

*4th Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday
March 30, 2025*



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

From the Gusset—Our Desert Path

Remember our **Goal for Lent**: to learn from our Lord, what it means to be called **“God’s beloved one.”** We go into **the desert** with our Lord, and we allow Jesus **to teach** us how to become **“well pleasing to God.”** Now typically during **Lent**, we pay particular attention to our own **sins** – we seek to overcome **temptations** by the Lord’s **grace** through our **prayers, works, and fasting** – and this is an **admirable** thing to do. The **Prophet Isaiah** says, **“put away your misdeeds... cease doing evil.”** But **Isaiah** also says, **focus on what God focuses on!** When the Almighty turns his gaze upon us, **what does God see?** God does **not** focus on our **sins**, because God knows we are not **defined** by our **sins**; but rather, we are **defined** by God by our **relationships** with others? How does the **Prophet Isaiah** put it? The **Prophet** says, **“make justice your aim... redress the wronged.”** You see, there it is! Are you and I in **“right relationship”** with God, with others, and with ourselves? Are we **‘just’**? Is God **the most important person** in our life? Do we have the **relationship** with God that we are His **beloved one**?! Are we **honoring** God and worshipping the Almighty on Sunday in **the Mass**? Are we who are religious or we who have made a vow with God – are we **honoring** and worshipping God every day in **the Mass**? Are we trying to make **our souls** a worthy **receptacle** for God **to pour** all of His **love** into when we receive **the Eucharist**? Do we do things because they glorify our **Lover** (God)? Do we wish to hear at our particular judgment: **“well done good and faithful servant, come share your Master’s joy?”** Do we try to make God **glad** that He chose to make us His **beloved one**? Are we in right **relationship** with our **family members** – especially our **spouse**, if we are married – especially our **parents**, if we are single? Do we act **‘just’** with the special people God has put in our lives: **spouse**, children, **parents**, brothers and sisters? Our previous **sins** against them have hurt them, and their previous **sins** against us have hurt us, so what are we doing during **Lent to redress** these wrongs? Above all, are we telling these people – our **Spiritual Twelve** (as **Fr. Randy** likes to call them) – are we telling them often that we **love** them? Finally, are we in **right relationship**, are we **‘just’** with ourselves? Do we thank God for our **vocation** and specifically ask for **the graces** of **the Eucharist** that we receive to live our **vocation** with **joy** and for God’s **honor** and glory? You see, God’s gaze is not on our **sins** when God looks at us, because our **sins** are **not** who the Almighty made us to be – our **sins** are who we have **turned ourselves into**? When God looks at us – He sees our **relationship** to others. So, when God looked at **Adam**, He saw **Eve**. When God looked at **Cain**, He saw **Abel**. When God looked at the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, He saw His Son. In **Lent** let us try to focus a little bit more, instead of on our **sins** – let us focus on our **relationships** and **redress the wrongs** we have committed against others by telling them we are **sorry**, that we **forgive** them, and most of all that we **love** them.

Yours on the Path Fr. Randy





Jesus often took **the special three Disciples** off from the rest of the twelve to **pray** with Him. **St. Jerome**, especially when they went up the mountain (at **the Transfiguration**), took this to mean that Jesus was taking them on a **pilgrimage**. **Fr. Randy** would like to take you on a **pilgrimage** to **pray** with him. Next

Saturday, April 5th, we will make a **pilgrimage** to **St. Mary's Church** in Sterling. **St. Mary's** is the designated **Jubilee Pilgrimage Church** for the Sterling Deanery. We will celebrate **the Mass** at **10:00am** and get our **pilgrimage passports** stamped as we work a **Plenary**

Indulgence. **Confessions** will be heard for a time after **the Mass**, so that all five works of **the Indulgence** may be accomplished in one day. I **love** that definition of **pilgrimage** – that **pilgrimage** is all about **journeying** with Jesus to an out of the way place to **pray** with our Lord. As we unite our **prayer** to the Lord's something great happens – Jesus asks His Father to grant us **a miracle** – the entrance of one of our **beloved deceased** into **Heavenly Glory**. Come on **pilgrimage** next **Saturday**, and work **a miracle** for one of your **beloved dead**.



COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

APRIL 3RD, THURSDAY at 6:30pm

- Sometimes I sin, because I want something I don't need or even because I want something that is **bad** for me—I sin, because God has no intention of giving me **something** and so I take it for myself.
- Sometimes I sin, because God wants me to **imitate** His Son and I don't want to do what Jesus would do.
- Sometimes I sin, because I do not use the graces of **the Eucharist** to do the things God wants me to do.
- Sometimes I sin, because I cannot see how much God **loves** me and my ears are shut to hearing the Almighty say He **loves** me through others.
- Sometimes I sin, because I do not realize how generous **the Sacred Heart of Jesus** is to me—that the Lord **pours** all of His love into me in **Holy Communion**.

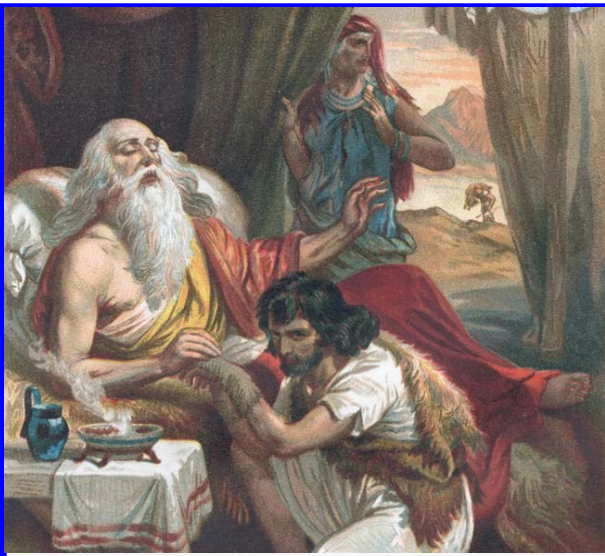
CEMETERY CLEANUP

We will soon be doing our **Spring cleaning** in **the Cemetery**. Old and **wind-tattered** decorations will be discarded, if you would like re-use any **Seasonal decorations** -- please bring them home for **Summer storage**.



THE MASS AND THE SAINTS

Did you ever wonder why **Fr. Randy** must put on the **Mass vestments** to celebrate **the Mass**? Why is **incense** used in **the Mass**? Why are the consecration **bells rung**? Why did the Church insist that for almost two thousand years **the Host** be placed on our tongue? **St. Antoninus** a Dominican priest, who lived from 1389 to 1459 wrote his *Summa Theologica* discussing **the fruits** of the **Eucharistic sacrifice** and the meaning of why certain liturgical acts take place in **the Mass**. **Antoninus** proves that not only are **St. Thomas Aquinas** and **St. Albert the**



Great pretty smart cookies, but that the Dominicans just have a knack for understanding the symbolism in **the Catholic Mass**. **St. Antoninus** said that when the meal was prepared for **Isaac**—all **his** senses were deceived except for the sense of **hearing**. For **Isaac's** sight, which had grown dim, did not perceive **Jacob** in front of **him**; **his** power of smell perceived the **fragrance** of **Esau's** garments, not of **Jacob's**; **his** taste suppose that **he** was eating food prepared by **Esau**, not by **Jacob**; **his** sense of touch was deceived, for the hands were the hands of **Esau**, because of **the goat skins** with which **his** arms were covered. Only hearing was not misled, for **Isaac** said, *the voice is the voice of Jacob*. So in this **Sacrament** of **the Eucharist** the taste, the smell, the sight, and the touch perceive **the accidents of bread** just as they were; but **hearing** is **not** deceived! For when we **hear** the words: **this is My Body**—we truly believe that **It** is the Body of Christ! **Fr. Randy** wears the **Mass vestments**, because that is what our Lord wore at **the Last Supper**. I use **incense** to cover the smell of my **cologne**, so that God the Father looking down from **Heaven** smells instead His only Begotten Son – **the sweet-smelling**

Sacrifice. The **consecration bells** are **rung** to symbolize that **the Angels** see Jesus come to **earth** once again! We are not allowed to examine **the Eucharist** with our hands – feeling **It** – touching **It** – perhaps even breaking **It** – in order to examine **It**; rather, **the Eucharist** is placed on our tongue – as **the porridge** that **Jacob** prepared for **Isaac** could not be distinguished from the recipe that **Esau** prepared for **his father**! The **bread** and **wine** are changed into the Flesh and Blood by the **power** of the Word.



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Saturday, March 29th

(+) Marina Roggi & (+) Helen Kolar/ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mixa
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Betty Henkel/ Mr. & Mrs. Richard Zinke &
(+) Betty Prendergast/ Family

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Gilbert Haub/ Fr. Randy

Sunday, March 30th 4th Sunday of Lent: Laetare Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Charles & (+) Bea Buckley/ Family

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

Monday, March 31st

(+) Thomas Berry/ Joni Walker & (+) Geraldine Fronek/ Rick Fronek

Tuesday, April 1st

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Ron Leffelman/ Carlene Schuhler

Wednesday, April 2nd

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

Thursday, April 3rd

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

Friday, April 4th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mary Ann Cardot/ Woodhaven Association

10:00 am, **Sacred Heart** CCD Students/ Fr. Randy

5:30pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Full

Saturday, April 5th

10:00 am, **St. Mary's Church Sterling** (+) William Berger/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Faye Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman & (+) Ron Fronek/ Roger Fronek &
(+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Jim Flaherty

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

Sunday, April 6th 5th Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Joyce Setchell/ Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burke

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Delbert Bonnell/ Mr. & Mrs. Dan Jones &
Living Intention of Robert & Pauline Bulfer



Living Mass Intentions:

**St. Patrick: Scott & Lisa Bickett, Steve Becker, Riley & Whitney Klein, Leo Bushman,
Anthony & Laura Morgan, Gerard & Wendy Legner**

OLPH: Mary Schreiner, Marge Beger SMA: Howard & Karen McInnis

EASTER FLOWER DONATION

Name of the Honoree: _____

Your Name: _____

Church you would like the
Flower presented at:

OLPH SMA St. Patrick

