

A Short History of Penance in the Early Church (part II)

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Another question regarding the Sacrament of Penance in the early Church could be: "What satisfaction was required for sins the Church admitted to Penance?" [ref. "A History of Penance, Being a Study of the Authorities (A) for the Whole Church to 450 AD (B) for the Western Church from 450 AD to 1215 AD Volume 1" by Oscar Daniel Wakins (1920).]

On this question, there is so broad a practice in the early Church, due her youth & rapid spread, that we must be content with a sketch of things. For added simplicity, review is made under two heads: the Greek & the Latin practice.

Within the 1st century, for sins the Church admits to Penance, there is no formalized manner of satisfying for sin. This develops in the 2nd century.

The Greek practice

Origen (184-253 AD) records three kinds of sin: those incurable i.e., capital sins; those in which a man may forgive his offender; those needing the ministry of the Church. The last regards Penance which needs "the priest of the Lord" who also supplies the remedy: "tears & lamentation, fasting & abstinence."

Twenty years after the Decian persecution, St Gregory the Wonderworker (270 AD) adopts a graded system of penance: Mourners, Hearers, Fallers, Bystanders, & Restored. Three alone are really grades as the first simply ask for admittance to Penance, while the last are reconciled. Of the three left, during Mass: Hearers stand in the narthex; Fallers kneel in the nave; Bystanders attend but do not Communicate.

The Latin practice

Tertullian, in *De Poenitentia* (198 AD), introduces the Greek word, *exomologesis*, "confession," into the Latin church to indicate the outward act of penance (more than confessing sins) wherein there is: sackcloth & ashes; fasting; lamentation; prostration before the presbyters; kneeling before the faithful. It is not clear whether sins are confessed publicly or privately, but all evidence after this time shows private confession of sins to a priest or bishop alone.

Fifty years later, again after the Decian persecution, St Cyprian of Carthage records the above as the Church norm, but only for minor sins, which, we may recall, by his authority, now included sins of impurity.

Length of penances

Precise lengths of penance develop in the 4th century. Examples regarding the lapsed: Peter, archbishop of Alexandria, in his Canonical Epistle (306 AD), decreed: they who lapsed due torments, 40 days penance; they who lapsed in prison, 1 year of penance; they who lapsed through cowardice, 3 to 4 years penance. Later, after the persecutions ceased, the Council of Nicea (325 AD), in Canon 11, decreed that they who lapsed "without compulsion, or confiscation of goods, or peril, or any such pressure" and sincerely repent "shall be three years among the Hearers, and seven years among the Fallers: for two years more they shall take part with the people in the Prayers but without oblation." (Basically, back then, to return to the Church, the fallen away Catholic was required to spend 12 years in degrees of penance before he was allowed Holy Communion; albeit the Bishop could intervene anytime & canon 13 allowed this sooner if one were dying.)

To end, may this quick study make us more grateful for the easy Penance in our day!



CHRIST THE KING Catholic Church

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls
according to the liturgical books of 1962.

24th & Last Sunday after Pentecost

November 26, 2023, A.D.

Pastor: Fr. Chris Hathaway, FssP

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Assistant: Fr. Vince Huber, FssP

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Church Office Hours: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Christ the King Catholic Church.

Office: 941-924-2777

1900 Meadowood Street

Sarasota, FL 34231

christthekingsarasota.org

The Daily Mass Schedule is:

Monday at 12 noon.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00 am and 9:00 am.

Friday at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm. (On Friday, a 5:30 pm Holy Hour & confession time, precedes the 6:30 pm Mass.)

Saturday at 9:00 am.

Sacramental Emergency: 941-400-5415

The Sunday Mass Schedule is:

7:00 am low; 8:30 am low; & 10:30 am sung & a seasonal 12:30 pm low Mass.

Items on the "Blessing Table" in the hall are blessed after the last Sunday Mass.

Confessions are heard in the confessional box ½ hour before Mass.

Sarasota "Lost & Found" now located in the office

In Ocala:

Sunday Mass at 4:30 pm

Monday Mass at 7 am.

1st Saturday Mass at 10:30 am.

Scan to give



Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR
COMMEMORATION		
Sun 11-26	24 th & Last Sunday after Pentecost	2/G
Mon 11-27	O.L. of the Miraculous Medal	4/W
Tues 11-28	Feria	4/G
Wed 11-29	St Saturninus	4/R
Thu 11-30	St Andrew, Apostle	2/R
Fri 12-01	Sacred Heart of Jesus	3/W
Sat 12-02	Immaculate Heart of Mary	3/W St Bibiana
Sun 12-03	1 st Sunday of Advent	1/V

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 11-26	(7 am) Intentions of the Pastor (8:30 am) Deceased members of Legion of Mary (10:30) <i>Pro-populo</i> (12:30 pm) Deceased members of CtK	rb a tertiary rb Praesidium rb anonymous
Mon 11-27	(12 pm) Eric Matthew Johnson+	rb M Johnson
Tues 11-28	(7 am) Rita Wallace+ (not at CtK) (9 am) Lisa June	rb family rb Mom & Dad
Wed 11-29	(7 am) Conversion of a loved one (not at CtK) (9 am) Therese Thy Yen Ta	rb anonymous rb N Truong
Thu 11-30	(7 am) Fr Huber (not at CtK) (9 am) Aaron Pruitt	rb Roberta Speer rb M Pruitt
Fri 12-01	(9 am) Deborah Scarano (6:30 pm) Carol Haslett+	rb G Scarano rb M/M Marchand
Sat 12-02	(9 am) Blessed Virgin Mary	rb a friend
Sun 12-03	(7 am) CtK Volunteers (8:30 am) Conversion of family (10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (12:30 pm) Kathleen Passidomo	rb M Meza rb MA&P Hurtado

Today's 10:30 Mass: Entr: O Jesus Christ Remember, #941; Asperges, #567; Mass XI, #740 & Credo IV, #780; Exit: The Word Descending from Above, #901.

Last Sunday's Collection: cash \$4,173.25; on-line \$1,885.00; CFA \$2,395.00.

Total souls: 477: 7 am-47; 8:30 am-160; 10:30 am-184; 12:30 pm-86. (Ocala, 280)

Free folding chairs along the eastside of the CtK complex.

Free Baby Grand Piano close by to CtK. Call Celeste at 941-224-7031..

Free air anyplace, anywhere. Don't be ungrateful; thank the good Lord every day.

This week, [Fr Huber is away until 11/30, during this time there will be no 7 am Masses, he takes those intentions with him. Fr Hathaway leaves 12/1 & returns 12/20; during this time, the 7 am Masses will continue as other priests will cover for him], Monday, if desired, Miraculous Medal enrollment available after Mass; Vespers (4:30); Tuesday, Holy Face devotions (10:15 am), Book Club (6:30-8 pm); Wednesday, staff meeting (3:30 pm); Thursday, 5-8 pm Adoration; 1st Friday, normal schedule; 1st Saturday, 9 am Mass & devotions, wedding (2 pm). [*Ocala* – no Mass.]

Please pray for: Meza family, Kelly Katz, Eileen McClain (11/26), Dan Wedo, Ashton Hobbs, Wis family, Fr Adams (11/19); Lucy Burns, Denise Priest, Shehwen family, Russell Perkins (11/5); & Christian P. (10/29).

You may pick-up your donation envelopes in the vestibule.

2023 CFA status at CtK as of November 18, 2023: \$123,000.00 assessed by the diocese; \$91,166.28 pledged (74.12% of goal); from 45.05% of 220 households; \$83,102.48 paid. (from dioceseofvenice.org) **Thank you for your support!**

We are preparing to send out your 2023 Tax Statements. If your address has changed, please let the office know of your new address.

Safe Environment Training & fingerprinting is required by the Diocese of Venice for all employees & volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults. For further information, visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/safeenvironment. Report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families at 800-962-2873. To report abuse by Diocesan personnel or volunteers also notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114. Please visit the Diocese of Venice website for scheduled training dates.

Tickets for the 8th annual Our Lady of Guadalupe dinner are available outside after Mass. The dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 4880 Fruitville Rd on Tuesday, December 12th at 6 pm; ticket price is \$75. Sponsored by St Pius V Council, the event will benefit the FssP seminary in Denton, NE (O.L. of Guadalupe Seminary). A special guest speaker will be there!

DECLINE TO SIGN An insidious initiative is underway in Florida that seeks to erase pro-life protections by inserting language into the Florida State Constitution banning regulation of abortion. Abortion activists are working to gather petition signatures to have a pro-abortion constitutional amendment placed on the statewide ballot in the November 2024 election. To do so, they need nearly 900,000 signatures and are working right now in communities across Florida to collect them. Floridian Catholics should not sign the petition. Please continue praying for the protection of the unborn and spread the word to your spheres of influence.