

*8th Sunday of
Ordinary Time
March 2, 2025*



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

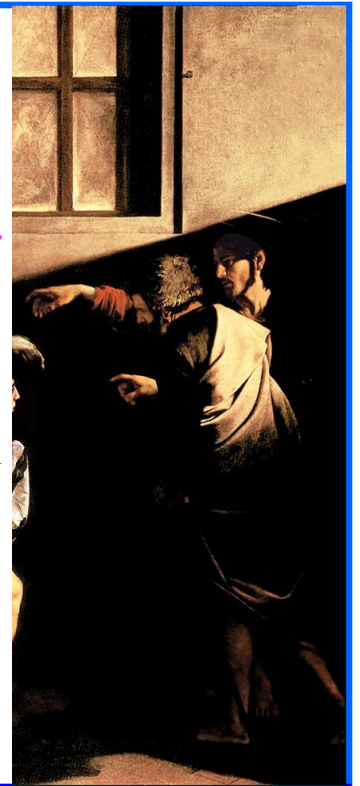
WE ARE PILGRIMS OF HOPE

From the Gusset—Our Desert Path


Jesus is *calling us* to follow Him – to come into **the desert** with Him during **the season of Lent**. We must remember that **the desert** is not our destination; but rather, only **the path** that leads first to **Calvary** and then to **the Resurrection**. **Easter** is our **ultimate destination** – to arrive at **Easter Sunday morning** is the point of entering into **the desert** on **Ash Wednesday!** I have many **sins** that **plague** me (just as you do). Let us together *'trust'* our Lord that when He takes us into **the desert** this **Lent** – though we will encounter much *'uncertainty'* – that ultimately, we will encounter God in **a new** and **an exciting way** on **April 20th**. Come with **me** into **the desert** with Jesus – join **me on the path** – that God will **free** us from our **sins** and fill our **hearts** to **overflowing** with His **love!**



Yours on the Path **Fr. Randy**



You Will Be My Witnesses


YOU WILL BE
my
WITNESSES
A Campaign for the
DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

Have you noticed recently, in reading **the obituary** announcing the death of a **Catholic** – that the once **ubiquitous line**: “*donations may be made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,*” – have all but disappeared from **obituaries**? This is why **the Rockford Diocese** is undertaking **a capitol campaign** to raise **60 million dollars**. Statistics are showing that the generation of **Catholics**, who are now passing away will be the last generation, who will include **the Church** in their estate. **Bishop Malloy** is worried that, if we don't have **a capitol campaign**, that with **tithing** decreasing—that future **Diocesan evangelization programs** will be unfunded. Each parish in **the Rockford Diocese** has been assigned a campaign target based on the **number of Parish families** and our **regular Sunday giving**. Each Parishes' goal is listed below. I will be asking the members of **the Finance Council** at each Church to recommend 1 or 2 **campaign chairpersons**, who will form with me a **campaign volunteer team**. **The team** will attend a **Regional Parish Wave Orientation meeting** at **St. Mary's Church in Sterling**, where we will learn how to determine gift request amounts for all our registered families. There are no plans to close parishes or schools in **the Diocese** at this time, and the success of **You Will Be My Witnesses Campaign** will insure that **the Diocese** has the finances to fund growth at our parishes both **spiritually in our souls** and **structurally in our Church and hall buildings**.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: \$101,131

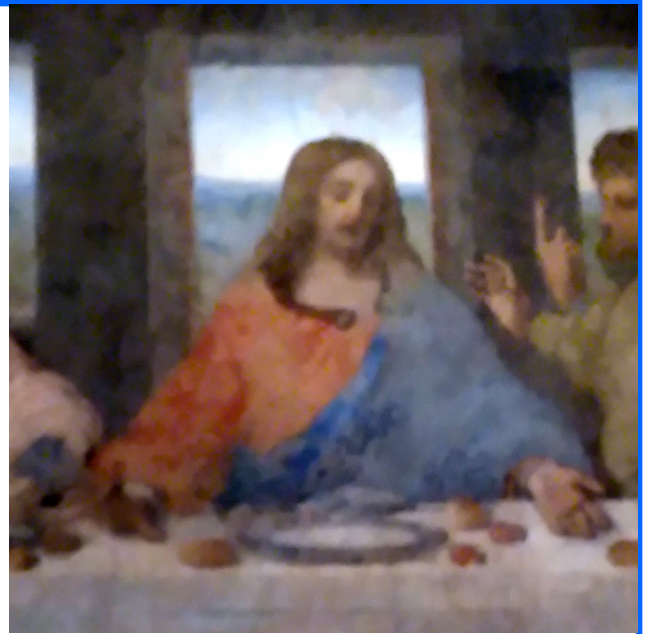
St. Mary of the Assumption: \$43,388

St. Patrick Church: \$30,044



The Art of the Last Supper

The Theology of “*the hand of God*” is throughout all of Sacred Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church. Next time you are at Mass just watch the priest’s hands and you will be amazed at how God works. Specifically, during the Eucharistic Prayer watch which way *the palms* of the priest’s hands are turned. For most of the Eucharistic Prayer (and the Prayers of the Mass), the priest holds his hands in the “*orans*” posture, – that is stretched out with palms pointing up toward Heaven – but for a few short moments the priest’s hands are held out with palms pointing down toward Earth. Now look at the Last



Supper painting of Leonardo da Vinci. The Christ has His righthand (*palm* pointed down) as He reaches for the bread, which He will dip into the dish, and His lefthand (*palm* pointed up) as He prays to His Father in Heaven. This is exactly the Theology of “*the hand of God*” that I am talking about all the time. The priest (in the Mass – and for ALL OF THE MASS) is Jesus Christ. Just as the Lord spoke to His Father in Heaven and to His disciples on Earth at the Last Supper, so does Jesus speak through Fr. Randy to both God and you (the Lord’s disciples) in the Mass. That is why you want to go to Mass every Sunday – to hear Jesus speak to His Father about you, and to hear Jesus speak to you about His Father!



“To Follow the Christ to Calvary”

Our theme for this Lent is to walk with Jesus to Calvary. For 40 days we will be led by our Lord to a small hill just outside of the city of Jerusalem called Calvary, and once there we will watch our Lord die for us. These days of Lent will be scary ones – it should be upsetting (to say the least) – it should make us uneasy that God loves us, so much He is willing to die for us; and so, we will go on a journey with Jesus. We will pray. We will fast. We will give alms. We will do all of these

things, so that the Lord might call us “*His servants,*” because anyone who serves Jesus – His Heavenly Father will honor! (John 12:26) During the full weeks of Lent this year – all the daily Masses (Tuesday-Friday) will be held at just one of our 3 Churches, and we will cycle through our 3 Churches twice. Also the first Sunday of Lent will have a different Mass Schedule. There will be no 10:30am Mass on March 9th in Sublette; rather, a 5:00pm Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Saturday, March 8th Mass Times

4:00pm OLPH & 5:30pm SMA

Sunday, March 9th Mass Times

8:00am St. Patrick & 5:00pm OLPH

THE MASS AND THE SAINTS



Compared to the other **Sacraments** – **the Eucharist** requires both a greater and a more widespread or **popular devotion**. We must pray **the Mass** with **greater passion** (some would say **zeal**), because the whole Church benefits from **the celebration** of **the Eucharist**.

The other **Sacraments** benefit only the one, who receives **the Sacrament** – so only the one whose head and hands are **anointed** receives the healing graces of **the Anointing of the Sick**. Only the one who examines his **conscience**, confesses his **sins**, and is **truly sorry** for them can be absolved in **the Confessional**. Since, those present at **the Mass** and even those who are absent can receive **the blessings** and **graces** that flow from **the Mass** (because we ask God to give others the benefits of our **celebration** of **the Mass**), we must **pray** with **great passion** that God would be so generous as to benefit even **the whole world**! This having been said, we do **pray** intensely for a few particular individuals in **the Mass**; such as, **the Holy Father** and our **Bishop**, and although we do not give his name – we pray for our **priest** (the giver of **the Sacrament** at that **Mass**) in particular and generically for all **priests** and all deacons. We do this because all of these are **frail men** – prone to **sin** like all of **mankind**; thus, they require our **prayers more intensely** than other men, because **the Catholic Church** relies so heavily upon them. **The Devil** plots against **the clergy** more than against **married** or **single persons**; and so, we would **pray more intensely** for our **priest**, because without him – we could not receive **the Eucharist**. Since without **the Pope** we would not have a **Bishop** and without our **Bishop** we would not have our **priest** – we **pray intensely** for them as well. Jesus, Himself, **encourages** us to have a devotion to **the Pope** and our **Bishop** – for didn't Jesus say to **St. Peter**: *Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own Faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.* The more a **priest** goes to **confession** himself, the better **the confessor** he becomes, because Jesus prayed for **St. Peter**, that **Peter**, having turned from his **sins**, would have great success in helping others who **sinned** to come back to the practice of their **Faith**. Always remember that **the Eucharistic Prayer** is really an **intimate conversation** between Jesus and His Father – very much like the conversation Jesus had with His Dad in **the garden of Gethsemane** and the conversation Jesus had with the



Almighty while He was dying on **the Cross**. Though we don't have a speaking part in **the Eucharistic Prayer** – we **pray** along with Jesus just as Jesus wanted the disciples **to pray** with Him in **the Garden** and on **Calvary**. **Pray passionately** for your **priest**, your **Bishop**, and your **Pope** – even if you don't particularly like them – because they are **the hands** and **feet** of our Lord bringing you **the graces** that will make you **a Saint**. Both **Isaiah** and **St. Paul** said: **how beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Good News!** (Romans 10:15, Isaiah 52:7)

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Saturday, March 1st

(+) Angelo & (+) Irma & (+) Dino Guidarini/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa

4:00 pm, OLPH (+) Gene Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman

5:30 pm, SMA (+) John Gehant/ Mr. & Mrs. Terry Moyer

Sunday, March 2nd 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

10:30 am, OLPH (+) James McCauley/ Mary Kuebel & (+) Charles Henkel/ Family

Monday, March 3rd

(+) Mark Webb/ Mary Schreiner

Tuesday, March 4th Shrove Tuesday

7:30 am, SMA (+) Rita Fischbach/ Fr. Randy

Wednesday, March 5th Ash Wednesday

8:00 am, OLPH (+) Jean Ritola/ Mr. & Mrs. Louie Vaessen

Thursday, March 6th

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

8:30 am, OLPH (+) Sally Pry/ Family

Friday, March 7th

8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Lennard & (+) Marie Miles/ Mr. & Mrs. Ed Klein

5:30pm, SMA (+) Sister Benedict/ DDL

Saturday, March 8th

(+) Robert Fischer & (+) Pete Rose & Msgr. Donovan & (+) Msgr. Mahowald/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, OLPH (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Mike Vaessen &

(+) Gerald Leffelman/ Sylvia Leffelman

5:30 pm, SMA (+) Rita Haefner/ Mr. & Mrs. Steve Patterson

Sunday, March 9th 1st Sunday of Lent (Time Change: Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour)

8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Sylvia Montavon/ Mr. & Mrs. Westin Montavon

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

Living Mass Intentions:

St. Patrick: Indian Bickett, Bob & Onelia Mixa

OLPH: Bob & Pauline Bulfer, Mary Jo Zimmerlein, Howard & Karen McInnis, Mary Kuebel

SMA: Darlene Gehant, Charlotte Bresson, Wanda Deacon



FRIDAY LENTEN SCHEDULE

1st Friday of Lent, March 7th

8:00 am Morning Mass at St. Patrick's Church/ Maytown

Evening Schedule

at St. Mary of the Assumption/West Brooklyn

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Stations of the Cross

5:30 pm Holy Mass

