

THE CROSS.



God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is Crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal. vi. 14.

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WEEKLY CALENDAR.

- Feb'y 25. First Sunday of Lent.
 26. Monday, St. Mathias, Apostle.
 27. Tuesday, St. Felix, Pope and Conf.
 28. Wednesday, St. Margaret of Cortona, Quatuor Tense.
 29. Thursday, St. Gregory, Pope & Conf.
 March 1. Friday, Quatuor Tense, Feast of the Lance and Nails of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Saturday, St. Simplicius, Pope and Confessor.

THE CHRISTIAN'S MASS.*

AD OFFERTORIUM.

The Creed being finished, the priest kisses the altar, showing his willingness to undertake this office, of making oblation to God for the Church and the faithful, and as it were begging leave of Christ, signified by the altar,† to salute the people with

DOMINUS VOBISCU,

And puts them in mind, that now he begins the oblation, he would have them all join with him in all sincerity and devotion; which they promise to do, and wish the same to the priest, saying, *Et cum Spiritu tuo*: well, then, says

* Christian's Mass, so called from the circumstance, that Catechumens and others, not considered as worthy of being present by the Church, were excluded.
 † Eph. 2, 20. &c.

the priest, turning to the altar, *Oremus*. Let us with one heart join our prayers, that God will assist us in this great oblation.

THE OFFERTORY,

So called, because it begins the oblation, is commonly some sentence out of the *Psalms*, corresponding with the Introit, the priest using this short versicle, to raise the spirits of the faithful, and prepare them for the mystery.

It may represent the hymn our Saviour said,* before he went to Mount Olivet, where he made his first oblation; or the *Antiphon* of our Saviour, "My soul is sorrowful, &c., stay here and watch with me;"† which he said when he began his passion, for our redemption; the representation of which The Church here also begins. The offertory being said,

The priest unveils the chalice, reminding us, that our Saviour, going into the garden, begins to discover his passion to his disciples, or the unveiling of the law, the verity of which should now appear, in the passion of our Lord.

* Mat. 26, 30.

† Ibid. ver. 35