



THE *LANTIERIAN*



SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL

**STAFFED BY
THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

**PREPARE YE THE WAY
OF THE LORD**

ENCOUNTERING THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 15, 2019

CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. James Doran, OMV
(director@stfrancis.chapel.org)

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV
Fr. James Walther, OMV
Br. Joseph O' Connor, OMV

Pastoral Associate: Isabelle Maria

Music Director: Rebecca Martin

Music: Kim Araiza,
Michael Enwright, Saul Garcia,
Christina Roberts

Cleaning of Chapel Environment:
Nubia Viasus

The Chapel Gift Shop *Item of the Week...*

A new kind of Saints Bracelet...

*Each one comes with a booklet
telling a saint's story,
one bead at a time!*



The Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart bracelet with the "Two Hearts" medal of St. Francis Chapel

Ethical jewelry and accessories made in Puerto Rico. Each piece tells a story of faith and surrender to God by a different saint, or of a particular devotion to Jesus or Mary. Find a piece that identifies with your very own life mission.

SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM,
7:00 PM en español

Sun. 8 AM, 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:45 AM,
1:15 PM en español,
4:00 PM, 5:30 PM

Weekday Masses:

Mon.—Fri. 8:00 AM, 12:05 PM, 4:45 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM, 12 PM

Confessions:

Mon.—Fri. 11:15 - 11:50 AM, 12:45 - 4:15 PM
Saturday 9:45 - 11:45 AM, 12:45 - 3:30 PM

Devotions:

Tuesday after Mass: Memorare,
5:30 PM Vespers;

Thursday after Mass: St. Jude;
Mon.—Fri. after 4:45 PM Mass: Rosary

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30 - 11:45 AM, 1:00 - 4:30 PM;
Sat. 9:30 - 11:30 AM, 12:30 - 3:30 PM;
Sunday 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Gift Shop Hours:

Monday—Friday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM;
Saturday 9:30 AM - 6:45 PM*;
Sunday 8:45 AM - 5:30 PM*

(*Closed during Sun. and Sat. Vigil Masses)

CONTACT US

St. Francis Chapel
800 Boylston St., Boston MA 02199

617-437-7117

stfrancis@omvusa.org

stfrancis.chapel.org



SFChapel



stfrancis.chapel

Christmas Mass Schedule

Dec. 24 Christmas Vigil: 4 pm, 5:30 pm,
7 pm (español)

Dec. 25: Midnight Mass 12 am, 8 am, 9:15 am,
10:30 am, 11:45 am, 1:15 pm (español)

The Chapel closes after the 1:15 pm Mass

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent *by Fr. James Doran, OMV*

John was in Herod's dungeon because he defended marriage. Herod had a wife. He was married to the daughter of an Arabian king. He was also living with his brother's wife, Herodias. John the Baptist and Jesus criticized Herod's immoral life because he was a public figure, a national leader causing scandal, giving bad example. As a Jew, he should have been observing the Law: "you shall not have intercourse with your brother's wife for that would be a disgrace to your brother" (Leviticus 18:16).

So, John is in prison; and remember, he had disciples. The day after John baptized Jesus a couple of his disciples started to follow Jesus. However it seems that not all of John's men were convinced that Jesus was the long-awaited "Messiah"; so John sends them to ask, "Are you the One?"

Jesus says; "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." These were signs of the Messiah. See the first reading. He was not recognized by many because they were looking for a powerful military leader not a humble miracle worker.

I am sure John rejoiced when his followers recognized Jesus as the Messiah. This was John's mission — prepare people to receive and believe in Jesus. As he said, "He must increase, and I must decrease. I am not worthy to untie His sandals." Jesus loved John and appreciated everything John was doing for him. After his followers left, Jesus praises John. He recognized his penitential life, living in the desert. Jesus calls him "more than a prophet."

In the second reading St. James says, "Do not complain brothers about one another that you may not be judged. The Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord". Those who speak in the name of the Lord must be patient. Pope Francis speaks of joy and patience. He encourages us not to give up when we have to deal with difficult people and situations. Stick with it. John did not let himself be overcome with discouragement in the dungeon. He told his followers who came to visit him, "Go to Jesus and see what He is doing. Ask Him if He is the One."

We can all get down in the dumps, but we do not have to stay there. St. Ignatius says, "don't give in to spiritual desolation." Fight and know that God is with you even if you cannot feel His presence. He is with you. He permits you to suffer trials for a while for your own advancement in the spiritual life. Trials can convert us and help us grow in virtue.

St. Francis Chapel Prayer List

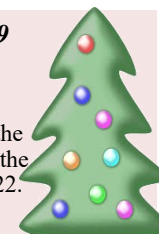
Send the names of loved ones for whom you would like us to pray to stfrancis@omvusa.org or by mail to St. Francis Chapel, 800 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02199 and we will print them in the Lanterian.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2019

To benefit *Friends of the Unborn* and *Back Bay Mobile Soup Kitchen*

Please take an ornament from the tree in the entrance, buy the gift requested and bring the unwrapped gift to the Gift Shop by Dec. 22.

God bless you!



NEWS

Year of the EUCCHARIST

Cardinal Seán O'Malley is declaring a Year of the Eucharist for the Archdiocese of Boston! The year will officially begin on Holy Thursday 2020 and end on the Feast of Corpus Christi 2021. Visit bostoncatholic.org/YearoftheEucharist.

BIBLICAL PRAYER

December 17: Prayer in Paul's letters

Instructor: Fr. Peter Grover, OMV

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Front Parlor, St. Clement Shrine,
1105 Boylston Street, Boston
stclementshrine.org



Biblical prayer is unique — the words we speak are not ours but God's own inspired words which we borrow from Scripture. This is our opportunity to pray in God's language.

The Friends of God: St. Adelaide

Feast Day: December 16

Patron of: Abuse Victims, In-Law Problems

At the age of two in 931 Adelaide was promised in marriage to a rival's son. This was part of a peace agreement in the Kingdom of Burgundy in Italy. Another rival to the throne rose up and killed Adelaide's husband and king, Lothaire. Attempts were made to force Adelaide into another marriage. After refusing, Adelaide was imprisoned but escaped. While in refuge in Canossa she met the Holy Roman Emperor, Otho; they married and ruled jointly. Adelaide was widely popular due to her wisdom and care for her people. Later, her daughter-in-law was extremely jealous of her popularity and began to mistreat her. Adelaide eventually had to leave the palace to seek peace. When her son and daughter-in-law both died Adelaide returned to court to become regent for her grandson. Her court was known for its solemnity and deep spirituality.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 15

8:00 AM + Jenny Utech

9:15 AM The Employees of Focus Medical
Family

10:30 AM + Jeremiah Langone

11:45 AM + Nives Zucchi

1:15 PM (esp.) + Richard Pluta

4:00 PM + Manuel Lopez

5:30 PM Poor Souls in Purgatory

Monday, Dec. 16

8:00 AM + Colonel Phalim Connolly

12:05 PM + Marilyn Birnie

4:45 PM Richard & Carol McCulloch —
health and welfare

Tuesday, Dec. 17

8:00 AM Sean Hagerty — health

12:05 PM + Michael Duffy

4:45 PM The People of Hong Kong

Wednesday, Dec. 18

8:00 AM + Nina Arcidiacono

12:05 PM + James

4:45 PM Souls of Purgatory

Thursday, Dec. 19

8:00 AM Dorothy Mela

12:05 PM Dillon

4:45 PM + Dufort Dubuisson & + Cresta
Rateau

Friday, Dec. 20

8:00 AM + Michael & + Jane Begley

12:05 PM + Stephen Tarsa

4:45 PM Simone & Valentina Ceci

Saturday, Dec. 21 St. Peter Canisius

9:00 AM + Jesuino Martins

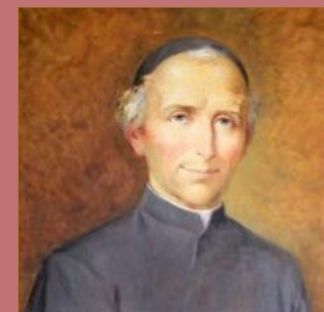
12:00 PM + Jack Calahan

4:00 PM + Ardelle Rice

5:30 PM + Eamon Mooney

7:00 PM (esp.) + Aurora Ramirez y
+ Evelio Restrepo

Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri
*Founder of the Oblates
of the Virgin Mary*

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to recognize, honor and glorify your infinite greatness and the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance, I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with so many praises, with so many wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

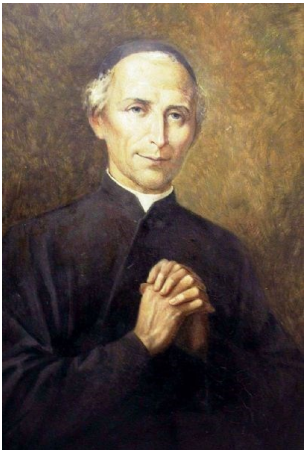
Catechesis: Dryness in Prayer (Part II)

We continue now with the catechesis on dryness in the spiritual life begun last week. There were four common causes of dryness that were named last week. One final cause to mention is the possibility that dryness is the result of unconfessed sin. If we avoid facing our sinfulness and humbly acknowledging it before God in the confessional then it is possible we are blocking the grace of God. When we are in sin the grace of God would generate sorrow within us. This sorrow, when consecrated in the sacrament of confession, can be a deeply transforming experience. It would be similar to a person who delays by distracting him or herself from facing the grief of the loss of someone special. Dryness may result due to the delay in facing our sin and allowing proper sorrow to be experienced.

This purification process is an opportunity to develop new spiritual attitudes and a deeper friendship with Christ. As we mature through the process by fidelity to our duties and vocation to prayer, we develop new forms of trust in God and resilience in the face of spiritual obstacles. As a river cuts a canyon through a mountain, dryness in prayer, when aided by grace, “carves” new spiritual pathways through the soul.

Spiritual Exercises in Advent

By Ven. Bruno Lanteri, Founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary



Know well what it is that God desires so as not to labor uselessly, spending one's self for that which God does not require of us, and which therefore is not pleasing to him. That which God seeks is to uproot pride, to burn away desires for self-advancement, for being esteemed, for gratifying and giving pleasure to men; this hinders God from working in the soul, whence it is necessary to conceive a great hatred for it and make a conscious effort to eradicate it.

Resolve to never omit spiritual reading, the practice of union with God, the exam of this virtue, and the general exam of the day, and to do this every day. Also, if it is possible add a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and go to confession every week.

The Catholic Way: The “O” Antiphons

From December 17 through the 23 the Church intensifies its Advent desire for the coming of Christ. Each day the Church sings Mary's *Magnificat* with the “O” antiphons so as to emphasize seven ways Christ fulfilled the Old Testament. It is a great practice to pray the *Magnificat* with these antiphons each night:

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

Lectio Divina

“Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

— James 5

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to receive the word of God with reverence and joy.

Notice the thoughts and emotions within you. As you prayerfully consider this passage, are you able to identify what thoughts and feelings are generated?

This is the word of God. Take time to consider it carefully. Clear from your mind all distractions. Does it bring you hope or frustration? What does it mean for you that the Lord is coming? How is the Lord's coming at hand? Why does James consider this an important message? How should you prepare for the coming of the Lord? Take time right now to let these words touch your heart. Might you ask Mary to help you listen with confidence to the Lord?

Ask the Holy Spirit, in your heart, to help you to apply this to your life.