

SEEKING THE FATHER'S WILL IN SACRED SCRIPTURE

Mar 6: Lk 13:1-5
Mar 7: Lk 13:22-30
Mar 8: Lk 12:22-34
Mar 9: Lk 12:35-48

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Mar 10: Lk 10:23-28
Mar 11: Lk 10:29-37
Mar 12: Lk 11:1-4
Mar 13: Lk 11:5-8
Mar 14: Lk 11:9-13
Mar 15: Lk 11:27-28
Mar 16: Lk 11:33-36

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Mar 17: Lk 17:1-4
Mar 18: Lk 17:5-10
Mar 19: Lk 17:22-37
Mar 20: Lk 18:9-14
Mar 21: Lk 18:15-17
Mar 22: Lk 18:18-23
Mar 23: Lk 18:24-30

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Mar 24: Lk 18:31-34
Mar 25: Lk 19:41-44
Mar 26: Lk 19:45-48
Mar 27: Lk 20:1-8
Mar 28: Lk 20:9-19
Mar 29: Lk 20:20-26
Mar 30: Lk 20: 27-40

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Mar 31: Lk 21:1-4
Apr 1: Lk 21:5-11
Apr 2: Lk 21:12-19
Apr 3: Lk 21:20-24
Apr 4: Lk 21:34-36
Apr 5: Lk 22:24-30
Apr 6: Lk 22:31-34

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Apr 7: Lk 22:35-38
Apr 8: Lk 22:39-46
Apr 9: Lk 22:47-53
Apr 10: Lk 22:54-65
Apr 11: Lk 23:1-17
Apr 12: Lk 23:18-25
Apr 13: Lk 23:26-32

HOLY WEEK

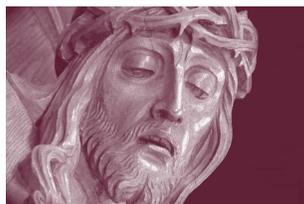
Apr 14: Lk 19:28-48
Apr 15: Lk 22:1-6
Apr 16: Lk 22:7-13
Apr 17: Lk 22:14-23
Apr 18: Lk 23:33-43
Apr 19: Lk 23:44-49
Apr 20: Lk 23:50-56

EASTER SUNDAY

Apr 21: Lk 24:1-12

"Not my will, but Yours be done." - Luke 22:42

Before we look for Jesus on the morning of the Resurrection, we spend these forty days of Lent looking for Jesus in prayer, penance, and charity



Restoration to the Divine image in which we were made is only possible by our imitation of God's will. If, dearly beloved, we comprehend faithfully and wisely the beginning of our creation, we shall find that man was made in God's image, to the end that he might imitate his Creator, and that our race attains its highest natural dignity, by the form of the Divine goodness being reflected in us, as in a mirror. And assuredly to this form the Savior's grace is daily restoring us, so long as that which, in the first Adam fell, is raised up again in the second. And the cause of our restoration is naught else but the mercy of God, Whom we should not have loved, unless He had first loved us, and dispelled the darkness of our ignorance by the light of His truth. And the Lord foretelling this by the holy Isaiah says, "I will bring the blind into a way that they knew not, and will make them walk in paths which they were ignorant of. I will turn darkness into light for them, and the crooked into the straight. These words will I do for them, and not forsake them." And again

FROM SERMON XII OF SAINT LEO THE GREAT

he says, "I was found by them that sought Me not, and openly appeared to them that asked not for Me. And the Apostle John teaches us how this has been fulfilled, when he says. "We know that the Son of God is come, and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and may be in Him that is true, even His Son," and again, "let us therefore love God, because He first loved us." Thus it is that God, by loving us, restores us to His image, and, in order that He may find in us the form of His goodness, He gives us that whereby we ourselves too may do the work that He does, kindling that is the lamps of our minds, and inflaming us with the fire of His love, that we may love not only Himself, but also whatever He loves. For if between men that is the lasting friendship which is based upon similarity of character notwithstanding that such identity of wills is often directed to wicked ends, how ought we to yearn and strive to differ in nothing from what is pleasing to God. Of which the prophet speaks, "for wrath is in His indignation, and life in His pleasure," because we shall not otherwise attain the dignity of the Divine

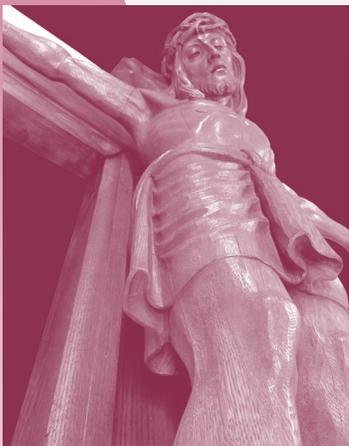
Majesty, unless we imitate His will.

We must love both God and our neighbor, and "our neighbor" must be interpreted in its widest sense. And so, when the Lord says, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, from all thy heart and from all thy mind: and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," let the faithful soul put on the unfading love of its Author and Ruler, and subject itself also entirely to His will in Whose works and judgments true justice and tender-hearted compassion never fail. For although a man be wearied out with labors and many misfortunes, there is good reason for him to endure all in the knowledge that adversity will either prove him good or make him better. But this Godly love cannot be perfect unless a man love his neighbor also. Under which name must be included not only those who are connected with us by friendship or neighborhood, but absolutely all men, with whom we have a common nature, whether they be foes or allies, slaves or free. For the One Maker fashioned us, the One Creator breathed life into us.



Looking for Jesus in Confession

During Lent, we approach the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as the way of returning to the Father who restores for us the dignity of our Baptism and the full privilege of being adopted as His children. An integral confession calls us to spend time examining our conscience, not only remembering those material sins which we have committed, but also allowing God's Spirit to probe the depths of our hearts to uncover our unrecognized wounds and unclaimed motives. Discerning why we commit the sins in our life helps us to be open more



Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Grant me the grace to be renewed during this observance of Holy Lent. Armed with prayer, penance, and almsgiving, may I lay aside those things which hinder my search for You!

fully to the redeeming work of Christ through this Sacrament. The most important component of Confession is contrition, sorrow for our sins, which comes only when we make a good and honest self-examination before we enter the confessional.

PRAYER

Have I prayed as I ought? Has God been at the center of my life? How I have ignored God and His divine inspiration? Have I listened attentively to God's voice in the Sacred Liturgy? Have I been faithful to my obligation for Sunday Mass and Holy Days? Do I prepare myself and those entrusted to my care for Mass? Am I lazy or complacent in prayer? Do I pray for my loved ones and my enemies? Is my prayer self-centered? Have I explored the rich spirituality of the Catholic Tradition and its many ways of devotion? Do I spend time in prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament?

PENANCE

Have I made Fridays throughout the year a day of penance? If I eat meat, do I do another act of penance? Do I fast throughout the year? Do I willingly abstain from those unnecessary things which clutter my life? Does noise make me deaf to others and to God? Am I aware of the ways in which my sins make me unworthy of my wonderful

vocation as a Christian? Am I humbled by the love and goodness of God in my life? Do I see my faith as a gift and not a burden? Do I receive Holy Communion worthily? Do I have a sense of entitlement or superiority? Do I exercise my body and mind? Do I live a healthy lifestyle?

CHARITY

Do I give of myself freely and generously to others? Do I forgive those who have harmed me? Do I give others the benefit of the doubt? Do I judge the motives of others? Am I faithful to my obligations to my family, to my parish, to those in need? Do I give from my surplus or my want? Do I trust that God will reward a cheerful giver? Am I sensitive to the sufferings of others? Do I allow myself to acknowledge the many persons I encounter each day? Do I hold opinions which bring harm to others? Do I make decisions which are contrary to Catholic moral teaching? Do I desire the admiration and praise of others? Do I love myself enough to study and grow in my faith? Have I been a good steward of creation and the created goods entrusted to me?



Looking for Jesus in Lenten Traditions

The following are the guidelines for the observance of Lent:

PRAYING. Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Sacred Scripture. Spiritual reading, such as the lives of the saints, and devotions like the Stations of the Cross and the Holy Rosary are helpful to spiritual growth. Lent is also an ideal time to receive properly the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

FASTING. Catholics aged 14 and older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics aged 18-59 are required to fast, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day not equal to the full meal.

ALMSGIVING. Moved by the sacrifice of Christ and the suffering of humanity, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more upon God's abundant grace. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy provide ample inspiration for other ways to sacrifice time and resources for those most in need of help.