



# *4th Sunday of Lent* *Laetare Sunday* *March 10, 2024* **Psalm 102**

Lord, hear my prayer; let my cry come to You. Do not hide Your face from me now that I am in distress. Turn Your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly. For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn away as in a furnace. I am withered, dried up like grass, too wasted to eat my food. From my loud groaning I become just skin and bones. I am like a desert owl, like

an owl among the ruins. I lie awake and moan, like a lone sparrow on the roof. All day long my enemies taunt me; in their rage, they make my name a curse. I eat ashes like bread, mingle my drink with tears. Because of Your furious wrath, You lifted me up just to cast me down. My days are like a lengthening shadow, I wither like the grass. But You, Lord, are enthroned forever; Your renown is for all generations. You will again show mercy to Zion; now is the time for pity; the appointed time has come. Its stones are dear to your servants; its dust moves them to pity. The nations shall revere Your name, Lord, all the kings of the earth, Your glory. Once the Lord has rebuilt Zion and appeared in glory, heeding the plea of the lowly, not scorning their prayer. Let this be written for the next generation, for people not yet born, that they may praise the Lord: the Lord looked down from the holy heights, viewed the earth from heaven, to attend to the groaning of the prisoners, to release those doomed to die. Then the Lord's name will be declared on Zion, the praise of God in Jerusalem, when all peoples and kingdoms gather to worship the Lord.

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

**OLPH: Rynn Dinneen, Francis and Judy O'Shea,  
Andrea Harding, Mike & Sheila Brady**

**SMA: Adalberto & Maria Rosales, Patricia Weiler, Sylvia Schultz  
St. Patrick: Marilyn Weeks, Velma Quest, Gerard & Wendy Legner**

## From the Gusset

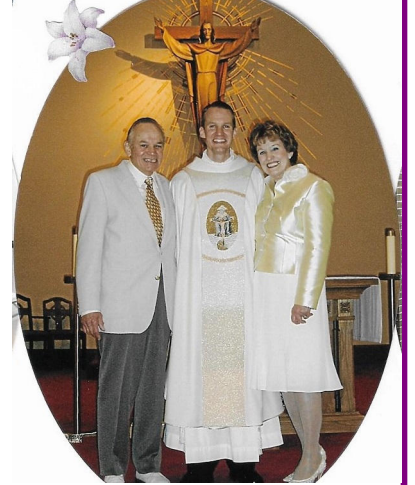
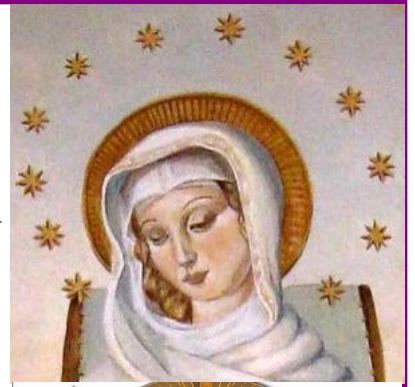
It is actually a little difficult to find a **Marian hymn** to sing during **Lent**, since **the Church** is abstaining from **the joyful Gospel acclamation** of the **'A-word'** (so many **Marian hymns** use that word). Lucky for us there is the **'Ave Regina caelorum'** song. This is the only **Marian antiphon**, where the Church gives us a specific time of the year during which, we are to sing this song! **Pope Pius V**, way back in **1569**, assigned it to be sung after **the priest** prays **compline** or **'night prayer.'** It may be sung from **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** until the compline of **Wednesday of Holy Week**. **In honor** of this **sacred penitential** part of the year, we have been singing this song at the end of our **Masses** during the week. It is unique for another reason. I like it, because the **Ave Regina caelorum** is the only song that not only **greet**s **Mary** with such words as **'Ave,'** and **'Salve,'** but goes on to say **'good-bye,'** or **'good night,'** or **'farewell,'** to our **Lady**. Now that I have lost both of my **parents**, I am **acutely aware** of what a **joy** it was in my life just to be able to say 'hello' or **'good morning'** to my parents (but especially to my **Mom**), and then to be able to say **'good night'** to them and give them a **kiss** or leave to come to our **Parishes** and to **kiss** them **'good-bye.'** Well, that is what we are doing when we sing the **Ave Regina caelorum**. We are singing our **'hello'** and at the same time our **'good-bye'** to **the Queen of Heaven**. During **Lent**, this year, if you come to **Confession**, I am passing out a little prayer that is often added to the **Ave Regina caelorum** – it is a prayer that asks for **Mary's** help not to commit the sins, we have just **confessed**, in the future. Our **parents** are such a gift to us from God, and even after we have lost our **beloved parents** to death – we can still put ourselves up for **adoption** to the parents of our Lord – **Mary** and **Joseph**! I hope you make the **Ave Regina caelorum** a frequent prayer of your **Lent** this year – and just **enjoy** greeting **Mary** and giving her a **kiss good night!**

**Yours on the Path**     **Fr. Randy**

*Ave, Regina caelorum,  
Ave, Domina Angelorum:  
Salve, radix, salve, porta  
Ex qua mundo lux est orta:  
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,  
Super omnes speciosa,  
Vale, O valde decora,  
Et pro nobis Christum exora.*

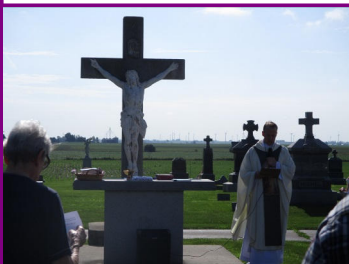
*Hail, O Queen of Heaven.  
Hail, O Lady of Angels  
Hail! thou root, hail! thou gate  
From whom unto the world a light has arisen:  
Rejoice, O glorious Virgin,  
Lovely beyond all others,  
Farewell, most beautiful maiden,  
And pray for us to Christ.*

**Allow me to praise thee, O sacred Virgin. Give me strength against God's enemies. Grant me, O merciful God, a defense against my weaknesses, that I, who remember Your most holy Mother, may by the help of her intercession, may die to my former sins and rise again to newness of life. Through Christ my Lord. Amen.**



## Time to Fulfill Our Easter Duty!

The Easter duty draws the Catholic directly into the heart of the Paschal Mystery—that there is a direct connection between our Lord's Resurrection and the gift of the Eucharist that He gave to us at the Last Supper! Since Easter is the "Feast of all Feasts," these days of Lent are the appropriate time to fulfill our Catholic duty to receive the Eucharist at least once a year in a state of grace, and so we will have our Communal Penance Service on Thursday night at 6:30pm on March 14th—the great Anniversary of Pope St. John Paul the Great's using of Fr. Randy's chalice to celebrate the holy Mass. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church welcomes all of our parishioners from Maytown, West Brooklyn, and Sublette to partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and so prepare well for Easter!



March 15th is the date that the rules of the Diocese of Rockford Catholic Cemeteries states as the clean-up date for all Christmas and Winter decorations. If you would like to save your decorations for next year, please store them in your garage until next winter. All faded or torn decorations will be discarded after the ides of March.

The St. Anne's Sodality will have their bake sale at the Toy Show on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the Sodalities' big fund raiser. If you could bake some 'goodies' and bring them with you to the 4:00 pm Mass in Sublette on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> that would be great. If you attend a different Sunday Mass, you could bring your bakery directly to the St. Anne's booth at the Toy Show on Sunday.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Because St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday this year, and because the Toy Show is also this same weekend—we will pray the Stations at Maytown's Church of St. Patrick this coming Friday, March 15th. Come work a Plenary Indulgence for your beloved dead by going to Confession at 4:30pm, devoutly praying the Stations at 5:00pm, and receiving the Holy Eucharist at the Mass at 5:30pm!



## *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!**

When you lose **a person** you **love** to **death** there is great **sadness**. Your **heart** is broken and you wonder how life could go on—some people even doubt their **Faith**—that there is a God, and that God does **love** them. What are we to do when **death** makes us question even our **Faith**? The answer is in part to look to our **Mother of Sorrows**. To look at the image of **Mary** and **the Pieta**. Here we confront **the Virgin** whose own **heart** had been pierced by a sword. We can unite ourselves with our **Blessed Mother**, letting Her enter our **sorrow** even as we enter Hers, so that She may guide us along **the path** at the end of which, there is **true peace**. When we **celebrate the Mass**, what we are doing is **entering into** Christ's saving **Passion**. The **Passion** of Christ also **honors**, in part, the role played by the **Blessed Mother** for when **Mary** became the Mother of Jesus, by **the power of the Holy Spirit**, She became—by way of a gift of God's **love**—**Mary** became a partner in Her Son's **Passion**. **The Mother of God** shares in the total life of Christ. **Mary** knows **the joy** of Jesus' birth, She knows **the toil** of His life, and **Mary** knows **the sufferings** of Her Son as well. **St. Patrick's Church in Maytown** is blessed with a beautiful statue of **the Pieta**. Look at the Virgin's face. See how Her **heart** is broken. Look at **the position** of **Mary's** arms and hands as She **cradles** the broken Body of our Lord; just as she once **cradled** Her **newborn baby**. What **the Pieta** is teaching us, is the close connection between **sorrow** and **joy**. These two extremes are **connected** by the Life of Christ. The one Life of the Savior means that **life** is one thing. When you look at your Savior, everything flows together: His **birth**, His **preaching**, His **healings**, His **miracles**, His **rejection**, His **Passion**, and His **death**; but most of all His **Resurrection!** **Mary** lived the perfect **human life**, because She **united** Her life with the Life of Her Son, Jesus. This is what it means to be in **Communion** with Jesus: **to suffer**, **to cry**, to hold **death** in your arms, to dwell in **the shadow of the Cross**, to fully enter into **the sufferings** of Christ—means to know that Jesus has **conquered sin, death, and Satan**; and to know, that the **Resurrection** will bring us **joy, peace**, and that our **love** will flow **again** from our **hearts** to theirs (those we have lost in **death**) when our Lord raises them **bodily** from the dead, and gives them back to us!  
**Our Lady of Sorrows...pray for us!**



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 9th Feast of St. Frances of Rome

(+) Gary Fred Bartelli/ Pam Milano & (+) Robert Fischer/ Fr. Randy  
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Stacey Wertz & (+) Sue Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman  
5:30 pm, **SMA** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

### Sunday, March 10th Fourth Sunday of Lent: Laetare Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mary Frances McLaughlin/ Velma Quest  
10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Sharon Apple/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Henkel

### Monday, March 11th

(+) Rita Haefner/ Darlene, Ann, Tim, and Bill Gehant &  
(+) Helen Kolar & (+) Marina Roggi/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa

### Tuesday, March 12th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) William O'Hare/ Mr. & Mrs. Doug Klein  
11:30 am, **St. Paul's Hospital** Deacon George Schramm and his wife/ Fr. Randy

### Wednesday, March 13th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Carol Widolff & (+) Mike Widolff/ Carlene Schuhler

### Thursday, March 14th Relic of Pope St. John Paul II

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Robert Bresson/ Mr. & Mrs. Touie White  
8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Jean Ritola/ Mr. & Mrs. Louie Vaessen

### Friday, March 15th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Dennis McCoy/ Mr. & Mrs. Jason Streit  
5:30 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Joann Burke/ Mr. & Mrs. Dave Dinges

### Saturday, March 16th

(+) Deceased of the Payne Family/ Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Pry  
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Betty Henkel &  
(+) Pat Syskowski/ Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jones

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

### Sunday, March 17th 5th Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Doug Blaine/ Diane Blaine  
10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Deceased Foresters/ St. Mary's Court #1382

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