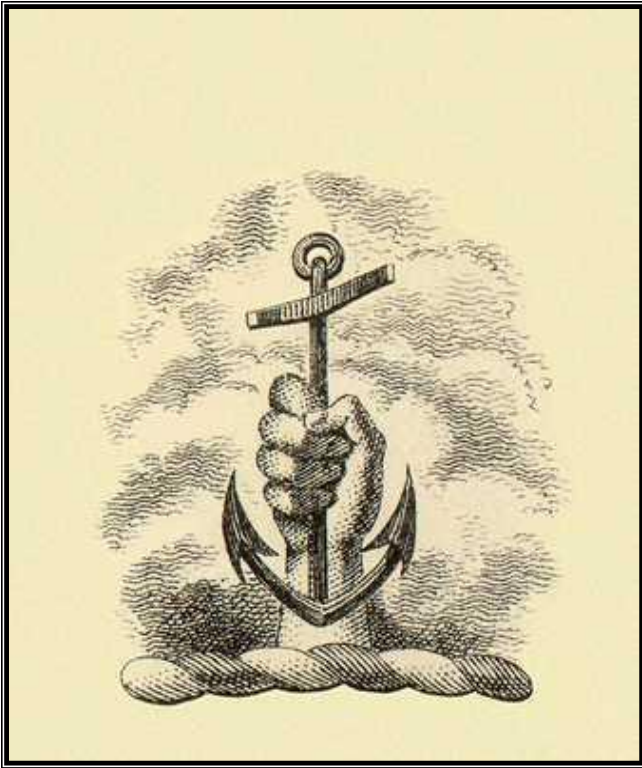


Family Vigil for the Season of Lent



The Anchor of Hope

Saturday Family Vigil on the Sabbath Day

The Sabbath and the family alike were instituted in Eden, and in God's purpose they are indissolubly linked together. On this day more than on any other, it is possible for us to live the life of Eden. It was God's plan for the members of the family to be associated in work and study, in worship and recreation, the father as priest of his household, and both father and mother as teachers and companions of their children.

In ancient times God commanded the Jewish people to observe a weekly Sabbath, or day of rest (Exodus 20:8), and the Church has obeyed that commandment as well. Sadly, Sunday is typically viewed even by many Catholics as a time for catching up on chores that weren't taken care of in the previous week. Meanwhile, many people have jobs that require them to work through the weekend. Often the father hardly sees the faces of his children throughout the week. He is almost wholly deprived of opportunity for companionship or instruction. But God's love has set a limit to the demands of toil. Over the Sabbath He places His merciful hand. On His own day He preserves for the family opportunity for communion with Him, with creation, and with one another.

Since the Sabbath is the memorial of creative power, it is the day above all others when we should acquaint ourselves with God through His works. In the minds of the children the very thought of the Sabbath should be bound up with the beauty of natural things. Blessed is the family who can go to the place of worship on the Sabbath as Jesus and His disciples went to the synagogue--across the fields, along the shores of the lake, or through the groves. Blessed is the father and mother who can teach their children God's written word;

By such associations parents may bind their children to their hearts, and thus to God, by ties that can never be broken.

The Vigil is held at the family altar or at the dining area or at some convenient place in the house.

Acclamation

Father: Blessed be the holy, eternal, and undivided Trinity:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Members: *And blessed be His glorious Kingdom, tonight and
always, throughout all ages. Amen.*

Summary of the Law

Father: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

(All kneel)

Act of Penitence

Father: Lent is not a time for condemnation or self-pity, but a time to remember God's greatness. It is a time to listen more closely to His voice, and examine our lives for things which tend to push Him away. So let us prepare for Him to reveal Himself to us tomorrow in the breaking of the Bread, as we confess our sins before Him.

Confession

Time of silence for examination of conscience, then all say together the following confession:

All: *Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against You through our own fault. We have wavered in our love for You; we have put our own interests above that of all others; and we have not lived out the full reality of Christ in us. Forgive us and cleanse us, O faithful and righteous God, that we may continually walk in the light of Your fellowship. Amen.*

Absolution

Father: The Almighty and Merciful Lord, for the sake of the Blood of the Cross of His Son Jesus Christ, has laid not our sins to our charge, but has forgiven us all that is past.

He has granted us the grace to put away the evil and to cling to the good, that we may walk with perfect hearts before Him all our days. **Amen.**

(All stand)

Father: The Lord be with you.

All: ***And with your spirit.***

Father: Let us pray.

Almighty Father, as a miracle of humanity and love, as the Word which makes people free, Your Son has come among us; and where He comes, life is no longer dark or fearful. We pray that as He comes among us here this evening, we may be filled with faith and courage, truth, and peace, today and all the days of our lives.

All: ***Amen.***

Lighting of the Candle(s)

(Candles at the family altar may now be lit)

The Collect

Father: Let us pray.
Lord our God, Your love we cannot measure, nor
even number Your blessings.

Members: *We bless and praise You for all Your goodness.*

Father: In our weakness, You are our strength. In our
darkness, You are our light.

Members: *In our sorrows, You are our comfort and peace.*

All: *You are our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

(All sit)

Reading of the Sunday Gospel

*Other members of the household may be assigned to read the
Sunday Gospel and lead the Psalm*

March 5, the 1st Sunday in Lent - Matthew 4 : 1-11

March 12, the 2nd Sunday in Lent - John 3 : 1-17

March 19, the 3rd Sunday in Lent - John 4 : 5-14

March 26, the 4th Sunday in Lent - John 9 : 1-11

April 2, the 5th Sunday in Lent - John 11: 18-44

Reading of the Sunday Psalm

March 5, the 1st Sunday in Lent - Psalm 32

March 12, the 2nd Sunday in Lent - Psalm 33: 12-22

March 19, the 3rd Sunday in Lent - Psalm 95

March 26, the 4th Sunday in Lent - Psalm 23

April 2, the 5th Sunday in Lent - Psalm 130

Reflection

The Father may assign other members of the household to give a short reflection, or a group discussion may take place at this time.

(All stand)

Litanies

Other members of the household may be assigned to lead the Litanies.

Father: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Members: *Rescue us, save us, keep us, O Lord by Your grace.*

Father: A night serene, holy and peaceful;

Members: *Grant us, O Lord.*

Father: The angel of peace to watch over us;

Members: *Grant us, O Lord.*

Father: The pardon and forgiveness of our sins;

Members: *Grant us, O Lord.*

Father: The bond of love in the unity of Your Spirit;

Members: *Grant us, O Lord.*

Father: Peace in these our days;

Members: *Grant us, O Lord.*

Father: Your sure defense against all evil;

Members: *Grant us, O Lord.*

Father: A death in the communion of Your Church and the vision of Your glory;

Members: *Grant us, O Lord.*

Father: Calling to remembrance all the saints in heaven and on earth, we commend ourselves, each other, and all our lives unto You, O Lover of Man:

Members: *To You, through Your only Son, in the unity of Your Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Father: Let us pray.

All: *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory; forever and ever. Amen. ☩

Concluding Prayer

Father: The Lord be with you.

Members: *And with your spirit.*

Father: Let us pray.

O God, by Your Word, You marvelously carry out the word of reconciliation: May we be devoted to You with all our hearts, and united with one another in prayer and Holy Communion, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

Prayer of Preparation

All: *O God of salvation and lover of all people, we pray that when we gather together in the communion of the Holy Spirit to celebrate the divine liturgy tomorrow, our service may be found acceptable to You and worthy of Your greatness.*

Fill us with Your heavenly grace as we partake of the heavenly and life-giving mysteries of the Body and Blood of Your Son; for the glory of Your Kingdom. Amen.

Proclamation and Blessing

Father: The Lord God Almighty is our Father.

Members: *He loves us and tenderly watches over us.*

Father: The Lord Christ is our Savior.

Members: *He has redeemed us and will steadfastly defend us.*

Father: The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us.

Members: *He will lead us in God's holy way.*

Father: The Almighty and Merciful Lord continually pour upon you His heavenly blessing, that, cleansed by His grace, in your Lenten journey you may all come to the Easter of His unending joy.

(All kneel. Silence is kept for a time)