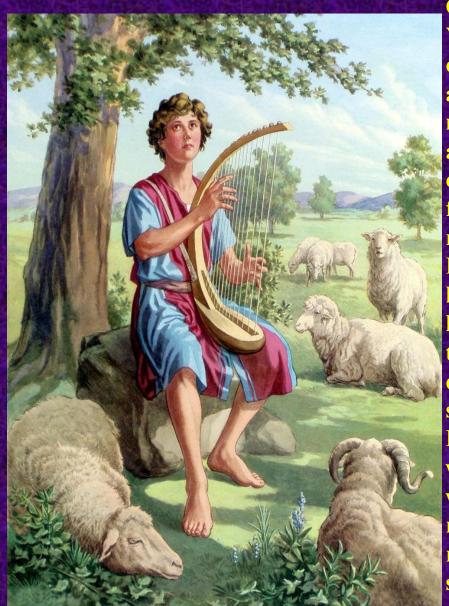
5th Sunday of Lent March 17, 2024 Psalm 130



Out of the depths I called to You, Lord; Lord, hear my cry! May Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If You, Lord, keep account of sins, Lord, who can stand? But with You is forgiveness and so You are revered. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and I hope for His word. My soul looks for the Lord more than sentinels for daybreak. More than sentinels for daybreak, let Israel hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is mercy, with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will redeem Israel from all its sins.

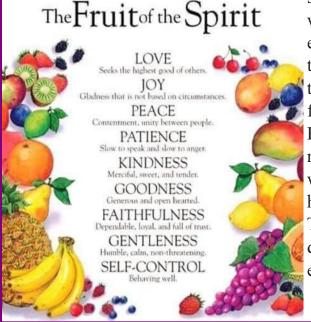
Living Mass Intentions for the Week

OLPH: Ben & Maria Pura, Neal Vaessen, Nancy Cicchetti, Mike & Sheila Brady, SMA: Val Fischbach, Mike & Susan Schultz, William & Paula Barkei, Mary Stephens

St. Patrick: Anthony & Laura Morgan, Jason & Terri Leffelman

From the Gusset

In Seminary, they taught us a prayer of "Thanksgiving" to pray after we had gone to Confession. It was a beautiful prayer of gratitude, in which, we thanked God for restoring purity to our hearts. That when a merciful God heard us say that we were sorry for our sins five times in having gone to the Sacrament of Confession – that Jesus had taken away our sins – placed them as far away from us as the sunrise is from the sunset – plunged ours sins into the depths of the ocean as far from the Light as possible. I always marveled at how the Catholic Church has built into the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the opportunity for each of us to say we are sorry once for every one of the five wounds our sins inflicted on the Body of Christ. That by waiting in line to enter the confessional, that by marking on our calendars the time we would go to Church on "Be Reconciled Day" and go to Confession, that just by our intention to want to reconcile with the One, who loves us so much that He gave up His life for us – that just by our intention to want to go into the confessional – this is the first time God hears us say we are sorry for our sins. The second time is when we actually enter the confessional, and we say: Bless me, Father, for I have sinned! When we list out our sins (the mortal ones in kind and number of times we have committed them) to the priest is the third wound of Christ that is healed by our sorrow for our sins. Then after we have said all of our sins (out loud to the priest) that our conscience has convicted us of, we make sure we say we are sorry to God a fourth time, with the line: I am sorry for all of these sins, and I'm even sorry for all the sins, which I have forgotten. Finally, the priest prompts us to say we are sorry, one last time, when Father has us pray our Act of Contrition. When our hearts are free from sin this allows the Holy Spirit to work wonders with our life. The Holy Spirit guides the actions of our life, so that we can bear fruit – fruit that will last. Remember, God the Father has given us the vineyard of our vocation, and He will ask for the produce at the proper time – we want to be ready to provide our loving Father with a good harvest. Our prayer of gratitude tells our Lord that we have a renewed desire to be His Faithful friend and servant. For isn't that why Jesus chose the twelve to be His disciples in the first place? Jesus chose Nathaniel, James, Andrew, Peter, Judas, John, James, Thomas, Philip, Matthew, Jude, and Simon; so that, they might be with Him—not just to watch Him work miracles, but to just



spend time with Jesus and bring comfort to our Lord, while He was away from His Father; and to be with Jesus especially when He was suffering: at the Last Supper, in the garden of Gethsemane, in the courtyard of Pilate, on the way to Calvary, and to watch Him die on the Cross for us. Having gone to Confession, we wish to be Faithful friends and good servants of our Lord; that we might, experience great joy and peace in our hearts, which comes from living our vocations for His glory. I hope you enjoy praying the Prayer of

Thanksgiving after Confession as much as I do. I have printed this Prayer in its entirety elsewhere in this bulletin.

Yours on the Path Fr. Randy

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Confession

Merciful Lord, with a pure heart I thank You for taking away my sins. Let Your Holy Spirit guide my life, so that my soul may bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Renew my desire to be Your faithful friend and servant, increase my loving dependence on You, and grant me that joy and peace of heart which comes from doing Your holy will. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BE RECONCILED DAY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21ST

OLPH 9:00-10:30AM, 7:00-8:00PM SMA NOON-1:30PM ST. PATRICK 4:00-5:30PM

Bishop Malloy's wish is that a person could go to any Church in the Diocese of Rockford on Be Reconciled Day and have his confession heard. If you missed our Communal Penance Service last week this coming Wednesday would be a good time to make your Easter duty!

One of the Easter Bulletins will list all the names of those whom you purchased an Easter flower to memorialize. Simply, write on the outside of an envelope the name of the person you are purchasing the Easter flower for and place the envelope in the regular Sunday collection basket.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our final communal Stations of the Cross for this Lenten season will be held in West Brooklyn, on Friday, March 22nd at 5:00pm. Come work a Plenary Indulgence for a loved



one in Purgatory by going to Confession at 4:30pm and so receive the Eucharist in a state of grace at the Mass prayed at 5:30pm.

Collection Amounts for the Month of February

	OLPH	SMA	St. Patrick
Loose Collection	\$191	\$50	\$67
Envelopes	\$5,232	\$1,135	\$1,150
Total	\$5,423	\$1,185	\$1,217
Monthly Expenses	\$10,921	\$4,184	\$3,695
National Appeal	\$450	\$25	\$0
Diocesan Appeal	\$12,984/\$9,658	\$5,564/\$4,298	\$14,949/\$2,658



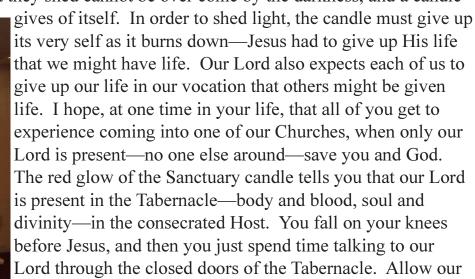


The Art and Architecture of our Catholic Churches

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

"... through Him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:4-5

The light of a simple candle, is present throughout the life of the Catholic from birth to death. A baby enters the Church through Baptism, and he is given a candle as soon as he comes up out of the font. His Godfather lights the candle from the Easter Candle. Many years later, at his Funeral Mass, the Easter Candle is lit and present for all to see. In older liturgies, a young person would present a candle to his Bishop at his Confirmation Mass, and the a young man would also offer to his Bishop a candle at his ordination Mass. See, from beginning to end, and at moments in between, a candle represents our spiritual life in Christ. The Catholic has his life illuminated, protected, and enlightened by Christ. Candles are such good symbols of the light of Christ, because they are pure and the light they shed cannot be over come by the darkness, and a candle



Lord to remind you; that because, you received Holy Communion last Sunday—that Jesus has put His light inside of you. Remember, Jesus calls you to be a light to the world. That there are many souls you will encounter in the coming week, who sit in darkness, and Jesus doesn't want you to hide your light under a bushel basket; but rather, to stand tall and give the light He has given to you to all in your house. God the Father has set it up in advance that you will do many good works, and when others see you doing these good works—they will give glory to God. Thank Jesus for giving you the graces of the Blessed Sacrament, and ask Him for help to shine brightly on others.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 16th

Deceased members 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 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Doug Blaine/ Diane Blaine

10:30 am, OLPH (+) Deceased Foresters/ St. Mary's Court #1382

Monday, March 18th

(+) Diane Jacoby/ Carlos Concepcion & (+) Cynthia Jones/ Fr. Randy

Tuesday, March 19th Solemnity of St. Joseph

7:30 am, SMA (+) Sister Felicia Ezeofor/ DDL

Wednesday, March 20th

8:00 am, OLPH (+) Charles Kuebel/ Family

Thursday, March 21st

7:30 am, SMA (+) Rita Haefner/ Betty Bohn

8:30 am, OLPH (+) Lynda Auchstetter/ Carlene Schuhler

Friday, March 22nd

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

5:30 pm, SMA (+) Justin Corcoran/ Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Wilson

Saturday, March 23rd

(+) Gerald & (+) Janet Hornung/ Fr. Randy & (+) Fidelis & (+) Recheal Ezenagu/ DDL

4:00 pm, OLPH (+) Arthur Prendergast/ Family &

(+) Carol Bonnell/ Mr. & Mrs. Greg Henkel

5:30 pm, SMA (+) Quin & Josephine Torri/Torri Family

Sunday, March 24th Palm Sunday

8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Blaine

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

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Parish Phone Number: 815-849-5412

Email: olph.mary@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Nancy Neal

Financial Officer: Donna Stephenitch CCD Director: Teresa Machen



