

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus is Led Before Pilate and Accused

(The voice of Jesus)

The dawn of the day of human redemption, so ardently desired by me, at last appeared. My enemies rejoiced, because they wished to satisfy their hatred against me. But their malice was used by me to forward the designs of my mercy. This day had been fixed from eternity for the redemption of mankind, through my crucifixion and death.

On this day, man was to be reconciled with God through my divine blood. The earth was to be united with heaven. The gates of heaven, shut up by sin, were to be opened with the key of the Cross. By order of Caiphas, the supreme pontiff, the high-priests, the doctors of the law, the scribes, and elders of the people, were very early summoned to the ecclesiastical court in the Sanhedrim. This was done in order to rectify the sentence of death pronounced against me on the previous night, which was invalid, because contrary to the Jewish laws, both on account of the time, and of the defect in the character required for such an assembly.

My enemies were so anxious to accelerate my death, that very early in the morning they were found gathered in great numbers at the appointed place. This ecclesiastical court was about half a mile from the house of Caiphas. Caiphas briefly stated to them the pressing object of their early meeting. They unanimously agreed on my condemnation to death.

I was brought before this numerous assembly. The trial of the previous night was hastily repeated. I was again interrogated whether *"I was the Christ, the Son of God."* (Luke, xxii, 66.) Knowing well their fixed determination not to believe my words, I gave them to understand that their secret dispositions were manifest to me: from which they should have concluded that I was God, because I could penetrate the inmost thoughts and secret designs of their hearts. After this

salutary lesson, I openly declared again that *"I was the Son of God, and that hereafter they should see me sitting at the right hand of the power of God."*

As I expected, they all shouted aloud that I was guilty of death, that no more witnesses were needed, that the trial was concluded, and I should die. The whole assembly stood up. I was closely bound with cords and manacles, and, in this painful and humiliating condition, I was hurried to the palace of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, who alone had then the right to confirm the sentence of death pronounced by the Sanhedrim.

Consider, my child, how deep was the ignominy which I had to endure, when bound like the worst of malefactors, surrounded by armed soldiers, followed by the high-priests, by the doctors of the law, and by the ancients of the people, through the crowded streets of Jerusalem, I was brought before a pagan governor, who had to pronounce capital sentence against the most dangerous culprits, guilty of the most atrocious crimes. This humiliating spectacle moved the heart even of the traitor Judas. For judging from my condition that death was for me the inevitable consequence of his treason, he repented of his crime, went before the high-priests and acknowledged having betrayed an innocent man. But these impious persons, instead of listening with kindness to Juda's sorrowful confession, and encouraging his conversion, they, with harshness, plunged him more deeply into despair with these contemptuous words: *"What is that to us? Look thou to it."*

Scandalized and discouraged by this heartless conduct of the Jewish priests, Judas threw on the pavement of the temple the thirty pieces of silver, went immediately outside of the city, and hung himself on a tree. Behold, my child, how the world and the devil treat their deluded followers, when these are, in consequence of their crimes, reduced to misery and despair. If Judas, instead of going to his false friends, had come to me and asked

March 4, 2018

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of LENT
Volume 6 Issue 9



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 17, 2018. And I've sent a list for Bp. Morello.

Offering of Holy Communion As Viaticum

My God! If I am to die today, or suddenly at any time, I wish to receive this Communion as my Viaticum. I desire that my last food may be the Body and Blood of my Saviour and Redeemer; my last words, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; my last affection, an act of pure love of God and of perfect contrition for my sins; my last consolation, to die in Thy holy grace and in Thy holy love.

Amen.

my pardon, I would most gladly have forgiven him. But, yielding to the evil spirit, he gave himself up to despair, and went away from me.

Affectation for the observance of the law prevented my enemies from entering the house of the Roman governor, when I was brought before him. In this particular instance, the Jewish priests and doctors of the law justified and confirmed the severity of my reproach against them, when I said: "*Hypocrites! you strain at a gnat and swallow a camel.*" They scrupled entering the house of a pagan lest they should contract a legal stain, and be thus prevented from eating the passover, which was only my figure; yet they had no remorse of conscience in condemning me to a most unjust and cruel death. Oh! how blind man is when deluded by prejudice and passion!

Pilate, respecting their religious scruples, came out upon a balcony, and asked my persecutors what accusation they had to prefer against me. Having heard what they had to say, he reentered the house, came to me and began his examination. My answer appeared satisfactory to the governor. He was desirous of securing my acquittal. But I was more anxious for the salvation of men than for my deliverance from death. After having, in a few words, demonstrated my innocence, I resolved to keep a profound silence. Pilate urged me to speak, promising a favorable sentence. But I preferred to give to all men an example of meekness and patience, and a practical proof that I had no fear of death.

He was evidently struck and edified at my conduct. He conceived a great esteem for me. He was convinced of my innocence, and perceived that I was a calumniated victim of the envy and malice of my enemies. Pilate was resolved to deliver me from their hands. With this intention, he returned to the balcony, publicly declaring my innocence, and pleading for my acquittal.

This unexpected turn in my favor excited the fury of my disappointed persecutors, who invented new calumnies against me. They accused me before the governor of corrupting the people and exciting them against the Roman empire, of refusing to pay the tribute to Caesar, of my pretension to the kingdom of Judea, and of my attempts to make myself a king. Observe how my enemies change tactics

according to circumstances. Before their own ecclesiastical court I was accused of blasphemy against God, and of disrespect against their religion and temple, but they uttered not a word about my supposed disposition to rebellion. Now, before the Roman governor, they accuse me of disloyalty and sedition. They knew the falsity of their accusations. But, with premeditated malice, my persecutors adapted their calumnies to the prejudices of the judges, in the hope of obtaining my condemnation.

Ah! what wonder if my faithful servants have been, and are, at this present day, treated like me, their divine Master. I could, by well known facts, have demonstrated my innocence of all these imputed crimes. Pilate was favorably disposed towards me, but I chose to observe a profound silence. Among the whole Jewish nation, so highly favored by me, not one single voice was raised in my behalf. The Roman governor declared me innocent. But human policy, and a due regard for the rights of oppressed justice, do not always agree.

PRACTICAL REFLECTIONS

Consider the false repentance of Judas. He was evidently sorry for his treason, he confessed his crime, proclaimed the innocence of his divine Master, made restitution of his ill-gotten money, but his end was very wretched. He fell into despair, and committed suicide by hanging. Upon this subject St. Leo, the Pope, remarks that "*Judas, according to the prophecy of holy David, was so perverse even in the attempt of his conversion, that his prayer became sinful, and his penance, by hanging, was turned into a fatal crime.*" (Serm.25, de Pass)

I. The most serious defect in the repentance of Judas was lack of confidence in God's mercy, and his consequent refusal to ask the pardon of his divine Master, betrayed by him. Had he humbled himself, had he acknowledged his guilt, and asked our Saviour's pardon, Judas would have found mercy. But he refused to go to the fountain of grace, he preferred the broken cisterns of Jesus' enemies; hence, his repentance was not only useless, but positively injurious to his soul.

II. Christian sinners imitate the conduct of Judas in this respect, when they neglect, or refuse to make, a sacramental confession of their sins to the legitimate ministers of Jesus Christ, from whom they can obtain pardon. Yet

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY March 4	3rd SUNDAY of LENT St. Casimir, C and St. Lucius I, PM	V	7:00 am 10:00 am	Intentions of the Superior Missa pro Populo
MONDAY March 5	FERIAL DAY	V	8:00 am 7:00 pm	Special Intention Requiem Mass, followed by Rosary and St. Joseph's Litany.
TUESDAY March 6	St. Perpetua & Felicity, Mm	R	8:00 am	Nancy Turner, R.I.P
WEDNESDAY March 7	St. Thomas Aquinas, CD	W	8:00 am	Robert & Christine di Cecco, R.I.P.
THURSDAY March 8	St. John of God, C	W	8:00 am	Special Intention
FRIDAY March 9	St. Frances of Rome, W Commemoration of Ferial Day	W	8:00 am 7:00 pm	Frank Cerra, R.I.P. STATIONS OF THE CROSS
SATURDAY March 10	Forty Holy Martyrs	R	7:00 am 5:00 pm	Gretchen Parella SEVEN SORROWS DEVOTION
SUNDAY March 11	4th SUNDAY of LENT	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



March 4th	5:00 pm	Fr. Rodriguez.
March 11th	5:00 pm	Fr. Rodriguez
March 18th	NO MASS	
March 25th	9:30 am	Fr. Bachtiger

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

Grant, Lord Jesus Christ, that we who devoutly worship Thy five most precious Wounds, may keep them deeply impressed upon our hearts both in our life and in our deeds.

Glory be (five times). An Indulgence of 3 years. The Raccolta

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: there will be a Altar Boy meeting this Sunday after 10:00 O'clock Mass.

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

REPARATION TO THE HOLY FACE: First and second Sunday of the month we will begin at 9:30am (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 at 7:00 P.M.

CATECHISM FOR ADULTS: we are continuing the catechism classes for adults every Sunday after 10:00 A.M. Mass.

they will declare them to confidential friends, or to spurious ministers of false religions. No wonder that they die in their sins. For, those who abandon the fountain of life, shall have to fall into the arms of death.

We cannot too often take notice of the striking difference between the repentance of St. Peter, and the despair of Judas. Judging, as the world does, from mere external appearances, the betrayal of Judas seems to be by far a more pardonable fault, than the three denials of Peter. We see Judas embracing Jesus, saluting Him as his Master, and kissing Him. So far, we perceive nothing externally wrong. But, on the contrary, we hear Peter positively denying Jesus, whom Judas has embraced and kissed. Moreover, Peter confirms his denial by perjury and solemn imprecations. Yet, in spite of all this, Peter is converted, Peter is raised in dignity and power above all the apostles. He is made the Vicar of Jesus Christ upon earth, the visible head of His Church, with full spiritual jurisdiction over all souls, and with unlimited power of opening and shutting the gates of heaven.

Whence this striking difference? From three causes, namely:

1st. The crime of Judas was an effect of deep-rooted habit; it was committed with malicious premeditation and studied hypocrisy. But the denial of Peter was a sin of surprise, contrary to his habitual dispositions. Peter fell through weakness of nature, not through malice of his own will. He revealed to St. Bridget that the cause of his fall was the momentary forgetfulness of his previous resolution, and of the promise made to his divine Master. (*Lib. 4, cap. v, Revel.*)

St. Hilary and St. Ambrose affirm that Peter did not deny the divinity of his Master, but spoke in an evasive and ambiguous manner about the man: "*I know not the man,*" whom the Jews pretend to be a sacrilegious criminal. According to the opinion of these holy and learned Fathers, the denial of Peter was equivalent to these words: "*I know not the wicked criminal of whom you speak. For Jesus of Nazareth is not a criminal.*" (*St. 1-lilar. et Ambros. in cap. xxii, Luc.*) St. Cyril, of Jerusalem, goes even farther by saying, that Peter did not deny his Master through fear, but through love, because he did not wish to be banished by the Jews from the presence of our Lord, and thus be prevented from witnessing their conduct towards Him. (*Lib. ii, in Joan. cap. 41.*)

2nd. Peter, no doubt, committed a grievous sin, because he denied his Master externally with his words. But he never lost his faith in Him within his heart. For we learn from the Gospel, that, after the second crow of the cock, *Peter remembered the words of Jesus and felt bitterly sorry*, and at last a merciful look from Him completely converted this apostle. Judas, on the contrary seems to have forgotten, his Master. Again, Peter after his denial abandoned the company of Jesus' enemies; but Judas after his treason returned to them.

3rd. Peter preserved his confidence in the mercy of his divine Master, repented, did penance, and obtained a most complete pardon; Judas fell into despair, believed his crime superior to the mercy of Jesus, and hung himself to a tree. These are the principal causes of the reprobation of Judas, and of St. Peter's conversion and salvation. May they be a lesson to us all! If, like Judas, we have betrayed our Saviour through sacrilegious communions, or denied our divine Master like Peter, let us promptly imitate this holy apostle in his repentance, and, like him, we shall experience the extent and tenderness of the infinite mercy of Jesus.

*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