

Easter Sunday *March 31, 2024*



Living Mass Intentions for the Week

OLPH: Kevin & Julie Malach, Doug & Colleen Klein, Ryan Althaus

SMA: Charlotte Bresson, John Gehant

St. Patrick: LaVerne Klein, Indian Bickett

From the Gusset

The essence of **comedy** is its **happy ending**. In one of **Dante Alighieri's** letters, he once wrote: "I wish you a **tragic beginning**, and a **comic ending!**" *The Divine Comedy* is a story that ends **happily**. **Dante** travels through nine celestial spheres, which surround **the Throne of**

God. Poetically, **Dante** writes of **Heaven** as being like **a rose** in full bloom. Each **petal** reveals the further splendor and glory of God as we get closer and closer to **the Divine Presence in the Empyrean**, but even **the petals** on the edge are beautiful and add to the full **glory of the rose!** **Dante** has his sister-in-law, who is on the lowest (**outermost petal**) sphere of **Heaven**, teach him that: "*everywhere in Heaven is Paradise!*" We tend to associate **comedies** with **Tony Curtis** ducking into a cream pie in *the Great Race* or a fat man like **Chris Farley** falling down and just destroying a coffee table, and this is one form of **comedy** and it is **very funny**; but the essence of **comedy** is a story that ends **happily**. **Dante's Divine Comedy** is that deeper, higher type of **comedy** where he wonders as a **poet**: how do you bring **the human being** or **the human family** to a **happy ending**? So, **comedy** can be extremely deep and quite **beautiful**. **Dante** thought of **the Bible** as a **comedy** for how does **the Bible** start?! God creates everything and gives His **creation** as a gift to His favorite creature, **the man**. But **the man** doesn't appreciate **the gift** of God's **love** for him. When God would have **Adam** and **Eve** look up at Him and desire to walk with God in **paradise** in the cool, breezy time of the day; instead, **the man** and his wife look down at **the ground** and see **a snake**, who convinces them that they ought to be **jealous** of God. That God is really trying to keep **glory** from **the man**, and that **the man** ought to seize **glory** for himself and take **the fruit** God forbid him to eat. So, **the Bible** starts out a **tragedy**, but how does it end? It ends **happily** with **the Wedding Feast of the Lamb** and **the creation** of a new Heaven and new Earth – where mankind is **divinized** – we become a part of the Body of Christ – we are in **Communion** with the Triune God through the second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. As your **priest**, I

wish you a **tragic** beginning, and a **comic** ending!
Happy Easter!!

Yours on the Path
Fr. Randy





Your favorite Pope and mine proclaimed **the Octave of Easter** to be **Divine Mercy Sunday**, and issued a **Plenary Indulgence** for all who pray **the Divine Mercy Chaplet** and **attend Mass**. Arrive 10 minutes early, next **Sunday, April 7th**, so you can remit **the temporal punishment** of the sins of your beloved in **Purgatory**. Of course, if you did not go to our **Communal Penance Service (March 14th)**, or go to **Be Reconciled Day (March 20th)**, or go to confession before our **Stations of the Cross (every Friday during Lent)**—then you will have to go to **Confession** in order to receive **the Eucharist** in a state of grace and fulfill the obligations of **the Plenary Indulgence**. Don't be **despondent!** Your **beloved** is worth going to **confession** for—aren't they?! Allow me to help you make **a good examination of conscience**—this one is based on the **7 Penitential Psalms** that we learned this **Lent**. **Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143** (hike!) are like **seven voices** crying to God for **mercy and forgiveness**. Ask yourself these 7 questions, and then tell your priest confessor your answers in **the Confessional**, and you will have made **a good Confession**, and brought your beloved into **glory!**

Psalm 6: Do I **freely confess** my sins to God (or does my **spouse** or my **parents** make me go to **Confession**) and do I ask for God's **blessing**, so that once absolved of my **sins**—I have the strength to do **penance** for my sins, and **the power** of God to put up more **resistance** when these same **temptations** to **sin** arise in the future?

Psalm 32: God wants to surround me with His **love**, protect me, and lead me to **glory**. Do I allow God to **bit and bridle** me to control my **temper** or do I allow my **anger** to lead me into more **sins**? Am I **docile** to God's Commandments—do I want to **live the life** God wants me to live?

Psalm 38: When I am **sick** with **sin**, and God **heals** me—because I asked Him to—do I, having regained my **good health**, help another who is **sick** from their **sins** to ask for God's **forgiveness**?

Psalm 51: God loves a contrite **heart**—a **heart** that is **humble**, worn out, or ground into pieces by **the world**, **sin**, and **Satan**. Do I present my bruised and broken soul to God that He may **heal** me and make me even better than I was before I **sinned**? Or have I given up **hope** that I will ever be **victorious** over my **sins**?

Psalm 102: When absolved from our **sins**, God **lifts us up**—He **treasures** us—like **the Good Shepherd**, who cradles His **new-found sheep** that was lost—He cradles **the sheep** in His **bosom**. Do I understand that having gone to **Confession**, I am God's **cherished** one!?

Psalm 130: In Hebrew, the verbs **“to hope”** and **“to wait”** are the same, because **waiting** demands **hope**. If I ask for God's **mercy** it will surely come. Do I readily ask for God's **mercy**; knowing I will have it?

Psalm 143: I am in **covenant** with God from my **Baptism**, from the **Eucharist** I received last Sunday, from my **Confirmation Sacrament**, from my **Marriage Sacrament**.... To say I am a **servant** of God means I am in **covenant** with God. Do I expect to **triumph** over **sin**, because the Lord will extend His hand to help me, if only I would seek to put **my hand** in His.

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!

Every **Catholic Church** is built for **the altar**! It is at **the altar** that **the Passion** of Jesus Christ is commemorated at every **Mass**. It is at **the altar** that our Lord's **sacrifice** for our **sins** is re-presented. **The altar** is where **the consecration** of **the bread** and **wine** takes place; and so, our Lord becomes **Incarnate**. **The altar** is that place from which we receive the Body and Blood, the Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in **Holy Communion**. Therefore, **the altar** is the center and the focal point of every **Church**, and when **the Mass** is being celebrated **the altar** becomes the center of our **attention**. This point is made by our **genuflections**. When we first come into a **Catholic Church** (because **the Eucharist** is reserved in **the Tabernacle**), we genuflect toward **the Tabernacle**. When we leave the Church, we again show our reverence for Jesus by genuflecting toward **the Tabernacle**. Thus, you say 'hello' and 'good-bye' to **the King of the Universe** by your **genuflecting**. However; once **the Mass** starts – all of our **attention** is focused on **the altar** (it is as though we forget about **the Tabernacle** (and **Its** contents) completely)! Because Jesus has entered **the sanctuary**, and because **the altar** represents Jesus, Himself, the priest will **genuflect** three times to **the altar** during the praying of **the Eucharistic Prayer**, and if any servers are present or if a **Deacon** is assisting the priest – these other ministers will offer a profound bow from the waist every time they pass **the altar** in the performance of their **sacred duties** or when leaving **the altar**. An example of this is when a **server** offers the priest **the wine** and **water** cruets during the preparation of **the Chalice** – before the server returns to **the credence table**, he would bow to **the altar** – to ask the Lord's permission to depart from (turn his back on) **the holiness** of God's Son. This understanding that every **Catholic Church** was built to house its **altar** even determined the size of **the Church**. The length of **the altar** that **a Church Community** had was measured, and then **the transept** of the Church was to be eight times longer than **the altar**!! This image that God created **the earth** and everything in it in **the seven days of creation**, and now the Son of God has **recreated** His Father's Kingdom (by His death and Resurrection) on the 8th day! When a **Bishop** consecrates a new **Catholic Church** – his prayers center around the consecration of **the altar**. **The Bishop** will rub **the holy chrism oil** into **the altar** mesa – consecrating **the altar** – which becomes the primary symbol of Christ, Himself, for **the Church Community**.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 30th Holy Saturday

8:00 pm, **St. Patrick Easter Vigil** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Sunday, March 31st Easter Sunday

8:00 am, **SMA** (+) Gilbert Haub/ Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bresson

10:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Betty Prendergast/ Family & (+) Faye Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman

Monday, April 1st

Mary Ann Bonamie/ Mary Schreiner &

(+) Yvonne Koepke & (+) Betty Bendiola/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa

Tuesday, April 2nd

(+) Rita Haefner/ Mr. & Mrs. Richard Studebaker &

(+) Maryann Schmalz & (+) Filomena Antinucci/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa

Wednesday, April 3rd

(+) Thomas Barry/ Carol Moss &

(+) Justin & (+) Anne & (+) Steven Corcoran/ Fr. Randy

Thursday, April 4th

(+) Wanda Bresson & (+) Henry Antosiak/ Fr. Randy

Friday, April 5th

(+) JoAnn Burke/ Melvin Leffelman & (+) Marilyn Henkel/ Fr. Randy

Saturday, April 6th

(+) James & (+) Geraldine & (+) Ron Fronck/ Roger & Rick Fronck

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Joseph & (+) Bernadine McNally/ Family

5:30 pm **SMA** (+) Barbara Gehant/ St. Mary's Choir

Sunday, April 7th Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mary Ann Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Johnson

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

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