



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

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WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LENT: WHY DO WE OBSERVE IT?

by Rick Hamlin
Guideposts.org

IF YOUR PRAYER LIFE HAS GONE STALE, AND YOU'RE IN A SPIRITUAL RUT, WELCOME TO THIS SEASON OF INNER GROWTH.

THE MEANING OF LENT.

DOES EVERY DAY FEEL THE SAME? DOES IT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN A RUT? IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE THE "SAME OLD, SAME OLD?" SAY HELLO TO LENT. WELCOME THIS SEASON OF INNER GROWTH AND SPIRITUAL SUSTENANCE. IT'S THERE ON THE CALENDAR FOR YOU TO RECHARGE. RECHARGE.

GIVE YOURSELF A GOAL.

SOMETIMES WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE WANT UNTIL WE GIVE IT SOME FOCUS. UNTIL WE WRITE IT DOWN. TAKE OUT A PEN AND PAPER (OKAY, YOU CAN DO IT ON YOUR LAPTOP TOO) AND PUT DOWN SOME GOALS. THINGS YOU WANT FOR YOURSELF IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE. THINGS YOU WANT FOR YOUR LOVED ONES. DON'T TRY TO MAKE IT FANCY. JUST BE HONEST. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING TO SEE IT. YOU AND GOD.



OBSERVE THIS SEASON OF LIFE.

THAT WORD "LENT" COMES FROM AN OLD ENGLISH WORD THAT REFERS TO THE LENGTHENING OF DAYS, THE COMING OF SPRING. THAT'S NOT HOW WE USUALLY THINK OF IT. LENT SOUNDS LIKE IT SHOULD BE DOUR AND GRAY. A SEASON OF SELF-SACRIFICE AND TAKING AWAY. THINK AGAIN. THE MEANING OF LENT IS ABOUT OPENING UP -- NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER OUTSIDE. NEWNESS AND NEW LIFE ARE JUST OUTSIDE THE WINDOW. AND IN YOU.

LOOK FOR THE GOD WITHIN.

IT'S A CURIOUS MOMENT. THOSE 40 DAYS OF LENT COME JUST BEFORE EASTER. WE HAVE A TIME OF SELF-REFLECTION BEFORE WE LAUNCH INTO THE CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION AND NEW LIFE. BUT THINK ABOUT WHAT WE'RE HONORING. THOSE 40 DAYS JESUS SPENT IN THE WILDERNESS WERE HIS PREPARATION FOR A TRANSFORMING MINISTRY. WHEN WE GIVE OURSELVES 40 DAYS, WE'RE DISCOVERING THE JESUS WITHIN US. FINDING OUR TIME TO SHARE WITH HIM.

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FEASTS FOR FEBRUARY

THE FEASTS ON THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY ARE:

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|----|---|----|---|
| 2 | PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, FEAST | 19 | SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY |
| 3 | BLAISE; ANSGAR, OPT. MEM. | 21 | PETER DAMIAN, OPT. MEM. |
| 5 | FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | 22 | ASH WEDNESDAY, COMMEM. |
| 6 | PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, MEMORIAL | 26 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, SUNDAY |
| 8 | JEROME EMILIANI; JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, OPT. MEM. | | |
| 10 | SCHOLASTICA, MEMORIAL | | |
| 11 | OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OPT. MEM. | | |
| 12 | SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | | |
| 14 | CYRIL AND METHODIUS, MEMORIAL | | |
| 17 | SEVEN FOUNDERS OF THE ORDERS OF SERVITES, OPT. MEM. | | |

THE FEAST OF ST. AGATHA (FEBRUARY 5) IS SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. THE FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER (FEBRUARY 22) IS SUPERSEDED BY THE LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY. □

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR MY GRANDSON, CADEN'S, TWO GOLD TROPHIES FOR TWO DAYS IN A ROW IN THE ALL AMERICAS JIU JITSU TOURNAMENT. WE ALSO THANK THE PRAYER WARRIORS IN LAS VEGAS FOR THEIR PRAYERS. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!!

ILLA DE GUZMAN, A LAS VEGAS DEVOTEE

OUR CENACLE CORNER

SEEKING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
THROUGH MEDITATION OF PASSAGES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

**Creating A Relationship with
the Souls in Purgatory**

GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

15 AMAZING QUOTES ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

By Sabra Ciancanelli

FIND COMFORT AND INSPIRATION IN THESE UPLIFTING QUOTES ABOUT GOD'S LOVE.

HOW CAN WE BE REMINDED OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US? READING GOD'S LOVE QUOTES FROM THE MINDS OF BRILLIANT WRITERS, SCHOLARS, AND SAINTS CAN BE A POWERFUL WAY TO DO THAT.

A DEVOTION ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME BACK AND TAKE YOU TO BE WITH ME THAT YOU ALSO MAY BE WHERE I AM. JOHN 14:3 (NIV)

MY HUSBAND, SCOTT, HAS A BIG BIRTHDAY COMING UP. I'M PARTY PLANNING, PUTTING THE PIECES INTO PLACE SO THAT WE CAN REALLY CELEBRATE. MY BIRTHDAY IS THE DAY AFTER. WHEN HE ASKED ME WHAT I WANTED FOR MY BIRTHDAY I SAID, "I WANT TO RECOVER FROM YOUR BIRTHDAY!" HE LAUGHED. PARTY-THROWING IS TIRING. YOU COME DOWN OFF THE SUGAR AND REGROUP WITH CLEAN-UP AND RESTORATIVE NAPS. THEN YOU REFOCUS ON LIFE.

I WONDER HOW JESUS FELT THE MONDAY AFTER PALM SUNDAY. BIGGEST. PARTY. EVER. FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE'S RECOGNIZED FOR WHO HE IS: THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD. ALL OF JERUSALEM TURNED OUT TO SING HIS PRAISES. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! HOSANNA! HOSANNA! THEN MONDAY. THE AFTERPARTY BLUES. JESUS HAD TO RECALIBRATE AND REFOCUS. THERE'S NO RECOVERY FROM PALM SUNDAY. THERE WAS JUST THE MOMENTOUS TOIL OF WRESTLING WITH HIS OWN WILL SO THAT HE CAN ACCOMPLISH THE HEART-WRENCHING WORK HIS FATHER HAD ASKED HIM TO DO—TO SAVE THE WORLD. TO TAKE ON EVERY SIN FOR ALL OF MANKIND FOR ALL OF ETERNITY. HOW COULD HE FATHOM IT?

HOW COULD HE BREATHE ANOTHER BREATH OR TAKE ANOTHER STEP? IT MUST HAVE BEEN ALL TOO MUCH. COSTLY. CRUEL. DEVASTATING. UNLESS...HE BEGAN TO PLAN ANOTHER PARTY. HE PUT ALL THE PIECES INTO PLACE—FORGIVENESS, MERCY, SACRIFICE, HIS LIFE FOR OURS—SO THAT WE COULD ATTEND THE NEVER-ENDING PARTY OF BASKING IN THE LOVE AND HOPE OF THE ONE WHO LOVES US MOST OF ALL.

FAITH STEP 1: WHAT PIECES HAS JESUS PUT INTO PLACE IN YOUR LIFE SO THAT YOU CAN BASK IN HIS LOVE AND HOPE?

FAITH STEP 2: READ INSPIRING GOD'S LOVE QUOTES TO REMEMBER AND REFLECT ON THE WAYS GOD MOVES LOVINGLY THROUGH YOUR LIFE.

15 GOD'S LOVE QUOTES TO COMFORT YOU:

1. GOD'S LOVE IS LIKE AN OCEAN. YOU CAN SEE ITS BEGINNING, BUT NOT ITS END. — RICK WARREN
2. GOD LOVES YOU. HE WANTS YOU TO SUCCEED. HE WANTS THE BEST FOR YOU. — NORMAN VINCENT PEALE
3. THE SHAPE OF TRUE LOVE ISN'T A DIAMOND. IT'S A CROSS. — ALICIA BRUXVOORT
4. GOD LOVES EACH OF US AS IF THERE WERE ONLY ONE OF US. — SAINT AUGUSTINE
5. GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS PROCLAIMED BY EACH SUNRISE. — ANONYMOUS
6. THOUGH OUR FEELINGS COME AND GO, GOD'S LOVE FOR US DOES NOT. — C.S. LEWIS
7. NO MATTER WHAT STORM YOU FACE, YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT GOD LOVES YOU. HE HAS NOT ABANDONED YOU. — FRANKLIN GRAHAM
8. GOD LOVES US TOO MUCH TO INDULGE OUR EVERY WHIM. — MAX LUCADO
9. LIFE IS TOO SHORT, THE WORLD IS TOO BIG, AND GOD'S LOVE IT TOO GREAT TO LIVE ORDINARY. — CHRISTINE CAINE
10. GOD CARRIES YOUR PICTURE IN HIS WALLET. — TONY CAMPOLO
11. WHEN YOU KNOW HOW MUCH GOD IS IN LOVE WITH YOU, THEN YOU CAN ONLY LIVE YOUR LIFE RADIATING THAT LOVE. — MOTHER TERESA
12. GOD AND LOVE ARE SYNONYMOUS. LOVE IS NOT AN ATTRIBUTE OF GOD, IT IS GOD; WHATEVER GOD IS, LOVE IS. — OSWALD CHAMBERS
13. I WAS GOOD ENOUGH, IMPERFECT AS I AM. I HAD THE LOVE THAT COMPLETED ME, THE LOVE THAT NEVER FAILS, THE TRUEST LOVE OF ALL. GOD'S LOVE, A LOVE THAT NEVER GOES AWAY. — ANDIE MACDOWELL
14. THE DIVINE OF THE LORD IN HEAVEN IS LOVE, FOR THE REASON THAT LOVE IS RECEPTIVE OF ALL THINGS OF HEAVEN, SUCH AS PEACE, INTELLIGENCE, WISDOM AND HAPPINESS. — EMANUEL SWEDENBORG
15. WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE. — 1 JOHN 4:8

Sabra Ciancanelli is a writer for Daily Guideposts. She lives in Tivoli, New York, with her two boys, Solomon and Henry.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LENT

DO SOMETHING NEW.

WHEN WE GIVE UP SOMETHING FOR LENT—LIKE CHOCOLATES OR WINE—WE’RE DOING SOMETHING SACRIFICIAL, NOT BECAUSE IT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD IDEA BUT TO GIVE OURSELVES A REMINDER OF HOW JESUS WENT ON A 40-DAY FAST. I REMEMBER WHEN MY WIFE GAVE UP WORRY FOR LENT. NOW THERE’S A CHALLENGE! IT WAS TERRIFICALLY HARD, BUT EVERY TIME SHE FOUND HER MIND TURN TO WORRY...SHE HAD TO TURN TO GOD FOR PEACE OF MIND AND SUSTENANCE.

WHERE IS THE TEMPTER’S POWER?

I’M AFRAID I SPEND A LOT MORE TIME THINKING ABOUT MYSELF THAN I DO ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE. I TELL MYSELF THAT IT’S JUST WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IN THIS WORLD. YOU KNOW, LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE. BUT SHOULDN’T NUMBER ONE BE GOD? JESUS USED THAT TIME IN THE WILDERNESS—GOD USED IT—TO FACE DOWN THE TEMPTER. TO SAY NO. PUTTING LENT ON YOUR CALENDAR IS A WAY TO RE-FOCUS AND SEE WHERE YOU NEED TO SAY NO. FULLY EXPLORE THE MEANING OF LENT.

BE GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT.

IT WAS THE SPIRIT THAT SENT JESUS INTO THE WILDERNESS IN THE FIRST PLACE. AND JESUS BY HIS ACTIONS MAKES SURE THE SPIRIT DOESN’T LEAVE HIM. THE SPIRIT IS HERE TO GUIDE ALL OF US TO A LIFE THAT IS NEW AND TRANSFORMATIVE. LET LENT PUT YOUR FOCUS THERE.

WELCOME THE ANGELS.

AT THE END OF JESUS’S TIME IN THE WILDERNESS, ANGELS CAME AND COMFORTED HIM. THAT ANGELIC COMFORT IS AWAITING ALL OF US AT THE END OF OUR TRIALS. LOOK FOR IT. WELCOME IT. INVITE THE ANGELS IN. LENT IS NOT JUST A TIME TO SAY NO. IT IS ALSO A TIME TO SAY YES.

Rick Hamlin recently retired as executive editor of Guideposts magazine, where he has worked for more than thirty years. His spiritual memoir, *Finding God on the A Train*, was a Book of the Month Club alternate selection and a selection of One Spirit Book Club. Other volumes about prayer include *Ten Prayers You Can’t Live Without* and *Pray for Me*. He has published three novels, most recently *Reading Between the Lines*, as well as *The Tournament of Roses*, a history of the Rose Bowl and Rose Parade.

A native of Pasadena, California, Rick and his wife, the writer Carol Wallace, live in New York City, where they’ve raised their two boys.



“I am your Mother Mary.

Continue your life of prayers. Pray, pray, pray my beads of rosary for the peace and protection of the unborn against the evil one.

Life will be difficult for everyone, my children. But only through prayers, fasting and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, will you attain peace and love for each other .”

Mary, Your Lady of Peace

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SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

CREATING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

BY VICTOR ARANETA

AS WE BECOME PRAYERFUL AND RELIGIOUS, THERE'S ONE THING WE PROBABLY IGNORE, PRAYING FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS. THESE SUPPOSED RECIPIENTS OF OUR PRAYERS ARE THE MOST IGNORED PART OF OUR SUPPLICATIONS TO GOD. PARADOXICALLY, THEY ARE THE MOST HEARD PRAYERS ONCE THEY REACH HEAVEN. THEY DO NOT FORGET THEIR BENEFACTORS WHOSE PRAYERS LIFTED



THEM LIKE DIVINE ELEVATORS, IF YOU WILL, TO REACH THE FLOOR THAT WILL TAKE THEM TO ETERNAL LIFE.

ONCE THEY REACH THEIR HEAVENLY ABODE, ACCORDING TO ST THOMAS AQUINAS, THESE SOULS WILL PRAY FOR THEIR BENEFACTORS AND NON-BENEFACTORS ALIKE ONCE THEY ARE CALLED TO PRAY FOR THEM. SAINT GERTRUDE HAS A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR ALL THESE SOULS IN PURGATORY. OUR LORD JESUS PROMISED THAT EVERY TIME YOU PRAY THIS PRAYER THAT ASKS GOD ALMIGHTY TO POUR HIS DIVINE SON'S BLOOD TO THESE SOULS, THOUSANDS OF SOULS WILL BE LIFTED FROM PURGATORY AND BE ON A LEVEL OF PROGRESSION IN THE

PLACE OF PURGATION. FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PUT IN THE FINAL PURGATION, THIS PRAYER WILL LIFT THEM TO THEIR FINAL DESTINATION, OUR HEAVENLY ABODE.

WE REALLY DON'T KNOW THE EXACT SUFFERING THESE SOULS ENDURE ON EACH LEVEL OF PURGATION, BUT ONE THING IS SURE THEY SUFFER BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN PURGATORY.

SO, EVERY TIME WE PRAY THE SUPPLICATION OF "ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE," THE DIVINE WATER FROM THE EMPYREAN THRONE OF GOD WILL ALLEVIATE THEIR THIRST AND LONGING FOR GOD ALMIGHTY. THE GIFT THAT ONLY GOD CAN GIVE THEM. PRAYING THE HOLY ROSARY ALSO GIVES SOULS IN PURGATORY A PATHWAY TO HEAVEN IN DUE TIME.

LET US ALL BE MINDFUL OF OUR ROLE IN ASSISTING THE POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY IN THEIR JOURNEY OR PILGRIMAGE ONCE THEY LEAVE THIS LIFE ON EARTH.

PRAYER OF ST GERTRUDE THE GREAT : ETERNAL FATHER, I OFFER YOU THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF YOUR DIVINE SON, JESUS, IN UNION WITH THE MASSES SAID THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TODAY, FOR ALL THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY, FOR SINNERS EVERYWHERE, FOR SINNERS IN THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, THOSE IN MY OWN HOME, AND WITHIN MY FAMILY. AMEN. ☐

Upcoming Events

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS:

THE CENACLE HOUSE

AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

AT 9:30 PM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

FEBRUARY 4, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE

AT 1:00 PM

IN LOS ANGELES:

THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM

MASS AT 9:45 AM

CENACLE AT 10:15 AM

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS:

ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

IN LOS ANGELES:

THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 10:30 AM

MASS & BENEDICTION AT 11:30 AM

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

FEBRUARY 18, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE

AT 8:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

MASS AT 9:00 AM