

## MONDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. Mary is a pattern of faith. She looked upon her Babe in the stable of Bethlehem, saw Him flee from Herod, saw Him persecuted throughout life, saw His cross, His death; and she firmly believed this Child to be the King of heaven and earth.

2. Thou, too, shouldst have such a lively faith. Perform all thy tasks in the contemplation of God; pray, work, suffer, because God wills it.

### PRAY

O Mother of the faithful, Holy Mary, help me to live through the faith, to use the faith given me in holy baptism as the motive of all my actions, and to follow all its precepts, so that I may ever become more and more virtuous. Amen.

*Let us pray to obtain through our Blessed Mother the virtue of faith.*

### PRACTICE

Recite the acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity, today, in honor of Mary, and make this one of the devotions which you will resolve to practice in her honor.

*O Mary, by the love thou didst bear to Jesus Christ, help me to love Him. – St. Brigid*

## TUESDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. From faith springs the virtue of hope and desire to possess God. Thou mayest see how great this virtue was in Mary, if thou considerest but a few acts of her life.

2. Because of her firm trust in God, Mary is called the Mother of holy Hope. If thou shouldst ever become faint-hearted because of thy sins, turn to Mary.

### PRAY

O Mary, my sweet hope, be praised, and give me the joy ever to honor thee as the foundation of all my hope. If doubts come, if I become dejected and faint-hearted, then hasten to help me, that I may not fall. In particular, assist me in the hour of my death,

that I may not lose my trust in the goodness and mercy of God nor my love of thy Divine Son. Amen.

*Let us pray to obtain an unfaltering hope in God through the petition of our Blessed Mother.*

### PRACTICE

Excite within you a great reverence for Mary, and avoid every thing that would indicate a want of due respect. Always remember that although Mary be a creature, she is infinitely superior to all other creatures. They are the servants of God: SHE IS HIS MOTHER.

*Hail, Daughter of God the Father! Hail, Mother of God the Son! Hail, Spouse of the Holy Ghost! Hail, Temple of the Most Holy Trinity! – Simon Garcia*

## WEDNESDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. “Pray without ceasing” (Luke xviii. I). From no one else can we receive a better example of this regard than from Mary.

2. Since Mary loved prayer so much, she possessed an interior love of seclusion, knowing well that he who associates much with men can converse little with God.

### PRAY

Holiest of Virgins, loving Mother Mary, I earnestly desire a love of prayer and seclusion such as thou didst possess. Cause my heart to turn ever more from creatures to the Creator, and to find in conversation with Him my only true joy. Amen.

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may obtain the grace of continual and devout prayer.*

### PRACTICE

On this day beg of Mary, with peculiar earnestness, to procure for you the grace of a happy death. It is a most salutary practice of pious Christians to set apart one day in each month, in which they make a preparation for death. If circumstances prevent you from adopting this practice, you can at least have no difficulty, when preparing

for the sacraments, to make the thought of death influence you in a particular manner once a month. “Blessed is the man,” says the devout A’Kempis, “that has always death before his eyes, and every day disposes himself to die.”

*Open to us the gate of mercy, O Holy Mother of God! – St. John of Damascus*

## THURSDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. To secure a firm foundation for perfect union with God, the mortification of one’s external senses is necessary. Mary knew this, for she renounced all earthly things.

2. This mortification must be constant, because self-love cannot be mortified at once. Mary, therefore, guarded her senses with the greatest care and excluded all vain impressions.

### PRAY

O Mary, rightly called Our Lady of Victory, because like thy Divine Son thou hast gloriously overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, help me in the battle against myself and the enemies of my soul, to gain the crown prepared for me. Amen.

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may obtain the virtue of mortification.*

### PRACTICE

Offer up a prayer for the diffusion of the Catholic faith.

*As the eyes of the handmaid are turned toward her mistress, so are my eyes turned to thee, O Holy Mother of God!*

## FRIDAY IN LENT III THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS

### PONDER

1. Attachment to earthly things is a great hindrance to union with God. Endeavor to detach thy heart from all creatures and transitory objects.

2. This detachment from all creatures does not consist therein that one hate them, because everything

which God created is good; but it consists therein, as the Apostle says, “to possess them, as though one did not possess them” (I Cor. vii. 30).

### PRAY

O good Mother Mary, help me to subject myself entirely to God, willingly to give Him all that I am and have, and being detached from all temporal things for love of Him, to strive for the perpetual possession of the highest good. Amen.

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may obtain the grace of detachment from creatures.*

### PRACTICE

Visit some sick person, in honor of Mary.

*To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve!*

## SATURDAY IN LENT III

### PONDER

1. Mary mortified herself; she was detached from all creatures; therefore the love of God could reign completely in her heart.

2. Because Mary had so great a love toward God, she surely desires nothing so much from her clients, as that they also love God as much as they are able.

### PRAY

“Ah, Mary, thou Queen of love, of all creatures the most amiable, the most beloved, and the most loving, as St. Francis de Sales addressed thee—my own sweet Mother, thou was always and in all things inflamed with love toward God; deign, then, to bestow at least a spark of it on me. Thou didst pray thy Son for the spouses whose wine failed: ‘They have no wine.’ Wilt thou not pray for us, in whom the love of God, Whom we are under such obligations to love, is wanting? Say also, ‘They have no love,’ and obtain for us this love. This is the only grace for which we ask. O Mother, by the love thou bearest to Jesus, graciously hear and pray for us. Amen” (St. Alphonsus).

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may receive the love of God.*

### PRACTICE

Recommend to the heart of Mary some one of your friends, whom you know to be living in the habit of mortal sin, or in the neglect of the positive duties of religion.

*Let those be silent in thy praise, O Sacred Refuge of Sinners, who have not experienced thy mercy!*

– St. Bernard

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### PONDER

1. The true love of God consists in the performance of all things for love of Him. The greatest deed has no value in God’s sight if it has not been done for love.

2. The love of God shows itself also in suffering. When Jesus was about to die for us, He said: “I go, that the world may know that I love the Father” (John xiv. 31).

### PRAY

O Mary, teacher of love, teach me to love God as thou lovest Him, and to show my love, particularly by doing and suffering all for my God as He wills it. I wish to walk the path of troubles and sufferings, and daily to follow thy Divine Son until I obtain the reward of loving God with thee in heaven for all eternity.

*Let us pray that through our Blessed Mother we may obtain the grace to do all things for the love of God.*

### PRACTICE

Give some alms today in honor of Mary. Be thus the comforter of the afflicted, and the help of Christians.

*If thou dost abandon us, what will befall us, O life of Christians! – St. Germanus*

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## Lent with Our Lady 2017

**There never was a more opportune time** than now for the serious consideration of this part of Our Lady’s recommendations: “**MEN MUST AMEND THEIR LIVES, AND ASK PARDON FOR THEIR SINS... MEN MUST NO LONGER OFFEND OUR LORD, WHO IS ALREADY OFFENDED TOO MUCH.**” These were her words at Fatima.

Let us be on guard against sin and cease to offend God. Let us bring about true conversion by sincere penance. This is necessary if we wish to avoid a continued and further chastisement from the hand of God. Will we hearken to the admonition and recommendation of the Mother of God—Our Lady of Fatima?

“**Now, therefore,**” saith the Lord, “**be converted to Me with all your heart, in fasting and in weeping, and in mourning**” (Joel, XI, 12).

## RELIEF FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother most merciful, to thee do we plead the cause of the poor suffering souls in purgatory, especially those most abandoned. In obedience to thy request at Fatima, we beg for their relief. O Mother most merciful, we ask thee to lessen their toll of expiation. Deign to accept our humble prayers and sacrifices in reparation and payment for the punishment that is due from them. We pray that through the treasures of your Divine Son, your own special merits, and those of the saints, that God may be mindful of our prayers on behalf of the suffering souls in Purgatory, and bring them into His Kingdom to love and serve Him forever. Amen.

**Our Lady of Fatima, Mother most merciful, inflame our hearts with the love of Reparation.**

“Keep me company,” Mary’s  
plea  
Ponder, pray, resolve with me