

2nd Sunday of Lent
March 16, 2025



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

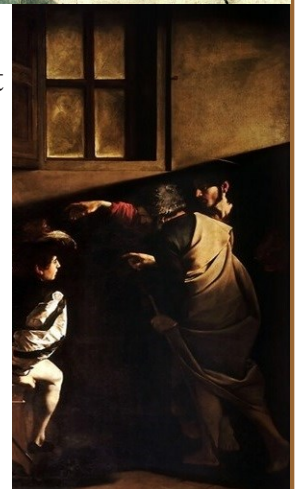
WE ARE PILGRIMS OF HOPE

From the Gusset—Our Desert Path

The Catholic Church is so **gentle** with **human souls**. Though **the Church** would give us **the graces** of **the Vocational Sacraments**, if we would only ask for them; yet, **She** won't force them upon us. This notion – that **the Church** calls us to accept our **vocation** from God, but will not force us to do something we don't want to do – is expertly captured in the famous **Caravaggio** painting of **the Calling of St. Matthew**. The Lord has just entered **the Customs Post**, where **Levi** (later to become the great **Saint** and writer of **the Gospel**) is busy counting the **tax money** from Capernaum – our Lord stretches out His right hand to point at **Matthew** and call him to follow the Lord. (**Matthew 9:9**) **Caravaggio** paints the beckoning hand as very passive – limply gesturing toward the seated **Tax Collector**. In a stroke of brilliance, **Caravaggio** has used the hand of **Adam** in **Michelangelo's** famous fresco painting on the ceiling of **the Sistine Chapel** – it is the hand of **Adam** that God will touch and bring the man to **life**! **St. Jerome** said, that we are not truly '**alive**' until we live the **vocation** God has ordained us to live. Our Lord said, **I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)** Jesus is offering **Levi the Sacrament** of **Holy Orders**. Will **Levi** accept this **vocational** call or not? The Lord is not going to try to reason with the **Tax Collector** and tell **Levi** all the **pros** and **cons** of accepting this calling – the Lord simply calls and departs **the Customs Post**, leaving the decision up to **Levi**. Yet, hidden in **the dark shadow** of **Caravaggio's Masterpiece** is the left hand of our Lord, the hand closest to **the Sacred Heart**. I call this 'the grasping hand' or 'the desirous hand' of our Lord. Though the decision belongs to **Levi**, Jesus greatly desires – Jesus wishes that **Matthew** will follow Him – for when did the Persons of the Trinity **decide** who would make up the twelve Apostles? Was it at the beginning of time – 13.8 billion years ago – or was it **the night** before when Jesus went up the mountain and spent **the night** in **prayer** and then came down called the twelve to Himself. **The Messianic secret** is not so much that God the Father wants to tell you **the secret** that Jesus is His Son, but **the great secret** that God wishes to tell each one of us is that **we** are His **sons** and **daughters**! God wants to give us all of His **love** in **the Sacraments** that Jesus died on **Calvary** to give to us. Jesus takes us into **the desert** this **Season of Lent** to teach us what it means to be called: **God's beloved one**! Our Lord (just like in every other **Season**) wants to help us recognize that the purpose of our life is to become **a worthy receptacle** into which Jesus can **pour** all of His **Divine Love** into, when we receive **Holy Communion**. Jesus calls us (the right hand of Jesus in the **Caravaggio** painting) to go to **Mass** every Sunday, so He can feed us **the Eucharist**; but the Lord won't force us to go to **Mass**. Yet and still, Jesus greatly desires to eat this Supper with us (the left hand – the hand closest to His **Sacred Heart** in the painting: **the Calling of St. Matthew**)!

Yours on the Path

Fr. Randy





Come to **Mass** on Saturday, **March 15th at 4:00pm** at **Maytown's Church of St. Patrick**, and then come over to **the Hall** for dinner at **5:15pm!**

St. Patrick's Church wishes to thank you for helping them with their roof repairs and **to celebrate** with **great Solemnity** their **Patronal Feast Day**. All **dinner guests** will receive a **blessed candle** of **St. Patrick** to take home.

The Chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrows

A **beautiful Lenten** devotion is to pray **the Chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrows**. Our poor **Lady's heart** was pierced seven times, because we failed to see **the beauty** of her Son when we **sinned**. It is not hard to **memorize the Seven Sorrows**—least ways, the last four **Sorrows**. The 4th **Sorrow** is **the fourth Station of the Cross**, and the last three **Sorrows** are **the last three Stations of the Cross!** A **wonderful dynamic** occurs when we try to **console** our **Lady** by praying this **Sacramental**. We start praying **the 49 Hail Mary Prayers** of the **Chaplet**, telling **Mary** that we wish to offer her some **relief** and **consolation**; and by the time we arrive at the end of the **Chaplet**—God has switched the tables on us—**Mary** is offering us, her **consolation**, because we have been harmed by our **sins** more than **Mary** or her Son have been harmed! We will pray **the Chaplet** before our **Wednesday Mass** in **Sublette** on **the Feast of St. Joseph** (March 19th). Why not experience this **Mystery** of a **Mother's love** for yourself—come early to **Wednesday Morning's Mass** to accompany our **Mother** in her **grief** and **sorrow**—and watch how **Mary** winds up **comforting** you!



THE MASS AND THE SAINTS

Which oblation, we beseech Thee, O God, deign to make holy + blessed, + enrolled, + established, reasonable and acceptable, that It may become for us the + Body and + Blood of Thy most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that It may become for us the Body and Blood of Your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The question might be rightly asked: which **Saint** passed on to us in writing, the words of invocation, when **the bread** of **the Eucharist** and **the cup of blessing** are **consecrated**? The answer would be **St. Paul** and **the Saintly writers of the Gospels**, but **the Catholic Church** has always held that both before and after the holy words of **consecration** are spoken that other words of great importance to **the Mystery** are also said, and these were given to us by an **unwritten teaching**, which **Mother Church** calls **Tradition**! **St. Thomas Aquinas** says that it is not inappropriate to ask God for something that we know with certainty He will do, because Jesus taught **the Twelve** to ask His Father for things even, if God was already going to give them. For remember in teaching **the Twelve** how to pray **the Our Father Prayer**, Jesus said, **Your Father knows what you need even before you ask Him.** (Matthew 6:8) The ultimate example of this is that on our Lord's **last night** on **earth**, He asked His Heavenly Father, if His Dad might **glorify** His Son. Of course, God the Father already planned to **glorify** Jesus; and yet and still, Jesus asked to be **glorified**. The priest then asks God to accept the **bread** and **wine** of **the Mass** and make them the **Body** and **Blood** of His Son – God already planned to do it, but God is **pleased** that the priest makes this request for himself and all the people! Oughten, we to ask our **spouse** for their **love**? Even though our beloved wants to give us his **love** – it is perfectly appropriate to ask him to show his **love** to us! **St. Thomas** goes on to say that the priest is really asking that the oblation of **bread** and **wine** would be **fruitful** for us. In other words, the priest knows God will make the **bread** and **wine** – the **Body** and **Blood** of our Lord; and so, the priests asks that when we are given this **tremendously great gift** that we would produce a very **abundant harvest** – for didn't our Lord say, **when the seed falls to the ground and dies – it will spring up and yield a harvest of 30, 60, or 100-fold!** The **old rite** had the priest making **5 Crosses** during this **“quam oblationem” Prayer** – to symbolize (according to **Durandus**) the old Law – the five books, or to symbolize (according to **St. Thomas**) the five persons involved in **the sale** of our Lord; that is: the priests, **the scribes**, **the Pharisees**, Judas, and our Lord, Himself.



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Saturday, March 15th

(+) Charles & (+) Sylvia Schauer & (+) Joseph Schauer/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa
4:00 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Stacey Wertz & (+) Sue Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman

Sunday, March 16th 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

10:30 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Ruth Ann Payne/ Family &

(+) Fred & (+) Garnet Schmidt/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bulfer

2:00 pm, Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Monday, March 17th Feast of St. Patrick

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

Tuesday, March 18th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) James Bankes/ Mr. & Mrs. Don Dinges

Wednesday, March 19th Feast of St. Joseph

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) James Gay/ Carlene Schuhler & (+) James Fronck/ Family

Thursday, March 20th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Mary Stewart/ Mary Schreiner

Friday, March 21st

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Joyce Setchell/ Mr. & Mrs. Mike Smith

5:30pm, **OLPH** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Marilyn Bonnell

Saturday, March 22nd

(+) Joseph & (+) Mary McCoy/ Barbara Maria McCoy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Thomas Berry/ Neal Vaessen & (+) Arthur Prendergast/ Family

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

Sunday, March 23rd 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Sharon Appple/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Henkel



Living Mass Intentions:

St. Patrick: Bailey Bickett & Andrew Wright,

Joseph & Marci Hebert, Howardene Stewart

OLPH: Sylvia Leffelman, Jason Malach, Dennis & Carol Klein,

Rose Leffelman, Craig & Janet Setchell



Collection Amounts for the Month of February

	OLPH	SMA	St. Patrick
Loose Collection	\$338	\$20	\$17
Envelopes	\$3,780	\$3,214	\$1,495
Total	\$4,118	\$3,234	\$1,512
Monthly Expenses	\$10,921	\$4,184	\$3,695
Diocesan Appeal	\$13,020/\$10,655	\$5,519/\$3,280	\$11,634/\$2,603
National Appeal	\$30	\$200	\$80
Scrap Iron Fundraiser Total			\$2,722

