

Some Thoughts for March, 2025

March is here! Hooray! That means longer daylight, sprouting bulbs, signs of spring-- thank God! Its been a brutal winter and we are ready for a nice spring thaw. When it's not blowing too hard we can even plan on going for a walk. (Lord, don't I sound like a senior.)

Lent begins on March 5th, Ash Wednesday. Some ashes on the forehead remind us how temporary our life is here and that we must shake off our complacency and seek closeness with God by sacrifice and a deeper prayer life. Getting back to reading scripture each day is very rewarding in many ways.

On March 7th we celebrate Sts. Felicity and Perpetua, both martyred in 203AD. St. Perpetua was a noblewoman and St. Felicity a slave. Both imprisoned together by Rome for being Christian, they become close companions. St. Augustine speaks of them by defining their names which represented their coming relationship to the Bridegroom, Jesus. The word "felicity" means intense happiness and "perpetual" meaning everlasting. So their sufferings and martyrdom led them to "perpetual felicity!" Sts. Felicity and Perpetua pray for us.

Of course we cannot forget St. Patrick on the 17th. Although he was technically not an Irishman, but a Roman citizen born in Scotland. He was captured and made a slave in Ireland at a young age. He spent 6 years there working as a herdsman during which time he fervently turned to his faith as a Christian. He escaped to Britain and was, after another brief captivity, reunited with his parents. After a time he returned to Ireland where he journeyed far and wide converting the pagans. Thank you St. Patrick for bringing Christianity to Ireland! St. Patrick pray for us.

We celebrate dear St. Joseph on the 19th. Faithful spouse of Mary and foster father and mentor to Jesus. St. Joseph was a craftsman. We think of St. Joseph as a carpenter, but since they lived in a mountainous region, they probably not only worked in wood, but as stone masons as well. Living in Nazareth, They were only a couple of miles from Sepphoris, so it's logical that St. Joseph and Jesus, as a young man and apprentice, would have traveled there to work. St. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers, families, workers, and of course he is protector of the church. St. Joseph pray for us.

So let us delve into Lent with good intentions and steadfast prayers. Remember fasting does not only apply to food, but from complacency and the three "C"s or cancers of spirituality, being complaint, control, and criticism. God bless us, each one.

Love,
Marge



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