

A Short History of Penance in the Early Church (part II of II)

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Another question regarding the Sacrament of Penance in the early Church could be: "What satisfaction was required for sins the Church admitted to Penance?" [ref. "A History of Penance, Being a Study of the Authorities (A) for the Whole Church to 450 AD (B) for the Western Church from 450 AD to 1215 AD Volume 1" by Oscar Daniel Wakins (1920).]

On this question, there is so broad a practice in the early Church, due her youth & rapid spread, that we must be content with a sketch of things. For added simplicity, review is made under two heads: the Greek & the Latin practice.

Within the 1st century, for sins the Church admits to Penance, there is no formulized manner of satisfying for sin. This develops in the 2nd century.

The Greek practice

Origen (184-253 AD) records three kinds of sin: those incurable i.e., capital sins; those in which a man may forgive his offender; those needing the ministry of the Church. The last regards Penance which needs "the priest of the Lord" who also supplies the remedy: "tears & lamentation, fasting & abstinence."

Twenty years after the Decian persecution, Gregory the Wonderworker (270 AD) adopts a graded system of penance: Mourners, Hearers, Fallers, Bystanders, Restored. Three alone are really grades as the first simply ask for admittance to Penance, while the last are reconciled. Of the three left, during Mass: Hearers stand in the narthex; Fallers kneel in the nave; Bystanders attend but do not Communicate.

The Latin practice

Tertullian, in *De Poenitentia* (198 AD), introduces the Greek word, *exomologesis*, "confession," into the Latin church to indicate the outward act of penance (more than confessing sins) wherein there is: sackcloth & ashes; fasting; lamentation; prostration before the presbyters; kneeling before the faithful. It is not clear whether sins are confessed publically or privately, but all evidence after this time shows private confession of sins to a priest or bishop alone.

Fifty years later, again after the Decian persecution, Cyprian of Carthage records the above as the Church norm, but only for minor sins, which, we may recall, by his authority, now included sins of impurity.

Length of penances

Precise lengths of penance develop in the 4th century. Examples regarding the lapsed: Peter, archbishop of Alexandria, in his Canonical Epistle (306 AD), decreed: they who lapsed due torments, 40 days penance; they who lapsed in prison, 1 year of penance; they who lapsed through cowardice, 3 to 4 years penance. Later, after the persecutions ceased, the Council of Nicea (325 AD), in Canon 11, decreed that they who lapsed "without compulsion, or confiscation of goods, or peril, or any such pressure" and sincerely repent "shall be three years among the Hearers, and seven years shall be Fallers: for two years more they shall take part with the people in the Prayers but without oblation." (Basically, back then, to return to the Church, the fallen away Catholic was required to spend 12 years in degrees of penance before he was allowed Holy Communion; albeit the Bishop could intervene anytime & canon 13 allowed this sooner if one were dying.)

To end, may this quick study make us more grateful for the easy Penance in our day!



CHRIST THE KING Catholic Church

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls
according to the liturgical books of 1962.

24th & Last Sunday of Pentecost

November 24, 2024 A.D.

Pastor: Fr. Chris Hathaway, FssP

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Church Office Hours: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Christ the King Catholic Church.

Office: 941-924-2777

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Sarasota, FL 34231

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The Daily Mass Schedule is:

Monday at 12 noon.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00 am and 9:00 am.

Friday at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm. (On Friday, a 5:30 pm Holy Hour & confession time, precedes the 6:30 pm Mass.)

Saturday at 9:00 am.

Sacramental Emergency: 941-400-5415

The Sunday Mass Schedule is:

7:00 am low; 8:30 am low; & 10:30 am sung & a seasonal 12:30 pm low Mass.

Items on the "Blessing Table" in the hall are blessed after the last Sunday Mass.

Confessions are heard in the confessional box ½ hour before Mass.

"Lost & Found" is in the vestibule; if not there, check with the office.

In Ocala:

Sunday Mass at 4:30 pm

Monday Mass at 7 am.

1st Saturday Mass at 10:30 am.

Scan to give



Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR
Sun 11-24	24 th & Last Sunday after Pentecost	2/G
Mon 11-25	St Catherine of Alexandria, <i>Virgin & Martyr</i>	3/R
Tues 11-26	St Sylvester, <i>Abbot</i>	3/W St Peter of Alexandria
Wed 11-27	O.L. of the Miraculous Medal	4/W
Thu 11-28	Feria	4/G
Fri 11-29	St Saturninus, <i>Martyr</i>	4/R
Sat 11-30	St Andrew, <i>Apostle</i>	2/R
Sun 12-01	1 st Sunday of Advent	1/V

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 11-24	(7 am) Bill & Ann Shehwen++ (8:30 am) Robert Hrycyk (10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (12:30 pm) Intentions of the pastor (not at CtK)	rb Shehwen family rb M&D Hrycyk
Mon 11-25	(12 pm) Poor Souls in Purgatory	rb N Truong
Tues 11-26	(7 am) Thanksgiving for conversion of a loved one (not at CtK) (9 am) CtK Parishioners	rb anonymous rb anonymous
Wed 11-27	(7 am) Luz Maria Rodriguez Velilla & family (not at CtK) (9 am) Lisa June (630 pm) <i>Do This in Memory of Me</i> capital campaign	rb A Velilla rb M/M T Van Gelderen
Thu 11-28	(7 am) Our priests (not at CtK) (9 am) Richard & Rita + Wallace	rb altar servers rb P Johnson
Fri 11-29	(9 am) Esteban Rodriguez Diaz & family (6:30 pm) Jane Peake+	rb A Velilla rb A Blaso
Sat 11-30	(9 am) Aaron Pruitt	rb M Pruitt
Sun 12-01	(7 am) Thomas Perri+ (8:30 am) Patrick Simmons (10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (12:30 pm) Kathy Kirsch	rb S&R Perri rb J Simmons rb R Dunn

Happy Thanksgiving!

Today's 10:30 Mass: Entr: Holy, Holy, Holy, #929; Exit: Now Thank We All Our God, #937.

Last Sunday's Collection: cash \$6,762.17; on-line \$2,180.00; CFA \$653.33.

Do This in Memory of Me: cash \$414.00.00; online \$365.00.00.

Total souls: 504; 7 am-67; 8:30 am-135; 10:30 am-190; 12:30 pm-112. *Ocala* ~ 318.

Today, Fr. Perozich offers the 8:30 am Mass & hears Confessions at 10 am. On the Sundays in December, he will offer the 7 am Mass & hear confessions at 8 am.

This week [Fr Huber is away until 12/1, there is no 7 am weekday Mass at CtK until 12/3], Monday, Novena to St Joseph, **no adult catechism**, Vespers (4:30 pm); Tuesday, Novena, Holy Face devotions (10:15 am); Wednesday, Votive Mass of St Joseph (6:30 pm); Thursday, no staff meeting, no Vespers; Friday, Vespers (4:30 pm), Holy Hour (5:30 pm), Mass (6:30 pm); Saturday, Vespers (4:30 pm).

Please pray for: McNamara family, Leonard West, Markus Dixon (11/24); Gloria Flynn (11/17); Jacob Hoffmann, John Motzenbecker (11/10); Sciscenti family, Larry Walters, & baby Gardner (10/27).

Volunteers! Thank you for remembering to sign-in & sign-out of Volgistics!!!

2024 CFA status at CtK as of Nov. 16, 2024: \$113,000.00 assessed by the diocese; \$75,339.17 pledged (66.72% of goal); from 36.57% of 216 households; \$71,398.12 paid. (from dioceseofvenice.org) **Thank you for your support!**

For some time, persons have been vandalizing our "Struggling because of a past abortion?" postings in the bathrooms, especially those off the hallway. If this is you, please stop! If you are a young culprit, please destroy something in your home so that your parents can learn you some discipline. If you are an adult, please make an appointment to see one of our priests; this will be a better remedy for your troubled soul.

The Catholic Church has the fullness of truth. Her founder, Jesus Christ, commands her members to spread this Gospel throughout the world. The non-profit organization St. Paul Street Evangelization (SPSE) takes this call seriously by sharing the Gospel worldwide & teaching others how to do so too. **To this end**, SPSE is hosting a workshop. Registration is required and costs \$25. Lunch & evangelizing materials are included. Register online at <http://stpaulse.com/venice>. Training will take place at two locations on two consecutive days to give more opportunities to attend i.e., Sat., Dec. 7, at St. Andrew Parish, Cape Coral and Sun., Dec. 8, at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Arcadia.

FYI. After our recent hurricanes, CtK needs a new roof. The finance Council has approved a new 0.32-gauge aluminum roof at a cost of \$190,000.00. We will take this out of our savings. Moreover, currently, CtK owes the diocese \$41,691.00; this CFA payment is due in December & will also come out of our savings. These expenses will exhaust our savings. And, of course, our building project is hungry, too. Please keep this in mind in your end of year donations to CtK.

Dear Faithful of Christ the King,

11/24/24

Thank you for your continued prayers & donations for the success of our building project, "**Do This in Memory of Me.**"

Negotiations are underway regarding contractors of our project. When finalized, the project again will be presented the diocese for its approval. Thank you for your patience & God bless you.

Fr Hathaway