

The Third Sunday of Great Lent  
Veneration of the Holy Cross  
Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. (KJV)

God's Holy Church has come to the Third Sunday of Great Lent. The intensity of Great Lent increases with each day of the journey. Believers participating in the Lenten journey will seriously make the effort to grow in Christ.

Each believer is to complete the Lenten journey in greater conformity with the ways and teaching of Jesus Christ. The Lenten journey is beneficial when the believer seriously repents of sin and unites completely with Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ's Cross stands in the middle of the church as the reminder of Christ's great love. The Cross offers strength and direction for believers for the remainder of the Lenten journey.

The Cross points in anticipation to the ultimate joy of the celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The Cross offers hope when darkness exists in life. The Cross stands for triumph when believers feel at a loss in life.

Jesus Christ being nailed to the Cross seemed to be a great ending point. The Cross revealed the ultimate truth about Jesus Christ. Death could not contain Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ triumphed over death.

The Lenten journey and Holy Week offer the highest levels of education. Great Lent and Holy Week offers inexhaustible learning for attentive believers. Attentive believers find authentic nourishment for the soul during this time in the Church.

The Church's Divine services provide instructional value of the highest order. No university degree equals the life-transforming and renewing experience coming from repentance and complete unity with Jesus Christ.

Repentance and unity with Christ transform believers of all educational levels. Great Lent fosters repentance and unity with Christ. Believers journey through Great Lent to Holy Week and the ultimate celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

The remaining three weeks of Great Lent and Holy Week will enrich and change the lives of believers seriously embracing life in the Church. Jesus Christ's love abounds in the Church at every moment.

Jesus Christ is present at every moment of life. Great Lent heightens awareness of Jesus' presence at all times. If Jesus feels distant in personal life, serious self-examination will reveal if the believer has moved away from Christ.

Great Lent is the annual call for believers to reunite fully with Jesus Christ. Great Lent is the time to actively repent of sins and to reject aspects of life having nothing to do with Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for today encourages believers to deny the self for the betterment of the life in Christ. The Gospel instructs believers to freely and fully confess Jesus Christ in daily living.

The world has temptations and attractions to draw the believer away from Jesus Christ. Evil exists to tarnish the souls of believers. Temptations and attractions perilous to the soul abound.

Great Lent is the time for increased vigilance and resoluteness to remain on the narrow path to God's Kingdom. Each day is an opportunity to invest in treasures in heaven and seek the path to eternal life.

God's Holy Church offers the love of Christ for believers with eyes to see and ears to hear. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving facilitate the successful and beneficial Lenten journey.

Attentive believers will look to the teachers of the Church and the examples of believers through the ages to learn how to benefit from Great Lent. The Church in wisdom offers Great Lent each year as the time of renewal.

The Church offers continuity that will continue until Jesus' Second Coming. Each day is an opportunity to prepare for the Second Coming and the Great and Final Judgment.

Care and value of the soul are emphasized in the present Gospel. The soul's value exceeds the value of the whole world. Believers are to care for the soul at every moment of life.

Every thought and action in life are to be weighed against the benefits and dangers to the soul. Believers are reminded of the immeasurable value of the soul today.

Thank God for the present Gospel. Thank God for the Cross in the center of the Church. Thank God for the opportunity to repent. May the Lenten journey lead to renewal and unity in Jesus Christ for each believer.

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Third Sunday of Great Lent. Veneration of the Holy Cross. Martyr Quadratus of Corinth. March 10/23, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic