

Holy Family at Nazareth, nothing extraordinary, odd, or abnormal; it is only extraordinary in its love, confidence, littleness and simplicity. It goes to the very heart of the spiritual life and to the depths of one's soul, dispensing from it all that is accidental, artificial, superficial and mathematical. It is remarkable for its absence of the desire for extraordinary mortifications, extraordinary mystical graces, and extraordinary deeds. This Way is also noteworthy for its absence of any desire for complex or learned methods of prayer. It chooses rather, to approach God as a little Child would approach a loving Father. St. Therese declared, "Sanctity is an interior disposition which makes us humble and little in God's arms, conscious of our weakness and trusting even to audacity in the goodness of our Father."

1. Blessed Ashes will be distributed at all Mass today. Packets of Ashes will be distributed as usual. These ashes - SACRAMENTALS - should be used around the house and garden. Ashes will be distributed at St. Pius Chapel on Sunday, March 11, 2001.
2. STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT - every Friday during Lent - - TIME: 7:00 P.M. Everyone who is free and who does not live too far away, should make every effort to attend. Of course it is a sacrifice - the devotion and the sacrifice taken together should be quite pleasing to God. Our GOOD WILL in this matter is essential. Without Good Will, the entire effort is not worth it because it is so useless.
3. WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY of this week are the EMBER DAYS of Spring (they follow Ash Wednesday). They are days of Fast and Abstinence. Meat may be eaten once - at the main meal - on Wednesday and Saturday. Whereas, under the conditions of our present state of confusion, it cannot be said that one commits sin if one does not observe the fast and the abstinence. However, any Catholic worthy of the name should - with Good Will in his Heart - be very serious about this this act of penance, and should be quite willing to follow the norm of this recommendation.
4. Wednesday, March 7, 2001 is the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. Please pray to him and ask him to help us all learn the sacred elements of our Holy Religion. Let us ask St. Thomas to help us pattern our lives according to the things we learn.
5. Some may wonder why we have attached the DIVINE PRAISES to the Leonine Prayers after Mass. The Divine Praises are said for VOCATIONS TO OUR MONASTERY AND CONVENT. The Leonine Prayers are not said in our Abbey Church at the daily 6:00 A.M. Mass which is offered on the High Altar of the Church. The 6:00 A.M. Mass said on the High Altar of our Church is what we call our "Conventual Mass" (Mass of the Convent) and is the principal Mass of the Day for the Monks. For that reason the Leonine Prayers are not said at that Mass.
6. During Lent we should take the matter of Confession much more seriously. Not only should we make the effort to go to confession, we should, as well, be very careful about the examination of conscience before confession. Some have the very mistaken idea that they cannot find things to confess - they seem to have the idea that the things that should be confessed are the WRONG DEEDS THEY HAVE COMMITTED. Such as these forget that the RIGHT DEEDS THEY HAVE OMITTED are equally sinful - maybe even more so. Any deed that in some way disturbs the peace and serenity of those around us is quite wrong, and should be matter for confession.
7. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)
 - SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
 - MONDAY: Special Int. Rita Peluso
 - TUESDAY: Special Int. James Hage
 - WEDNESDAY: Special Int. Peggy Wink
 - THURSDAY: Welfare Gary Krebsbach
 - FRIDAY: Special Int. Mary Ann Decoux
 - SATURDAY: Special Int. Dubley McSwain-Cawthon
8. EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT: - - - V O W S in the Abbey Church on Sunday March 25, 2001.
NOTE WELL: - - There will be no Mass at St. Pius V on that Sunday.