

# *1st Sunday of Lent*

## *February 18, 2024*

### **Psalm 6**

**Do not reprove me in Your anger, Lord, nor punish me in Your wrath. Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak; help me, Lord, for my bones are trembling. In utter terror is my**

**soul – and You, Lord, how long...? Turn, Lord, save my life; in Your mercy rescue me.**

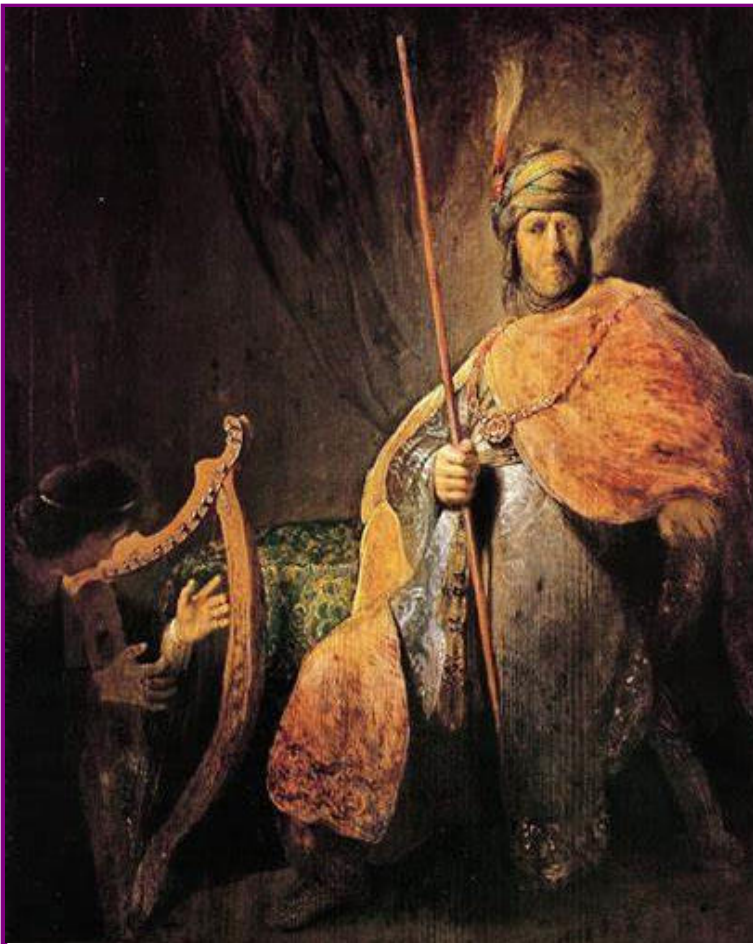
**For who among the dead remembers You? Who praises You in Sheol? I am wearied with sighing; all night long tears drenched my bed; my couch is soaked with weeping. My eyes are dimmed with sorrow, worn out because of all my foes. Away from me, all who do evil! The Lord has heard my weeping. The Lord has heard my prayer; the Lord takes up my plea. My foes will be terrified and disgraced; all will fall back in sudden shame.**



### **Living Mass Intentions for the Week**

**OLPH: John and Lisa Corcoran, Mark Lauer,  
David Malach, Ruth Ann Vaessen**

**SMA: Howard & Karen McInnis, Doug Pettenger, John Gehant, Peg Jones  
St. Patrick: Tyler & Aubrey Burke, Scott & Lisa Bickett**



## From the Gusset

Our brokenness at having **sinned** and our tendency to keep **sinning** is the reason that God decided that He must send His Son into **the world** to save us. **John the Baptist** told the people that they should **repent** of their **sins**, so that **the Kingdom of God** might come; and when our Lord came, Jesus calls us to **repent**, because **the Kingdom of God** has come! – **This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel. (Mark 1:15).** **Lent** calls us to acknowledge our **sinfulness** and to ask for God's **forgiveness**. There is a group of Psalms called **the Penitential Psalms** – seven voices crying out to God for **mercy** and **forgiveness**, and **the Popes** from as long ago as **Innocent III** (1198-1216) have called upon the Church to pray these psalms during **Lent**. As there are seven partial weeks in **the Season of Lent**, I thought we would pray these 7 Psalms together both in these **Gusset columns** and in my

**weekday homilies**. Psalm 6 is the first of **the Penitential Psalms**. Scripture scholars think that **King David** was the predominant author of the Psalms (**73 of the 150 Psalms** are attributed to **David**), and Psalm 6 is attributed to this man, whom God called His '**son**.' Weary both in **body** and **spirit** – a desperate prayer is raised to God for **mercy** and relief from the punishment his **sins** deserve – **David** calls on God to be his Savior. **The King** knows that he has angered God by sinning against Him, but although **David** realizes God should punish him **severely** – he asks instead for God to **forgive** him. See this is what **the first man** should have done when **Adam** **sinned** against God. But **Adam** was yet to understand that he was **to treat** God as a Father, because God was treating **Adam** like a son! It often seemed to be during **the summer months** – when I had more free time on my hands than I knew what to do with – sometimes when I **sinned**, **Mom** would make me tell **Dad** what I had done when **Dad** got home from **work**. It was with **excruciating anxiety** that I waited for **Dad's** car to pull into the driveway, but I had rehearsed over and over how I would tell **Dad** my sin and at the same time ask for his **mercy**. That is what **David** does in this Psalm, and that is what we should do during **Lent**: acknowledge our **sins**, confess them to God in **the Confessional** (when we go to **Reconciliation** to fulfill our **Easter duty**), and ask for God's **mercy** and **forgiveness** and assure **the priest** that we will gladly do **penance** for our **sins**, so that we can be like **St. Simon of Cyrene** and carry **the Cross** of our **sins** even if just for a little bit with Jesus, who has **graciously** agreed to His Heavenly Father to do **the penance** our **sins** deserve. **Yours on the Path** **Fr. Randy**



## Collection Amounts for the Month of January

	OLPH	SMA	St. Patrick
Loose Collection	\$301	\$40	\$40
Envelopes	\$4,720	\$1,020	\$1,033
Total	\$5,021	\$1,060	\$1,073
Monthly Expenses	\$10,921	\$4,184	\$3,695
Solemnity of Mary	\$340	\$20	\$35
National Appeal	\$1,170	\$740	\$60
Diocesan Appeal	\$12,901/\$9,658	\$5,564/\$4,298	\$14,279/\$2,658



Dante's original title for the **Divine Comedy** was: "**The Comedy of Dante Alighieri: A Florentine by birth; not character.**" So, **the poem** was meant to be **autobiographical**, but we have to wonder why is the word '**comedy**' in the title? Well, there were only two works of literature at the time – **Comedies** or **Tragedies**. The definition, I was taught was: if the main character dies in the work it is a **tragedy**, but if the main character lives (and can make a sequel) it is a **comedy**. A **comic poem** is one that begins **badly**, but ends **happily**. So even though we start in **Hell**, we know from the title that we are going to head in the direction of the **good**. Now a **comedy** features a '**comic hero**,' who arrives at a **happy** ending typically through **no merit** of their own; and this is a hugely **Catholic notion**. You and I were **created** by God, but **created** in the image and likeness of the Second Person of the Trinity! We look to God the Father (even if we are a silly **girl**) like Jesus – the Father's only Begotten Son, the person that God the Father **loves** the most! God **made** us, so that He could **love** us and bestow His **blessings** on us! God is so in **love** with you – that the Almighty can think that nothing would be **greater** than to **love** you and receive your **love** in return for all **eternity**!! God desires to the last drop of His Son's **Blood** to make you a **Saint** in His Kingdom!!! So, **Dante's Divine Comedy** and the epic poem God is writing about your life are both **comedies** – God desires that your life **on earth** end with your entering into **Heaven** and experiencing **happiness** (**Beatitude**) for all eternity!!!! So, even though your life might **not** be going so **good** right now – maybe you are experiencing **depression**, or maybe you have **cancer**, or maybe you just lost your job, or maybe people are **sinning** against you, or perhaps you have lost a loved one to **death** and you just don't know how you are going to have the strength to get out of bed tomorrow **morning** – know that through no **merit** of your own – God **loves** you and wants to bring you to **Paradise**! As **Dante** will find out for himself – you must know that if you **gratefully** receive **the Sacraments** of **the Catholic Church**; if you allow God's will to be done in your life, and not your own will; if you ask God for **forgiveness** of your **sins** and **joyfully forgive** all, who have sinned against you – you will become a **Saint**! With all this in mind, why not come to our next **RCIA** meeting as we enter into **Hell** with **Dante** – knowing full well – everything is going to turn out **happily**!

**Confessions** will be heard at **4:30pm** and then we will **pray** the Stations of the Cross at **5:00pm**, and **pray** our **Mass** at **5:30pm** at **St. Mary of the Assumption** in West Brooklyn on **Friday, February 23rd**.



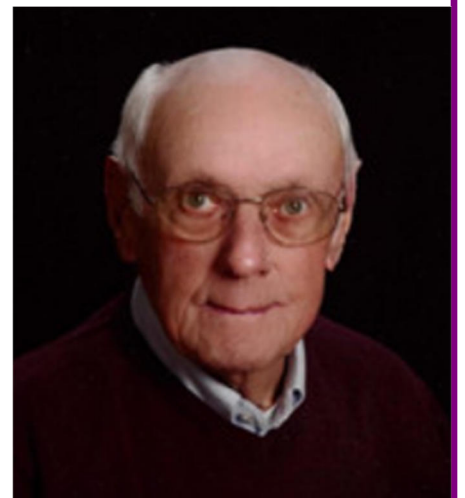
# *The Art and Architecture of our Catholic Churches*

How is it that the Catholic Church where one worships God —  
can be so influential on one's Faith!



**The Catholic Church** defined – at **the Council of Trent** – that even the tiniest particle of **the Sacred Species** is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, substantially present in **the Sacrament**. This Doctrine of the Church is given witness to in one of the smallest objects in our **Churches** – **the ablation cup**! **The ablation cup** is a small bowl-like container with a cover, which stands next to **the Tabernacle** and is filled with **water**. Should **the priest** suspect that any particles of **the Host** are clinging to his fingers – he dips his fingers into the **water** found inside **the ablation cup** and then wipes them on a **purificator**. The Latin root of this word – **ablao** – refers to a washing or cleansing. Any **liturgical action** that consists in washing or purifying of one's body **figuratively** means one is cleansing his inner self or some object. This **ritual washing** symbolizes that he must be pure in **heart** and **mind** to offer **the Sacrifice of Calvary** and **the priest** asks God to give him that purity necessary to **imitate** Jesus Christ. That destructive

**raccoon** that inhabited the Sacristy of **Maytown's Church of St. Patrick**, broke **the ablation cup** in his thirst for **water**. Long-time parishioner, **Judy Sharkey** has generously sponsored the buying of a **new ablation cup** in memory of her beloved husband, **Thomas Sharkey**, whose **Funeral Mass** was at **St. Patrick's** on **October 14, 2023**. Made in Poland, our **new ablation cup** holds 6 oz of **water**, has a **crystal bowl**, and is covered by a **24k gold plated** cover with a **Cross**. It is beautiful, and like most of the beautiful things in our Church is very obscure and even, if is looked upon with our eyes – we are often unaware of its **sacred meaning**. Our Lord often says (even to His own disciples), “**do you have eyes and not see? Do you have ears and not hear?**” We pray that this **Lent** that **the Holy Spirit** would open our eyes and our ears to the **wonders** of **the Kingdom of God** that **surround** us; for truly, Jesus Christ is always present in our **Tabernacle** – for **the Kingdom of God** is among us!



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, February 17th

Return to good health of Pauline Bulfer & (+) James & (+) Geraldine Fronek/ Fr. Randy  
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Donald Marschang, (+) Janet Wagner, & (+) Betty Prendergast/ Family

5:30 pm, **SMA** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

### Sunday, February 18th 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Richard Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Wilson &  
(+) Mary Ann Cardot/ May Township

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Albert & (+) Ida Borell/ Mr. & Mrs. Albert Borell

### Monday, February 19th

(+) William & Margaret Berger/ Judith Scroggins

### Tuesday, February 20th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Robert Bresson/ Charlotte Bresson

### Wednesday, February 21st

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Betty Henkel/ St. Anne Sodality

### Thursday, February 22nd Chair of St. Peter

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Sr. Felicia Ezeofor/ DDL

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Martin & (+) Elizabeth Spitz/ Carlene Schuhler

### Friday, February 23rd

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Joann Burke/ Julie Brechon

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner/ Darlene, Ann, Tim, & Bill Gehant

### Saturday, February 24th

(+) Joseph Schauer/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Joseph Kuebel/ Mary Kuebel &  
(+) Carol Bonnell/ Marilyn Bonnell & Family

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Justin, (+) Anne, & (+) Steve Corcoran/ Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Corcoran

### Sunday, February 25th 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Richard Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Mike Vaessen

10:30 am, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy



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