

MARCH 1 & 2, 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Lord's words this Sunday speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, "For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles" (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives.

No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the "figs" and "grapes" of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer and service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray and serve fruitfully...with minimal quarreling.

TEN TIPS FOR THE BEST LENT

God gives in abundance, always, in all times and in all places! His goodness manifests itself most abundantly in His Mystical Body, the Church and concretely in the Church Liturgical Year.

The two strong times of the year are Advent, which culminates in Christmas, and Lent which culminates in Holy Week and in the Risen Lord Jesus. To experience the fullness of the Paschal Mystery—the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus—we must live with a generous heart and openness of spirit during the season of Lent. Lent is both a gift and a Season of abundant grace.

Why not decide right now to live this Lent with total generosity of heart, mind, soul, body, and emotions? Let us live out these forty days of graces and blessings as if it were to be the last Lent in our lives! Our life is short and time flies by and the clock never ticks backwards.

We will offer ten simple Lenten practices so that indeed this Lent will be the best Lent in our lives. "If today you hear the voice of the Lord, harden not your hearts..."

1. Prayer. Instead of being Martha this Lent why not try to imitate Mary of Bethany. What did Mary do, as Martha nervously and frantically rushed to and fro? Mary simply sat at the feet of Jesus, looked at Jesus intently, listened attentively to His words, carried on a friendly and loving conversation, and simply loved Jesus. In Lent why not make the proposal—in imitation of Mary of Bethany—to pray a little bit more and better! Prayer delights the Heart of Jesus!

2. Reconciliation and Peace. If it is such that there is some person in your life that you have bitterness towards, resentment, maybe even hatred, then Lent is a most propitious time to reconcile. Build a bridge and knock down the barrier! In marriage homilies I often say to those about to be married that the three most important short phrases that couples should learn are: "I love you!" "I am sorry!" and "I forgive you!" Lent is time to throw out the old and rotting yeast and to be renewed in our social relationships!

3. Penance. Jesus said unequivocally: "Unless you do penance you will perish." Give up something you like for the love of God and for the salvation of souls. By saying "No" to self, we say "yes" to the invasion of God in our hearts! Beg the Holy Spirit for light to give up what is most pleasing to God!

4. The Bible, The Word of God. In the holy seasons of Advent and Lent the Church warmly exhorts us to have a real hunger for the Word of God. Jesus in response to the first temptation of the devil responded: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." May this Lenten season be motivated by a daily meditation of the Word of God! Use a prayer method suggested by Pope Benedict XVI called *Lectio Divina*: read, meditate, contemplate, pray, and action—put into practice the good insights you have received. This will result in a transformation of life; as St. Paul asserted: "It is no longer I who lives but Christ who lives in me."

5. Almsgiving. Lent is a time to give, especially to the poor, sick, marginalized and the rejected of society. Remember Pope Francis' many gestures of loving the poor, kissing the repulsive and rejected of the world. "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do to me."

6. The Three T's. Following up on almsgiving, why not examine your life in these three areas and see where and how you can give, as Blessed Mother Teresa said: "Give until it hurts!" Time! Give your time to others. Start at home because charity begins at home. Talents! We all have talents. Lent is time to conquer our laziness and work diligently to cultivate our God-given talents. "Better to wear out than rust out!" Treasures! If you have an excess of food, clothing, money and material possessions, give and give. You are giving to Jesus in the poor!

7. Joy. Be joyful! Try to implement this acronym: J. O. Y. J—stands for Jesus! O—stands for others; Y—stands for you! If we put Jesus first, then others second and finally ourselves as last then we will experience the joy of the Holy Spirit and it will overflow on the others we meet!

8. Daily Mass and Communion. By far the best way we could possibly live out the Holy Season of Lent is by drawing as close to Jesus as possible. In Holy Mass and Holy Communion, not only do we draw close to Jesus, but we actually receive Him into the very depths of our being, our inner sanctuary which is our soul. However, go to Mass and Holy Communion with intentions, especially to repair for sin and prevent sin. Why did Jesus suffer so much in His bitter Passion? St. Ignatius of Loyola gives us the two fundamental reasons: 1) To show us the malice and evil of the reality of sin; 2) to show us the depths of His love for all of humanity and for each one of us individually. Offer your Mass and Holy Communion in reparation for your past sins as well as in reparation for the sins of your family. Morally speaking also our Holy Mass and Communion could and should be offered in reparation for the sins of abortion—shedding the blood of the most innocent and vulnerable and then in reparation for the widespread practice of homosexuality which tears apart the basic building block of society—the family!

9. Conquer Your Own Devil. All of us have our own kryptonite—our weak point where we easily fall. But also we all have our own devil that attacks us—often going for our weak point. Check out where the devil attacks most. You might just go through the Capital sins and see where the devil has an opening. Gluttony? Lust? Greed? Sloth/Laziness? Anger? Envy? Pride? In Lent we are soldiers enlisted in the arms of Christ the King. Time to fight against our personal devil with the strength of Jesus the King. We are weak, but God is strong. Nothing is impossible for God!

10. Mary and Lent. Try to live a strongly Marian Lent. Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary as well as the Rosary dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. Make the Way of the Cross, walking with Our Lady of Sorrows. Strive in Lent to live these holy days through the eyes of Mary and with the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In conclusion, if we can choose to live out these proposals with generosity of spirit, this will be the most holy of all our Lenten. We will be able to live out the fullness of the Paschal Mystery—to suffer and die with Jesus so that we will rise with Him in the glory of the Resurrection!

-Diocese of Santa Rosa / Catholic Exchange

MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 1 - 7, 2025

Saturday (01)	9:00 a.m.	John Dantis †
	5:00 p.m.	Fred & Clara White † Thomas Galemba †
	6:30 p.m.	Victor Martin & Raquel Dzul † Candelaria & Raquel Campos † Lupe Becerra † Pete & Consuelo Sánchez (44th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday (02)	8:00 a.m.	John Dantis †
	10:00 a.m.	Missa pro populo
Monday (03)	12:05 p.m.	NO MASS
Tuesday (04)	5:30 p.m.	Matilde Puc Kumul †
Ash Wednesday Wednesday(05)	12:05 p.m.	Rev. Balaswamy Govindu †
	6:00 p.m.	Arturo Martínez † Yolanda Cazares † Mauricia Campuzano †
Thursday (06)	12:05 p.m.	Rev. Balaswamy Govindu †
Friday (07)	12:05 p.m.	Rev. Balaswamy Govindu †
	6:00 p.m.	Arturo Martínez † Yolanda Cazares † Mauricia Campuzano †



PALM BURNING FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

This is the last weekend your old palms will be collected. These will be burned before Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Place them in the basket that is in the vestibule of the Church. It is an old custom to collect and burn the previous year's palms for use on Ash Wednesday.

Blessed palms should not be disposed of as waste material.



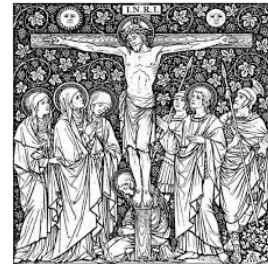
ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

12:05 p.m.

English Mass & Imposition of Ashes

6:00 p.m.

Spanish Mass & Imposition of Ashes



THERE WILL BE STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

English: 12:45 p.m.

Spanish: 6:00 p.m.



ATTENTION:

There will be Confessions on Tuesdays from 6 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
& Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Parish Office at
707-964-0229 ext. 1.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2025...\$2,127.00

CHURCH MAINTENANCE...\$933.00

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

LIABILITY INSURANCE

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

MAINTENANCE FUND

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT
& CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Gerardo Escobedo, Cuca Soto, Yolanda Soto, Rosalío Martínez,
Felix Santillán, Esperanza Barba, Bertha Valenzuela, Gina Pivirotto,
Angie Gómez, Rose Cortez, Fidela Jara, Martha Sánchez, Angie Freitas,
Russel Bryant, Derrick Heater, Ann Gallagher, Brianna Lopez,
Margaret Milliken, Nick Quin, Mary Servis,
Matty Walker & Ofelia Ybarra.

LET'S PRAY FOR ALL OUR FAMILY MEMBER AND FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY

Edgar Salinas, Uriel Osorio, Nerio Salazar, Jovany Baez,
María de la Luz Ramírez, Matt Mills & Jared Schroeder.



WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT:

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish now offers
“ParishSOFT Giving,” an online giving software!

To get started, you can go to **olgcinfb.org**.

From this link you will be allowed to manage your own account,
set up recurring giving on a date you want or a one-time
donation, and you can set it up with your credit card, debit
card, checking or savings account!

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office
707-964-0229 ext 1.