

# Announcements

**Ash Wednesday** – Is a day of fast and abstinence. Everyone 14 years and older is obliged to abstain from meat, and everyone aged 18 – 59 inclusive is obliged to fast (One full meal only and two other small collations that when added do not add up to a full meal). Mass on this day will be preceded by the blessing and distribution of ashes which will take place at **5:30 pm**. Ashes will also be distributed straight after mass. N.B. There will **not** be a mass at 7:30am.

**Catechism Class** – The next confirmation class will take place today after the St. Edmund’s Mass in the Church Hall.

**Day of Confessions** - is one day a year when priests across the Archdiocese devote themselves to celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year, Day of Confessions will be on **Tuesday, March 3**. In the Greater Edmonton Area, the Day of Confessions will be hosted at the following 'hub parishes,' rather than at each individual parish. This will allow confessions to be heard from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with a larger number of priests available at each site:

- St. Joseph's Basilica • Corpus Christi • Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sherwood Park • St. Albert • St. Thomas More • St. John Bosco

## Mass Calendar and Intentions

### Sunday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Quinquagesima Sunday (II Cl)

12:30 pm *High* Lyle Wunderlich † rb B&MK

(St. Edmund's) 4:00 Celebrant's Intention

### Monday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>

Feria (IV Cl)

*No Mass*

### Tuesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>

St. Matthias, Apostle (II Cl)

7:30 am Anthony Manna rb FM

### Wednesday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday (I Cl)

5:30 pm Adriano Botta †

### Thursday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>

Thursday after Ash Wednesday (III Cl)

5:30 pm Leanne Migaldi rb FM

### Friday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

Friday after Ash Wednesday (III Cl)

7:30 am Souls in Purgatory † rb RM

### Saturday, Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>

Saturday after Ash Wednesday (III Cl)

8:00 am Special Intention rb B&MK

### Sunday, Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (I Cl)

12:30 pm *High* Penner Family rb MR

(St. Edmund's) 4:00 pm Ken Perrier † rb SP



## VITAL GRANDIN CHAPLAINCY

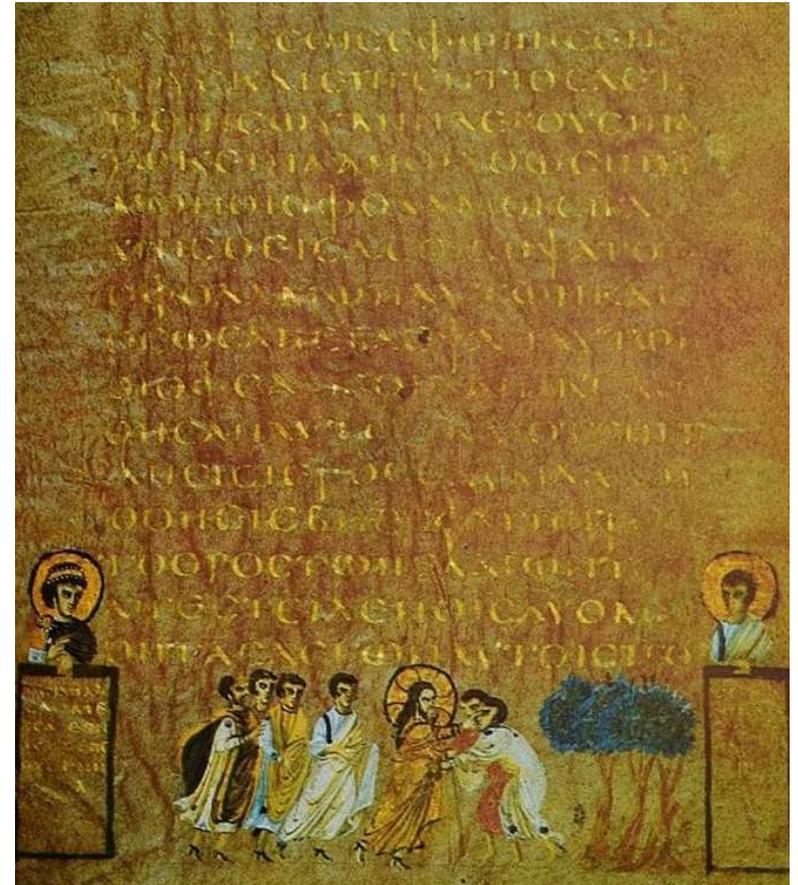
Edmonton Latin Mass Community

ARCHDIOCESE OF EDMONTON

Served by the Priests of the Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP)

## Quinquagesima Sunday

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020



Assumption Parish ♦ 9034 - 95 Avenue

A page from a mid 6<sup>th</sup> century Greek illuminated manuscript showing the events of today's Gospels.

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## The Delusions of Sinners

*Lord, that I may see.* (Lu. 18:41) The Devil brings sinners to hell by closing their eyes to the dangers of perdition. He first blinds them, and then leads them with himself to eternal torments. If, then, we wish to be saved, we must continually pray to God in the words of the blind man in the gospel of this day: *Lord, that I may see.* Give me light: make me see the way in which I must walk in order to save my soul, and to escape the deceits of the enemy of salvation. I shall, brethren, this day place before your eyes the delusion by which the devil tempts men to sin and to persevere in sin, that you may know how to guard yourselves against his deceitful artifices.

To understand these delusions better, let us imagine the case of a young man who, seized by some passion, lives in sin, the slave of Satan, and never thinks of his eternal salvation. My son, I say to him, what sort of life do you lead? If you continue to live in this manner, how will you be able to save your soul? But, behold! the devil, on the other hand, says to him: Why should you be afraid of being lost? Indulge your passions for the present: you will afterwards confess your sins, and thus all shall be remedied. Behold the net by which the devil drags so many souls into hell. "Indulge your passions: you will hereafter make a good confession." But, in reply, I say, that in the meantime you lose your soul. Tell me: if you had a jewel worth a thousand pounds, would you throw it into a river with the hope of afterwards finding it again? What if all your efforts to find it were fruitless? God! you hold in your hand the invaluable jewel of your soul, which Jesus Christ has purchased with his own blood, and you cast it into hell! Yes; you cast it into hell; because according to the present order of providence, for every mortal sin you commit, your name is written among the number of the damned. But you say . "I hope to recover God's grace by making a good confession." And if you should not recover it, what shall be the consequences? To make a good confession, a true sorrow for sin is necessary, and this sorrow is the gift of God: if he does not give it, will you not be lost for ever?

You rejoice: "I am young; God compassionates my youth; I will hereafter give myself to God." Behold another delusion! You are young; but do you not know that God counts, not the years, but the sins of each individual? You are young; but how many sins have you committed? Perhaps there are many persons of a very advanced age, who have not been guilty of the fourth part of the sins which you have committed. And do you not know that God has fixed for each of us the number of sins which he will pardon? *The Lord patiently expecteth, that, when the day of judgment shall come, he may punish them in the fulness of their sins.* (2 Mach. 6:14) God has patience, and waits for a while; but, when the measure of the sins which he has determined to pardon is tilled up, he pardons no more, but chastises the sinner, by suddenly depriving him of life in the miserable state of sin, or by abandoning him in his sin, and executing that threat which he made by the prophet Isaias: *I shall take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be wasted.* (Isa. 5:5)

You say: "I cannot at present resist this passion." Behold the third delusion of the devil, by which he makes you believe that at present you have not strength

to overcome certain temptations. But St. Paul tells us that God is faithful, and that he never permits us to be tempted above our strength. *And God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted above that which you are able.* (1 Cor. 10:13) I ask, if you are not now able to resist the temptation, how can you expect to resist it hereafter? If you yield to it, the Devil will become stronger, and you shall become weaker; and if you be not now able to extinguish this flame of passion, how can you hope to be able to extinguish it when it shall have grown more violent? You say: "God will give me his aid." But this aid God is ready to give at present if you ask it. Why then do you not implore his assistance? Perhaps you expect that, without now taking the trouble of invoking his aid, you will receive from him increased helps and graces, after you shall have multiplied the number of your sins? Perhaps you doubt the veracity of God, who has promised to give whatever we ask of him? "Ask," he says, "*and it shall be given you.*" (Matt. 7:7) God cannot violate his promises. *God is not as man, that he should lie, nor as the son of man, that he should be changed. Hath he said, then, and will he not do ?* (Num. 23:19) Have recourse to him, and he will give you the strength necessary to resist the temptation. God commands you to resist it, and you say: "I have not strength." Does God, then, command impossibilities? No; the Council of Trent has declared that "God does not command impossibilities; but, by his commands, he admonishes you to do what you can, and to ask what you cannot do; and he assists, that you may be able to do it." (Sess. 6. c. xiii) When you see that you have not sufficient strength to resist temptation with the ordinary assistance of God, ask of him the additional help which you require, and he will give it to you; and thus you shall be able to conquer all temptations, however violent they may be.

5. But you will not pray; and you say that at present you will commit this sin, and will afterwards confess it. But, I ask, how do you know that God will give you time to confess it? You say: "I will go to confession before the lapse of a week." And who has promised you this week? Well, then you say: "I will go to confession tomorrow." And who promises you tomorrow? "God promises not tomorrow," says St. Augustine, "perhaps He will give it, and perhaps he will not." God has not promised you tomorrow. Perhaps he will give it, and perhaps he will refuse it to you, as he has to so many others. How many have gone to bed in good health, and have been found dead in the morning! How many, in the very act of sin, has the Lord struck dead and sent to hell! Should this happen to you, how will you repair your eternal ruin? "Commit this sin, and confess it afterwards." Behold the deceitful artifice by which the devil has brought so many thousands of Christians to hell. We scarcely ever find a Christian so sunk in despair as to intend to damn himself. All the wicked sin with the hope of afterwards going to confession. But, by this illusion, how many have brought themselves to perdition! For them there is now no time for confession, no remedy for their damnation.

*Sermon for Quinquagesima (Excerpts)*

**St. Alphonsus Ligouri (Trans. Very Rev. Nicholas Callan D.D.)**