

Divine Mercy Sunday April 7, 2024



Living Mass Intentions for the Week

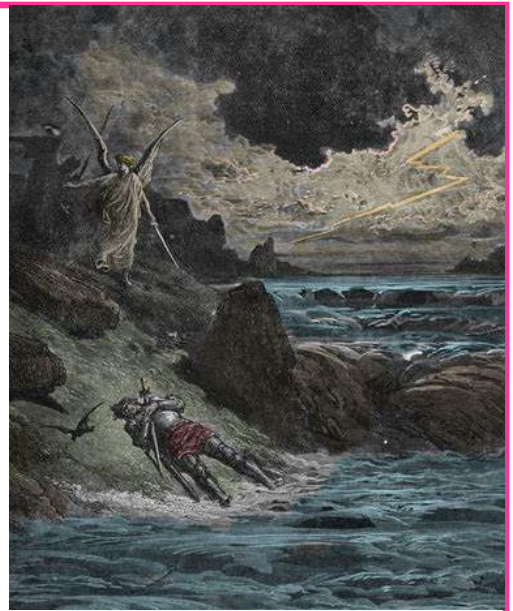
OLPH: Gage Mumm, Violet Widolff, Elizabeth Malach, Harold Bonnell

SMA: Bill & Marge Berger, Henry & Michelle Orzech, Richard & Lisa Studebaker

St. Patrick: Leo Bushman, Sister Laticia Lapid

From the Gusset

The **mercy** of God is evident throughout **the Divine Comedy**, but perhaps **mercy's high-water mark** is in **canto 5** in **the second Cantic: the Purgatorio**. Everyone and his brother who reads **the poem** believes there is no **greater example** of God's **mercy** than on a man named **Bonconte**. **Bonconte** was a soldier, who died at the battle of **Campaldino** on June 11th in 1289 – as he was running away from his enemy, an **arrow** shot him through the throat. He was unable to speak a single word as his mouth filled with **blood** – all **Bonconte** could manage was the fraction of a syllable – simply **the letter 'm'** sound as he called **upon the Blessed Virgin Mary** for help. Now **Bonconte** was **an evil man**, who hated **the Holy Father** and had not been to **Mass**, since he was a boy and his mother made him go. As a **devil** was coming to take **Bonconte's** soul to **Hell**, the **devil** is

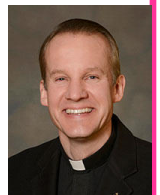


stopped by an **Angel**, who informs **the evil spirit**, “No, this one is wanted by God in Heaven!” The **devil** is infuriated, he cries out – “one little tear” at the last second of his **life**, and God wants this one for **Heaven**??! “It is just not fair” – **the horrid devil** shrieks! The point **Dante** is trying to make is that God's **mercy** extends even to those who waited until the last possible moment to make **peace** with God or be **receptive** of God's **love** for them! Listen to **Bonconte's** words: *we all were doomed to death by violence, and we all sinned until our final hour; then light from heaven granted us understanding; so that, repenting and forgiving, we came forth from life at peace with God, as God instilled in us the longing to see Him!* Just think, we, who pray **the Hail Mary Prayer** at least 50 times a day, we, who realize **the great gift** that Jesus gave us on **Good Friday** – that **Mary** should be our **Mother** too; if some **arch-sinner** like **Bonconte** can be saved for **Heaven** by barely calling on **Mary's** name and at the last possible second – if **Bonconte** can be **saved** – we would do well to put all our **stock** in the **mercy** of Jesus Christ as well, and call upon our **Mother**. Yet, I believe that God's **mercy** shows itself **greatly** from nearly the first page of **the Divine Comedy**. For isn't our **hero** in such **dire straits** in **canto 1** of **the Inferno** that **Dante's** prayer is heard by **the Blessed Mother**, who sends **St. Lucy** – who in turn sends **Beatrice**, who then invokes **Virgil** to go and guide **Dante** along the path that will bring him back into God's **blessings**? Who is **Dante Alighieri** that **Mary** should send such a great **Saint** as **St. Lucy** to go and rescue a single man, who has wandered off **the path** that leads to **Heaven**? You see, **Mary** takes the command from her Son, so seriously – the command: “**woman behold your son**”—that **the Virgin Mary** is so much like her Son, Jesus, who says, **this is the will of the One who sent Me: that I should not lose anything of what He gave Me, but that I should**



raise it on the last day! I keep telling you how **special** you are to our Lord. God the Father gave you as **a gift** to His Son, Jesus, the day you were **baptized**. Our Lord wishes to give you as **a gift** back to His Father at the end of your **life**! Have **mercy** on us, O Lord. Have **mercy** on us!
Happy Easter!!

Yours on the Path
Fr. Randy





ANNUNCIATION

The **Solemnity of the Annunciation** got trumped this year, because it fell on **the Monday of Holy Week**; thus, it was transferred to **Monday, April 8th**. Though the celebration of **the Mass** was changed, we still started our **9-month long Prayer** asking God for the safe delivery of our **Spiritually Adopted baby** back on March 25th. We pray the **Bishop St. Fulton Sheen Prayer** every day, so that **Christmas** will be extra special to us – as we **celebrate** both our Lord's birth and that of our **Spiritually Adopted baby**. Please, go ahead and choose a name for your child – his or her **parents** have not yet done so, because they

are not yet ready to admit that they have given life to a **human being**. Through your **persistent prayer**, you – with the help of the child's **Guardian Angel** – will convince them to **choose life**. The **Bishop St. Fulton Sheen Prayer** can be found on our **website** or there will be **Holy Cards** in the back of Church, which you are free to take. **The key** (as always) is to be **persistent in prayer**.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of N.

(mention the name you give to this baby) the unborn baby

that I have spiritually adopted, who is in danger of abortion. Amen.

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!

Perhaps they have **not** shed light on our **altar** and on **the Eucharist**, since before **Vatican II** – this **Easter** saw a one of a kind **double candelabra** light up our altar at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** in **Sublette**. This past summer, I had been working with **the roofers** to install our **iHub antenna** in **the bell tower**, when I stumbled across this amazing **telescoping, double candelabra**. Though quite **corroded**, I immediately contacted **T.H. Stemper company** – a third generation company that specializes in **statuary** and **restoration work**. **Stemper** has regilded **Fr. Randy's** chalice and repainted **the magnificent statue** of **our Lady** at **St. Patrick's in Maytown**. **The Stemper brothers** had never seen a **double candelabra** like ours, and they have been in business since, **Grandfather Stemper** took over **European Statuary & Art Company** back in 1911. Regilded in **24k gold** – these beautiful **candelabra** are once again shedding **heavenly light** upon our **Eucharistic Lord**, and just in time for **the Eucharistic Congress** coming to our own backyard in **Indianapolis** next July. **Angels** have always been **God's messengers** – that has always been **the Angelic function** – to shed light on God's glory – to inform **mankind** of God's great **love** for us! **Lucifer** and **the bad angels** would not accept this **vocation**; however, all the good **Angels** continue to bring God's **grace** from **Heaven's throne** to **earth**. **Candelabra** typically have seven candles, each representing **the seven Sacraments** of our Lord Jesus Christ. The highest candle represents **the Eucharist** – the body and blood, soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The next two candles that surround **the Eucharistic Sacrament** are the preparatory Sacraments of **Reconciliation** and **Anointing!** Then come the covenantal Sacraments that leave an **indelible mark** on our souls: **Baptism** and **Confirmation**. Final the bookend candles are **the Vocational Sacraments** of **Holy Orders** and **Holy Matrimony**. We know that there are **four Gospels**, which were written to showcase **the glory of the miracles** that Jesus came to die and rise from **the dead** in order to give us a share in His **Divinity**. For the reason, we receive **the Sacraments** of **the Catholic Church** is to become more like Christ! The double set of seven candles then represent the four **Angels** that inspired the writers: **St. Matthew** and **St. Mark**, and **St. Luke** and **St. John**. Part of the uniqueness of our **candelabra** is that each set of seven candles are connected to a **telescoping pole** allowing us to raise and lower the reflected **brightness** that these good **Angels** shed. They are **priceless**, which is simply another sign of the greatness of **the Catholic Faith** of the two dozen or so Catholic Families, who built this glorious Church dedicated to **Our Lady of Perpetual Help!** I only hope, as your **priest**, that these **regilded candelabra** will be a source of **inspiration** to you, and make you (even more) desire to celebrate **the Eucharist** every Sunday!



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, April 8th Solemnity of the Annunciation

(+) James Zinke/ Fr. Randy & (+) Geraldine Fronck/ Mr. & Mrs. Bill Berger

Tuesday, April 9th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Michael Widolff/ Bill Widolff & (+) Philip Jones/ Sister Laticia Lapid

Wednesday, April 10th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Carol Bonnell/ Mr. & Mrs. Louie Vaessen

Thursday, April 11th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Quin & (+) Josephine Torri/ Torri Family

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Dennis McCoy/ Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Klein

Friday, April 12th

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

10:00 am, **Newman Catholic Central** CCD kids/ Fr. Randy

Saturday, April 13th

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

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Jean Ritola/ Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Wilson

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

Sunday, March 14th 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Charles & (+) Bea Buckley/ Family

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

(+) Camilo & (+) Mercedes Lapid/ Sister Laticia Lapid

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Parish Secretary: Nancy Neal **CCD Director:** Teresa Machen

Financial Officer: Donna Stephenitch

