

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 4, 2024



Living Mass Intentions for the Week

OLPH: Christine Schuhler, Janet Widolff,
Tyler and Laura Jackson, Hector and Ana Gutierrez
SMA: Mike and Susan Schultz, Wanda Deacon, Pat Weiler
St. Patrick: Jason & Terri Leffelman, Ed Murphy

From the Gusset



All **the sacraments** are about strengthening our **Faith**, our **hope**, and our **love** of God. Yet, **the sacrament of anointing** is most especially about strengthening our **hope**. **Sickness** leads us into **disappointment** and **depression**. All the things we wanted to do and now that we are **sick**, we are unable to do them. One of **the reasons**, I like to have an **Anointing Mass** at the **Church** (instead of going to the **sick** person's home) is because by your coming to **Church** it shows your **desire** to see God. As difficult as it is **to journey** to the **Church** with your **pain** and your **illness**, you make **the pilgrimage** to see God. Remember **John the Baptist's Dad, Zachariah**? How **Zachariah** entered **the sanctuary** to burn **incense to pray** to God (that is what **incense** is – **incense** is a symbol of our **prayer**, of our saying, *'I love You, God'*). **Zachariah's prayer** to God was, "Lord, my wife and I are growing old, and we

are losing hope. Please help us!" Growing old not only leads to more frequent **illnesses**, but it leads to **disappointment** – a realization that there are things that I want, but I will probably never have. See, that is why we **anoint** both the **sick** and **the elderly**, because both of these types of people are **candidates** to suffer **disappointment** and **depression**. Both these symptoms of **illness** (**disappointment** and **depression**) fall under the condition of a lack of **hope**. **Zachariah** and **Elizabeth** still had their **Faith** and they still had their **love** of God, but their **hearts** were wounded and they were losing **hope**. So, God sent **the Archangel Gabriel** to visit **Zachariah** and tell him the good news – your **prayers** have been answered – **rejoice** and be glad; but when a person has lost **hope**, you just cannot throw *'the rejoice and be glad switch'* in your **heart**, because the switch of **skepticism** and **cynicism** are already in the **'on' position**. **Zachariah** has stopped **hoping**, and because of his lack of **hope** he doubts what **the Angel** tells him, and a new trial enters his life– he is **struck mute**. In sending yet another trial to **Zachariah**, God is going to use this **sickness** – this **disappointment** – this fear of growing older – God is going to use these trials to prepare **Zachariah's heart** to receive even **greater graces**! God not only gives this couple a son, but God gives them a son who is to go before the Messiah and *prepare the way of the Lord*. When you are **anointed** at **the Sunday Mass** next weekend, your **heart** is being prepared to welcome Jesus Christ in **Holy Communion**. When people are **sick**, when they are **disappointed**, when they are **depressed**, when they are elderly, when they have a lack of **hope** – Jesus comes along and frees us from all of these **evils** by touching us in **the holy oils** of **anointing**. Come to **Mass** next **Sunday**, be **anointed**, receive **Holy Communion**, and prepared to have **hope** repaired in your **heart**!

Yours on the Path

Fr. Randy

Ash Wednesday is fasting approaching and our entering into the Season of Lent. To show, not only that we are sorry for our sins, but that we wish to show our love to the Lord and help Him to make up for the damage our sins have caused to the Body of Christ – we ask our priest to mark us with ashes. On Tuesday morning, February 13th, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, we will have the burning of last years palms that will be turned into these ashes. You may bring your Palms from home to add to our bonfire. Place them at the back of Church and Fr. Randy will gather them and bring them all to West Brooklyn.



ANOINTING MASSES with DONUTS and FELLOWSHIP to Follow!

World Day of the Sick is next Sunday, February 11th, so we will be having a different Mass schedule on this weekend, as we will be offering **the Sacrament of the Anointing** during **the Mass**. **The Sacrament of the Sick** will be offered for all the sick, the aged, and those suffering from **anxieties**. **The Diocese of Rockford** is encouraging **priests** to include **caregivers** in these prayers as well. So if you are a **Professional Health Care provider** or if you are **the loved one** of a person who is ill, we will also be **praying** for you; and you may want to consider being **anointed** yourself. We will also be having coffee, milk, and donuts after each of these **Masses**.

Our **Anointing Mass** schedule will be as follows:



Our Lady of Perpetual Help
4:00pm Saturday, February 10th

St. Patrick Church
8:00am Sunday, February 11th

St. Mary of the Assumption
10:30am Sunday, February 11th

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!



Anointing someone with oil has become so **synonymous** with **the Holy Spirit** that **the Catholic Church** tells us to think of **the Holy Spirit** every time **she** uses **the holy oils** in **her** liturgies. (CCC695) Christ or **Messiah** means *'the one anointed by God's Spirit.'* Jesus, then, is God's **anointed** in a very unique way for when **the Holy Spirit** came down upon our Lord at His **Baptism** – it was **the humanity** that the Son of God assumed, which was **anointed** by **the Holy Spirit**. We say, **the Holy Spirit** established Jesus as the Christ. Now ultimately, our Lord wishes to give everything that His Father gave to Him – Jesus wishes to give these **gifts** to us. **The**

Catholic Church then **rejoices** greatly whenever Jesus passes on God's **holy anointing** to us: **Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Anointing of the sick**.... The blessing of the holy oils is one of **the most glorious liturgies** of **the Catholic Church**, we call it: **the Chrism Mass**, which occurs on **Holy Thursday**. Every year **the Bishop** calls all his priests to come to **the Cathedral in Rockford** to renew their priestly vows, and to watch **the Bishop** bless the oils. Three different oils are then brought back to **the Parish** and stored in **the Ambry** (a locked box affixed to or built into a wall in **the sanctuary**). They are: the **Oil of Catechumens** labeled **'OC,'** (also called **Oleum Sanctum labeled 'OS'**), which is used in **the exorcism prayer** of **Baptism**. The **Chrism oil** (**Sanctum Chrisma**) labeled **'SC,'** and used in **the Sacraments** that leave an **indelible mark** on the recipients soul: **Baptism, Confirmation,** and **Holy Orders**. The **Oil of the Infirm** (**Oleum Infirmorum**) labeled **'OI,'** and used to aid the sick in the Sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick**. We will dip into the flask of oil labeled **'OI'** next weekend, when we have our **Anointing Masses** at all **the Churches**. This **oil** is pure **olive oil** without any additives (unlike the **Chrism Oil**). **Sacred Scripture** tells us that **the Apostles** have used **oil** in their **ministering to the sick**, since Jesus told them to: **and they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.** (Mark 6:13) **St. James** writes: **Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the Church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of Faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up.** (James 5:14-15) Look for **the Ambry** in your Churches'

sanctuary next Sunday. I know of some **Liturgists**, who call **the Ambry, the Tabernacle** of **the Holy Spirit**, but you need not genuflect to **the Ambry!**



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 3rd Feast of St. Blase

Benjamin and Maria Pura/ Rose Leurck

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Arthur Prendergast/ Family &
(+) Celeste Schmitt/ Carlene Schuhler

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner/ Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Northcutt

Sunday, February 4th 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Mary Christine Henkel/ Family

Monday, February 5th

(+) Mary Ann Cardot/ Woodhaven Association & Fr. Kramer/ Fr. Randy

Tuesday, February 6th

(+) Gerald & (+) Janet Hornung/ Fr. Randy Fronek

Wednesday, February 7th

(+) Jean Ritola/ Bernie Roemmich

Thursday, February 8th

(+) Dorothy Tobiaski/ Fr. Randy & (+) Fr. Bakkelund/ Fr. Randy

Friday, February 9th

(+) Dennis McCoy/ Myron Leffelman Family

Saturday, February 10th

(+) Michael Brendel/ Fr. Randy & (+) James & (+) Geraldine Fronek/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Delmer & (+) Joan Dinges/ Mary & Anita Vaessen

Sunday, February 11th World Day of the Sick/ Feast of our Lady of Lourdes

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mary Helen Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Streit

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

Parish Website: www.olphmarystpatrick.com

Parish Phone Number: 815-849-5412

Email: olph.mary@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Nancy Neal

Financial Officer: Donna Stephenitch

CCD Director: Teresa Machen

