

*4th Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024*

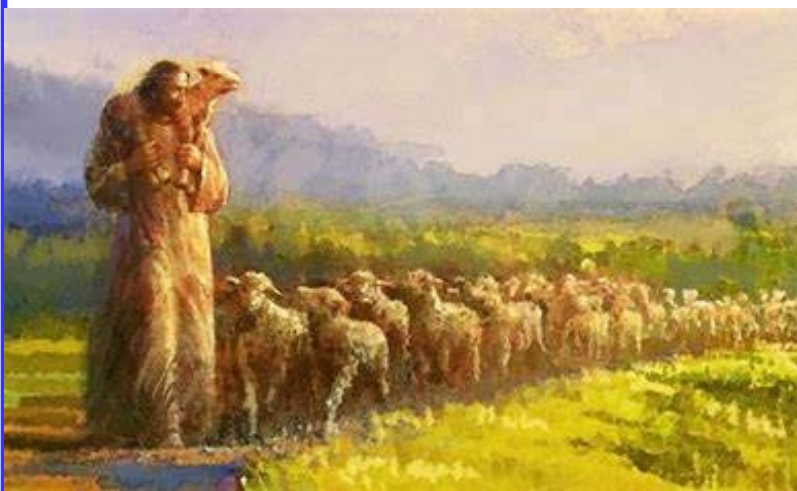
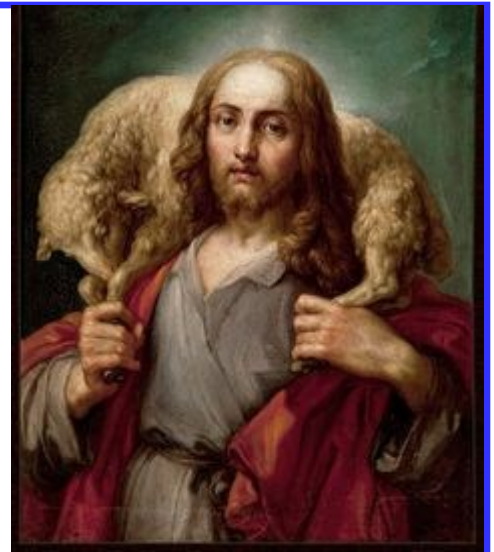


TO BEGIN AGAIN

From the Gusset To Begin Again

“If a man has a hundred sheep and 1 of them goes astray....”
—Luke 15:4

Our **Advent Theme** of “*beginning again*” is captured in **the Parable** of the Lost Sheep! We cannot be **afraid** to start over, simply because God is **never afraid** to start over with us. How many times did God have to start over after *the Fall*? Hundreds and then thousands and now today millions of times – God has started over! The Almighty has **begun again** His **glorious quest** to make us **holy**. Jesus told the disciples there is **one sheep**, who has gone astray – I will go search for **him**, and then bring **him** back and **begin again**! Notice that Jesus says that God will **rejoice** when He has **the stray sheep** back in the fold; and Jesus, **the Good Shepherd**, will spend even more time and more **energy**, and most of all Jesus will **pour out** even more of His **love** on **the sheep** than the Lord **poured** on the 99 that did not stray!!! See, God is **not afraid** to **begin again** with us! I just give you one example from my **Chemistry** background to help you to see why God is so eager to **begin again** with us. When I wanted to purify a chemical in the lab, if I had a batch of chemical that was a **little bit brown** in color and the chemical was supposed to be white – that it was some **impurity** that made the whole batch that **light brown color** – I would do a **crystallization**. I would dissolve ‘**the dirty chemical**’ in a solvent, and then I would go out and get just **one pure white crystal** of the chemical, and drop it into **the dirty solution**. Suddenly, the chemicals in the solution would attach themselves to **the pure crystal** and then as more and more chemicals attach themselves to the **one pure crystal** – a great **crystallized ball of a clean chemical** – **pure white** would appear, and **the light brown** contaminant would be locked outside of this **pure crystalline ball** of chemical (**the impurity** would stay in **solution**). See, when God **purifies one** of our **souls** with **confession** – we who are still **soiled by our sins** – we see how **beautiful** is **the one**, who has been **forgiven** by God, and then we, wanting to have that type of **relationship** with God, then we go to **confession**. If you were unable to go to our **Communal Penance service** on December 12th, in preparation for **Christmas** – here is what you should do. Just come up to **Communion** with your arms crossed over your **chest** at the **Christmas Mass**, receive **a blessing** from God, and then put on your **calendar** or your day planner that you will go to **confession** on Saturday



evening in **West Brooklyn** before **the 4:00PM Mass** or that you will go to **confession** on **Holy Family Sunday**, December 29th, before **the 10:00AM Mass** in **Sublette**. **Confess** your **sins** on that day, and then receive **the Eucharist** throughout the rest of the **Christmas season**. You should never be **afraid** to **begin again**, because God is **not afraid** to start over with you! **Yours on the Path Fr. Randy**

To Begin Again

“**Christmas** is not just about God **coming** to us, but **Christmas** is about our **going out** to meet God! In this **Year of Grace 2025**, let us **begin again** our **quest** for **holiness**.”

Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 pm—SMA, West Brooklyn

10:00 am—OLPH, Sublette

Christmas Mass

Wednesday, December 25th

8:00 am—St. Patrick, Maytown

10:00 pm—OLPH, Sublette



Jubilee Pilgrimage

St. John makes It clear that the coming of God was an outward, **visible**, **audible**, and **tangible** event; and so It is, that we should **express our joy** as we celebrate in this **Holy Year** – the **Year of Grace 2025** – the 2,025th **anniversary** of the **Incarnation** – the greatest event of all-time – that God took on our own **human flesh**. The term “**Jubilee**” speaks of **joy**; not just an inner **joy**, but a **jubilation** which is manifested outwardly by **pilgrimage**. Just think, God

journeyed to us 2,025 years ago; and so now, we **journey** toward God. **Fr. Randy** will be making a **Jubilee Pilgrimage** to **Venice** and **Rome** during the month of January. I will be praying **the Mass** for the intentions of the people of **Sublette**, **West Brooklyn**, and **Maytown**. I will be walking through **the holy doors** of the four **Patriarchal Basilicas in Rome**. I will be visiting **the tombs** of the **Saints** and **Martyrs**. I have been granted an **audience** with **the Holy Father**.

These are just a **few** of the things I will be doing on my **Jubilee Pilgrimage**, and I wish to bring along with me **not just** your **Mass** intentions (as great as that is!), but also **the petitions** that are dearest to your **heart**. I will have a **Mass** and **prayer intention** book placed in the back of our **three Churches**. Please take a page to record **your families’ prayer intentions**. I will **treasure** this **Prayer Book** and take it with me everywhere I go on my **Jubilee Pilgrimage** and beseech **Heaven** on your behalf.





THE MASS AND THE SAINTS

King David, just before he **anoints** his son, **Solomon**, to be King – **David** has a **beautiful prayer** that he prays before all the people and God, Himself. **King David** has stored up **gold**, silver, and bronze – iron, **wood**, and **mosaic stones** – all the things **Solomon** will need to build **the Temple**, and the great **King** says, “with my whole heart I and my people have

willingly given all these things to You, Lord, God of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Israel.” **King David** acknowledges that all this **gold** and silver and bronze; indeed, everything was **given** to them by God (Lord our God, all this wealth that we have brought together to build You a house for Your Holy Name comes from You and is entirely Yours. 1Chronicles 29:16) Yet, we **freely** give it back to You, Lord! This is **the Offertory** of **the Catholic Mass**! **St. Thomas Aquinas** says, “the celebration of **the Mystery** has begun – **the Mystery** is offered as a **sacrifice** and **consecrated** and then received as a **Sacrament** – **the Eucharist**. We bring forward **bread** and **wine** – the matter of **the sacrifice**, which is to become Jesus’ Body and Blood after **the consecration** – and then, what we would give to God – the gift of His Son – God gives back to us when we receive **Holy Communion**.” Are we like **King David**? Do we **joyfully** offer all that God has given us – do we with **joy** offer it back to God? The **bread** and **wine** are symbols of all **the gifts** God has given to you and I, and so we come to **Mass** on Sunday to thank God for giving us these **gifts** during the last week of our lives and **joyfully** offer them back to God! All **the good things** that happened to you during the week, all **the bad things** that happened to you during the past week – **everything** we received and didn’t receive – **we present back to God**. Remember, **the servants** that were given **the gold coins**? When their Master returned, **they** had to show the Master what they had done with **the gold coins**; and so, **one** showed him ten additional coins, **another** 5 additional coins, and even **the servant**, who stored the coin in a **handkerchief** – he had to **offer it back** to the Master. A **Seminary Professor** told us, “the person who won **the lottery** comes to **Mass** and thanks God for winning the lottery during the week and makes an **offering** in **the Catholic Mass** he attends; and the person, who didn’t win **the lottery** says, “Lord, thank you for **not** allowing me to win **the lottery** – even though I bought 100 tickets and I really needed to win to pay my **debts** – thank you, God, for **not** allowing me to win! I **trust** You will give me something even greater than that **million dollars** in this **Mass**. I trust You will give me Your Son!” As **Bishop Flores** is fond of saying, “**Life looks different after we celebrate the Mass!**” We show our **joy** – just like **King David** and the people did – when we come to **the Offertory** of **the Mass**!





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Saturday, December 21st

(+) Joseph & (+) Mary McCoy & Barbara Maria McCoy/ Fr. Randy
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. James Flaherty &
(+) Carol Ziller/ Mr. & Mrs. Doug Klein

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

Sunday, December 22nd Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Joyce Setchell/ Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burke

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Charles & (+) Elizabeth Kuebel/ Family

Monday, December 23rd

(+) Floyd Wilson & (+) Mary Zapf/ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vaessen

Tuesday, December 24th

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

4:00 pm, **SMA** (+) Cornelius & (+) Cecilia O'Sadnick & (+) Ned Ely/ Family

10:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Paul & (+) Loretta Lauer & (+) Lynn Peterson/ Mark Lauer

Wednesday, December 25th Solemnity of Christmas

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

10:00 am **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Thursday, December 26th

(+) Ruth Ann Payne/ Family

Friday, December 27th

(+) Thomas Berry & (+) Donna Vaessen/ Joni Walker

Saturday, December 28th

(+) Denise Spielman/ Rick Fronek

4:00 pm, **SMA** (+) Gilbert Haub/ Mary Fritts &

(+) Justin Corcoran/ Mr. & Mrs. Larry Buckley

Sunday, December 29th Holy Family Sunday

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

10:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Raymond & (+) Ellice Dinges/ Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dinges

Living Mass Intentions:

St. Patrick: Ed & Kathy McLaughlin, Andrew & Alyssa Montavon

OLPH: Isaac Malo & Anna Fisher, Jean Teichman,

Steve & Catherine Klein, Marilyn Bonnell

SMA: Darlene Gehant, Val Fischbach

WEDDING BANNERS II: Nathan Goebel and Brigantia O'Sadnick



Christmas is a time when we **celebrate** with **joy** the birth of our Lord. *Christmas* is also a time to **remember** with **joy** how God once gave **life** to our **beloved dead**. We pray at every **Mass** that God would give **'new Life'** to our **loved ones** who have **passed**, but at *Christmas*, we thank God again for the **first life** He gave them. **Remember** a **loved one** with a *Christmas flower* and **celebrate** this **great thing: the life** God gives us.