

- Nowhere on earth are any portions of St. Joseph's Body to be found. Therefore, bone relics of St. Joseph would have to be considered forgeries. With regard to things connected with his person and sanctified by contact with his body, certain claims have been made. (1) The Church of St. Anastasia in Rome is said to possess a relic of the staff which St. Joseph carried during the flight into Egypt and of the cloak which may have enveloped the Child Jesus when clasped in St. Joseph's arms (see Chandlery's "Saint Joseph", par. 31. p. 60, and par 39, p.78: and his "Pilgrim Walks in Rome, p. 274. (2) In the year 1254 Sire de Joinville, one of the Crusaders, brought St. Joseph's "girdle" from the East to France, where he erected a chapel to St. Joseph to house the treasure and was buried there in 1319. This chapel was much visited by French pilgrims, among them King Louis XIV and Cardinal Richelieu. The relic was somehow destroyed in 1668 (see Filas, "The Man Nearest to Christ, p. 138). (3) The ring which Mary is said to have received from Joseph's hand on the occasion of the Espousals was venerated at Chiuse in Italy as early as the year 1000. After a long and bitter contest for the possession of this ring, Pope Innocent VIII awarded it to Perugia in 1468 (see Filas, "The Man Nearest to Christ" p. 139). (4) The swaddling clothes venerated in Aix-la-Chappelle were thought to be St. Joseph's foot coverings (ibidem). (5) The Holy House of Loreto, in which St. Joseph lived with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth, may be looked upon as a relic of St. Joseph, and worthy of veneration.

(This Information taken from "Discourses on St. Joseph"
By Rev. Rev. Nicholas O'Rafferty
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MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)

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| SUNDAY: | For the People of the Chapels |
| MONDAY: | Special Int. Ella Soileau |
| TUESDAY: | Special Int. Virginia Balnis |
| WEDNESDAY: | Dec. Robert Brisbois |
| THURSDAY: | Dec. Helen Wick |
| FRIDAY: | Dec. Michael |
| SATURDAY: | Sec. Lula Howard |

SPECIAL NOTE: If you need a tax statement for your contributions for IRS purposes, please notify Father Sebastian, O.S.B. as soon as necessary and he will issue one.

Generally speaking, people are discouraged by the thoughts of penance. They look at penance as something that cloistered monks and nuns who are all locked up in monasteries and nunneries perform under orders of their superior. To them, monks and nuns are a negative sort of people who like to do negative things such as penance and mortification, and besides, monks and nuns like to punish themselves in all kinds of sordid ways. This is as far from the truth as East is from West! Outside people in the world, sometimes think that monks and nuns like to impose their strict way of living on everybody. Not so.

We are all sinners - "he who is without sin, let him cast the first stone." For sin we have a price to make good to the God Whom we have offended. Penance is not negative. Penance is an act of love. If one does not understand love, he does not understand penance. Penance is the language of love, in this case, the love of God. Penance is a positive act, some act pleasing to God.