

Holy Family Sunday
December 29, 2024





Watercolor By
Sidonie Coryn

From the Gusset To Begin Again

“...may the whole earth be filled with His glory!”
Psalm 72:19

It is **the wish** of God that He would be able to give His **glory** to everyone, but God starts with those who are **poor**, God starts with those who are **afflicted**, God starts with those who have **no one to help them** – God wants to fill all **the earth** with His **glory** by starting with you! That is why Jesus Christ comes to **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church** in Sublette, Illinois. At every **Mass**, God **pours out** all of His **love**, God gives all of His **glory** to you, when you receive Him in **the Eucharist**. I will never forget my **nephew** asking me, when he was about 5 or 6 years old, he asked me, “how does **Santa Claus** deliver toys to **all** those kids in the whole world?” And I told him, “that is an easy question,” I told him, “**Santa** does it **one house at a time**, until he has gone to all the houses of the

world.” And my **nephew** said, “Oh, that is how Grandpa says you eat an **elephant.**” I said, “**what?**” And my **nephew** replied, “Grandpa says you eat an **elephant** one bite at a time!”

You see, there it is! God fills **the whole earth** with His **glory** and the Almighty does it **one soul** at a time, and today God is starting with you. Today, when you go to **Mass** and receive **Holy Communion**, God will fill you with His **glory**, because you are one of the **poor**, you are one of the **afflicted**, you are the one who has **no one to help him** – you are the person that God desires **to pour** all of His **love** into, you are the person whom God desires to fill with His **glory**. God says about you, “Oh, if only the whole world was as open to receiving My **love** as My good servant from **Sublette** is – then I could fill the whole earth with My **glory!**” This **Christmas**, receive **the Eucharist**, and then make a **Spiritual Communion** for all your **family members** and **friends**, who won’t or can’t receive **the Eucharist**. Help God to accomplish His **great desire**: to fill all the earth with His glory!

Merry Christmas!

Yours on the Path Fr. Randy



Jubilee Pilgrimage

Back on May 9th, **Pope Francis** released the **Papal Bull *Spes Non Confundit (Hope Does Not Disappoint)*** in which he formally announced the **Jubilee Year 2025**. It had been the Tradition of **the Church** that every 25 years a **Jubilee** be **celebrated**, where the **Holy Door** of **St. Peter's Basilica** in **Rome** would be opened. Any **Pilgrim**, making a journey to the **Eternal City**, would march through the **5th doorway** leading into **St. Peter's** and obtain a **Plenary Indulgence** for his **beloved deceased**. Normally this **5th portal**, into the largest **Basilica** in the world, would be bricked up. Yet, for the **Jubilee Year**, the door is thrown wide open as **Holy Mother Church** encourages us to **pray** for the **poor souls in purgatory**. **Pope Francis** chose the theme of **Hope** for the **Jubilee Year 2025**. We all **hope** to attain **Heaven** for ourselves, but for a **Jubilee Year 2025**, in a true spirit of **beatitude**, we **hope** that someone else (not ourselves) would be granted **the greatest gift: eternal life** with God! **Fr. Randy** will begin the **Jubilee Year** pilgrimaging to **Rome**, to walk through the **Holy Doors** of **St. Peter's**, **St. Paul's**, **St. Mary Major's**, and **the Lateran Basilica** to obtain a small fortune in **Plenary Indulgences**. I am asking **parishioners** to sign a **"Mass and Prayer Book,"** which I will bring with me on my **Jubilee Pilgrimage** – that I might **celebrate** and **pray Masses** for your intentions, but especially for your **loved ones**, whom you have had to return to God as **a gift**. **Bishop Malloy** has designated that certain Churches in **the Diocese of Rockford** would become **Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Sites**. Each of these Churches will have a **Holy Door**

through which, those who are unable to journey to **Rome, Italy**, may still obtain a **Plenary Indulgence**. Of course, we will be making **Pilgrimages** from our **three Parishes** to **Sterling** and **DeKalb**, and **Rockford** (the three closest **Pilgrimage Sites**) to walk through the **Holy Doors** together and secure a **Plenary Indulgence**. I simply list the Churches, so that you may walk through their **Holy Door** at the same time as **Fr. Randy** will be walking through the **Holy Doors** in **Rome**. **St. Paul** says, **"Hope does not disappoint!"** It is my **hope** and the **hope of the Pope**, and the **hope of Bishop Malloy** – that we will all take advantage of this great opportunity to celebrate a **Jubilee Year** and bring many souls into **glory**.

Pilgrimage Parishes, Jubilee Year 2025

St. Peter Cathedral, Rockford; St. Mary Parish, Sterling, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Freeport, St. Mary Parish, Huntley, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Aurora, St. Thomas More Parish, Elgin, and St. Mary Parish, DeKalb.





THE MASS AND THE SAINTS

St. Albert the Great, when speaking about *the Gloria Prayer*, says, “when the Savior was first presented in **the world**, **one Angel** sang: *Gloria in excelsis Deo*; and then, a great multitude of **the Heavenly Hosts** praised God. And so it is in **the Holy Mass**, the Bishop or priest begins *the Gloria Prayer* and then in

memory of what is described in **the Gospel**, the choir sings the rest of *the Gloria* to **a solemn and sonorous melody!**” God’s **glory** is what we are praising when we sing *the Gloria* on Sundays and Holy Days; and what is the **glory** of God the Father, but His Son, Jesus. God the Father and God the Son are so **intimate**. Remember, King David and his son, Absalom? When Absalom was killed, King David could not get over **the tragedy** – the King kept repeating his son’s name: “My son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you, Absalom, my son, my son!” St. Albert tells us that **the highest possession** of God is His **glory!** That no one can possess **the Highest Glory** save God alone; and yet and still, God gives this **Highest Glory** to us, when we receive **the Eucharist!** Incredible! St. Alphonsus Liguori says, “when we pray *the Gloria Prayer*, we are thanking God for His **glory**, because God has used our **salvation** for His own **glory** by saving us through Jesus Christ.” Blessed Hyacinth Cormier (1832-1916) comments on how *the Gloria Prayer* does not really have **a logical progression** of ideas. *The Gloria* is rather an impulsive succession of acclamation and words of **praise**, that spring forth unplanned from **the soul**. **Faith**, the freedom of prayer, and a **love** that knows how to weave all these things together: these are the only **rules** when *the Gloria* is composed – even though this **Prayer** was composed by one of the most logical creatures in the Universe – an **Angel!!** You might have noticed that *the Gloria* actually concludes with “**an Amen.**” This is rare; for instance, when we pray the **Our Father Prayer** during **Mass** – the Amen is not said at the conclusion. Again, St. Albert says, “sometimes this means, ‘*let it be done.*’ Sometimes the **Amen** means ‘*truly,*’ as when our Lord says, ‘Amen, Amen, I say to you.’ Sometimes it means ‘*a true thing,*’ or truth – like in the book of **Revelation**, our Lord says, ‘*these true things will happen.*’ This is what ‘**Amen**’ means here at the end of *the Gloria Prayer*, as if the people are saying, “**Amen: what we have sung is true.**”



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Saturday, December 28th

(+) Denise Spielman/ Rick Fronck

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

Monday, December 30th

(+) Rose Theiss/ Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Setchell

Tuesday, December 31st

(+) James & (+) Geraldine Fronck/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa

4:00 pm, **SMA** (+) June Jones/ Mr. & Mrs. Steve Jones

Wednesday, January 1st Solemnity of Mary

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

10:00 am **OLPH** (+) Joan Dinges/ Judy Marschang &

(+) Delmer Dinges/ Mr. & Mrs. Ed Klein

Thursday, January 2nd

(+) Rita Haefner/ George Bauer

Friday, January 3rd

(+) Harold Becker/ Judi Henkel

Saturday, January 4th

(+) Joseph & (+) Anna Mixa/ Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Mixa

4:00 pm, **SMA** (+) Delbert Bonnell/ Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Klein &

(+) Justin Corcoran/ Arlene Schmitt

Sunday, January 5th Epiphany Sunday

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

10:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Carol Bonnell/ St. Anne Sodality

Living Mass Intentions:

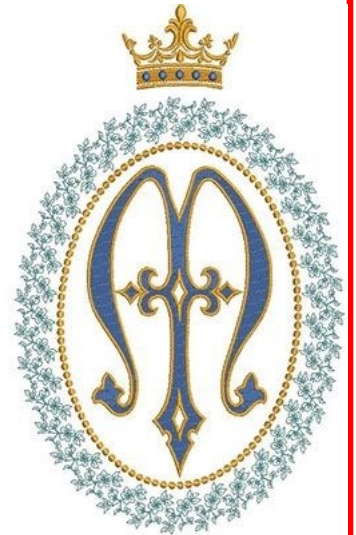
St. Patrick: Marty & Lynn Montavon, Tyler & Aubrey Burke

OLPH: Judy Antosiak, Pam Milano

SMA: Brad & Michelle Zentmyer, Sister Mary Paul

WEDDING BANNERS III:

Nathan Goebel and Brigantia O'Sadnick



We will celebrate **the Octave Day of Christmas**—the Solemnity of Mary with a **Mass** at each of our **Churches**. Note the different **Mass times** for the Vigil Mass on Tuesday night (December 31st) and on the **Feast Day** (January 1st).