last taking a favorable opportunity, I gave him such a look of reproach and compassion, that it penetrated to the depth of his soul. He saw at once the enormity of his crime. His well-disposed heart was filled with sorrow. He immediately left the place and the occasion of his sins. He went out of the hall, shedding many bitter tears of repentance during all that dismal night.

Early in the morning Peter went to see My afflicted Mother, acknowledged his crime, asked her prayers, and sought comfort and advice from her, who is justly styled the refuge of sinners. My holy Mother received this repenting child with maternal love and tenderness, and gave him the most consoling assurances of My forgiveness. During his whole life Peter never forgot My look in Caiphas' hall. His repentance was sincere and lasting. I permitted his fall and procured his conversion, that he might learn to use always great compassion for poor sinners. I had advised him that, being once converted, he should use his authority and charity in confirming his brethren.

When asked by him how often he should forgive sinners, and whether seven times should be deemed sufficient, I answered: "*I say not to thee, till seven times, but till seventy times seven.*" (Matt. xviii, 22)

I had promised to this dear apostle the keys of the kingdom of heaven, which meant the supremacy of the spiritual ecclesiastical jurisdiction. I selected him as the visible head of My Church and My Vicar upon earth for the conversion and salvation of mankind. I wished him to have a most tender compassion for sinners. After his conversion, Peter faithfully corresponded with all My expectations, and he left this spirit of zeal and compassion as an inheritance to all his successors in Rome.

In this conversion of Peter, I saw the first fruit of My passion. I wished through him to instruct all poor sinners to have confidence in My infinite goodness and mercy, and to con-

vince them practically that My eyes of compassion will be turned to them at the most favorable opportunity for effecting their conversion, provided they would watch for it and be disposed to cooperate with My inspirations, and with the secret motions of My grace.

Meditation:

Consider that the fall of Peter is intended as a salutary warning to all men. It is a practical proof of man's weakness. If not supported by God's special grace, we shall fall when attacked by temptation. We should not trust in our past fervor and present good intentions, because, by so doing, we lean upon ourselves and not upon God. Let us be persuaded that, without God, we can do nothing.

God has decreed that, to obtain the assistance of His grace, we should ask for it in prayer. Peter fell, because, trusting in his good resolutions, he neglected prayer. He in a special manner had been exhorted by his divine Master to pray. He had been warned by Him of the weakness of human nature, with these words, "*The spirit is ready, but the flesh is weak. Watch and pray.*" In spite of these salutary and opportune admonitions, Peter gave himself up to drowsiness, neglected prayer, the temptation came, and he fell.

When Peter falls, can you presume to stand? You neither have the same praiseworthy record of your past life, nor the same actual good dispositions, and favorable circumstances that Peter had: can you then presume on being more safe than he was? Remember that the spirit is ready, but the flesh is weak. Past experience should convince you that the flesh is weak.

These words, *the spirit is ready*, may mean two things. In the first place, they may signify that you have made good resolutions in your mind. But Peter did the same, yet he fell. In the second place, *the spirit is ready*, may mean that the evil spirit Satan, is always watchful and ready to tempt you, when you are least upon your guard. Emboldened by the weakness of your corrupt nature, he will succeed in effecting your ruin. *Therefore watch and pray, lest you fall into temptation.*

Do not presume on your age, or long duration in the service of God, and much less on your dignity, if you are raised above others.

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY February 25	2nd SUNDAY IN LENT	V	7:00 am 10:00 am	George Welker & Family Missa pro Populo
MONDAY February 26	FERIAL DAY	V	8:00 am 7:00 pm	Special Intention Requiem Mass, followed by Rosary and St. Joseph's Litany.
TUESDAY February 27	St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, C	W	8:00 am	Maria Da Silva (L)
WEDNESDAY February 28	FERIAL DAY	V	8:00 am	Charles Mendes, R.I.P.
THURSDAY March 1	FERIAL DAY	V	8:00 am	Special Intention
FRIDAY March 2	Sacred Heart Mass Commemoration of Ferial Day FIRST FRIDAY	W	8:00 am 7:00 pm	Michael Dolan, R.I.P. STATIONS OF THE CROSS
SATURDAY March 3	Immaculate Heart of Mary (August 22) FIRST SATURDAY	W	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Ron & Stephanie McGuire SEVEN SORROWS DEVOTION
SUNDAY March 4	3rd SUNDAY IN LENT (St. Casimir, C.)	V	7:00 am 10:00 am	Intentions of the Superior Missa pro Populo

For those wishing to have Masses said, an expected stipend of at least \$20.00 must be paid at the time of the request. (more may be offered) If this is to be paid by check, make the check payable to Fr. Rodriguez



February 25th	NO MASS	
March 4th	5:00 pm	Fr. Rodriguez
March 11th	5:00 pm	Fr. Rodriguez
March 18th	NO MASS	

MASS TIMES AT ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

1520 Delaware St, Paulsboro, New Jersey 08066

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

For information: Call Mary at 856-228-4450 or Miriam at 856-456-4232

www.stmarychapel.org

*“Heart of Mary, Tabernacle of God Incarnate,
Pray for us.”*

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR BOYS: will have a meeting on March 4th after 10:00 o'clock Mass.

SEVEN SORROWS DEVOTION: On Saturdays during Lent at 5:00 pm.

REPARATION TO THE HOLY FACE: First and second Sunday of the month we will begin at 9:30 A.M. (before the Holy Rosary), and the other Sundays will be immediately after 10:00 o'clock Mass.

REQUIEM EVENING MASS: We will continue our regular Requiem Mass on Mondays. 7 P.M.

CATECHISM FOR ADULTS: We will continue the catechism classes for adults every Sunday after 10:00 A.M. Mass.

Satan tempts more violently those who have served God longer, and are conspicuous for their virtue and position in society. Because this evil spirit knows that the fall of God's great servants is more deeply dishonorable to their Master, more grievously injurious to their souls, causes more scandal to their neighbors, and consequently is more difficult to repair. These evil effects are intensified, when the person falls from a high eminence. The higher the eminence, the more fatal the injury. Conclude from all this to have-

I. A sincere and profound distrust of yourself. Reflect seriously that the flesh is weak. Man is flesh, and flesh is corruption. This is vile enough. We are so very weak that we cannot have a good thought, we cannot utter a useful word, we cannot perform a virtuous action, without a special assistance from God. St. Paul teaches this doctrine as an article of Christian belief. Do you really believe these sacred truths? If you do not, you have already fallen, deep enough in the snares of the spirit of pride, and a deeper and more fatal abyss is yawning under your feet. If you believe these Christian maxims, show it practically by distrusting your own judgment in the affairs of

your conscience, and of your eternal salvation.

Do not consider yourself more wise than those who, by their age, experience, virtue, knowledge, or dignity, are by God intended to be your superiors and advisers. Remember that "*pride goeth before destruction, and the spirit is lifted up before a fall*" (Prov. xvi, 18.)

Fear your inconstancy in the practice of virtue; dread your innate inclination to evil; be upon your guard against self-love, and self-conceit; take alarm at the innumerable enemies of your soul by whom you are continually surrounded. You cannot escape their snares or withstand their assaults, except through a special grace and protection of God. Therefore draw the second conclusion which is the—

II. Absolute necessity of prayer. Learn this necessity of prayer from the repeated examples and commands of our divine Lord and Master, Who said: *Pray always without ceasing*. Peter fell because he neglected prayer, and neglected prayer because he had too much confidence in his own strength and good resolutions. Learn, then, at his expense to be humble, and humility will teach you to pray. God will help those

who have recourse to Him. Grace is obtained and preserved through prayer. If we neglect prayer, we reject God's grace. With fervent and persevering prayer, we can provide for all our wants. Prayer will bring light to our mind, strength to our will, life to our spirit, sanctification and salvation to our soul. As fuel nourishes fire and prevents its becoming extinguished, so prayer preserves the fervor of our spirit, and hinders our soul from falling into that dangerous state of tepidity which is very difficult to cure, and which often leads to the commission of grievous crimes, and to final reprobation.

III. The third lesson we have to learn from St. Peter's conversion is, **the immediate and total flight from the occasion of sin**. As soon as he was made sensible of his fall, Peter forthwith turned his back upon his tempters, and went away from the occasion of his sins. If you have followed Peter in his fall, imitate the example of his conversion. Flight from the occasion of sin will be the proof of the sincerity of your repentance. Remember the infallible words of the Holy Ghost: "*He that loveth danger shall perish in it.*" (Ecclus. iii, 27.)

Taken from: *The Voice of Jesus Suffering*,
By a Passionist Missionary Priest, (1877)

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