

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND SCHOOL

MARCH 17, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT



A first-class relic of St. Patrick is located in the Church Sanctuary.
A plenary indulgence is available to all those who visit him on his feast day today, March 17th.

RECONCILIATION

Available by appointment.
Call: 919-861-4600

MASS TIMES

Sat. 5:00pm Sun. 9:00am, 11:30am,
1:30pm (Español), 5:00pm
Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri. 8:30am
Wed. 9:00am Jueves. 6:30pm (Español)

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7

For Baptism, Matrimony and
Anointing, please call the
parish office.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Patrick A. Keane, Pastor
(919) 861-4604

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Oguzie, C.S.Sp.
Parochial Vicar
(919) 861-4608

Jannine LeBlanc, Principal
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Adult Faith Formation/Stewardship & Engagement Coordinator
(919) 861-4614, bchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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Chair: Jeff Yardley
(919) 219-0752

Chair: Reed Murphy
(919) 624-0298

Barbara McMorran
Jason Lemansky
Kenya Reynard
Rachel Vann
Beth Murphy
Chris Fleming
Jason Pedone
Darren Sessler
Terry Bogan

Ellen Crowley
Kate Duncan
Tom Dunham
Jason Sandner
Curt Williams

Dcn. Byron Champagne
Austin Faur
Cara Fothergill
Cathy Gephart
Anne Holder
Jannine LeBlanc
Chris Morse
Player Murray
Graham Witherspoon

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Active members of our parish are identified by their generosity of time, talent and treasure.



Coffee & Donuts in the Fallon Center following 9am Mass on March 17

Please join the Legion of Mary for coffee and donuts to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and learn more about their Irish founder, Frank Duff!

CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

5:00pm - † Bobbie Jean Herring

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

9:00am - Isaac Joseph Perritt
(Birthday)

11:30am - † Ed Macko

(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo

5:00pm - † John Summers

MONDAY, MARCH 18

8:30am - † Kathleen Hoyle

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

8:30am - Elizabeth Reese

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

9:00am - † Ann LaRock

6:00pm - † Greg Hobbs

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

8:30am - John Yardley

(Español) 6:30pm - Special Intention

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

8:30am - † Peter Floyd

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

5:00pm - Tom & Sheila Mack

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

PALM SUNDAY

9:00am - † Edward Macko

11:30am - † Charles Troglia

(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo

5:00pm - † Pat Steele

**Regular
Office Hours**

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4pm

Website

ourladyoflourdescc.org

Adoration Chapel
oll.weadorehim.com

OLL Flocknote

ollraleigh.flocknote.com

THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

is to invite and lead all people to know and love Jesus Christ and to live their Catholic faith through word, sacrament, community, evangelization and service.

MINISTERIO HISPANO

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Oficina Parroquial: 919-861-4600

La Misión de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes es invitar y dirigir a todas las personas a conocer y amar a Jesucristo a vivir su fe católica a través de la palabra, los sacramentos, la comunidad, la evangelización y el servicio.

Enlace Misas en Vivo por Youtube: (Youtube Live stream)

Para unirse en cualquier momento con las misas celebradas en Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en directo por nuestro canal de Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OurLadyofLourdesCCRaleigh>

Comité Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Commtte

Roderico Roblero: (919) 986-5294

Yulisa Díaz: (919) 798-8338

Celeny Arreaga

Edvin Chaj

Fernando Velásquez

Irma Bonilla

Coordinadores Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Coordinators

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Bautismo (clases): | Alirio Borrayes | 919-805-2972 |
| Coros: | Juan Gómez | 919-896-0849 |
| Eventos: | Lucrecia López | 919-434-9946 |
| Formación Adultos: | Filomeno Méndez | 919-559-8314 |
| Grupo Juvenil: | Edilmar López | 919-349-5036 |
| Grupo de Mujeres: | Uberlinda V. | 919-756-4485 |
| Grupo de Oración: | Reymundo V. | 919-298-1587 |
| Lectores: | Irma Bonilla | 919-539-2236 |
| M. Extraordinarios: | Jesús Méndez | 919-819-7007 |
| Monaguillos: | Dominica Díaz | 919-822-4224 |
| Santo Rosario: | Carmela Roblero | 919-454-5251 |
| Sacristanes: | Orlando Morales | 919-338-4384 |
| Visita Enfermos | Darinel Morales | 919-428-8691 |
| Ujieres: | Maribel González | 919-345-1943 |

HORARIO MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

Jueves 6:30 pm

Domingos 1:30 pm

HORARIO MISAS EN INGLES

Lunes, Martes, Jueves y Viernes 8:30 am

Miércoles 9:00 am Sábados 5:00 pm

Domingos 9:00 am, 11:30 am y 5:00 pm

CONFESIONES

Miércoles (Inglés): 12:00 pm, hasta las 12:30 p.m.

Jueves (Español): Después de la misa de las 6:30 pm.

Sábados: (Inglés/Español) 3:00 p.m.

BAUTISMOS PARA NIÑOS MENORES DE 7 AÑOS

Requisitos:

- Papás tienen que estar registrados en nuestra parroquia.
- Presentar copia del acta de nacimiento del niño(a)
- Llenar la forma pre-bautismal.
- Papás y padrinos asistir a la plática pre-bautismal y a la misa.
- Los padrinos no pueden estar viviendo en unión libre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Alirio Borrayes al: 919-805-2972

VISITANDO Y LLEVANDO
LA COMUNIÓN A LOS ENFERMOS

Pastoral Care

Si usted tiene algún familiar o conocido de la comunidad que se encuentre enfermo y desea que se le visite, bien sea en la casa donde éste reside u hospital, o se le lleve la Santa Comunión, puede comunicarse con **Darinel Morales** al 919-428-8691.

GRUPO JUVENIL 13 a 17 años

Hispanic Youth Group

El Grupo Juvenil se reúnen todos los viernes a las 7:15 pm en la cafetería de la escuela.

El Grupo Juvenil se reúne para tratar temas diversos que les ayuda en su crecimiento Espiritual, Emocional y desarrollo de liderazgo.

Además de organizar diversas actividades que motive a los jóvenes a participar de la vida y misión de la parroquia.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Edilmar López al: 919-349-5036

BODAS / MATRIMONIOS

Wedding

¿Está pensando en casarse por la Iglesia?

El primer paso, es hacer una cita con el Padre Patrick Keane (el habla español). 919-861-4600

Para más información, sobre el proceso para contraer matrimonio, por favor comunicarse con:
Roderico Roblero: 919-986-5294

ADORACIÓN PERPETUA ANTE
JESÚS SACRAMENTADO

Nuestra Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes tiene una Capilla para la Adoración Perpetua las 24 Horas.

Todos estamos invitados a pasar unos momentos orando en silencio ante la presencia de nuestro Señor Jesús Sacramentado.

GRUPO DE ORACION

Hispanic Prayer Group

Todos los viernes a las 7:15 p.m. en el Salón Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Oración tiene como objetivo fortalecer la fe de sus miembros y acercarlos más a Dios a través de Oración, predicas y alabanzas.

Para más información comunicarse con:
Reymundo Velásquez al: 919-298-1587

GRUPO DE MUJERES

Hispanic Women Group

El Grupo de Mujeres se reúne sábados cada quince días de 8:30 am a 10:00 am en el salón 202 del Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Mujeres tiene como objetivo ayudar a las Mujeres a descubrir y fortalecer su identidad, así mismo incrementar y empoderar su autoestima y por supuesto mejorar su relación con Dios y su relación matrimonial y su rol como madre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Uberlinda Velásquez al: 919-756-4485

Clases de Catecismo Para Adultos

Faith Formation Claeses for Adults

Este programa es para personas mayores de 17 años que no estén bautizadas y para personas que solamente les hace falta la Primera Comunión y la Confirmación.

Este programa de formación de adultos es también para personas que deseen convertirse al catolicismo y para aquellos bautizados que deseen aprender un poco más de su fe católica.

Requisitos:

- Llenar la forma de registro.
- Para los que no están bautizados, presentar el acta de nacimiento.
- Para los que le hace falta la primera comunión y confirmación, presentar el certificado de bautismo.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Filomeno Méndez al: 919-559-8314

EVENTS & PARISH MATTERS

SANCTUARY CANDLES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>A 14-day CHURCH SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn for the priests of the Diocese of Raleigh</p> | <p>A 14-day CHAPEL SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn for the priests of the Diocese of Raleigh</p> |
|---|---|

Pro-Life Corner

Pray for all those you know who are pregnant, struggling to get pregnant or waiting to adopt a baby. Also remember to pray for the women who are considering an abortion and pray that their hearts may be changed as they consider the life God created within them.

Statues for Our Saints

Our Lady of Lourdes would like to purchase several 60" statues that will be placed in our Upper Chapel flanking the beautiful new statue of Our Lady and the Child Jesus. We already have commitments for statues of St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Jude. If anyone would like to donate for the purchase of an entire Statue the following are available:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| St. Anthony \$5,100 | St. Monica \$4,600 |
| St. Lucy \$4,600 | St. Mary Magdalene \$4,600 |

If anyone would like to donate towards a statue along with multiple donors the following are available:

St. Therese of Lisieux — St. Martin de Porres

Please contact Deacon Brad Magill at the Parish Office for more details.

Please join the **St. Thomas More Academy Theater Department** for its annual walk-thru Passion Play over Palm Sunday weekend. Small groups will walk through indoor and outdoor scenes, departing every 10 minutes. **On Saturday, March 23**, the first tour will begin at **7:00pm**, on **Palm Sunday, March 24**, the first tour will begin at **6:30pm**. To reserve your tour time slot, please visit tinyurl.com/STMAPassionplay. Don't miss this powerful, immersive performance as you prepare for Holy Week.

Join Sr. Colleen Braun as she facilitates a three-week discussion of the book "Praying our Goodbyes" by Joyce Rupp. The study will lead us through the challenges of life's sorrows and losses. Classes will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday morning**; April 9, 16 & 23 from 10:00-11:30am. **Thursday evening** class will be held on April 11, 18 & 25 from 7:00-8:30pm. Participants will provide their own books. Please indicate Tuesday morning or Thursday evening class.

To register: hnojwomensstudies@gmail.com
For information: rosecommons@gmail.com

OFFERTORY

| OFFERTORY MARCH 10 2024 | NEEDED | ACTUAL | DIFFERENCE |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| YTD OFFERTORY (7/1/23-3/10/24) | \$ 1,142,320 | \$ 1,175,658 | \$ 33,338 |

**OLL SCHOOL EXPANSION FUND:
BUILDING THE LEGACY**

\$ 513,533

MASS ATTENDANCE Weekend of March 10

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 5pm Saturday: 288 | 1:30pm Sunday: 386 |
| 9am Sunday: 501 | 5pm Sunday: 234 |
| 11:30am Sunday: 332 | |

TOTAL: 1741



Wednesday, March 20th
10:00am in the
Fallon Center Lounge

If a woman with an unexpected or challenging pregnancy turned to you, would you know what help is available? Could a mom struggling to care for her young kids turn to your neighborhood Catholic church and find local assistance? Through the program "Walking with Moms in Need", Catholics can help vulnerable women find support in welcoming and caring for their children.

Please prayerfully consider joining our next meeting on Wednesday, March 20th.

Questions? Contact Kathy Schultz at k1jschultz@gmail.com

Sunday Afternoon in the Fallon Center

1pm-3pm

BOARD GAMES –March 17

TRIVIA –March 24

BINGO –April 7

*Please Pray
for our Sick,
Suffering &
Deployed*

KATHLEEN CHARLESWORTH
MYLES CHARLESWORTH
JANET CHIAVETTA
DANA CASH
ELEANORA CEFALU
ANDREW DILILLO
MARIA HOUSE
BARBARA GRANT

LOUISE GUYTON
CAPTAIN ZACHARY KOUSSENS
ANNETTE LEFEBVRE
LIZ LORSCHIEDER
FRANK JANASIEWICZ
DEACON TOM MACK
EILEEN MACKO
JULIA MEYERS

DON MONROE
KATIE NOWAK
IRMA CRUZ-QUINONES
MARY REDMOND
DAN & KAREN RITCHIE
JOELLE ROEHL
FR. BOB & CAROL SCHRIER
ALLISEN SCHULT

NANCY URBEN
ROBBIE WATKINS

The Season of Lent

at Our Lady of Lourdes

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

reflect, renew and grow holy

Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm
in the Church Sanctuary
every Friday in Lent

Family Stations

For families with young children.

6:00 pm
March 22

Fish Fries

5:00-7:00pm
in the Fallon Center
Sit-down or curbside pickup

~~March 1~~
March 22

Preorder Online:
<https://kofc12025.square.site>



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

EVENING MASS

6:00 pm
every Wednesday in Lent

Soup Suppers
have concluded for this Lent.
Thank you to all who attended
and assisted.

2024 Penance Services

St. Catherine

Tuesday February 27 at 10 a.m.

◆ Our Lady of Lourdes (Bilingual)

Wednesday February 28 at 11 a.m.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Wednesday February 28 at 6 p.m.

St. Bernadette (Bilingual)

Thursday February 29 at 7 p.m.

St. Michael

Friday March 1 at 10 a.m.

St. Michael

Wednesday March 6 at 7 p.m.

St. Eugene

Monday March 11 at 7 p.m.

St. Luke

Tuesday March 12 at 11 a.m.

St. Catherine of Siena (Bilingual)

Wednesday March 13 at 7 p.m.

St. Francis

Thursday March 14 at 7 p.m.

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral

Tuesday March 19 at 7 p.m.

St. Raphael (Bilingual)

Wednesday March 20 at 7 p.m.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SPRING SPORTS

Girls' Soccer

March 19 at 4:15
vs. TFS

Boys' Baseball

March 21 at 4:15
vs St. Mary Magdalene

Boys' Lacrosse

March 22 at 4:30
vs Cathedral School

Girls' Lacrosse

March 25 at 5:15
vs Durham Academy

**We are hiring for the
2024 - 2025 school year.**

The following positions are available:

Fifth Grade teacher

Language Arts teacher (8th grade)

Social Studies teacher (8th grade)

Spanish Teacher (K-6th grade) *part time*

Teacher Assistant

Please send your resume to
jleblanc@olls.org if you are interested.



Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry!!



March 22nd

5:00pm to 7:00pm

**Curbside Pickup or In-Person
Dining in the Fallon Center!**

PREORDER:

<http://kofc12025.org/fishfry/>



Come celebrate Spring!



Thank you for supporting your Knights of Columbus!!





HOLY HOUR FOR OUR COUNTRY

MARCH 19, 2024
6:30 PM in the Church Sanctuary

The prayer intentions will be to pray for rebuilding a culture favorable to life and marriage, and for increased protection of religious liberty. We will pray the Rosary then have Benediction immediately following the Rosary.

All are invited!

If you have any questions, call Kathy at 919-815-1369

Pilgrimages with Fr. Pat Keane

<https://www.206tours.com/cms/frkeane/>



Classic Italy Pilgrimage - \$9,544 September 2 - 15, 2024

Apart from the endless beauty, the Amalfi Coast is world-famous for its culture, food, wine, Churches, and views from the rolling hills along the coastline. Be introduced to the life of St. Philomena, the Wonder Worker, who proclaimed "Stand firm under the protection of Mary!" While being a famous spot visited by thousands every year, it maintains a quaint, and cozy feeling that will immerse you in the "Vita Bella."

Medjugorje & Dubrovnik - \$3,014 October 28 - November 7, 2024

Join Fr. Patrick Keane on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje & Dubrovnik. Spend a week in the peaceful Medjugorje which is site of the 1981 Marian Apparitions. The Holy sites of Medjugorje including Apparition Hill, Cross Mountain, St. James Parish, and the Risen Christ statue have been visited by 40 million people. You may do Medjugorje only, or continue with two (2) days in the stunning "Pearl of the Adriatic", Dubrovnik.

Poland, Prague, Austria & Budapest- \$6,658 June 9 - 25, 2025

206 Tours invites you to join us on a pilgrimage to St. John Paul II's beloved homeland, Poland. On this journey, we follow in the footsteps of three great Polish saints - St. John Paul, St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Faustina, the Apostle of Divine Mercy - as we embrace the culture of the Polish people. We entrust our pilgrims and journeys to the maternal protection of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

TRIPS INCLUDE...

- † Round-trip airfare
- † Airport taxes & fuel surcharges
- † Centrally located first class hotel
- † Transfers as per itinerary
- † Tour escort throughout
- † Breakfast & Dinner daily
- † Wine with dinners
- † Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- † Daily Mass & spiritual activities

...and more; see individual trip listings



ON THE DANGER TO WHICH TEPIDITY EXPOSES THE SOUL.

SERMON XIX from St. Alphonsus Liguori for Passion Sunday OR, the Fifth Sunday of Lent

JESUS CHRIST "is the true light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world." (John i. 9.) He enlightens all; but he cannot enlighten those who voluntarily shut their eyes to the light; from them the Saviour hides himself. How then can they, walking in darkness, escape the many dangers of perdition to which we are exposed in this life, which God has given us as the road to eternal happiness? I will endeavour Today to convince you of the great danger into which tepidity brings the soul, since it makes Jesus Christ hide his divine light from her, and makes him less liberal in bestowing upon her the graces and helps, without which she shall find it very difficult to complete the journey of this life without falling into an abyss that is, into mortal sin.

1. A tepid soul is not one that lives in enmity with God, nor one that sometimes commits venial sins through mere frailty, and not with full deliberation. On account of the corruption of nature by original sin, no man can be exempt from such venial faults. This corruption of nature renders it impossible for us, without a most special grace, which has been given only to the mother of God, to avoid all venial sins during our whole lives. Hence St. John has said: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John i. 8.) God permits defects of this kind, even in the saints, to keep them humble, and to make them feel that, as they commit such faults in spite of all their good purposes and promises, so also, were they not supported by his divine hand, they would fall into mortal sins. Hence, when we find that we have committed these light faults, we must humble ourselves, and acknowledging our own weakness, we must be careful to recommend ourselves to God, and implore of him to preserve us, by his almighty hand, from more grievous transgressions, and to deliver us from those we have committed.

2. What then are we to understand by a tepid soul? A tepid soul is one that frequently falls into fully deliberate venial sins such as deliberate lies, deliberate acts of impatience, deliberate imprecations, and the like. These faults may be easily avoided by those who are resolved to suffer death rather than commit a deliberate venial offence against God. St. Teresa used to say, that one venial sin does us more harm than all the devils in hell. Hence she would say to her nuns: "My children, from deliberate sin, however venial it may be, may the Lord deliver you." Some complain of being left in aridity and dryness, and without any spiritual sweetness. But how can we expect that God will be liberal of his favours to us, when we are ungenerous to him? We know that such a lie, such an imprecation, such an injury to our neighbour, and such detraction, though not mortal sins, are displeasing to God, and still we do not abstain from them. Why then should we expect that God will give us his divine consolations?

3. But some of you will say: Venial sins, however great they may be, do not deprive the soul of the grace of God: even though I commit them I will be saved; and for me it is enough to obtain eternal life. You say that, "for you it is enough to be saved." Remember that St. Augustine says that, "where you have said, 'It is enough' there you have perished." To understand correctly the meaning of these words of St. Augustine, and to see the danger to which the state of tepidity exposes those who commit habitual and deliberate venial sins, without feeling remorse for them, and without endeavouring to avoid them, it is necessary to know that the habit of light faults leads the soul insensibly to mortal sins. For example: the habit of venial acts of aversion leads to mortal hatred; the habit of small thefts leads to grievous rapine; the habit of venial attachments leads to affections which are mortally sinful. "The soul," says St. Gregory, "never lies where it falls." (Moral., lib. xxxi.) No; it continues to sink still deeper. Mortal diseases do not generally proceed from serious indisposition, but from many slight and continued infirmities; so, likewise, the fall of many souls into mortal sin follows from habitual venial sins; for these render the soul so weak that, when a strong temptation assails her, she has not strength to resist it, and she falls.

4. Many are unwilling to be separated from God by mortal sins; they wish to follow him, but at a distance, and regardless of venial sins. But to them shall probably happen what befell St. Peter. When Jesus Christ was seized in the garden, St. Peter was unwilling to abandon the Lord, but "followed him afar off." (Matt. xxvi. 58.) After entering the house of Caiphias, he was charged with being a disciple of Jesus Christ. He was instantly seized with fear, and three times denied his Master. The Holy Ghost says: "He that condemneth small things shall fall by little and little." (Eccl. xix. 1.) They who despise small faults will probably one day fall into an abyss; for, being in the habit of committing light offences against God, they will feel but little repugnance to offer to him some grievous insult.

5. The Lord says: "Catch us the little foxes that destroy the vines." (Cant. ii. 15.) He does not tell us to catch the lions or the bears, but the little foxes. Lions and bears strike terror, and therefore all are careful to keep at a distance through fear of being devoured by them; but the little foxes, though they do not excite dismay, destroy the vine by drying up its roots. Mortal sin terrifies the timorous soul; but, if she accustom herself to the commission of many venial sins with full deliberation, and without endeavouring to correct them, they, like the little foxes, shall destroy the roots that is, the remorse of conscience, the fear of offending God, and the holy desires of advancing in divine love; and thus, being in a state of tepidity, and impelled to sin by some passion, the soul will easily abandon God and lose the divine grace.

6. Moreover, deliberate and habitual venial sins not only deprive us of strength to resist temptations, but also of the special helps without which we fall into grievous sins. Be attentive, brethren; for this is a point of great importance. It is certain, that of ourselves we have not sufficient strength to resist the temptations of the devil, of the flesh, and of the world. It is God that prevents our enemies from assailing us with temptations by which we would be conquered. Hence Jesus Christ has taught us the following prayer: "And lead us not into temptation." He teaches us to pray that God may deliver us from the temptations to which we would yield, and thus lose his grace. Venial sins, when they are deliberate and habitual, deprive us of the special helps of God which are necessary for preservation in his grace.

Continued on the next page. —>

I say necessary, because the Council of Trent anathematizes those who assert that we can persevere in grace without a special help from God. "Si quis dixerit, justificatum vel sine speciali auxilio Dei in accepta iustitia perseverare posse, vel cum eo non posse; anathema sit." (Sess. 6, can. xxii.) Thus, with the ordinary assistance of God, we cannot avoid falling into some mortal sin: a special aid is necessary. But this special aid God will justly withhold from tepid souls who are regardless of committing, with full deliberation, many venial sins. Thus these unhappy souls shall not persevere in grace.

7. They who are ungenerous to God well deserve that God should not be liberal to them. "He who soweth sparingly, shall also reap sparingly." (2 Cor. ix. 6.) To such souls the Lord will give the graces common to all, but will probably withhold his special assistance; and without this, as we have seen, they cannot persevere without falling into mortal sin. God himself revealed to B. Henry Suso, that, for tepid souls who are content with leading a life exempt from mortal sin, and continue to commit many deliberate venial sins, it is very difficult to preserve themselves in the state of grace. The venerable Lewis da Ponte used to say: "I commit many defects, but I never make peace with them." Woe to him who is at peace with his faults! St. Bernard teaches that, as long as a person who is guilty of defects detests his faults, there is reason to hope that he will one day correct them and amend his life: but when he commits faults without endeavouring to amend, he will continually go from bad to worse, till he loses the grace of God. St. Augustine says that, like a certain disease of the skin which makes the body an object of disgust, habitual faults, when committed without any effort of amendment, render the soul so disgusting to God, that he deprives her of his embraces. "Sunt velut scabies, et nostrum decus ita exterminant ut a sponsi amplcxibus separent." (Hom. 1., cap. iii.) Hence the soul, finding no more nourishment and consolation in her devout exercises, in her prayers, communions, or visits to the blessed sacrament, will soon neglect them, and thus neglecting the means of eternal salvation, she shall be in great danger of being lost.

8. This danger will be still greater for those who commit many venial sins through attachment to any passion, such as pride, ambition, aversion to a neighbour, or an inordinate affection for any person. St. Francis of Assisium says that, in endeavouring to draw to sin a soul that is afraid of being in enmity with God, the devil does not seek in the beginning to bind her with the chain of a slave, by tempting her to commit mortal sin. Because she would have a horror of yielding to mortal sin, and would guard herself against it. He first endeavours to bind her by a single hair; then by a slender thread; next by a cord; afterwards by a rope; and in the end by a chain of hell that is, by mortal sin; and thus he makes her his slave. For example: A person cherishes an affection for a female through a motive of courtesy or of gratitude, or from an esteem for her good qualities. This affection is followed by mutual presents; to these succeed words of tenderness; and after the first violent assault of the devil, the miserable man shall find that he has fallen into mortal sin. He meets with the fate of gamblers, who, after frequently losing large sums of money, yield to an impulse of passion, risk their all, and, in the end, lose their entire property.

9. Miserable the soul that allows herself to be the slave of any passion. "Behold, how small a fire what a great wood it kindleth." (St. James iii. 5.) A small spark, if it be not extinguished, will set fire to an entire wood; that is, an unmodified passion shall bring the soul to ruin. Passion blinds us; and the blind often fall into an abyss when they least expect it. According to St. Ambrose, the devil is constantly endeavouring to find out the passion which rules in our heart, and the pleasures which have the greatest attraction for us. When he discovers them, he presents occasions of indulging them: he then excites concupiscence, and prepares a chain to make us the slaves of hell. "Tune maxime insidiatur adversarius quando videt in nobis passiones aliquas generari: tune fomites movet, laqueos parat."

10. St. Chrysostom asserts, that he himself knew many persons who were gifted with great virtues, and who, because they disregarded light faults, fell into an abyss of crime. When the devil cannot gain much from us, he is in the beginning content with the little; by many trifling victories he will make a great conquest. No one, says St. Bernard, suddenly falls from the state of grace into the abyss of wickedness. They who rush into the most grievous irregularities, begin by committing light faults. "Nemo repente fit turpissimus: a minimis incipiunt qui in maxima prouunt." (Tract de Ord. vita 3.) It is necessary also to understand that, when a soul that has been favoured by God with special lights and graces, consents to mortal sin, her fall shall not be a simple fall, from which she will easily rise again, but it will be a precipitous one, from which she will find it very difficult to return to God.

11. Addressing a person in the state of tepidity, our Lord said: "I would that thou wert cold or hot; but because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will begin to vomit thee out of my mouth." (Apoc. iii. 15, 16.) "I would thou wert cold" that is, it would be better for thee to be deprived of my grace, because there should then be greater hopes of thy amendment; but, because thou livest in tepidity, without any desire of improvement, "I will begin to vomit thee out of my mouth." By these words he means, that he will begin to abandon the soul; for, what is vomited, is taken back only with great horror.

12. A certain author says, that tepidity is a hectic fever, which does not excite alarm, because it is not perceived; but it is, at the same time, so malignant that it is rarely cured. The comparison is very just; for tepidity makes the soul insensible to remorse of conscience; and, as she is accustomed to feel no remorse for venial faults, she will by degrees become insensible to the stings of remorse which arise from mortal sins.

13. Let us come to the remedy. The amendment of a tepid soul is difficult; but there are remedies for those who wish to adopt them. First, the tepid must sincerely desire to be delivered from a state which, as we have seen, is so miserable and dangerous; for, without this desire, they shall not take pains to employ the proper means. Secondly, they must resolve to remove the occasions of their faults; otherwise they will always relapse into the same defects. Thirdly, they must earnestly beg of the Lord to raise them from so wretched a state. By their own strength they can do nothing; but they can do all things with the assistance of God, who has promised to hear the prayers of all. "Ask, and it shall be given; seek, and you shall find." (Luke xi. 9.) We must pray, and continue to pray without interruption. If we cease to pray we shall be defeated; but if we persevere in prayer we shall conquer.