

*1st Sunday of
Lent
March 9, 2025*



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

WE ARE PILGRIMS OF HOPE

From the Gusset—Our Desert Path

The scriptures say that God cannot be outdone in **generosity** (Sirach 35:1-12), and although **Lent** seems to be (at face value) a time when we are **giving** to God – it is really that during **Lent** God shows us how **super generous** He truly is! I am **excited** to go through **the desert** with you this **Lent** – not because of all the things we will have to do in **preparation** for **Easter**; rather, I am **excited** to go through **the desert** with you this **Lent**, because both of us will experience the **excitement** of receiving **the wonderful gifts** God has to give us on the other side of His Son's **Resurrection**! If you think God has been **good** with you up until now – just wait until you see how **good**, how **generous** God is with you after **Easter Sunday**! For **40 days** we will look together – you and I – at **the emptiness of the desert**. We will look at a desolate landscape. We will feel a tremendous **loneliness**. We will be hungry. We will be **cold**. We will look hard and see little **beauty** – we will listen attentively, but hear only **silence**. This is

Lent! This is **the desert** that we enter into. There is so much '**uncertainty**' to **Lent**, but because we have **Faith** (just a thimbleful in my case) **Lent** will make us aware of how **generous** God wishes to be with us. We are about to realize just how much of God's **love** the Almighty wishes **to pour** into us. I give you the example of **the foundation** of a **Skyscraper**. **The Sears Tower** in Chicago has a foundation that is 100 feet deep – imagine looking into a hole along **the Lakeshore** that is 100 feet deep! But see, because **the Sears Tower** is 1,451 feet tall it must have a very deep **foundation**. When we go into **Lent**, you and I will look at **the capacity** of our **souls** to hold God's **love**. As we **fast**, as we **pray**, as we give **alms** – we will slowly drain our **souls** of all **the useless clutter** that we have accumulated in them –we will empty ourselves; so that, come **the Easter Eucharist** we receive, God can **pour** into our **souls** a **tidal wave** of His **love**!

Yours on the Path
Fr. Randy



FEAST OF ST. PATRICK

All Masses on the weekend of **March 15th & 16th** will be held at **Maytown's Church** to **celebrate** their **Solemnity of St. Patrick!** **The Mass** at 4:00pm Saturday, the 15th will be followed by **a dinner** at the Hall at 5:15pm. All are **welcome!** On Sunday the 16th both **Masses** – the 8:00am and the 10:30am will be **celebrated** at **Maytown** as well. **The good parishioners of St. Patrick's** wish to **thank** everyone for helping them with their much need **roof repairs** last year!



“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 **Jerusalem** to watch with our **Lady of Sorrows**—the Lord give up His **life** for us! We will be praying **the Chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrows** before all of our **Wednesday Masses**. Please come early to **Wednesday Morning's Mass** to accompany our **Mother** in her **grief** and **sorrow**—and watch how **Mary** winds up **comforting** us!

The 1st Sorrow: The Prophecy of Simeon

The 2nd Sorrow: The Flight into Egypt

The 3rd Sorrow: The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The 4th Sorrow: Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary

The 5th Sorrow: Jesus Dies on the Cross

The 6th Sorrow: Mary Receives the Body of Jesus

The 7th Sorrow: The Body of Jesus is Placed in the Tomb



THE MASS AND THE SAINTS/ *VISIO DIVINA*

Did I ever tell you how the Icon of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** taught me how to carry Jesus? In the **Tradition** of the Church, **Mary** was always taking her Son (**the Infant Jesus of Prague**) to see people – especially **the sick**. I always found it **interesting** that the Church chooses **the Gospel** of **the Visitation** for praying **the Votive Mass** to Our Lady: **Health of the**

Sick. I mean, why not one of the many **Gospels** where **the sick** are cured; but you see, a **sick person** was cured in **the Visitation** story! It seems **Elizabeth** was suffering from a **sickness** that didn't have all the usual **symptoms**. She didn't have a **fever**, or a runny nose, or an **upset stomach**; rather, **Elizabeth** suffered in the silence of **depression**. Having been **barren** all her life and now very old – past childbearing age – here she is, **pregnant!** How many doubts and fears were exacerbated by suddenly becoming **pregnant?!?** But when **the Mother** of our Lord comes to visit her and **the infant John** leaps for **joy** in **Elizabeth's** womb – **Elizabeth's depression** is lifted – **the darkness** is banished by **the Light**, Himself! **Mary** brought Jesus to **Elizabeth** and **the sick** person was cured! **The Icon** of

Our Lady of Perpetual Help relates how **the infant Jesus** ran into **Mary's** arms one day when He had a vision of **Calvary**. As **the Virgin-Mother** held God close to her **heart**, **the Christ Child** was comforted, and the shock of dying on **Calvary**, became **the Mission** of Jesus' life. **Mary** teaches her **priests**: when you carry our Lord from **the Tabernacle** to **the altar** that our Lord might sacrifice Himself – lay down His life – **pour** all of His **precious Blood** into hearts in **Holy Communion** – **Mary** says, “hold **the Ciboria** close to your **priestly heart** – cradle Jesus in your arms – one hand supporting the Lord's weight, the other hand near His **Sacred Heart**, and this way the Christ is **comforted** and the shock of dying for all in **Holy Communion** – in **the Sacrifice** of **the Mass** – becomes **the joy** of Jesus Christ!”



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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

5:00 pm, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Monday, March 10th

(+) Rose Theiss/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Streit

Tuesday, March 11th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Velma Quest

Wednesday, March 12th

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

Thursday, March 13th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Richard Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Henkel

Friday, March 14th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Harold Becker/ Judi Henkel

10:45 am, **Stonecroft** (+) Don Henkel (+) Betty Jane Wilhelm & (+) Floyd Wilson/ Fr. Randy

5:30pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Mary Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Chris Leffelman

Saturday, March 15th

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

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

Living Mass Intentions:

St. Patrick: Velma Quest, Candi Robinson, Rick & Deb Cardot, Marty & Denise Bickett,

Jason & Terri Leffelman OLPH: Doug & Nicole Jones SMA: Devin & Katie Henkel



FRIDAY LENTEN SCHEDULE

2nd Friday of Lent, March 14th

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

10:45 am Morning Mass at Stonecroft/ Mendota

Evening Schedule

at St. Patrick's Church/ Maytown

4:30 pm Confessions & 5:00 pm Stations of the Cross & 5:30 pm Holy Mass

