

*2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024*



SO BEGIN AGAIN



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Holy Day of Obligation

To celebrate the Patroness of our Country
and our Diocese we will pray the Holy Mass
at each of our Parishes on
Monday, December 9th.

St. Mary of the Assumption 7:30 am
Our Lady of Perpetual Help 9:00 am
St. Patrick's Church 6:00 pm

To Begin Again: Advent Penance Service

December 12th 6:30pm

The excitement of stepping out of the Confessional—having just confessed one's sins—what hope— what joy—what will happen in my life now that I have begun again to make progress on the path that leads to Heaven? Fr. Randy is always excited about life after he goes to Confession! Is it possible I will sin no more—as I promised (when I made my Act of Contrition) that I would make a valiant effort to use the graces that God poured into me in Reconciliation—not to sin again?!? It is the excitement of beginning again that I experience!

How do I make a good Confession? I make sure I say, “I am sorry” five times during the Sacrament (corresponding to each of the wounds of Christ on the Cross). 1) I plan to confess my sins by examining my conscience and planning to go into the Confessional/ I stand in the Confession line— by doing this I am already saying, “I am sorry to God,” because I state my intentions. 2) Upon entering the Confessional, I say: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.” 3) I confess the sins I am heartily sorry for. 4) At the end of my confession, I tell the priest, “I am sorry for these and all the sins of my life – even the ones I have forgotten.” 5) I pray the Act of Contrition. Confession is all about saying, “I am sorry” to God for wounding the Body of Christ by my sins.



From the Gusset

TO BEGIN AGAIN



There is always **great excitement** when we **begin** something. To make that **first move** on the **chess board**— advancing the Queen's Bishop pawn two squares forward— what will this **new** chess game be like? Watching **Pete Rose** dig himself into the batter's box— always the leadoff hitter to start a **new baseball game**— how many hits will **Pete** get today? How about those first few **dates** with a **new girl**, who will turn out to be your **wife**— who could have seen all **the events** that would transpire in your **life** as you **began** that **new relationship**? To **begin** something is to experience **excitement**! As we begin a new liturgical year, **the Year of Grace 2025—a Jubilee Year**— we **begin again** to set out on that **path** that leads to **holiness** and there is great **excitement** in our **hearts**. We know that the Christ is coming. **December 25th** was meant, in God's plan of **Salvation**, to be experienced over and over and over again. The **excitement** of

having God **begin** a **human life** living amongst us— what great things will occur— God will die and rise from the dead and bring **us new life**! We were meant to experience this **excitement** every year! We know that the Christ is coming. The next **Mass** we attend, He will enter into our **hearts** in **Holy Communion**— body and blood, soul and divinity— what **exciting** things will happen as we take Jesus with us out into the world, back to our **family**, back to our **homes**, into our **workplace**? We were meant to experience this **excitement** over and over again! We know that Christ is coming. At the end of our lives, we will stand before Him— **not dying of fright a second death**, because we did **not recognize** Him in His first 2 comings; but with great

excitement, we will stand before our Lord waiting to hear Him say, “well done, My good and Faithful servant. Come let Me introduce you to My Father!” We **begin again** our quest for **holiness** —a **new** year filled with **52 weeks of Sundays** and **Holy Days of Obligation**— we **begin** to come and see the uniting of **heaven** and **earth** when Jesus descends upon our altar in the **Holy Eucharist**. There is always great **excitement** when we **begin again**, and I **hope** you feel that **excitement** as you exit **the confessional** on Thursday night, **December 12th**, when we have our **Communal Penance Service**. With **sin** stricken from our **hearts**, we will **begin again** to experience the **excitement** of going out to meet our Christ, **who is coming!**



Yours on the Path Fr. Randy

THE MASS AND THE SAINTS/ VISIO DIVINA

The author of **Transformed by God's Word**, **Stephen Binz**, is helping us to discover the power of combining **Lectio Divina** with **Visio Divina**! Instead, of the simplistic four-step-prayer technique of **Lectio Divina**— where one reads **the Scriptures** and then enters into a conversation with God – **the contemplative in action** (you and I) after reading **the Scripture** gazes at **an Icon** (**Visio**) written about the same **Scripture passage**, and then enters into **the meditation phase**. So now, we have a six-step-prayer technique, which involves more of our senses; and thus, inspires a more **lively conversation** with God! In what we are calling Chapter 4 in the book, we have a meditation on **the Annunciation**. We read **Luke 1:26-38** and **Binz** tells us to read the text aloud, see the text with our eyes, vocalizing the text with our lips, maybe feeling **the Bible** by tracing our finger under each word as we read it – but most of all to hear ourselves pronouncing the text with our ears. See, we are trying to involve as many of our **senses** as possible. **Binz** even suggests **lighting a candle** – in this way, we might **smell** the burning wax or even feel **the heat** the candle gives off; but we would definitely see the **flickering candle**. This is all **the Lectio step**, and then we move into the **Visio step** – where we gaze upon **the Icon** and let **the Icon** draw us into the scene. Remember, **Icons** are a window into **Heaven** (eternity). **Binz** tells us to focus on the faces and gestures of both **St. Gabriel** and **Mary** – to notice the colors and symbols and try to relate them to the text of **Scripture** – and to become aware of **the uncreated light** of **the Icon**. The light source – **the Holy Spirit** – is trying to illumine our **heart** with God's **grace**, but will we allow this to happen? After these first 2 steps, where we have **saturated** our sense of hearing (**Lectio**) and **saturated** our sense of sight (**Visio**); then we are to move into **the Meditatio step** allowing God to speak to us as the Almighty starts to draw out the memories, concerns, and **hopes** that are in our **heart**. In this way God makes **the Bible** and **the Icon** a very **personal message** just to us! After we allow God to speak to us – we speak to God (**Oratio step**). I **love** the advice **Stephen Binz** gives to know when to move from the **Oratio step** into **the Contemplation step**: *when the words of your prayer begin to seem inadequate and no longer necessary, move into the wordless contemplative prayer!* Then of the course, the last step is **the Operatio** – where we consider ways to become a **contemplative in action!** I.e. A person, who has surrendered their **being** to God, and allows God's **grace** to work through them. Chapters 4 through 8 are **meditations** on **the five Joyful Mysteries**, and the beauty of this book is that both **the Scripture passages** are given as well as a corresponding picture of **the Icon**. **Transformed by God's Word** is a portable retreat, you can take anywhere. I will be taking it with me on my **pilgrimage** to **Venice** and **Rome** in **the Jubilee Year!**



Mass
Times

Website: www.olphmarystpatrick.com

Secretary: Nancy Neal

Finance Officer: Donna Stephenitch

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Saturday, December 7th

(+) Steve & (+) Josephine Dvorsky, (+) Thomas Dvorsky, (+) Eleanor Dvorsky/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Thomas Fassler/ Sue Fassler &

(+) Raymond & Jean Ritola/ Mary Lynn Valentin

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Robert Bresson/ Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bresson

Sunday, December 8th Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Mr. & Mrs. Marty Bickett

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

Monday, December 9th Immaculate Conception

7:30 am, **SMA** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

9:00 am, **OLPH** Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jones

6:00 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Richard Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Zach Henkel &

(+) Mary Ann Cardot/ May Township

Tuesday, December 10th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Carol Widolff/ Judy Truckenbrod

Wednesday, December 11th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Dennis McCoy/ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vaessen

Thursday, December 12th

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

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Jean Ritola/ Marilyn Bonnell

Friday, December 13th Feast of St. Lucy

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mildred Schneider/ Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Blaine

10:45 am, **Stoncroft** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Eucharistic Congress Pilgrims

Saturday, December 14th

(+) Gertrude & (+) Barbara & (+) Sophia & (+) Josephine Hraback/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner/ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Henkel

Sunday, December 15th Third Sunday of Advent/ Gaudete Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Connie Full/ Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Full

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Betty Henkel/ Mr. & Mrs. Ken Jones &

(+) Jean Ritola/ Mary Lynn Valentin

Living Mass Intentions:

OLPH: Theresa Wilson, John & Lisa Corcoran, Michael & Brenda Wilson,

Brian & Sheryl Wilson, Kevin & Julie Malach

SMA: Ron Haefner, Jonathan Schmidt, Sister Chiemeka, Don & Teresa Farris

St. Patrick: Ed & Chris Klein, Joe & Marci Hebert, Marty & Lynn Montavon



We will soon be **decorating** our **Churches** for the **Christmas** Season. Why not remember one of your **dearly departed** by making a donation for a **Christmas Flower**. A **future bulletin** will **acknowledge** who it is, who has made our **altars** so **beautiful**.