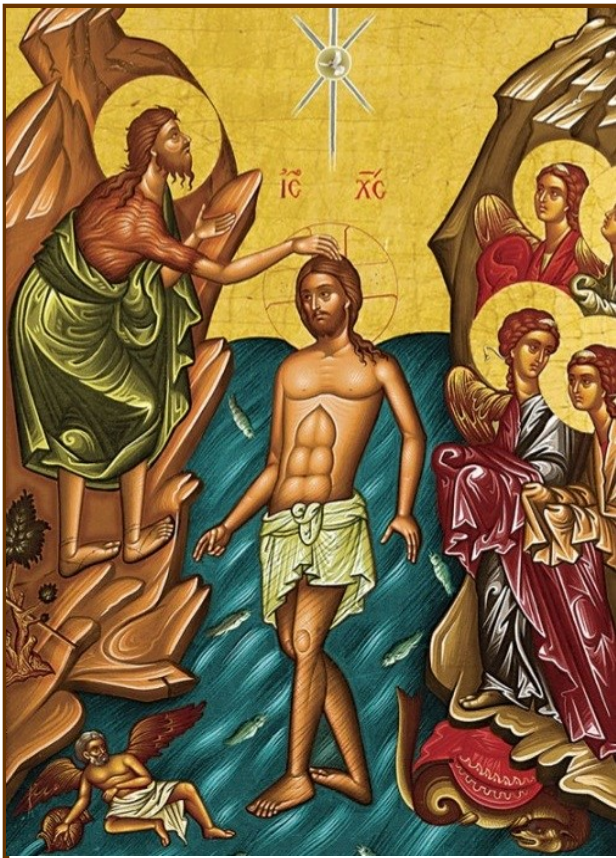


*Merry Christmas!*  
*Baptism of the Lord*  
*January 12, 2025*



**JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**



## From the Gusset

**Iconographers** depicting **the Baptism** of our Lord, may have several figures in **the water** with the Christ figure. Sometimes there is a **coiled sea-serpent** – Leviathan, and sometimes there is a winged creature – an angel with **red wings** – **Satan**, himself! In the Israelite culture, **water** was a symbol of **death**. A man could drown beneath the waves – as **the Egyptians** did in **the Red Sea**, and in describing **the chaos** that existed before God put things in order during **the six days of creation** – the opening verse of Genesis describes **the water** in terrifying terms – **darkness over the abyss of the water**. Is it any **wonder**, why grown men like the fishermen of Galilee would be terrified of a **storm at sea**?! **Water** was a symbol of **death** and **death** was definitely something to be feared; and yet and still, this is why Jesus enters **the waters**, goes down under **the water** in **the Baptism** of John – our Lord goes under **the water** to

defeat what you and I fear the most – **sin**, **Satan**, and **death**! Our Lord is so **courageous**! Didn't **St. Paul** tell us about **the indomitable love** of God: **if God is for us, who can be against us!** (**Romans 8:31**) Our Lord simply takes with Him, under **the water**, **the love** of the Father and **the love** of the Holy Spirit, and then this **multi-headed sea-serpent** – with the impenetrable armor – Leviathan, and this highest of all the burning **red Seraph Angels** – **Satan**, are no match for God – they are defeated. How many times does a person (**post Baptism**) sprinkle themselves with **holy water**? I, as **the priest**, sprinkle **holy water** on a **deceased loved one** at their wake service. I sprinkle **holy water** again on their **coffin** at the beginning of their **Funeral Mass**. I sprinkle **holy water** a third time at **the graveside** service, before they go down into their burial plot. What I am really saying, when I sprinkle **holy water** is: *“do not be afraid! Jesus Christ has already defeated **sin**, **Satan**, and **death** – you will rise to **eternal life**, because you have been **Baptized!**”* My favorite nun, **Sister Angelica**, my cousin – had an older sister: **Mary Hraback**, whose **favorite action** (at least it seemed to me and my brothers) was to sprinkle **holy water**! **Cousin Mary**, from Kansas, sprinkled **holy water** when she visited **the cemetery**. She sprinkled **holy water**, when she came back to her house after shopping. Mary sprinkled **holy water** when she was interceding to God on our behalf in her **prayers**. If a **storm** was coming, she sprinkled **holy water** and lit a **blessed candle**. When we sprinkle **holy water**, we remind ourselves that our Lord has defeated all of **the enemies** that strike fear in our **hearts**. If you have to be a **veritable lawn sprinkler** – do it! Just keep reminding yourself and God the Father – that Jesus our Lord and His Son has by His **Baptism** – conquered **the world**! What have we to fear? **The Love** of God has filled us to overflowing – we will not just become **Saints**, but **great Saints**, because of our **Baptism** and our **over abundant confidence** that this God, who did not spare His only Begotten Son, but handed Him over for us – will give us **everything** else along with Him!

**Merry Christmas!**

**Yours on the Path**

**Fr. Randy**

# CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS AND MEMORIALS

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Francis & Rosamund Buckley, Clete, Betty, & David Henkel, Frank Shepherd, Sr., Raymond & Ellice Dinges, Wellington & Marion Chaon, Roland Schuhler, Joseph Schuhler Family, Martin Spitz Family, Leo & Cecilia Bulfer, Fred & Garnet Schmidt, Fred & Joan Schmidt, Dennis & Cindy Jones, Harold Pettit, Robert & Pauline Bulfer, Joseph Kuebel, Ronald Vaessen, Ralph & Della Vaessen, Deceased members of Schwemlein Family, Deceased members of William McCoy and Wilson Families, Joe & Margy Henkel, Madge King, Louis & Carol Vaessen Family, Mary Truckenbrod, Bruce & Margaret Bonnell, LeRoy Klein, James & Geraldine Fronck, Ronald Fronck, Joseph Schauer, Joseph & Mary McCoy, Tom Fassler, Frederick & Dorothy Schuhler, James Walker, Donna Vaessen, Mark Berry, Thomas Berry, Justin, Anne, & Steve Corcoran, James & Celeste Schmitt

## St. Mary of the Assumption Church

Vivian Mullins, Sandie Pettenger, Darla Lindenmier, Pettenger Family, Ethel Vickrey, Craig Bresson, Marilyn Henkel, Joseph & Catherine Schauer, Steve & Josephine Dvorsky, Thomas Dvorsky, Eleanor Dvorsky, and Sister Frances Anna Hraback, Joseph & Anna Mixa, Denise Spielman, Charles & Sylvia Schauer, Laura Giannasi, Carla Giannasi, Nelo & Caroline Mucci, Salvatore & Esther Falbo, Ferdinando & Christine Farioli, Martin Jonsson

## St. Patrick Church

Weeks & Meuser Families, Sharkey & Ryan Families, Deceased members of St. Patricks, Malach & Sondgeroth Families, Cardot & Klein Families, Burke & Setchell Families, Full & Walzer Families, Peterson & Bickett Families, Joseph Quest, Marty Quest, George & Frances Quest, Francis & Clara Leffelman, Montavon & Landreth Families, and John & Evelyn Ryan, Doug Blaine, Mulligan & Blaine Families, Melvin Stewart, Frank & Ruth Fronck, Charles & Katherine Fronck, Frank Fronck, Robert Fronck, William & Janice Lloyd, and Don & Mildred Skinner, Duane & Lynn Peterson, Urban & Helen Ann Becker, Raymond Becker



# THE MASS AND THE SAINTS

**Biologists** say that what separates **mankind** from all the other **animals** is **a hand** with an opposable thumb. This is a unique characteristic in **the animal kingdom**. **St. Thomas Aquinas** calls **the hand** – *“the organ of organs.”* Indeed, **Theologians** have always assigned the two superpowers of our soul – *the intellect* and *the will* – **Theologians** symbolize our **intellect** by our head – our ability to think and to reason and to **wonder**, and **Theologians** symbolize our **will** by our **hand** – our ability to act – our ability to pick something up or set it down. There is a whole division of **Theology** that simply watches **the hand** during **the celebration** of **the Mass**. I have taken to preparing couples for **the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony** by simply getting them to watch what **the groom** and his **bride** do with their **hands** during the course of **the Catholic Wedding Mass**. Watching **the hands** for **the candidate of the priesthood** during **the Ordination Mass** has as its highlight, the young man kneeling before his Bishop and the Bishop anointing his **hands** with **Sacred Chrism**! That is why when we come to the very middle (the high ground) of **the Mass** – **the priest** receives the gifts of **bread** and **wine** from the people, says a prayer of **blessing** over these simple gifts, and then turns from **the altar** to wash his **hands**! This should be **striking** to anyone who is paying attention to **the Sacred Liturgy**. Up until this point in **the Mass**, **the priest** is genuflecting, bowing, and **kissing the altar** – **the priest** always reverences **the altar** before turning to do any liturgical action; indeed, **the priest** bows to **the altar**, says a secret prayer, and then goes to **the credence table** (or turns from **the altar**) to wash his **hands**!! Now **the priest** (like all the rest of his congregation) have already asked God to wash them from their **iniquity** – we did this during **the Penitential Rite** at the beginning of **Mass**; yet now, that **the priest** is about to offer **the Sacrifice**, he needs a further cleansing even from **venial sins** and the remnants of past sins that still cling to him (says **St. Albert the Great**). For did not **King David** seek further cleansing when he said, *“wash me yet more from my iniquity”* – as if to say, *“thou hast washed me from mortal sins; wash me also from venial.”* **Fr. Randy** always thinks about **Pontius Pilate** turning from our Lord and washing his **hands**! **Pilate** scoffed, *“what is truth?”* Did he not know that Jesus is **the Truth**!?! I always ask myself the question when I am washing my **hands**: *Do I belong to the Truth? Am I a disciple of Jesus Christ – a priest* ordained to consecrate the **bread** and **wine** in remembrance of our Lord or not? This is the point of no return in **the Catholic Mass** – the point where **the priest** washes his **hands**. If I turn back to **the altar**... there is no going back – the Christ must pick up His **Cross** – the **Cross** of my **sins**, the **Cross** of my people’s **sins** (who I am celebrating **the Mass** for), and die on that **Cross**! Such a benign and common and ordinary and simple action – **the washing of hands**; and yet and still, it is the fulcrum point – the point at which the whole **Paschal Mystery** hinges. *“Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”*



**Website: [www.olphmarystpatrick.com](http://www.olphmarystpatrick.com)**

**Secretary: Nancy Neal**

**Finance Officer: Donna Stephenitch**

**Gmail: [olph.mary@gmail.com](mailto:olph.mary@gmail.com)**

**Saturday, January 11th**

(+) Norbert Weber & (+) Patty Torman & (+) Leila Garland/ Fr. Randy  
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Gerald Leffelman & (+) Susan Ennenbach/ Sylvia Leffelman

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

**Sunday, January 12th Baptism of the Lord**

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Marty Quest/ Velma Quest

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

**Monday, January 13th**

(+) Thomas Berry/ Neal Vaessen

**Tuesday, January 14th**

(+) Rita Haefner/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wujek

**Wednesday, January 15th**

(+) Jean Ritola/ St. Anne Sodality

**Thursday, January 16th**

(+) Mike Widolff/ Janis Plattner

**Friday, January 17th**

(+) Mary Ann Cardot/ Woodhaven Association

**Saturday, January 18th**

(+) / Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Roland Schuhler/ Carlene Schuhler &  
(+) Betty Prendergast/ Family

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

**Sunday, January 19th 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Francis & (+) Rosamund Buckley/ Family

**Living Mass Intentions:**

**St. Patrick: Bailey Bickett, Ed Murphy,**

**OLPH: Craig & Janet Setchell, Lauren Althaus, Mark & Tammy Henkel, Joni Walker**

**SMA: Mike & Lisa Jones, Mike & Julie Burkardt, Ron Haefner**



## **The Titian Masterpiece of the Presentation of the Virgin**

### **A Holy Hour in Venice, Dedicated to the Eucharistic Congress Pilgrims**

A crowd in **vibrant colored clothes** gathers at the foot of a **marble staircase**. A dog eats a

**bagel**, a mother desperately tries to hold on to **a squirming baby**, an old lady sells eggs, and people lean out of windows to catch a glimpse.

Suddenly, the crowd points to something, and when your eye follows

their hands **a High Priest in glorious robes** appears at the top of the

**staircase**. But what is this? A little girl in a **pale blue dress** floats up

the **staircase**. It is **Mary** being presented to **the Temple**! I will make a

**Holy Hour** for the Eucharistic Congress Pilgrims—that they will one

day be presented to God for having **helped** so many return to the

practice of their **Catholic Faith**!

