

*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*January 19, 2025*



**JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**

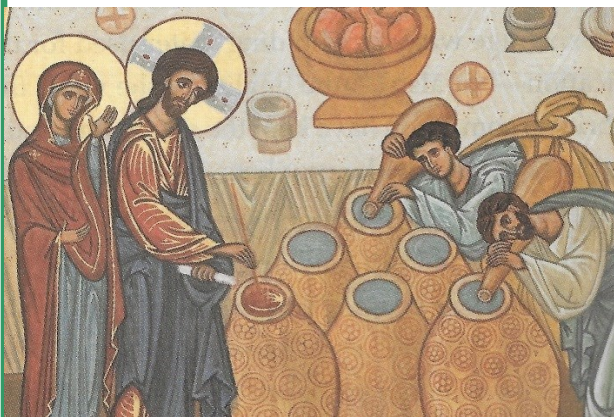
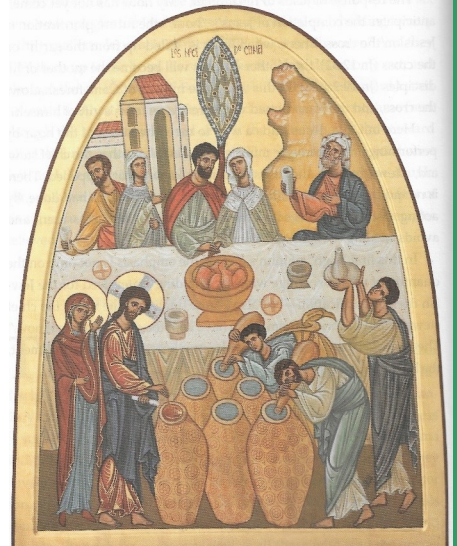


## From the Gusset

Half of our **RCIA classes** this year have been on the parts of **the Mass** (*The Mass Explained* book by Fr. Crean) and the other half have been on the art of reading and **praying with Icons** (*Transformed by God's Word* book by Stephen Binz). This new form of prayer which combines both *Lectio Divina* and *Visio Divina* is part of what **Pope St. John Paul the great** hoped would mark the third millennium of Christianity – bringing together **Western Spirituality** (*Lectio Divina*) with **Eastern Spirituality** (*Visio Divina*). Stephen Binz chooses a particularly unique **Icon of the Wedding Feast of Cana** for us to meditate on in Chapter 10 of his book. We can see the wedding couple holding each other's right hand – **the hands** which are held for the pronouncing of the couple's **wedding vows**. They look into each other's eyes as **Adam** looked into the eyes of **Eve**, when he first woke up from his **slumber** in **the Garden**.

The bride's Dad holds up a cup filled with **wine**, but the wedding guest to the groom's right has an **empty cup** and he is motioning for a servant to give him a refill. A refill, which would not have come unless **Mary** had interceded. In the lower part of **the Icon**, **Mary** is the first figure on the left. Note: we read an **Icon**, and just as we read from left to right – we are reading (**praying**) and **Mary** is the first figure introduced in this Gospel story. St. John says, "**the mother of Jesus was (at the wedding in Cana of Galilee)**" – St. John says, basically, Jesus and His disciples were accompanying **Mary** to the celebration! **Mary** is the first person (in John's Gospel) to show that **the appropriate response** to the presence of Jesus is **'trusting obedience.'** The most fascinating thing is that Jesus holds what is called a **'rabdos'** in His hand with which He touches **the water** jars and turns them into **choice wine**! Remember **Moses** had his **staff** with which he parted **the waters** of **the Red Sea** and struck the rock to bring forth **water** in the desert. The **rabdos** is not a magic wand; but rather, it is **a symbol** of **the Cross** that Jesus will be crucified on. God brings about **miracles** using **instruments** – like **Moses' staff**, **the Cross**, mud and **water**, **rings in Marriage**, and perhaps even **the instrument** of ourselves, when God uses **us** to work **a miracle** in someone else's life!!! Notice that the disciples of Jesus are not pictured in this particular **Icon** that Binz uses in his book. This is because the viewers of this **Icon** are the disciples (us). The last line of John's Gospel account of **the Wedding Feast** says: **Jesus did**

**this, the first of His signs, ..., and revealed His glory; and His disciples (you and I and the 12) began to believe in Him.** Even if you have not been coming to our **RCIA classes** this year, I hope you will see the power in this new prayer technique of *Visio Divina*. A new dimension of **the Scriptures** is opening up to those who pray with **the Bible** in one hand and an **Icon** in the other!



**Yours on the Path**

**Fr. Randy**



# Jubilee Pilgrimage

Almost from their inception, **pilgrimages** have always been a way of doing **penance**. When the journey to **Jerusalem** became more and more arduous after the city fell to the Arabs in 638, **Catholics** started making **pilgrimages** to “*the second Jerusalem,*” **Rome**. For particularly **serious sins**, a **Confessor** would impose **the penance** of **almsgiving** or a **pilgrimage**. Jesus, Himself, talks about how **almsgiving** covers a multitude of **sins**, and remember **St. Matthew** (St. Levi) told our Lord, how if he had deprived others of their **money**, he would make

recompense four times over for it. Just as a person can make a **donation** in the name of a **deceased relative** or **friend** to a worthy cause, and so make **reparations** for that **person’s sins**; so it is, that one can make a **pilgrimage** for others and remit their **sins**! **Fr. Randy** is currently on his **Jubilee Pilgrimage** to **Venice** and **Rome**, and praying **Masses** daily and walking through



**Holy Doors** to obtain **Plenary Indulgences** and the **remission** of the **sins** of the folks that you took the time to write the names of in my **Mass and Prayer Intention book**. Though I should make this **pilgrimage** for the **remission** of my own **sins**, I take a page out of *the Spirituality* of the great Jesuit, **St. Francis Xavier**, and seek to do **penance** for the **sins** of others, whom I **love**. Much as a **husband** and father puts himself last (lays down his **life**) for the sake of his **wife** and children; so also, does the **Catholic priest**. I am a **‘Father’** to my **parishioners**, so I do penance for your **sins** before I do **penance** for my own, because I want you to enter into **glory (Heaven)** before I do!





# THE MASS AND THE SAINTS: *VISIO DIVINA*



Icons are called *windows into Heaven* – they bring us closer to **the Divine Mystery** of God’s Kingdom by strengthening our **Faith** as we use the **Icon** to pray – to talk to God. We find that when we look toward God (which is what *Visio Divina* is – ‘a **looking toward God**’) that God is already looking at us! The doors of an old house (like **the Rectory**) are like this – they have a **keyhole**. Imagine, if you put your eye to the **keyhole** to peek into the next room, and you found another eye ball staring back at you!! That is what an **Icon** is! We look to God, only to find that God is already looking at us! The world’s most popular **Icon** is **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**. So many **miracles** have been granted by God – through the **Icon** – that **the Redemptorists** tell us, that this is the meaning of the great **gold** background color of the **Icon**. **Gold** of course represents **the Mystery of Salvation** in Christ. The **gilded** background surrounds the image

of **the Mother of God** and our Redeemer, but also comes forth through the **Icon** to shed Its light on us! There are **gold** highlights on the garments of **Mary** and Jesus – these are **not just** accents, but the healing, compassionate light of the Godhead, the same light that infused the Body of Christ at **the Resurrection** – the light that allowed Jesus to say: **I Am the Light of the world!** God is light and we can say as **St. John** did in his first letter: **what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of Life – for the Life was made visible; we have seen It and testify to It.** This scripture comes alive when we look at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help’s Icon** and when we **pray** and **read** the **Icon** we experience this scripture passage – that God gave this Light to us!

**Iconographers** tell us that when you **pray** with an **Icon** – the **Icon** should be held at eye level as though you were looking into the eyes of **a human lover**, but **Fr. Randy** prefers **the prayer posture** of **kneeling** before an **Icon** to pray. If I am looking up at the **Icon** – I am reminded of how **humble** I should be – that in reality I am **dirt** looking up at the God, who made the Universe. When I look up at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**, I am reminded of how a Mom looks down at her **newborn baby** that she cradles in her arms – I am reminded of **Michelangelo’s** famous **Pieta statue** – how **Mary** held in her arms **the Body of Christ** taken down from **the Cross** – I am reminded of God’s great **love** for me that Jesus gave me His **Mom** from **the Cross of Calvary** to be my **Mother of Perpetual Help!** How will I ever repay God for all the gifts He has given to me? I know! I will call on the name of the Lord, I will take up **the Chalice of Salvation**, I will confect **the Eucharist** with **Our Lady’s Icon** looking over my shoulder – I will celebrate the Mass in **Sublette’s Church** of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help!**

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**Saturday, January 18th**

(+) Ferdinando & (+) Christina Farioli/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa  
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

**Monday, January 20th**

(+) Dennis McCoy/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kaleel

**Tuesday, January 21st**

(+) Ronald Vaessen/ Fr. Randy

**Wednesday, January 22nd**

(+) Betty Henkel/ Mr. & Mrs. Ken Jones

**Thursday, January 23rd**

(+) Larry Leffelman/ Mary Sue Parla

**Friday, January 24th**

(+) Richard Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Keith Klein

**Saturday, January 25th**

(+) Salvatore & (+) Esther Falbo/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa  
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Roland Schuhler/ Carlene Schuhler &  
(+) Jeff Marschang/ Family

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

**Sunday, January 26th 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time/ Word of God Sunday**

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

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



**Living Mass Intentions:**

**St. Patrick: Emma Bickett, Mark & Susan Schuemann**

**OLPH: Mike & Annette Bonnell, Tom & Karen Dinges, Ann Jeppson, Nathan Friel**

**SMA: Larry & Sue Eddy, Mike & Susau Schultz, Craig & Darlene Ayers**

## Collection Amounts for the Month of December

	<b>OLPH</b>	<b>SMA</b>	<b>St. Patrick</b>
Loose Collection	\$583	\$105	\$40
Envelopes	\$21,031	\$3,595	\$2,740
Total	\$21,614	\$3,700	\$2,780
<b>Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,921</b>	<b>\$4,184</b>	<b>\$3,695</b>
Diocesan Appeal	\$11,770/\$10,655	\$5,219/\$3,280	\$11,634/\$2,603
Immaculate Conception	\$206	\$153	\$160
<b>Christmas</b>	<b>\$7,325</b>	<b>\$865</b>	<b>\$940</b>
Thanksgiving collection to Badger Square Residents & N.I.C.E.	\$330		
<b>Scrap Iron Fundraiser Total</b>	<b>\$1,596</b>		

