

SERVING THE DEVIL

by the Priests of the Congregation of St. Paul, 1893

February 18, 2024

"Again the devil took him up into a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and said unto him: 'All these will I give thee, if, falling down, thou wilt adore me.' Then Jesus saith unto him: 'Begone, Satan, for it is written: 'The Lord thy God shalt thou adore, and him only shalt thou serve.'" 1/2 St. Matt. iv. 8.

This offer, my dear brethren, which the devil made to our Divine Lord, he repeats, in its measure, to each one of us. He is obliged to promise good wages to those whom he wishes to be his servants; he could get few, certainly, if any, who would serve him on his own account.

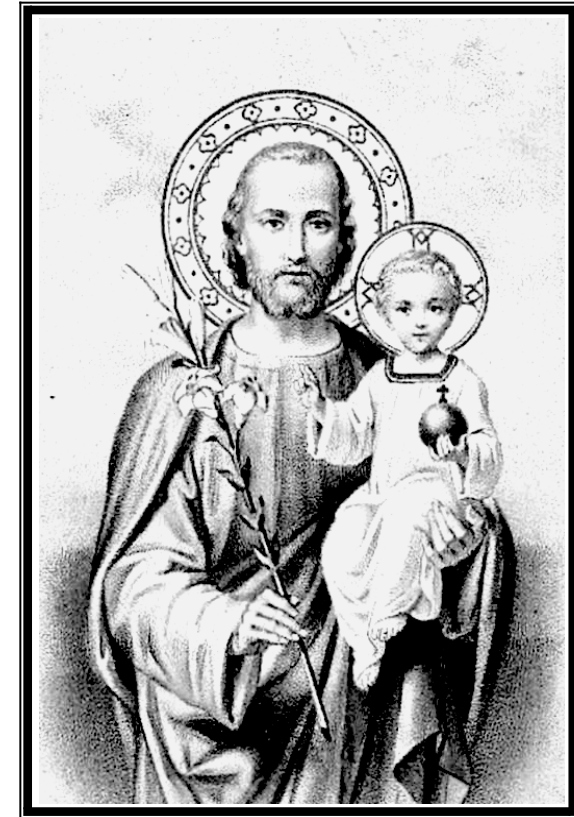
Does the devil, then, ask us to adore or worship him? Yes, he does. He does not ask us to build churches in his honor, or to say prayers to him, it is true; he knows that he cannot expect that. But he does ask us to be his servants, and to obey his commands; he wants us to take him for our master, though he does not care much whether we acknowledge him to be so. He asks for the substantial part of worship, our money, our labor, our time, and our life; if he gets that, may he not well be content?

But does he offer us all the kingdoms of the world? Oh, no! He is not so foolish as to offer his whole stock in trade for what can be got for a trifle. He named this price to our Saviour because, though he did not know fully what He was, still he valued His services highly, and thought them worth any sacrifice to obtain; but for us very little out of his treasury suffices. Despising us, he only promises us what he has good reason to think will be enough; a little sensual pleasure, a passing fame or notoriety, or even a few dollars, is the price which he generally names for our allegiance. Thirty pieces of silver he found to be all that was needed for one of the Apostles; what wonder that he is not disposed to bid very high for us! Once the newspapers told us of a young man who shot an innocent passer-by simply to get reputation as a desperado. Fortunately, he did not live to shoot another one; he met the fate he deserved on the scaffold. Perhaps he thought that a grand thing, too; but I question much whether, in his secret heart, it seemed to him at that moment worth while to be sent out of the world by an ignominious and painful death, and to go before God with murder on his soul, even for the sake of being considered a humble imitator of the lawless men of whom he had read. And yet there are others following in his steps, many perhaps here in this city of ours; Christians, so-called at least, bought with the blood of Christ, and even having some knowledge of religion and its precepts, who would sell their immortal souls, and despise the crown of eternal life, to be distinguished as a burglar or a ruffian, or as the hero of a dime novel!

Now, this is absurd, foolish, and contemptible enough certainly, to throw away salvation and the kingdom of heaven, not for a kingdom on earth, but for such inglorious things as these. We think, no doubt, that they would be no temptation to us; and, indeed, it is to be hoped that there are few, on the whole, to whom they would be. But, after all, what is the great difference, when we come to look at it fairly, between such things and those which do lead us to sin? Is the fame of a clever infidel much better worth the loss of the kingdom of heaven, than that of an abandoned outlaw? Or is any fame worth having, if we must sin to obtain it?

Or are riches worth possessing, if acquired by dishonesty, or if they take our hearts from the desire of true riches? Or is pleasure worth enjoying, if it takes away the happiness of the soul and the peace of God? Is the miserable pittance which the devil offers us, laughing at us for our folly as he does so, or is even all that he has to offer, worth the heavy price we must pay for it? Is anything worth loving and serving which puts out the love of God from our hearts, and takes us away from His service? I need not answer, for those hearts tell us that it is not; for it is plainly written in them, as well as in God's law, that the only thing to make us happy is to love God and serve Him alone.

Think of these things, then, my brethren, in this holy season of Lent. Think well, and make your decision which master you will choose. Some time you must decide forever; why not now?



*Saint Joseph's
Traditional Roman Catholic Chapel
Traditional Latin Mass*

*29968 County 22
Harmony, Minnesota 55939*

Sunday, February 18

1st Sunday of Lent

Confessions 12:30 pm

Holy Mass 1:00 pm

****Distribution of Ashes****

****Blessing of Religious Articles****

(St. Simeon, BM)

Friday, February 23

St. Peter Damian, BCD

Confessions 5:30 pm

Holy Communion 6:00 pm

Stations

(Ember Friday)

Sunday, February 25

2nd Sunday of Lent

Confessions 12:30 pm

Holy Mass 1:00 pm

(St. Tarasius, BC)

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MASS INTENTIONS may be submitted to Father for a stipend of \$25.00. If you wish a specific date, please submit well in advance. Mass Intention envelopes are available in the vestibule.

MEAL VOLUNTEERS: There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule for the month of February to help provide Father with a meal-to-go after Mass. *Thank You* to all those who have been assisting with this Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry; and supporting your parish priest.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND for May of 2024 is being coordinated by Fr. Benedict Hughes. Please see flyer in the vestibule and contact Fr. Benedict if interested.

LENT: Every Friday evening of this Lenten season, we will have devotions starting at 6 pm with Distribution of Holy Communion and Stations of the Cross, followed by our soup supper downstairs. Please bring a soup or a side to share!

FAST LAWS-

- 1) Everyone over 21 and under 59 years of age is bound to observe the law of fast.
- 2) The days of fast are the weekdays of Lent, including Holy Saturday.
- 3) On days of fast, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs; but together they should not equal another full meal.

4) Meat may be taken at the principal meal on a day of fast except on Fridays, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Saturday.

5) Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

6) Where health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a parish priest or confessor should be consulted.

Distribution of Ashes will happen after Mass this afternoon and after that we will have the blessing of articles.

Upcoming Ember Days – This Wednesday (Feb. 21), and Saturday (Feb. 24) are days of partial abstinence for those 7 years and older, which means meat is eaten only once. For those who are observing the Lenten fast, nothing is different. On days of partial abstinence, meat and soup or gravy made from meat may be taken only once a day at the principal meal.

St. Joseph Men's Retreat – Friday, March 15th-March 17th Sunday, **Mount Saint Michael in Spokane**, Washington is hosting a men's retreat, open to all men 18 years & up. Deadline for Registration and Fee is Wednesday, March 6th. For more information please see flyer on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

Saturday, March 9th – Lenten Day of Recollection at Our Lady of Grace, Seneca WI. A Schedule will be posted soon!

Tuesday, March 19th – We will be having a Solemn High Mass on the feast of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph's Church Financial Statement

Average Weekly Operating Costs: \$590

Average 2024 Weekly Collection (year-to-date): \$629

Last Four Collections: 1/21 \$739 1/28 \$461 2/4 \$495 2/10 \$709