

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

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The development of the Sacrament of Penance in the early Church is a fascinating study for which we can here only give briefest overview. [ 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 Watkins (1920).]

The first big development concerns the question: Can any of the baptized who commit any of the capital sins (impurity, apostasy, murder) be forgiven in this life? On this question, with some variations, "all the great writers of the second and third centuries are found on the side of rigorism." (p.468)

### Breaking Ground

#### **Adulterers**

Pope Callistus I (218-223 AD) favors leniency; it is due him who, by admitting to reconciliation an adulterer in 220 AD, revolutionized the practice in Rome & in the Universal Church for all future time.

#### **Apostates**

The next significant novelty occurs after the Decian persecution (250 AD), a far-reaching persecution, producing a great number of apostates. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage (249-258 AD), desiring greatly to reconcile apostates which, before his time, was not considered possible - they would have to deal with God when they die - introduced the practice of reconciling them when they were near death.

#### **Murderers**

Exactly when murderers were allowed Penance is uncertain, but the Council of Ancyra (314 AD) provides for their reconciliation after they make due satisfaction.

It should be mentioned, not all agreed to these changes. A sect adhering to the antipope Novatian, who followed Pope Fabian (251 AD) & opposed Pope Cornelius, the true Bishop of Rome, believing capital offenders could not be reconciled, rejected these innovations as departures from apostolic tradition (Acts 15:20; Hb 6:4-6; I Cor 5:5).

**Finally**, at the Council of Nicea, convened by Roman Emperor Constantine I, in 325 AD, the Church decreed that the door of reconciliation is open to every sort of offender when death is in sight.

The next big development would concern the question: Can Penance be given more than once for capital offenders? As above, most early writers will favor rigorism i.e., the baptized who commits a capital sin may receive Penance only once in their life.

**The plight of the baptized Christians in the early Church** who commit any capital sin is not well appreciated by the modern Catholic. These received God's mercy at baptism, then commit a capital sin and are abandoned to face God's judgment when they die, hoping then to be forgiven. Later, when Penance was allowed capital offenders, when they neared death, would be some benefit i.e., they could hope to die pardoned; meanwhile, however, they must live in worry of an un-provided death! On a positive side, these strict disciplines would help keep the baptized in check & careful not to abuse God's mercies. We must remember, too, the early Church entered a very pagan world where murder, idolatry & impurity of all sorts was very common: the Church had need of a severe remedy to keep her flock pure



## 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.

# 11<sup>th</sup> Resumed Sunday after Epiphany

November 19, 2023, A.D.

Pastor: Fr. Chris Hathaway, 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

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Sarasota, FL 34231

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### **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.

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Mass at 10:30 am.

Scan to give



## Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR
Sun 11-19	Resumed 6 <sup>th</sup> S. after Epiphany	2/G
Mon 11-20	St Felix of Valois	3/W
Tues 11-21	Presentation of BVM	3/W
Wed 11-22	St Cecilia	3/R
Thu 11-23	St Clement I	3/R St Felicitas
Fri 11-24	St John of the Cross	3/W St Chrysogonus
Sat 11-25	St Catherine of Alexandria	3/R
Sun 11-26	24 <sup>th</sup> & Last Sunday after Pentecost	2/G

### Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 11-19	(7 am) Leslie & Thelma Wade++ (8:30 am) Fr Laurent Demets (10:30) <i>Pro-populo</i> (12:30 pm) Bing-Huang Wu+	rb T&A Wade rb M/M L Truong rb Fay-Lu Wu
Mon 11-20	(12 pm) Dominic Dzung Truong+	rb N Truong
Tues 11-21	(7 am) Blessed Virgin Mary (9 am) Angel Ottenga	rb a friend rb Mom & Dad
Wed 11-22	(7 am) Jin Han+ (9 am) Carol Haslett+	rb T Tocher rb M/M Marchand
Thu 11-23	(7 am) In thanksgiving for Joe Tropeano (9 am) Ken Bishop & family	rb M/M T VanGeldereren rb M Meza
Fri 11-24	(9 am) Thomas Durney+ (6:30 pm) Audrey Slee+	rb B Rodriquez rb M&D Hrycyk
Sat 11-25	(9 am) Oliver & Sarah Castellanos	rb T&C Flamminio
Sun 11-26	(7 am) Intentions of the Pastor (8:30 am) Deceased members of Legion of Mary (10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (12:30 pm) Deceased members of CtK	rb a tertiary rb Praesidium rb anonymous

**Today's 10:30 Mass:** Entr: Come, Holy Ghost, #883; Asperges, #567; Mass VIII, #727 & Credo IV, #780; Exit: Panis Angelicus, #895.

**This week, Monday,** Vespers (4:30), Adult Catechism (Fr Huber) on St Mark's Gospel; **Tuesday,** Holy Face devotions (10:15 am); **Thursday, Happy Thanksgiving!**; **Friday,** staff meeting (3:30 pm), Vespers (4:30 pm), Holy Hour (5:30 pm), Mass 6:30 pm; **Saturday,** Vespers (4:30 pm).

**Last Sunday's Collection:** cash \$4,696.00; on-line \$3,230.00; CFA \$1,105.00.  
**Total souls: 453:** 7 am-60; 8:30 am-155; 10:30 am-155; 12:30 pm-83. (Ocala, 353)

***Amen, amen, I say to thee, unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot obtain the kingdom of heaven. (Jn 3:5)*** CtK celebrates the rebirth of Malaka'i Aurelius Tracy, son of Makyla Tracy, born a child of God and become an heir of heaven on October 28, 2023.

**Please pray for:** Dan Wedo, Ashton Hobbs, Wis family, Fr Adams (11/19); Lucy Burns, Denise Priest, Shehwen family, Russell Perkins (11/5); Christian P. (10/29); Roberta Speer, Meza family, & Schroll family (10/22).

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

**2023 CFA status at CtK as of November 11, 2023:** \$123,000.00 assessed by the diocese; \$89,145.07 pledged (72.48% of goal); from 43.18% of 220 households; \$80,136.55 paid. (from dioceseofvenice.org) **Thank you for your support!**

**From Bishop Dewane:** On June 11, 2023, Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the Church in the United States embarked upon the second phase, the Parish Phase, of the National Eucharistic Revival. It is with an expression of gratitude to you, Pastors and Administrators of the Diocese of Venice, that it can be reported that there has been a significant uptick of Eucharistic emphasis in many parishes. Specifically, there have been increased opportunities for Adoration, an increase in Eucharistic Processions, and more preaching and teaching on the Eucharist, to name a few.

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, the Church in the Diocese of Venice will gather at Bishop Verot High School, to host a second major Eucharistic Conference, this time with an emphasis on the Parish. The day will begin with Mass, to which you are cordially invited and encouraged to concelebrate. Following Mass, the Keynote Address will be delivered by the nationally acclaimed Speaker and Author, Steven Ray. After the Keynote Address, there will be a breakout session, with a Spanish and an English presentation occurring in the Auditorium and Gym respectively. Then, after lunch, there will be an afternoon breakout session, also with a Spanish and an English presentation. The Conference will conclude with a Eucharistic Holy Hour and Benediction. There will be a need for Priests to be on hand throughout the day to hear Confessions. As in the past, this necessitates not only the presence of Priests in the Central Deanery but throughout the Diocese. There will also be time built in for attendees to partake of food and fellowship, as well as opportunities for private Adoration and to visit vendor exhibits.

The Eucharistic Conference is encouraged for all the faithful of the Diocese. The cost is just \$30 per person, which includes light breakfast and lunch. Priests and Deacons may register free-of-charge. It is kindly asked that you please promote this event with the faithful of your Parish. Registration will be available at: <https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/2024-eucharistic-conference>. Questions about the event may be directed to Jim Gontis at [gontis@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:gontis@dioceseofvenice.org).