03/06, SATURDAY AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT W/ COMMEMORATION OF SS. PERPETUA & FELICITY

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Collect at St. Vitalis "*ad duas domos*." Station at St. Susanna.

St. Vitalls was dedicated by Innocent I (412-17) to the martyrs Vitalis, Gervase, and Protase. The Basilica of St. Susanna is the ancient *titulus Gaii,* called also after the saints Gabinius and Susanna, the brother and the niece of the Pontiff who performed the dedication; it rises on the ruins of an ancient Roman building (the two houses, *ad duas domos*) and was a parish church in the time of Pope Symmachus (498-514).

The story of Susanna, so familiar to the early Church, and so often reproduced in the paintings of the Catacombs, should fill our souls with loving confidence. Susanna prefers to fall a victim to the vengeance of her accusers rather than sin against God. She places all her trust in the Lord, and her prayer becomes her salvation.

The holy Gospel describing the scene where the woman taken in adultery is brought before Christ, is a great consolation to sinners who can never hope to regain the esteem of their fellow men but who hear the voice of God within them saying: "Neither will I condemn thee."

INTROIT Psalms 5: 2-3 Verba mea áuribus pércipe, Dómine, intéllege clamórem meum: inténde voci oratiónis meæ, Rex meus et Deus meus. (Ps. 5: 4) Quóniam ad te orábo, Dómine: mane exáudies vocem meam. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sǽcula sæculórum. Amen. Verba mea áuribus pércipe, Dómine, intéllege clamórem meum: inténde voci oratiónis meæ, Rex meus et Deus meus.	Give ear, O Lord, to my words, understand my cry: harken to the voice of my prayer, O my King and my God. (Ps. 5: 4) For to Thee will I pray: O Lord, in the morning Thou shalt hear my voice. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Give ear, O Lord, to my words, understand my cry: harken to the voice of my prayer, O my King and my God.
COLLECT Præsta, quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, qui se, affligéndo carnem, ab aliméntis ábstinent; sectándo justítiam, a culpa jejúnent. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God: that we who, mortifying ourselves, abstain from nourishment, may, following justice, fast from sin. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
For Ss. Perpetua & Felicity Da nobis, quǽsumus, Dómine, Deus noster, sanctárum Mártyrum tuárum Perpétuæ et Felicitátis palmas incessábili devotióne venerári: ut, quas digna mente non póssumus celebráre, humílibus saltem frequentémus obséquiis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Give unto us, we beseech thee, O Lord our God, to reverence with unceasing. devotion the glory of Thy holy Martyrs Perpetua and Felicity; and though it be not ours worthily to honor their triumph, to persevere in offering them the humble tribute of our duty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
LESSON Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 In diébus illis: Erat vir hábitans in Babylóne, et nomen ejus Jóakim: et accépit uxorem nómine Susánnam, fíliam Helcíæ, pulchram nimis, et timéntem Deum: paréntes enim illíus, cum essent justi, erudiérunt fíliam suam secúndum legem Móysi. Erat autem Jóakim dives valde, et erat ei pomárium vicínum dómui suæ: et ad ipsum confluébant Judǽi, eo quod esset honorabílior ómnium. Et constítuti sunt de pópulo duo senes júdices in illo anno: de quibus locútus est Dóminus: Quia egréssa est iníquitas de Babylóne a senióribus judícibus, qui videbántur régere pópulum. Isti frequentábant domum Jóakim, et veniébant ad eos omnes, qui habébant judícia. Cum autem pópulus revertísset per merídiem, ingrediebátur Susánna, et deambulábat in pomário viri sui. Et vidébant eam senes cotídie ingrediéntem et deambulántem: et exarsérunt in concupiscéntiam ejus: etevertérunt sensum suum, et declinavérunt óculos suos, ut non vidérent cælum, neque recordaréntur judiciórum justórum. Factum est autem, cum observárent diem aptum, ingréssa est aliquándo sicut heri et núdius tértius, cum duábus solis puéllis, voluítque lavári in pomário: æstus quippe erat, et non erat ibi quisquam, præter duos senes abscónditos et contemplántes eam. Dixit ergo puéllis: Afférte mihi óleum et smígmata, et óstia pomárii cláudite, ut laver. Cum autem egréssæ essent puéllæ, surrexérunt duo senes, et accurrérunt ad eam, et dixérunt: Ecce, óstia pomárii clausa sunt, et nemo nos videt, et nos in concupiscéntia tui sumus: quam ob rem assentíre nobis, et commiscére nobiscum. Quod si nolúeris, dicémus contra te testimónium, quod fúerit tecum júvenis, et ob hanc causam emíseris puéllas a te. Ingémuit Susánna, et ait: Angústiæ sunt mihi úndique: si enim hoc égero, mors mihi est: si autem non egero, non effúgiam manus vestras. Sed mélius est mihi absque ópere incídere in manus vestras, quam peccáre in conspéctu Dómini. Et exclamávit voce magna Susánna: exclamavérunt autem et senes advérsus eam. Et cucúrrit unus ad óstia pomárii, et apéruit. Cum ergo audíssent clamórem fámuli domus in pomário, irruérunt per postícum, ut vidérent, quidnam esset. Postquam autem senes locúti sunt, erubuérunt servi veheménter: quia numquam dictus fúerat sermo hujuscémodi de Susánna. Et facta est dies crástina. Cumque venísset pópulus ad Jóakim virum ejus, venérunt et duo senióres, pleni iníqua cogitatióne advérsus Susánnam, ut interfícerent eam. Et dixérunt coram pópulo: Míttite ad Susánnam fíliam Helcíæ, uxórem Jóakim. Et statim misérunt. Et venit	In those days, in Babylon there lived a man named Joakim, who married a very beautiful and God-fearing woman, Susanna, the daughter of Helcia; her pious parents had trained their daughter according to the Law of Moses. Joakim was very rich; he had a garden near his house, and the Jews had recourse to him often because he was the most respected of them all. That year, two elders of the people were appointed judges, of whom the Lord said, Wickedness had come out of Babylon: from the elders who were to govern the people as judges. These men, to whom all brought their cases, frequented the house of Joakim. When the people left at noon, Susanna used to enter her husband's garden for a walk. When the old men saw her enter every day for her walk, they began to lust for her. They suppressed their consciences; they would not allow their eyes to look to heaven, and did not keep in mind just judgments. One day, while they were waiting for the right moment, she entered the garden as usual, with two maids only. She decided to bathe, for the weather was warm. Nobody else was there except the two elders, who had hidden themselves and were watching her. Bring me oil and soap, she said to the maids, and shut the garden doors while I bathe. As soon as the maids had left, the two old men got up and hurried to her. Look, they said, the garden doors are shut, and no one can see us; give in to our desire, and lie with us. If you refuse, we will testify against you that you dismissed your maids because a young man was here with you. I am completely trapped, Susanna groaned. If I yield, it will be my death; if I refuse, I cannot escape your power. Yet it is better for me to fall into your power without guilt than to sin before the Lord. Then Susanna shrieked, and the old men also shouted at her, as one of them ran to open the garden doors. When the people in the house heard the cries from the garden, they rushed in by the side gate to see what had happened to her. At the accusations by the old men, the servants felt very much ashamed, for never had any such thing been said about Susanna. When the people came to her husband Joakim the next day, the two wicked elders also came, fully determined to put Susanna to death. Before all the people they ordered: Send for Susanna, the daughter of Helcia, the wife of Joakim. When she was sent for, she came with her parents, children and all her relatives. All her relatives and the onlookers were weeping. In the midst of the people the two elders rose up and laid their hands on her head. Through her tears she looked up to heaven, for she trusted in the Lord

cum paréntibus et fíliis et univérsis cognátis suis. Fiébant ígitur sui, et omnes qui nóverant eam. Consurgéntes autem duo senióres in médio pópuli, posuérunt manus suas super caput ejus. Quæ flens suspéxit ad cæum: erat enim cor ejus fidúciam habens in Dómino. Et dixérunt senióres: Cum deambularémus in pomário soli, ingréssa est hæc cum duábus puéllis: et clausit óstia pomárii, et dimísit a se puéllas. Venítque ad eam adoléscens, qui erat abscónditus, et concúbuit cum ea. Porro nos, cum essémus in ángulo pomárii, vidéntes iniquitátem, cucúrrimus ad eos, et vídimus eos pariter commiscéri. Et illum quidem non quívimus comprehéndere, quia fórtior nobis erat, et apértis óstiis exsilívit: hanc autem cum apprehendissémus, interrogávimus, quisnam esset adoléscens, et nóluit indicáre nobis: hujus rei testes sumus. Crédidit eis multitúdo quasi sénibus et judícibus pópuli, et condemnavérunt eam ad mortem. Exclamávit autem voce magna Susánna, et dixit: Deus ætérne, qui absconditórum es cógnitor. qui nosti ómnia, ántequam fiant, tu scis, quóniam falsum testimónium tulérunt contra me: et ecce, mórior, cum nihil horum fécerim, quæ isti malitióse composuérunt advérsum me. Exaudívit autem Dóminus vocem ejus. Cumque ducerétur ad mortem, suscitávit Dóminus spíritum sanctum pueri junióris, cujus nomen Dániel. Et exclamávit voce magna: Mundus ego sum a sánguine hujus. Et convérsus omnis pópulus ad eum, dixit: Quis est iste sermo, quem tu locútus es? Qui cum staret in médio eórum, ait: Sic fátui, fílii Israël, non judicántes, neque quod verum est cognoscéntes, condemnástis fíliam Israël? Revertímini ad judícium, quia falsum testimónium locúti sunt advérsus eam. Revérsus est ergo pópulus cum festinatióne. Et dixit ad eos Dániel: Separáte illos ab ínvicem procul, et dijudicábo eos. Cum ergo divísi essent alter ab áltero, vocávit unum de eis, et dixit ad eum: Inveteráte diérum malórum, nunc venérunt peccáta tua, quæ operabáris prius: júdicans judícia injústa, innocéntes ópprimens, et dimíttens nóxios, dicénte Dómino: Innocéntem et justum non interfícies. Nunc ergo, si vidisti eam, dic, sub qua arbóre vidéris eos colloquéntes sibi. Qui ait: Sub schino. Dixit autem Dániel: Recte mentítus es in caput tuum. Ecce enim, Ángelus Dei, accépta senténtia ab eo, scindet te médium. Et, amóto eo, jussit veníre álium, et dixit ei: Semen Chánaan, et non Juda, spécies decépit te, et concupiscéntia subvértit cor tuum: sic faciebátis filiábus Israël, et illæ timéntes loquebántur vobis: sed fília Iuda non sustínuit iniquitátem vestram. Nunc ergo dic mihi, sub qua arbóre comprehénderis eos loquéntes sibi. Qui ait: Sub prino. Dixit autem ei Dániel: Recte mentítus es et tu in caput tuum: manet enim Ángelus Dómini, gládium habens, ut secet te médium, et interfíciat vos. Exclamávit itaque omnis coetus voce magna, et benedixérunt Deum, qui salvat sperántes in se. Et consurrexérunt advérsus duos senióres - convícerat enim eos Dániel ex ore suo falsum dixísse testimónium, - fecerúntque eis, sicut male égerant advérsus próximum: et interfecérunt eos, et salvátus est sanguis innóxius in die illa.

wholeheartedly. The elders made this accusation: As we were walking in the garden alone, this woman entered with two girls and shut the doors of the garden, dismissing the girls. A young man, who was hidden there, came and lay with her. When we, in a corner of the garden, saw this crime, we ran toward them. We saw them lying together, but the man we could not hold, because he was stronger than we; he opened the doors and ran off. Then we seized this one and asked who the young man was, but she refused to tell us. We testify to this. The assembly believed them, since they were elders and judges of the people, and they condemned her to death. But Susanna cried aloud: O eternal God, You know what is hidden and are aware of all things before they come to be: You know that they have testified falsely against me. Here I am about to die, though I have done none of the things with which these wicked men have charged me. The Lord heard her prayer. As she was being led to execution, God stirred up the holy spirit of a young boy named Daniel, and he cried aloud: I will have no part in the death of this woman. All the people turned and asked him, What is this you are saying? He stood in their midst and continued, Are you such fools, O Israelites! to condemn a woman of Israel without examination and without clear evidence? Return to court, for they have testified falsely against her. Then all the people returned in haste. And Daniel said to them: Separate these two from one another that I may examine them. After they were separated one from the other, he called one of them and said: How you have grown evil with age! Now have your past sins come to term: passing unjust sentences, condemning the innocent, and freeing the guilty, although the Lord says, 'The innocent and the just you shall not put to death.' Now, then, if you were a witness, tell me under what tree you saw them together. Under a mastic tree. And Daniel said; Well have you lied against your own head, for the Angel of God, having received the sentence from Him shall split you in two. Putting him to one side, he ordered the other one to be brought. And Daniel said to him: O offspring of Chanaan, not of Juda, beauty has seduced you, lust has subverted your conscience. This is how you acted with the daughters of Israel, and in their fear they yielded to you; but a daughter of Juda did not tolerate your wickedness. Now, then, tell me under what tree you surprised them together. Under an oak, he said. Your fine lie has cost you also your head, said Daniel; for the Angel of god waits with a sword to cut you in two so as to make an end of you both. The whole assembly cried aloud, blessing God, Who saves those that hope in Him. They rose up against the two elders, for by their own words Daniel had convicted them of perjury. They inflicted on them the penalty they had plotted to impose on their neighbor: they put them to death. Thus was innocent blood spared that day.

GRADUAL Psalms 22: 4

Si ámbulem in médio umbræ mortis, non timébo mala: quóniam tu mecum es, Dómine. Virga tua et báculus tuus, ipsa me consoláta sunt.

If I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me, O Lord. Thy rod and Thy staff they have comforted me.

GOSPEL John 8: 1-11

In illo témpore: Perréxit Jesus in montem Olivéti: et dilúculo íterum venit in templum, et omnis pópulus venit ad eum, et sedens docébat eos. Addúcunt autem scribæ et pharisǽi mulíerem in adultério deprehénsam: et statuérunt eam in médio, et dixérunt ei: Magister, hæc mulier modo deprehénsa est in adultério. In lege autem Moyses mandávit nobis hujúsmodi lapidáre. Tu ergo quid dicis? Hoc autem dicébant tentántes eum, ut possent accusáre eum. Jesus autem inclínans se deórsum, dígito scribébat in terra. Cum ergo perseverárent interrogántes eum, eréxit se, et dixit eis: Qui sine peccáto est vestrum, primus in illam lápidem mittat. Et íterum se inclínans, scribébat in terra. Audiéntes autem unus post unum exíbant, incipiéntes a senióribus: et remánsit solus Jesus, et múlier in médio stans. Erigens autem se Jesus, dixit ei: Múlier, ubi sunt, qui te accusábant? nemo te condemnávit? Quæ dixit: Nemo, Dómine. Dixit autem Jesus: Nec ego te condemnábo: Vade, et iam ámplius noli peccáre.

At that time, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. And at daybreak He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and sitting down He began to teach them. Now the Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and setting her in the midst, said to Him, Master, this woman has just now been caught in adultery. And in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such persons. What, therefore, do You say? Now they were saying this to test Him, in order that they might be able to accuse Him. But Jesus, stooping down, began to write with His finger on the ground. But when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself and said to them, Let him who is without sin among you be the first to cast a stone at her. And again stooping down, He began to write on the ground. But hearing this, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest. And Jesus remained alone, with the woman standing in the midst. And Jesus, raising Himself, said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, No one, Lord. Then Jesus said, Neither will I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on sin no more.

OFFERTORY Psalms 118: 133

Gressus meos dírige secúndum elóquium tuum: ut non dominétur mei omnis injustítia, Dómine.

Direct my footsteps according to Thy word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me, O Lord.

SECRET

Concéde, quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut hujus sacrifícii munus oblátum, fragilitátem nostram ab omni malo purget semper et múniat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that the gift of this sacrifice, offered to Thee, may cleanse and ever defend our weakness from all evil. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
For Ss. Perpetua & Felicity Inténde, quǽsumus, Dómine, múnera altáribus tuis pro sanctárum Mártyrum tuárum Perpétuæ et Felicitatis festivitáte propósita: ut, sicut per hæc beáta mystéria illis glóriam contulísti; ita nobis indulgéntiam largiáris. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Favorably look down we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon the gifts laid upon Thine altars for the feast-day of Thy holy Virgin-Martyrs Perpetua and Felicity, and as by these Sacred Mysteries, Thou didst raise Thy Saints to glory everlasting, so through them vouchsafe to us Thy forgiveness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
PREFACE OF LENT Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cómprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largíris et prǽmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælorúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicéntes:	It is truly fitting and just, proper and beneficial, that we should always and everywhere, give thanks unto Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. Who by this bodily fast, dost curb our vices, dost lift up our minds and bestow on us strength and rewards; through Christ our Lord. Through Whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:
COMMUNION John 8: 10-11 Nemo te condemnávit, mulier? Nemo, Dómine. Nec ego te condemnábo: iam ámplius noli peccáre.	Has no man condemned you, woman? No man, Lord: Neither will I condemn you: now sin no more.
POSTCOMMUNION Quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut inter ejus membra numerémur, cujus córpori communicámus et sánguini: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	We beseech Thee, almighty God, that we may be numbered among the members of Him, Whose Body and Blood we receive in communion. Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
For Ss. Perpetua & Felicity Mýsticis, Dómine, repléti sumus votis et gáudiis: præsta, quǽsumus; ut intercessiónibus sanctárum Mártyrum tuárum Perpétuæ et Felicitátis, quæ temporáliter ágimus, spirituáliter consequámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Thou hast filled us, O Lord, with mystic graces and joys: grant, we beseech Thee, that through the prayers of Thy holy Martyrs, Perpetua and Felicity, we may profit eternally from having in this our time ministered to Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE Humiliáte cápita vestra Deo. Prætende, Dómine, fidélibus tuis déxteram cæléstis auxílii: ut te toto corde perquírant; et, quæ digne póstulant, cónsequi mereántur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Bow your heads to God. Stretch forth to Thy faithful, O Lord, the right hand of Thy heavenly aid, that they may seek Thee with all their hearts, and may be worthy to obtain what they ask. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.