WEDNESDAY AFTER THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT W/ COMMEMORATION OF FORTY HOLY MARTYRS

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Collect at St. Mennas. Station at St. Paul "*in aperitione aurium*."

The Church of St. Mennas stood on the lefl bank of the Tiber at the first milestone on the *Via Ostiensis*. The Alexandrians in Rome had such devotion to this Egyptian saint that his *natalis* on November 11 was still honored in the Seventh Century by the celebration of the station at his sanctuary.

St. Paul is the prototype and model of catechumens, on account of his conversion on the way to Damascus. The miracle which Christ worked upon the blind man was renewed in a spiritual sense upon the candidates for baptism, to whom the Pontiff explained for the first time with solemn rites the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the beginning of the four Gospels.

The entire Mass is inspired by the thought of the sacrament of Baptism. Holiness is the common vocation of all; one often speaks nowadays of a vocation to the priesthood or to the religious life, but too little is said of the call to the Christian life, which is bestowed on us through the grace of holy Baptism. Yet the religious vocation itself does but develop in us the call to a Christian life, by means of the counsels of perfection. These are not two separate forms of Christianity; the Christianity of the Gospel ,and that of the monastic rule are but one and the same Christian profession.

INTROIT Psalms 30: 7, 8 Cum sanctificátus fúero in vobis, congregábo vos de univérsis terris: et effúndam super vos aquam mundam, et mundabímini ab ómnibus inquinaméntis vestris: et dabo vobis spíritum novum. (Ps. 33: 2) Benedícam Dóminum in omni témpore: semper laus ejus in ore meo. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Cum sanctificátus fúero in vobis, congregábo vos de univérsis terris: et effúndam super vos aquam mundam, et mundabímini ab ómnibus inquinaméntis vestris: et dabo vobis spíritum novum.	When I shall be sanctified in you, I will gather you from every land: and I will pour upon you clean water, and you shall be cleansed from all your filthiness: and I will give you a new spirit. (Ps. 33: 2) I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall be ever in my mouth. 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. When I shall be sanctified in you, I will gather you from every land: and I will pour upon you clean water, and you shall be cleansed from all your filthiness: and I will give you a new spirit.
Orémus. Flectámus génua. R. Leváte.	Let us pray. Let us kneel. R. Arise.
COLLECT Deus qui et justis prǽmia meritórum, et peccatóribus per jejúnium véniam præbes: miserére supplícibus tuis; ut reátus nostri conféssio indulgéntiam váleat percípere delictórum. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	God, Who dost vouchsafe to the just the reward of their merits, and to sinners pardon through fasting, have mercy upon Thy suppliants, that the confession of our guilt may have power to obtain for us forgiveness of our misdoings. 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 Ezechiel 36: 23-28 Hæc dicit Dóminus Deus: Sanctificábo nomen meum magnum, quod pollútum est inter gentes, quod polluístis in médio eárum: ut sciant gentes quia ego Dóminus, cum sanctificátus fúero in vobis coram eis. Tollam quippe vos de géntibus, et congregábo vos de univérsis terris, et addúcam vos in terram vestram. Et effúndam super vos aquam mundam, et mundabímini ab ómnibus inquinaméntis vestris, et ab univérsis idólis vestris mundábo vos. Et dabó vobis cor novum, et spíritum novum ponam in médio vestri: et áuferam cor lapídeum de carne vestra, et dabo vobis cor cárneum. Et spíritum meum ponam in médio vestri: et fáciam ut in præcéptis meis ambulétis, et judícia mea custodiátis, et operémini. Et habitábitis in terra, quam dedi pátribus vestris: et éritis mihi in pópulum, et ego vero vobis in Deum: dicit Dóminus omnípotens.	Thus saith the Lord God, I will sanctify My great name, which was profaned among the gentiles which you have profaned in the midst of them; that the gentiles may know that I am the lord, saith the Lord of hosts, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the gentiles, and will gather you together out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land; and I will pour upon you clean water, and you shall be cleansed from all your filthiness, and I will cleanse you from all your idols, and will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit in the midst of you, and I will cause you to walk in My commandments, and to keep My judgments, and do them, and you shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My people, and I will be your God; saith the Lord almighty.
GRADUAL Psalms 33: 12, 6 Veníte, fílii, audíte me: timórem Dómini docébo vos. Accédite ad eum, et illuminámini: et fácies vestræ non confundéntur	Come, children, harken to me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Come ye to Him, and be enlightened; and your faces shall not be confounded.
Dóminus vobiscum. R. Et cum spíritu tuo. Orémus.	The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit. Let us pray.
COLLECT Præsta, quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut quos jejúnia votíva, castígant, ipsa quoque devótio sancta lætíficet; ut, terrénis affectibus mitigátis, facílius cæléstia capiámus. 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, O almighty God, that we who have undertaken to chastise our bodies by fasting may, even in this devotion, find cause for rejoicing: for as much as earthly passions being thereby subdued, we are the better able to fix our hopes on the delights of Heaven. 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 Forty Holy Martyrs Præsta, quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, qui gloriósos Mártyres fortes in sua confessióne cognóvimus, pios apud te in nostra intercessióne sentiámus. 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, O almighty God, that we, who acknowledge the boldness of thy glorious martyrs in confessing Thy name, may experience likewise their loving intercession for us. 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 Isaiah 1: 16-19 Hæc dicit Dóminus Deus: Lavámini, mundi estóte, auférte malum cogitatiónum vestrárum ab óculis meis: quiéscite ágere pervérse, díscite benefácere: quǽrite judícium, subveníte oppréssо, judicáte pupíllo, defendíte víduam. Et veníte, et argúite me, dicit Dóminus: si fúerint peccáta vestra ut cóccinum, quasi nix dealbabúntur: et si fúerint rubra quasi vermículus, velut lana alba erunt. Si	Thus saith the Lord God, Wash yourselves, be clean, take away the evil of your devices from My eyes; cease to do perversely, learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge for the fatherless, defend the widow, and then come, and accuse Me, saith the Lord: if your sins be as scarlet, they shall be made as white as snow: and if they be red as crimson, they shall be white as wool. If you be

voluéritis, et audiéritis me, bona terra comedétis: dicit Dóminus omnípotens.	willing and will harken to Me, you shall eat the good things of the land; saith the Lord almighty.
GRADUAL Psalms 32: 12, 6 Beáta gens, cujus est Dóminus Deus eórum: pópulus, quem elégit Dóminus in hereditátem sibi. Verbo Dómini cæli firmáti sunt: et spíritu oris ejus omnis virtus eórum.	Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: the people whom He hath chosen for His inheritance. By the word of the Lord the heavens were established; and all the power of them by the spirit of His mouth.
TRACT Psalms 102: 10 Dómine, non secúndum peccáta nostra, quæ fécimus nos: neque secúndum iniquitátes nostras retríbuas nobis. (Ps. 78: 8-9) Dómine, ne memíneris iniquitátum nostrarum antiquarum: cito antícipent nos misericórdiæ tuæ, quia páuperes facti sumus nimis. (Hic genuflectitur.) Adjuva nos, Deus, salutáris noster: et propter glóriam nóminis tui, Dómine, libera nos: et propítius esto peccátis nostris, propter nomen tuum.	O Lord, repay us not according to the sins we have committed, nor according to our iniquities. (Ps. 78: 8-9) O Lord, remember not our former iniquities, let Thy mercies speedily prevent us; for we are become exceeding poor. (Here kneel.) Help us, O God, our Savior, and for the glory of Thy name, O Lord, deliver us: and forgive us our sins for Thy name's sake.
GOSPEL John 9: 1-39 In illo témpore: prætériens Jesus vidit hóminem cæcum a nativitáte: et interrogavérunt eum discípuli ejus: Rabbi, quis peccávit, hic, aut paréntes ejus, ut cæcus nascerétur? Respóndit Jesus: "Neque hic peccávit, neque paréntes ejus: sed ut manifesténtur ópera Dei in illo. Me opórtet operári ópera ejus, qui misit me, donec dies est: venit nox, quando nemo potest operári. Quámdiu sum in mundo, lux sum mundi." Hæc cum dixísset, éxspuit in terram, et fecit lutum ex sputo, et linívit lutum super óculos ejus, et dixit ei: "Vade, lava in natatória Siloë (quod interpretátur Missus). Abiit ergo, et lavit, et venit videns. Itaque vicini, et qui víderant eum prius quia mendícus erat, dicébant: Nonne hic est, qui sedébat, et mendicábat? Alii dicébant: Quia hic est. Alii autem: Nequáquam, sed símilis est ei. Ille vero dicébat: Quia ego sum. Dicébant ergo ei: Quómodo apérti sunt tibi óculi? Respóndit: Ille homo, qui dícitur Jesus, lutum fecit, et unxit óculos meos, et dixit mihi: Vade ad natatória SiÎoë, et lava. Et ábii, lavi, et video. Et dixérunt ei: Ubi est ille? Ait: Néscio. Addúcunt eum ad pharisǽos, qui cæcus fúerat. Erat autem sábbatum quando lutum fecit Jesus, et apéruit óculos ejus. Iterum ergo interrogábant eum pharisǽi, quómodo vidísset. Ille autem dixit eis: Lutum mihi pósuit super óculos, et lavi, et video. Dicébant ergo ex pharisǽis quidam: Non est hic homo a Deo, qui sábbatum non custódit. Alii autem dicébant: Quómodo potest homo peccátur hæc signa fácere? Et schisma erat inter eos. Dicunt ergo cæco íterum: Tu quid dicis de illo, qui apéruit óculos tuos? Ille autem dixit: Quia prophéta est. Non credidérunt ergo Judǽi de illo, quia cæcus fuísset, et vidísset, donec vocavérunt paréntes ejus, qui víderat: et interrogavérunt eos, dicéntes: Hic est fílius vester, quem vos dícitis, quia cæcus natus est? Quómodo ergo nunc videt? Respondérunt eis paréntes ejus, et dixérunt: Scimus quia hic est fílius noster, et quia cæcus natus est: quómodo autem nunc vídeat, ipsum interrogáte, ætátem habet, ipse de se loquátur. nescímus: aut quis ejus apéruit óculos, nos nescímus: Hæc dixérunt paréntes ejus, quóniam timébunt Judǽos: jam enim conspiravérunt Judǽi, ut si quis cum confiterétur esse Christum, extra synagógam fíeret. Proptérea paréntes ejus dixérunt: Quia ætátem habet, ipsum interrogáte. Vocavérunt ergo rursum hóminem, qui fúerat cæcus, et dixérunt ei: Da glóriam Deo. Nos scimus quia hic homo peccátor est. Dixit ergo eis ille: Si peccátor est, néscio: unum scio, quia cæcus cum essem, modo video. Dixérunt ergo illi: Quid fecit tibi? Quómodo apéruit tibi óculos? Respóndit eis: Dixi vobis jam, et audístis: quid íterum vultis audíre? Numquid et vos vultis discípuli ejus fíeri? Maledixérunt ergo ei, et dixérunt: Tu discípulus illíus sis: nos autem Móysi discípuli sumus. Nos scimus quia Móysi locútus est Deus: hunc autem nescímus unde sit. Respóndit ille homo, et dixit eis: In hoc enim mirábile est, quia vos nescítis unde sit, et apéruit meos óculos: scimus autem quia peccatóres Deus non audit: sed, si quis Dei cultor est, et voluntátem ejus facit, hunc exáudit. A sǽculo non est audítum, quia quis apéruit óculos cæci nati. Nisi esset hic a Deo, non póterat fácere quidquam. Respondérunt, et dixérunt ei: In peccátis natus es totus, et tu doces nos? Et ejecérunt eum foras. Audívit Jesus quia ejecérunt eum foras, et cum invenísset eum, dixit ei: "Tu credis in Fílium Dei?" Respóndit ílle, et dixit: Quis est, Dómine, ut credam in eum? Et dixit ei Jesus: "Et vidísti Eum, et Qui lóquitur tecum, ipse est." At ille ait: Credo Dómine. *(Hic genuflectitur.)* Et prócidens adorávit Eum.	At that time, Jesus passing by, saw a man who was blind from his birth: and His disciples asked Him, Rabbi who hath sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind? Jesus answered, "Neither hath this man sinned nor his parents, but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him that sent Me, whilst it is day; the night cometh when no man can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and spread the clay upon his eyes, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Silæ," (which is interpreted, Sent). He went therefore, and washed, and he came seeing. The neighbors therefore and they who had seen him before that he was a beggar said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he. But others said, No, but he is like him. But he said, I am he. They said therefore to him How were thy eyes opened? He answered, That man that is called Jesus, made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, Go to the pool of Silæ, and wash: and I went, I washed, and I see. And they said to him, Where is He? He saith, I know not. They bring him that had been blind to the pharisees. Now it was the Sabbath when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. Again therefore the pharisees asked him how he had received his sight. But he said to them, He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see. Some therefore of the pharisees said, This man is not of God, who keepeth not the Sabbath. But others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. They say therefore to the blind man again, What sayest thou of Him that hath opened thy eyes? And he said, He is a prophet. The Jews then did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight and asked them, saying, Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then doth he now see? His parents answered them and said, We know that he is our son, and that he was born blind: but how he seeth we know not, or who hath opened his eyes we know not: ask himself; he is of age, let him speak for himself. These things his parents said, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had already agreed among themselves, that if any man should confess Him to be Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore did his parents say, He is of age, ask him. They therefore called the man again that had been blind, and said to him, Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner. He said therefore to them, If He be a sinner, I know not; one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see. They then said to him, What did He to thee? How did He open thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already and you have heard; why would you hear it again? will you also become His disciples? They reviled him therefore, and said, Be thou His disciple: but we are the disciples of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses; but as to this man, we know not from whence He is. The man answered and said to them, Why, herein is a wonderful thing that you know not from whence He is, and He hath opened my eyes. Now we know that God doth not hear sinners; but if a man be a server of God, and doth His will, him He heareth. From the beginning of the world it hath not been heard, that any man hath opened the eyes of one born blind. Unless this man were of God, He could not do anything. They answered and said to him, Thou wast wholly born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Dost thou believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him? And Jesus said to him, "Thou hast both seen Him, and it is He that talketh with thee." And he said, I believe, Lord: *(Here all kneel.)* and falling down he adored Him.
OFFERTORY Psalms 65: 8, 9, 20 Benedícite gentes Dóminum Deum nostrum, et obaudíte vocem laudis	O ye gentiles, bless the Lord our God, and make the voice of His praise to be

ejus: qui pósuit ánimam meam ad vitam, et non dedit commovéri pedes meos: benedíctus Dóminus, qui non amóvit deprecatiónem meam, et misericórdiam suam a me.	heard; Who hath set my soul to live, and hath not suffered my feet to be moved: blessed be the Lord, Who hath not turned away my prayer nor His mercy from me.
SECRET	
Súpplices te rogámus, omnípotens Deus: ut his sacrifíciis peccata nostra mundéntur: quia tunc veram nobis tríbuis et mentis et córporis sanitátem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	We humbly entreat Thee, O almighty God, that our sins may be purged by these sacrifices; for so dost Thou grant us health of body and soul. 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 Forty Holy Martyrs	
Preces, Dómine, tuórum réspice oblationésque fidélium: ut et tibi gratæ sint pro tuórum festivitáte Sanctórum, et nobis cónferant tuæ propitiatiónis auxílium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Look down, O Lord, upon the prayers and oblations of Thy faithful; that they may be agreeable to Thee on the feast of Thy saints, and obtain for us the help of Thy propitiation. 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 9: 11	
Lutum fecit ex sputo Dóminus, et linivit óculos meos: abii et lavi, et vidi, et crédidi Deo.	The Lord made clay of spittle, and anointed my eyes; and I went, and I washed, and I saw, and I have believed in God.
POSTCOMMUNION	
Sacraménta quæ súmpsimus, Dómine Deus noster: et spirituálibus nos répleant aliméntis, et corporálibus tueántur auxíliis. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	May the sacrament we have received, O Lord, our God, both fill us with spiritual nourishment and keep us with bodily assistance. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
For Forty Holy Martyrs	
Sanctórum tuórum, Dómine, intercessióne placátus: præsta, quǽsumus; ut, quæ temporáli celebrámus actióne, perpétua salvatióne capiámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Appeased, O Lord by the intercession of Thy saints, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may obtain by the celebration of this temporal act our eternal salvation. 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	
Humilitáte cápita vestra Deo. Páteant aures misericórdiæ tuæ, Dómine, précibus supplicántium: et, ut peténtibus desideráta concédas; fac eos quæ tibi sunt plácita postuláre. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.	Bow down your heads before God. May the ears of Thy mercy, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Thy suppliants, and, that Thou may grant their desires to them that seek Thee, make them to ask the things that are pleasing 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.