

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTIETH YEAR VOLUME IV

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MARCH, APRIL 2022



REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,
March 16, 2022

PLEASE GATHER AT
Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine
St. Anne's Dining Hall
10:00AM

Mass/Holy Hour/Luncheon

SPEAKER:

Rev. Robert Franco
Pastor
St. Peter Parish
North Ridgeville

The luncheon is included in your dues as Active Members. We presume the presence of Active Members at each Luncheon, however, due to the fact that we have not been meeting, we would ask that ALL members, Active and Sustaining who plan on attending the luncheon to kindly call or text the Registration Chairman, Diana Capretta, 216-396-0358, to make a reservation. Reservations should be made by noon on Wednesday, March 9th.

Sister needs an accurate count a week prior to the luncheon to order the food.

Thank you!

President's Corner

YES LORD, YES LORD, YES YES LORD!!

"YES"... in this time of the liturgical year, our word of yes is quite important. We think of St Joseph on March 19 with his word of "Yes" to God to be the adopted father of the Incarnate Son of God. We think on March 25 the Annunciation of the Lord when the Virgin Mary was visited by the Angel Gabriel giving her the call by God to be the mother of His Son. "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according your your Word." She said, "Yes." Both Mary and Joseph, in humility and obedience, accepted the Will of God and fully surrendered in love to Love.

As Avilas, we pray for this "Yes" to be spoken in the heart and soul by those God called to a vocation to the priestly or religious life. We pray for those already serving to be sustained by God's grace for their total sacrifice to God and others. We pray for those discerning God's call to say "Yes" freely and completely. However, there is a "Yes" for all of us. We are all called to holiness and to say "Yes" to God daily in our state of life.

May the examples of St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother with the help of their intercession give us grace to be holy, humble, obedient and to always trust, surrender and say "Yes" to the Will of God in our lives as they did.

GOD'S WILL...(Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.)

As Lent begins soon, let us consider saying "Yes" to redoubling our prayer, sacrifice, and fasting for vocations and for our priests.

*Peace in Jesus and Mary,
Marlyn Tunnell*



DID YOU KNOW? VEILING

Veiling is seeing a definite upswing throughout the country. When Catholics refer to 'veiling', they simply mean a woman's act of covering her head during Mass. Often it refers to using a mantilla or chapel veil, but it can also mean wearing a hat. With a new sense of freedom after Vatican II, many women threw away their veils. Now they seem to be back in style (even though they are not meant to be a "fashion" item). A recent poll revealed why women veil.

- out of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament
- because it is Catholic tradition
- as a symbol of modesty
- the Church veils things that are sacred
- as a remedy against vanity

Covering one's head does not demean a woman. It elevates her as precious in the eyes of God. Women are very special in the eyes of God. He made them to nurture new life and to be complimentary partner to men. The most special woman ever born was Mary, the Mother of God. When she said "yes" to Him at the Annunciation, she showed us how we should react when asked to do something for God. If you look at pictures or statues of Mary, you will see that she has her head covered. As it was a social norm for Jewish women of her time to cover their heads, it is safe to assume she wore one. Many of her virtues, such as humility, modesty, chastity, and obedience can be expressed through veiling. Saying "yes" to God, no matter what He asks and showing that we understand He created us in a special way by wearing a veil, are two ways we can honor Him.

As the beautiful flowers in God's garden, women and girls can put on a veil to show that they know they are His. Wearing a veil can also help when we are trying to concentrate during Mass. Wearing a veil can keep you on track – just like using Rosary beads to pray can keep you focused on what you're supposed to be doing. Wearing a veil is a way to show what's going on inside (your thoughts and prayers). Wearing a veil shows in a special way that a woman belongs to God.



Anthony Czup

Greg Evans

Ginny Fox

Colleen and Connor Gibson

Bret Kratichvil

Mary Ann Trask's grandson

Ellen Newcomb

Rose Saraniti

Arch Tunnell

David Tunnell



**For prayer requests contact Joan Evans at
joanevans1130ad@gmail.com or
440-331-2383.**



**The family and friends of
long-time Avila member
Patricia Hesland.**

Avila Roster Corrections:

**Ross Federico
federir@ccf.org**

**BISHOP'S SEMINARY BRUNCH
Sunday, March 20, 2022
Landerhaven
12Noon—3:00PM
Tickets: \$50.00 per person**

**If you are interested in attending,
please contact Marlyn Tunnell
at 440-442-7538.**

**God Bless,
Susan Federico
Publicity and Scripture Resource**



“There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived.” *Saint Teresa of Avila*

March 2022

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups

March	6, 2022	Sisters of the Humility of Mary (HM)
March	13, 2022	Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe) (IHM)
March	20, 2022	Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton) (IHM)
March	27, 2022	Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI)
April	3, 2022	Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (SIW)

THE BEST LENT EVER



Every Ash Wednesday, many of us say to ourselves, “I am going to make THIS Lent the best ever!” Then on Palm Sunday, many of us feel we have fallen short. Again. During this crazy time in the world, God is calling us to return to what is of Him: prayer, time with our families and friends, service to our parish and communities. He is calling us to lean into our faith for strength and a resolve. “He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits” (Mark 6:7). We are called to do similar work. As children of God, as His disciples, it is our calling to share His truth, pray for others and care for those around us. The Apostles were probably the most unqualified group of people, but Jesus chose them. He chooses us, too, in all our brokenness. He chooses us every day.

Lent is an ideal time to find occasions in our everyday lives to mortify ourselves. For example, through our contact with others we can find occasion to do away with our selfishness. Especially during this holy season, God asks us also for special mortifications and penance which we offer cheerfully: fasting and abstinence. These offerings, in addition to our personal sufferings, can bring us closer to Him and give a special joy to the soul. God wants from us a genuine sorrow for our sins which we manifest above all by going to Confession and by doing small deeds of mortification and penance out of love. Say often during the day, “A clean heart create for me, O God; renew within me a steadfast spirit” (Psalm 51:12). Each of us must develop a specific plan of sacrifices to offer to God every day during Lent. We cannot let this time go by without nurturing in our souls a deep desire to return to the Lord with all your heart like the prodigal son.

As always, we must remember our priests during this holy time of year. Reflecting on the notion of priesthood radiating “the love of the heart of Jesus,” Pope Benedict XVI wrote, “The expression of St. John Vianney also makes us think of Christ’s pierced Heart and the crown of thorns which surrounds it. I also think, therefore, of the countless situations of suffering endured by many priests, either because they themselves share in the manifold human experience of pain or because they encounter misunderstanding from the very persons to whom they minister.” Perhaps we can consider dedicating the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary for priests.

Finally, pray with true discernment and fight with everything you have to overcome whatever is holding you back this Lent. “Then he said to all, ‘If any man wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me’” (Luke 9:23). The road is tough and narrow. Nothing is easy, but there is nothing easy about carrying a cross. “How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few” (Matthew 7:14). No matter what is going on in our lives, God has infinite graces waiting for us just for the asking. This Lent, resurrect the true meaning of this holy time. Don’t just observe Lent this year. Do it right this time! Live it!



"There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived." *Saint Teresa of Avila*

April 2022

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups
in your Holy Hour this month:

April	3, 2022	Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (SIW)
April	10, 2022	Society of Jesus (Detroit Province) (SJ)
April	17, 2022	Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ)
April	24, 2022	Sisters of St. Joseph (CSJ)
May	1, 2022	Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Mark (Cleveland) (SJSM)

JESUS' DIVINE MERCY

Holy Thursday marks the end of Lent. We meditate on the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. When we see the image of Jesus on the cross, we see the wound from the lance that the soldier pierced His Heart with. Blood and water came forth. When we see the image of Divine Mercy Jesus, we see the rays of blood and water – mercy and grace – red and white - coming forth from His Heart. He suffered horribly and died an excruciating death to open the gates of Heaven – all for us. It is through His mercy and grace that we are saved. Saint Pope John Paul II declared the first Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. What a wonderful feast it is! And in so doing, he declared Sister Faustina a saint. The Divine Mercy is a form of God's compassion and grace, referring specifically to a devotion based on the apparitions of Jesus to Sister Faustina Kowalska in early 20th century Poland. As a person, as a country, as a world, do we not need God's mercy more and more in these times? For the sake of our souls, can we afford not to listen to what Jesus told us through St. Faustina about his mercy and what our response to it should be? Pope Benedict told us "It is a really central message for our time: Mercy as the force of God, as the divine limit against the evil of the world."

Throughout life you will be hurt by the sins of others. This is inevitable. The real question to ponder is what you do with this hurt. Will you hold onto it and brew over it? Or will you forgive? But forgiveness is not enough. You must let the Divine Mercy enter your soul that you not only forgive, but also allow this Mercy to fill your heart with compassion. You must let God's Mercy inspire you to love deeply. You must come to pray for those who have hurt you and, in doing so, dispense the grace of God to them. You are a dispenser of God's Mercy when you allow forgiveness to flow from your heart to the hearts of those who have hurt you.

Humbly ponder your calling to be a dispenser of the compassion of the Heart of Jesus to those who have sinned against you. This is a high calling and requires deep surrender and love. But it is the only way to freedom and is the only way God's Mercy will fill your own soul.

Encountering Jesus in your soul will have the effect of leading you to long for more. The desire for Him, the desire for more, stretches us and enables us to receive more of His Mercy every day.

Spend time, this day, looking at your heart. Is it daily being stretched by the abundant Mercy of God? Do you see your soul being filled each day to the point that it feels like bursting with gratitude and overflowing with love? If not, know that God wants to pour this abundance of Mercy into your life.

Mercy is given in numerous ways. Among the many channels of Mercy, seek it through God's holy priests. Let His priests listen to you, speak to you and direct you. They are given a special grace to direct souls. The priesthood is one of the most visible channels of Mercy in our world. Call to mind the priests God has placed in your life. Pray for them, support them and encourage them, but also be open to the ways God pours forth His Mercy on you through them. God comes to you through them in countless ways if you but have eyes to see and ears to hear. Pray for priests and let God speak to you through them.