

August 21, 2022

Good Morning All,

~Religious Education Classes begin today! 9:45-10:45

~Back to School Picnic hosted by the Holy Family Group on August 27, 2022 at the Hall. Open to all - hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided - bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please sign up in the Narthex or at mattandjess23@gmail.com by August 22, 2022 so they can have an idea on numbers! ***Come out and support this new ministry!***

~RCIA is the program for 1) those who think they might like to become Catholic, 2) those who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith both Catholic or non-Catholic, 3) those Catholics who have not made their First Communion or Confirmation. Sessions begin October 9th and are held from 9:45-10:45 am weekly until Easter. Registrations may be obtained on our website, in the office or in the narthex of the church. Please call the office if you have any questions 864-225-5341.

~Parish Directory Signup continues on the website and at the Masses. [Online appointment scheduler \(instant-scheduling.com\)](#) Please help us fill all our appointment times! Pictures will be taken at the Church Business Office - 1303 McLees Road on the appointed day and time.

~Divine Mercy Chaplet and Penitential Prayers at 3:00 today!

1. Today's Readings: [Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: What are Gregorian Masses? The attached short article explains the history and purpose of these.

Please be aware that our parish (as most parishes) does not have the capability of offering these. There are several religious communities online that can be contacted if this is something that you are interested in pursuing.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~"Everyone is presented at judgement just as he is when he departs this life. Nevertheless, it must be believed that there is, for the sake of lesser faults, a purgatorial fire before judgement...Truth does say that if anyone speak blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, he will not be forgiven in this world, not the one to come." Mark 3:29 St. Gregory the Great *Dialogues*

Daily Parish Communication

~"If we knew at what time we were to depart from this world, we would be able to select a season for pleasure and another for repentance. But God, who has promised pardon to every repentant sinner, has not promised us tomorrow. Therefore we must always dread the final day, which we can never foresee. This very day is a day of truce, a day for conversion." St. Gregory the Great

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC!

Sponsored by the
St. Joseph's Holy Family
Group

Saturday, August 27th: 12-2 pm

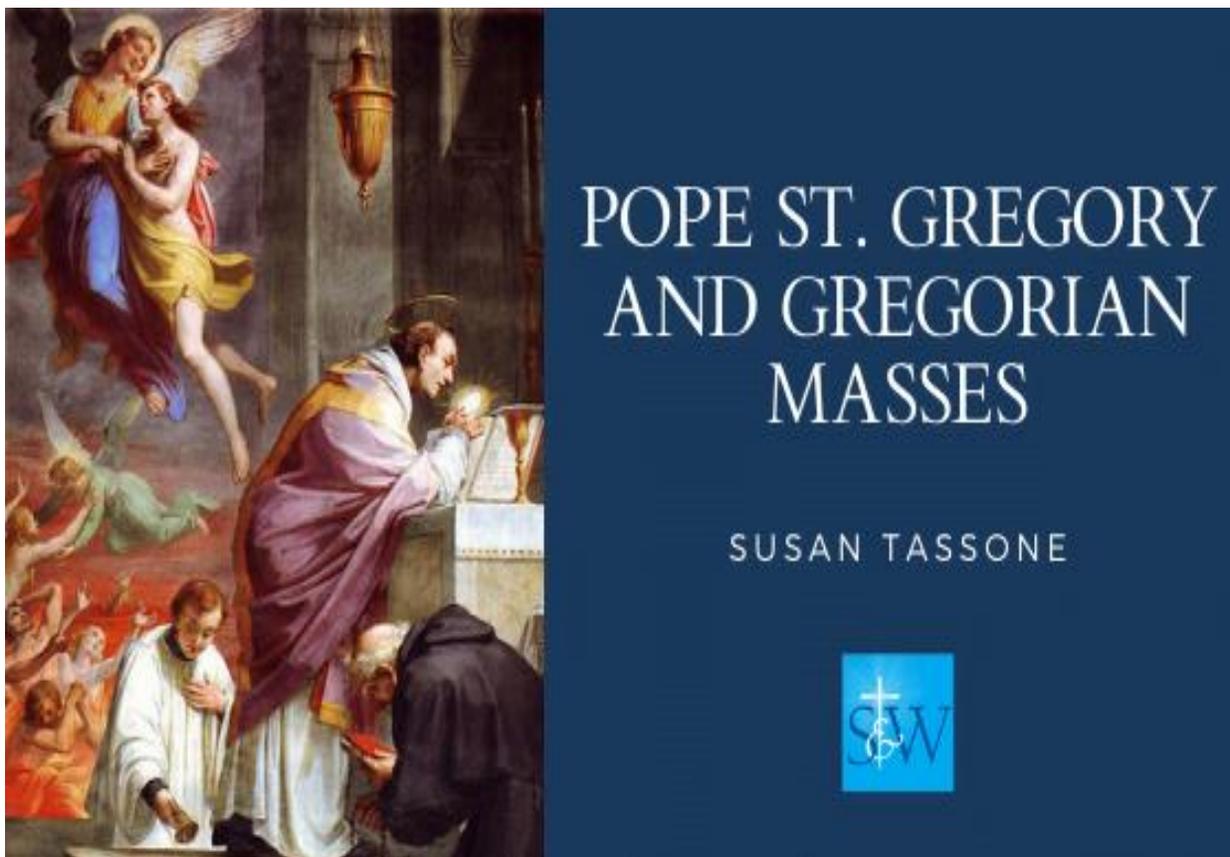
Rain or Shine - Father Friend Hall

Hot Dogs/Hamburgers Provided

Bring a Side Dish or Dessert to Share

**Interested in
attending? Sign up
in the Narthex of
the church !**





St. Gregory the Great is loved and honored on many accounts - bringing us the Gregorian Chant, his Dialogues, he codified the Roman Canon Mass and was the first to organize Church alms for the poor. More than that, he handed down to us the famous offering of Gregorian Masses (thirty Masses) for the holy deceased which are considered the *chief source*, of the devotion to the Holy Souls. No prayers, no suffrages can assist the holy souls as the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. The Mass is the greatest wonder in the world. There is nothing on earth equal to it.

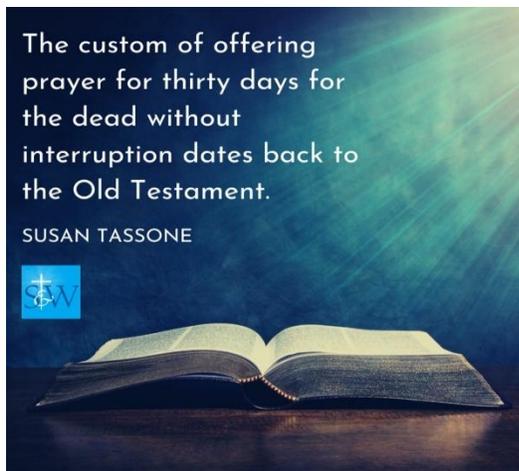
St. Thomas teaches that the Mass is nothing less than the Sacrifice of Calvary renewed on the altar, and that every Mass brings to men the same benefits at the Sacrifice of the Cross.

St. Bonaventure says: “The Mass is a compendium of all God’s love, of all His benefits to men, and each Mass bestows on the world a benefit not less than what was conferred on it by the Incarnation.”

St. Padre Pio says: “It would be easier to survive without the sun than to do without the Holy Mass.”

The custom of offering prayer for thirty days for the dead without interruption dates back to the Old Testament.

SUSAN TASSONE



Pope St. Gregory the Great (540-604), the first Pontiff to receive the name “Great,” the first Benedictine monk to become pope, tells us in his “Dialogues” that he ordered thirty Masses to be celebrated on thirty consecutive days for the repose of the soul of Justus, a monk, who had died in his monastery of St. Andrew on Mount Celio in Rome, where the church of St. Gregory now stands. (Justus died without the sacraments for violating the vow of poverty for three gold coins he possessed in his cell.)

At the end of the thirty Masses, Justus appeared to his blood-brother Copiosus, who being a physician, had assisted him in his last illness, that he had been delivered from the prison of purgatory.

Copiosus shared this with the monks and they realized on the 30th day of the celebrated Masses, Justus was released from his sufferings by the merits of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. On that same day, St. Gregory was assured of the deliverance of the soul of Justus. In the church of St. Gregory on Mt. Celio, is the original altar where these masses were first offered. This same altar is where Pope St. Gregory offered Masses for purgatorial souls.

Inscriptions on this strikingly beautiful altar record key events that took place at this altar in three relief panels that read in Latin: Left panel: *St. Gregory has freed the soul of this monk by thirty masses.* Middle panel: *The suffering Jesus Christ is seen here by Pope Gregory celebrating (Mass.)* Right panel: *In this room Pope Gregory celebrated Masses to release souls from Purgatory.*

Pope St. Gregory had a fervent devotion for purgatorial souls so much so that he lamented that after his death he would not be able to assist them. Tradition holds that Our Lord spoke to him and said: “My friend I want to grant in your favor a privilege that will be unique. All souls in purgatory, for whom thirty Masses are offered in your honor and without interruption will immediately be saved however great may be their debt toward me.”

Many are astonished that thirty Masses offered consecutively can obtain the grace of the release in purgatory. Although this practice is approved by the church, there is no official guarantee. This hallowed tradition of more than 1300 years has been

declared “a pious and reasonable belief of the faithful” on the authority of the Roman Curia.

Still it is a custom that both underscores the power and efficacy of the Holy Mass and reminds us there are souls in purgatory who are in desperate need of our Masses.

What is certain is that the custom of offering prayer for thirty days for the dead without interruption dates back to the Old Testament. We read that the Israelites wept and prayed for thirty days after the death of Moses and Aaron. St. Gregory revived this custom and the revelation given him, confirmed to him that he was acting justly.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1032) it states: “From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God.”

Our Lady points out that when we pray for the holy souls they become our “new intercessors” (11/6/86). The Catechism confirms (#953): “Our prayers for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective.”

From that time on religious orders had the practice of offering a series of Gregorian Masses for every religious in their order who died. Why not adopt a priest or religious, especially those deceased priests who baptized you, or the bishop who confirmed you; the priest whose masses you assisted and who gave you Holy Communion; the priest who absolved you from your sins.

In Exodus 20:5-6, God says, “I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but show steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

Offer Gregorian Masses or a novena of Masses for healing your family tree back to the fourth generation. Offer Masses for ancestors back to Adam and Eve. Include those not yet conceived or born. Anyone who has left a negative or positive impact on our lives should be included even those who have injured us or given a bad example. Remember teachers, supervisors, government leaders. Remember your enemies!

Were we nonbelievers in purgatory of the ordinary type they permit only heaven and hell. Without any previous purification, without any cleansing or preparation, where do we go? Or as a tombstone in Ohio simply puts it—“Too bad for heaven, too good for Hell, where he went I cannot tell!” Purgatory as Dante puts it “provides training for the leap to celestial joy!”

Remember to have Masses offered for yourselves, on special occasions, and holidays. It is a refreshing surprise to give someone the gift of prayer! The Mass obtains for us a happy death. Our Lord assured St. Mechtilde that He would comfort and console all those who were persevering in hearing Mass and the He would send as many of His great saints to assist them when dying as they had heard Masses in their lifetime.

Arrange for your will to specify Gregorian Masses be offered for you. Go to Mass as often as possible and offer it for the purgatory souls. Only by the means of the Mass can we nourish the hope of being received into Heaven immediately after death, without having to pass through the cleansing rigors of purgatory.

Source: excerpted from sign.org