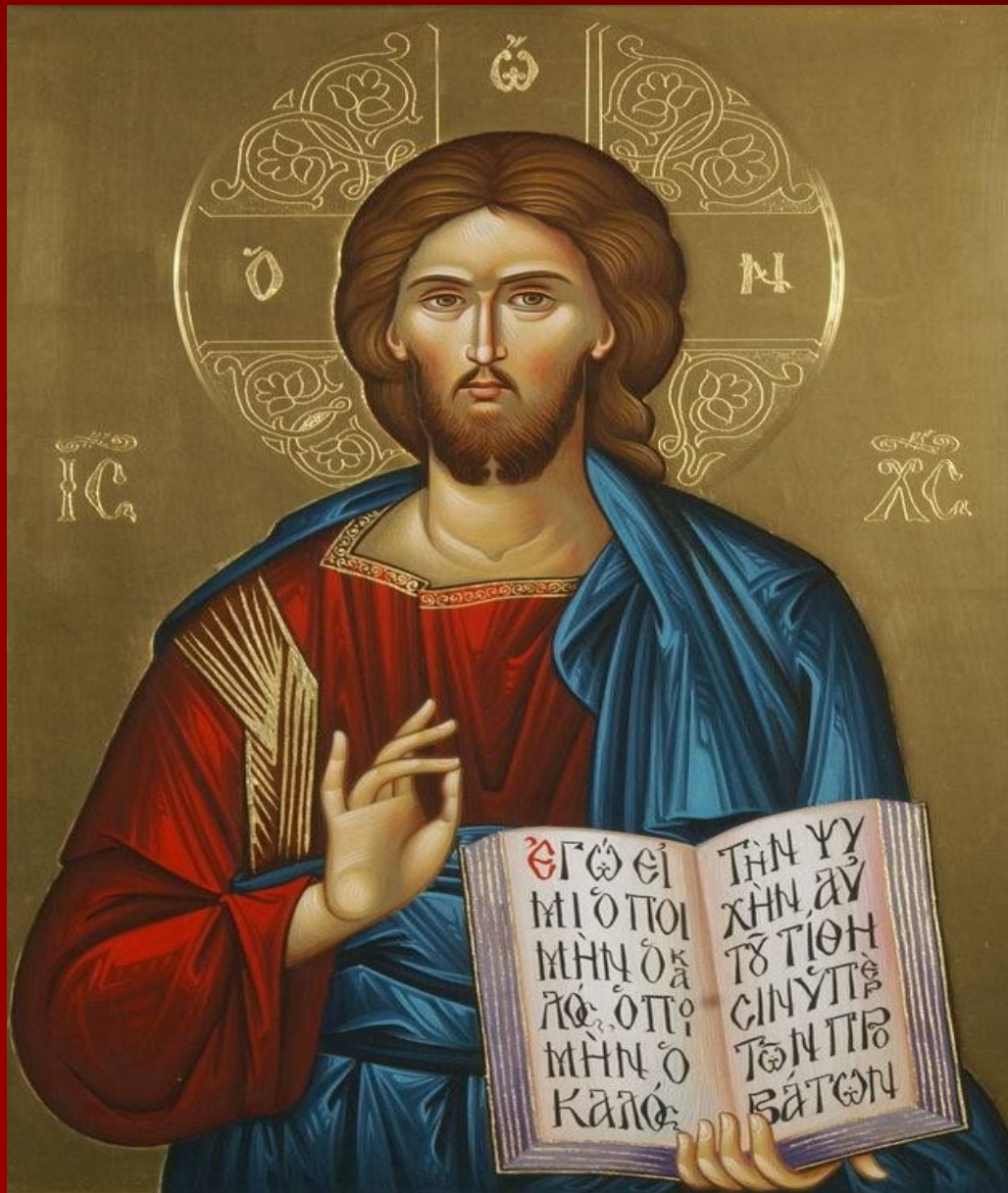


*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*January 26, 2025*  
*Word of God Sunday*



**JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**

## From the Gusset



In **the dogmatic constitution** on **Sacred Scripture** from Vatican II, **Dei Verbum**, the **Catholic Church** talks in paragraph 21 on this force, this power, this energy that is **radiated** from God through the **Scriptures** to us! “For in the Sacred books, the Father who is in Heaven meets His children with great love and speaks with them; and the force and power in the Word of God is so great that it stands as the support and energy of the Church, the strength of

Faith for her sons, the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life.” **Fr. Randy** finds this **effuse language** about **the power** and **energy** of **Sacred Scripture** to be every bit as powerful as **the language** that the Russian Orthodox theologian, **Sergius Bulgakov** (1871-1944) uses in his book **Icons and the Name of God**. Bulgakov describes the **Icon** as “a mode in which the Divine energy of God radiates into us!” In our **RCIA** class, we are learning how to pray with **Icons** (**Visio Divina**), while at the same time praying with the **Bible** (**Lectio Divina**). The **Catholic Church** has always **encouraged** us to read the **Bible** and expose ourselves to this **force**, this **power**, this **energy** that is God’s **love** shed upon us; and therefore, **the Church** has always made it easy for us to have access to the **Sacred Scriptures**. Back in 2019, we took advantage of how **the Pandemic** prevented us from having **common missals** in the pew. The fear that we could contract **the virus** from sharing **a missal** that a person exposed to **the virus** had used – prompted us to buy **Lectionaries** for each family that they could take home and bring back with them to **Mass** and follow along with the readings. If your family does not have its own **blue Lectionary**, please let **Fr. Randy** know, and he will get you your own **personal copy**. Otherwise, there should be a copy of the **lectionary** in your pew in **Church**. Now, we only have an **Icon** of **Our Lady of Perpetual** on display at all times in our **Church** in **Sublette**, but this **Icon** is **radiating** the **force**, the **power**, the **energy** of God’s **love** to us – just as the **Sacred Scriptures** are. During the Summer of the coming year, we will have **a special Retreat** around **the Feast Day of Our Lady of Perpetual Help** (June 27<sup>th</sup>). We will learn the prayer technique of praying with **Icons** called **Visio Divina**, and we will practice listening to God speak to us through the **force**, the **power**, the **energy** that God **radiates** to us from His **Icons**. Just as we celebrate **Word of God Sunday** on this **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**, so we will again visit the **power** of God’s Word as it comes to us through **Icons** some time around the **13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**. I am **excited** to help you learn how to pray with **Icons**, which are simply another way (a **visual** way) of the **Word of God** coming to you! Remember, God wants nothing more than to **pour out** all of His **love** into your **heart** – that you might be supported by the energy of God’s **love**, have your **Faith** strengthened, and live **the Spiritual Life** more **fervently** when you receive the food of **the Eucharist** into your **soul**.

**Yours on the Path Fr. Randy**

# THE WORD OF GOD





# Jubilee Pilgrimage

Pope St. John Paul the great made the Jubilee year more routine during his Pontificate. Not only did Pope St. John Paul II oversee the Jubilee of the second Millennium, but he instituted two extraordinary Jubilee Years: 1983 and 1987! The first was entitled: a “Jubilee Year of Redemption,” as our redemption began with God becoming man and by His sacrifice on the Cross. It was Pope Pius XI, who ordered a Jubilee Year in 1933 to mark the anniversary of the death of our Lord. Pope John Paul made use of this precedent by calculating 50 years from 1933 and 1,950 years from the time of Christ’s death to order up this Jubilee of Redemption. The Swiss Guard as well as the Vatican employees had a



saying about Pope John Paul: “Per noi con Giovanni Paolo II e sempre Anno Santo,” which means: “For us, with John Paul II, it is always a Holy Year!” This proved to be, so true for just after bricking up the Holy Door in 1984—the cement and mortar not completely dry—the San Petri found themselves un-bricking the Holy Door in 1987 as the Pope declared a “Marian Year of Jubilee.” The Holy Father wrote an encyclical on the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Life of the Church, called

*Redemptoris Mater* (Mother of the Redeemer), which was issued on March 25, 1987. This Marian Pope was anticipating the Jubilee 2000—saying, “just as Mary had come before Christ on the horizon in the story of salvation, and her assent was the premise for God’s incarnation, our meditation upon Mary during this Jubilee Year of 1987 ought to precede the Jubilee Year of Christ’s nativity!” Because as every good Astronomer knows, the morning star always appears before the sun, but in this case, the sun is Christ, He is the “sun of righteousness.” (Malachi 3:20) Pope Francis may be able to tie Pope John Paul’s record of Jubilee Years. Pope Francis called an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016, then there is the current Jubilee Year of Hope, and if Pope Francis is still around in 2033—he would preside over the Jubilee marking the greatest event in Salvation history—the death and Resurrection of our Lord.





# THE MASS AND THE SAINTS: *VISIO DIVINA*

In his book: **Transformed by God's Word** – **Stephen Binz** is teaching us how to pray with **Icons** (*Visio Divina*). Part of **the beauty** of this book is that **Binz** includes a color photo of each **Icon** and **the Scripture passage** that the **Icon** is written from. **Binz** simply uses **twenty Icons** of **the Mysteries of the Rosary**, so all five decades of the **Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious Mysteries**. Interestingly enough, he uses an **Icon** of **the storm at sea** to illustrate *Visio Divina* with **the Luminous Mystery** of **the Proclamation of the Kingdom**. Having read **Mark 1:14-18 and 4:35-41**, we hear Jesus proclaiming “**that this is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand!**” Remember **Fr. Randy's** latest **‘theological thrill’** – is that there is a whole Theology based on **‘the hand.’** Now, in referring to the closeness of **the Kingdom** as being ‘near by’ or as close to a person as his **own hand** is to his body, we can understand how close by our side that God really wants to be! Remember, how Jesus tells His disciples: “**I will be with you always – until the end of time!**” (Mt 28:20) Yet, when **fear strikes** – when **chaos erupts** in our life – when we lose a **loved** one to **death** – or simply when someone sins against us – we can feel that God is nowhere to be found – that God has **abandoned** us! When the Lord quiets **the storm at sea**, He asks the question: **Why were you terrified? Do you not have yet have Faith?!?** The twelve think that their **fear** is legitimate – after all, **the storms** on **the Sea of Galilee** are notorious for being sudden and ferocious; yet, this shocks Jesus! We ourselves are easily **fear-filled** when something does not go quite right in our life, and this **shocks** Jesus aswell! The Lord has told us that His Father's **Kingdom** is at **hand** – Jesus has told us countless times that He is present—standing at our side, waiting behind **the locked doors** of **the Tabernacle**, Jesus is really, truly, and substantial present to us in **the Eucharist** of **the Mass** – do we still not realize this? Take a look at the **Icon** of our Lord in **the boat** with the twelve. Some of the disciples reach out to touch our Lord, Himself. Other disciples touch **the mast of the ship**, which is in the shape of a **Cross**. Some of the disciples touch their **hearts**, and a few of the disciples grip **their fishing net tighter**. These are all **Iconic symbols** of the closeness of Jesus Christ to us. For cannot all of us **physically touch** God when we eat **the Eucharist**, or enter **the Church**, God's house on earth (the symbol of **the ship** at sea with the **Cross** as its mast) – we can all receive **the grace** of God (God's **love**) when we receive a **Sacrament** (God **touching** our **heart**), and we can all feel the closeness of God when we simply live out **the vocation** that God gave to us (clutch **the fishing net of discipleship**). Yes, we need **Faith** to see how close at **hand** Jesus Christ really is to us, but if we have **Faith** only the size of a **mustard seed**, we know that **the Kingdom** of God is at **hand** (so close to us); because the Father sent His Son from **His righthand side to dwell** with you!



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

**Secretary: Nancy Neal**

**Phone #: 815-849-5412**

**Finance Officer: Donna Stephenitch**

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



**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

**Monday, January 27th**

(+) Mary Kay Kalata/ Mary Schreiner

**Tuesday, January 28th Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas**

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

**Wednesday, January 29th**

(+) Rose Theiss/ Judy Althaus

**Thursday, January 30th**

(+) Delbert Bonnell/ Mr. & Mrs. Dan Jones

**Friday, January 31st**

(+) Mary Helen Leffelman/ Family

**Saturday, February 1st**

(+) Carrado Farioli & (+) Joseph Schauer/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Gerald Leffelman & (+) Susan Ennenbach/ Sylvia Leffelman

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Quin & (+) Josephine Torri/ Charles Torri

**Sunday, February 2nd Feast of the Presentation/ Candle Mass**

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

10:30 am, **OLPH**(+) Mary Christine Henkel/ Family

**Living Mass Intentions:**

**St. Patrick: Riley & Whitney Klein, Anthony & Laura Morgan**

**OLPH: John & Lisa Corcoran, Hector & Ana Gutierrez, Pat Stenzel, Connie Pettenger**

**SMA: Sylvia Schultz, Tim & Kathy Burkardt, Herb Kaelin**

