

*“ Thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is: and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” - Jeremiah; Chap. 6, Vs. 16*

## **THE MEDITATION**

November 9<sup>th</sup>, A.D. 2014

The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Trinity Sunday



*“ Jesus Heals a Rulers Son”*

*from the EVANGELICAE HISTORAE IMAGINES, The Illustrations of the Gospel Stories - 1593*

**The Holy Gospel according to St. John; Chapter 4 , Verses 46-53**

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer, Pages 219-220

The People's Anglican Missal, Page C 96

St. Joseph Sunday Missal ( 1958 Ed.), Page 1008

## 2.

**SUMMARY OF THE GOSPEL FOR THE DAY:** From a distance Jesus cures the dying son of a royal official who would not take “no” for an answer.

Today's Gospel account has Jesus arriving in the town of Capernaum in Galilee after coming over from Judea. His arrival coincides with the sickness of a ruler's son in Capernaum. This ruler (most likely a deputy of King Herod ), has heard about Jesus' merciful kindness to children and to the sick. The ruler is certain that Jesus will grant his request to heal his boy: “*Sir, come down ere my child die.*”

Christ has His own reasons for, at first, refusing the man's entreaty. “*Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe,*” Jesus tells him. Has Jesus heard that this man brushed Him aside as merely a fake; one among many that wandered about that land in those days or, is Jesus just speaking about people in general, who were attracted to Him more by what He can do for them, than by His inner worth and His Message?

This official, who is also a father, is not in any mood to argue with Jesus. He may be guilty of a lack of faith or of selfishness in the past, but things in his life are now different. His beloved son is sick and dying, and he believes that Jesus can heal the child. The man pleads once more, “Lord, come down before my child dies.” The father's grief and fear move Jesus. Jesus, above all, sees this man's faith ; his conviction that Jesus will not fail him in his hour of need. Quietly, and with a smile, Jesus tells the man: “*Go thy way, thy son liveth.*”

Our Lord's words are enough. The man turns away and heads for Capernaum and his boy. Jesus sees the man go, and He sees into the man's mind. The official is no longer afraid, for he believes. He has true faith in Jesus. True faith in Christ, casts out fear.

Things had been getting worse for the boy in Capernaum. The physicians had been watching his condition and consulting with one another with growing apprehension. The pall of death appears to be falling over the royal household. The account then tells us that suddenly, at the seventh hour, the boy's fever eases away. He looks about, and sits up, and asks for something eat. Suddenly, he is completely well!

Once the servants get over their happy surprise that has just taken place, they think immediately of the father. They go out to meet him, and joyfully exclaim to him that his son lives. The father asks them when the son got better. At what hour did this take place? “*Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him,*” they tell him. The royal official smiles. He knows it must be so. “Yesterday at the seventh hour” was the very hour in which Jesus told him his son would live.

The group hurries home and there is a joyous celebration over the great thing that has taken place. The father will never forget his meeting with Jesus, for Jesus is the cause of all the father's joy. A bond of gratitude and faith has been formed that will tie this man, his son, and his household to Christ as long as they live. The son will always be a token and sign of Jesus' love for them and of the love and gratitude they must have for Him.

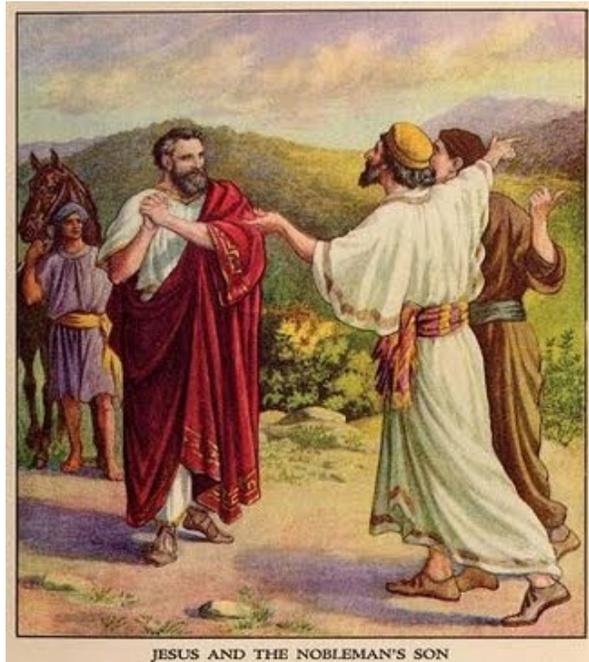
The royal official in today's Gospel is symbolic of us all . . . surrounded as we are by sickness, fear, and inevitably confronted by death and judgment. We will, before each of us knows it, and at a time of God's choosing, meet Him as our Judge. Two thousand years later, here Jesus Christ still is . . . the merciful Healer. The frail and fallible beings we are, are sick. We have done so little, we have loved so imperfectly, and we have been so terribly self-centered. We are afraid.

○ Lord, *you* alone can destroy our fears. You can do it by filling us with faith . . . by *being* our faith.

Come to us O Lord, before our souls die. “*The eyes of all wait upon thee O Lord . . . my heart is ready I will sing and give praise to Thee, my glory.*” ( *Psalms 145 & 108*).

3.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** LORD, COME DOWN UNTO US.



**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** O God, the Strength of all them that put their trust in Thee, mercifully accept our prayers ; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without Thee, grant us the help of Thy Grace this day and evermore.

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## PRO CLERICIS – FOR THE CLERGY

As clerics, we'd do very well to contemplate the zeal with which the father seeks to obtain the cure of his son in today's Gospel. How much more reason do we have to provide for the health of our souls and those souls God sends to us, since the soul is far more precious than the body? If we neglect the sanctification of our souls, we are in great danger of becoming hopelessly entangled in worldly things and personal passions, which in the end, can result in great suffering total destruction.

*Tepidity* does, indeed resemble a consuming fever which gradually robs us of all our strength. It is the most dangerous ailment known to religious and vocational life, because lukewarm souls resemble those sick who, not recognizing the severity of their condition, seek no remedies. They might not ever approach the limit of *extremis*, but remain spiritually weak, devoid of the animation and zeal for their duties, and remiss in striving for the holiness that their state of life demands...if they are to save the souls of others, and their own. If we detect the first stages of this evil, than let us not delay to employ the necessary means to combat this tepidity, and thus secure the strengthening of our souls in order that we can fully perform our Godly and holy missions. *Prayer, Penance, and the Holy Eucharist*, are the remedies given by the almighty Physician which the cleric can be fully restored to spiritual health. Without these three, how can we clearly and rightly discern His Word and direction for us?

4.

The Meditation is produced by the Benedictine Community of  
Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory  
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This is a free on-line ministry of our community to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please feel free to copy and pass on this meditation to anyone you feel might benefit from it. To be placed on our weekly mailing list, please contact Father Prior Kevin at : [klamarre@ourladyofsevensorrows.org](mailto:klamarre@ourladyofsevensorrows.org)

\* Visit our Website to view past editions of **The Meditation** at: [www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org](http://www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org) and go to '*Meditation*' section. \*

**SUNDAY Public MASS with the Office of TERCE: 9:00 a.m.**

*(The Chapel is located on the second floor of the garage . Please enter by left side door and go up the stairs. Please keep silence upon entering the building. )Also, Please Note: There are no Public Rest Room facilities at the Priory, please plan accordingly.*

## **PRIORY KALENDAR**

**A.D. 2014**

**Week of November 9<sup>th</sup> to November 16<sup>th</sup> : Season of Trinity-Tide**

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**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> . . . Twenty-First Sunday After Trinity. SEE NOTE**

**Monday, November 10 . . . St. Justus: *Abp. Of Canterbury & O.S.B. - ( 7<sup>th</sup> cent. England ) - Novena***

**Tuesday, November 11 . . . St. Martin of Tours; *B. & C. ( 4<sup>th</sup> cent. France ) - Novena Morti concludes***

**Wednesday, November 12 . . . *feria in Trinity-tide.***

**Thursday, November 13 . . . ALL SAINTS OF THE BENEDICTINE ORDER**

**Friday, November 14 . . . ALL SOULS OF THE BENEDICTINE ORDER & (M.M.)**

**Saturday, November 15 . . . St. Albert the Great; *Bp. C. & Doct.. - ( 13<sup>th</sup> cent. Germany)***

**Sunday, November 16 . . . Twenty-Second Sunday After Trinity.**

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**KALENDAR KEY:** Ab. = Abbot, Abs. = Abbess, Abp. = Archbishop, Ap = Apostle, Bp. = Bishop, C. or Conf. = Confessor, Comm. = Commemorate. Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, H = Hermit, K = King, M. = Monk, M.M. = Month's Mind ( remembrance of the departed), Myr. = Martyr, N. = Nun, P = Priest Po. = Pope, R. = Recluse, Q. = Queen, Vir. = Virgin, W. = Widow , O.F.M. = Order of Friars Minor – Franciscans, O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict – Benedictines, O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian Observance (Trappists), A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence

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## **KALENDAR NOTES**

**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>** appointed Mass for the day (Trinity 21), No Novena Mass today. Novena for the Departed ( *Novena Morti* ) resumes on Monday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and concludes on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

5.



## Feasts, Fasts and Other Things



*Br. Chip knows what a post-Halowe'en Jack-O-Lantern is good for ! Yum!*

*- Br. Chip, O.S.B.*



**Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things;** from The Chipmunk's Nutshell Library  
Presented by Br. A. Chip Monk. O.S.B. A monk of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, Maine

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## ANNUAL NOVENA FOR THE DEPARTED: NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> — 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

**November** is the month which our Holy Mother Church has set aside for the remembrance and prayers for the departed in a special manner.. Praying for the peaceful repose of the departed *is a great spiritual work of mercy* that we, the living can and should do, and is strongly encouraged as a part of our venerable Catholic tradition. This ancient tradition of remembering the dead continues here at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, Maine. We remember the blessed dead throughout the church year, however, an urgent emphasis is placed on these prayers during this time. All unnecessary work ceases here at the Priory during this nine-day period so we can focus more time for prayer for the blessed departed.

6.

*All Saints Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>*, begins a *Novena* of nine days of Masses and prayers here at the Priory, on behalf of those departed, who cannot pray for themselves. We remember through prayer in a particular way, those who have gone before us; our former monks, families, benefactors, friends, and those known only to Almighty God. You too can join us in this great work of mercy.

I invite and encourage you, our dear subscribers to the weekly Meditation to enroll your departed loved ones and friends in this novena by contacting us here at the Priory via e-mail or regular post (“snail-mail”) with the names you would wish us to remember in prayer. If you wish to send along a donation on behalf of your loved ones it would be gratefully accepted and put to good use for providing supplies for our chapel in the way of altar breads, candles, mass-wine, and incense. Please note that a donation is not required in order for you to take part in the *Novena*.

Those whom you have enrolled will be solemnly remembered this November as the Masses and very beautiful and ancient prayers of our Monastic Liturgy for the dead are offered. What better way than through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to beg our Lord's mercy and admission of the departed into His presence forever?

No greater honor and privilege can be given a contemplative monk or nun than for someone to ask them: “Please pray for me.”

-Fr. Prior Kevin, O.S.B. +

*NOVENA MASS followed by Prayers: 10:00 a.m. - Priory Chapel each day of the Novena.*

**We are always looking for benefactors to help financially with the animals. Winter is on the way and *we are going into it at a deficit*. If you or someone that you know would like to help, simply mark your check “*for the animals*”. It will be gratefully received and deeply appreciated.**



***St. Francis heals the Wolf of Gubbio***

*“Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brothers, ye have done it unto me.” - ( St. Matthew; Chap. 25 Verse, 40. KJV )*

*Please make all checks payable to the Servant of the Holy Family, 4 Shaw Rd. Raymond, Maine.04071 and please indicate “for the animals” so the money will go to them. Thank you!*

**Please consider including our Animal Outreach and Rescue in your Estate Planning. Contact Sr. Mary Francis, O.S.B. For detail**



