

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. 18. Quinquagesima Sunday.
- 49. Monday, Saint Andrew of Corsini, Bishop and Confessor.
- 20. Tuesday, St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti, Virgin.
- 21. Ash Wednesday—Fast Day.
- 22. Thursday—Chair of St. Peter at Antioch
- 23. Friday, Crown of thorns of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 24. St. Antherus, Pope and Martyr.

THE CATECHUMENS' MASS.

The priest, at the foot of the altar, humbly bowing himself, invokes the most sacred Trinity, saying: *In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti.*—"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." Signifying, that what he is about to do, is not to be done in any power or merit of his own, but in the name and power of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; saying, as it were, to all present,

Attend the oblation, which I am to offer to God, who is our Father, by his Son, who is our Redeemer, and in the

* Catechumens were not allowed to be present at the celebration of the sacred mysteries. At the close of the gospel and sermon, they were ordered by the deacon to depart from the church. The words commanding their departure, were spoken in a loud and distinct tone,—they were, *Ita, Catechumeni, missa est.*—"Depart, Catechumens, Mass is finished."—That part of the mass, at which they were permitted to be present, was called the *Catechumen's Mass*. Ed.

Holy Ghost, who is our Comforter,—Or, to God, by his Son, in virtue and power of the Holy Ghost.

He makes the *sign of the cross* upon himself, and in moving his hand, 1. to his *head*, 2. to his *breast*, and, 3. from *shoulder to shoulder*, he expresses, 1. his *intention*, which is the beginning of our action, 2. his *affection*, and 3. offers all his *power*, to effect this sacrifice. Again, he arms himself with this *sign* as if he should say, "Save me, O Lord, in thy holy name, through the merits of thy passion, and suffer not my enemy to prevail against me." Also, in making this *sign*, he reminds all present, that now he is going to renew in them the memory, and apply to them the fruits and merits of Christ's passion.

Amen, you go to sacrifice to God for us (say the people) and for all the world: we ratify and approve your holy intention, and will attend, and go along with you, to the best of our power.

Priest. *Introibo*, &c. "I will go to the altar of God." *Ps. 42*. Here he farther declares his *intention*, as if he should say, as God's legate to his people, or the Church's ambassador to God; nay, as the agent of the universe to the Lord of lords, and King of kings, "I will go to the altar of God;" to do