

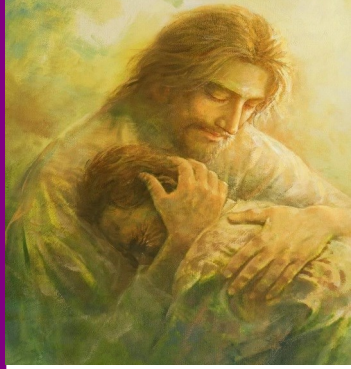
5th Sunday of Lent
April 6, 2025



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

WE ARE PILGRIMS OF HOPE

From the Gusset—Our Desert Path



As we go into **the desert** for these **40 days of Lent**, our Lord stands right next to us—our Lord wants to be **intimate** with us—just as any **lover** wants to be **intimate** with his **beloved**. Remember Jesus **loves** you, because His Father in Heaven **loves** you! God the Father has sent His Son to be **intimate** with you, to stand next to you for **40 days**, and to try to help you to see, to

recognize, what **the purpose of your life is**; and so our Lord comes up alongside of each one of us, and our Lord reaches into our **souls**—that most sacred of spaces, and Jesus starts to take things out of this **great cavernous space**, this **storage area**, this **sacred receptacle**. Jesus starts to take things out and discard them. These are things like food, **money**, and objects that we are fond of—these are things like pride, **possessions**, and power—these can even be harmful relationships, **comforts**, and past memories—Jesus starts to take these things out of the **receptacle** or the

container we call our **soul**—and the Lord says, “you don't really need this, **Fr. Randy**. I will just set this thing on **the desert** floor and make a little bit more room, a little bit more space, in your **soul**.” Jesus says, “this thing has attached itself to you—it doesn't really belong in this **sacred space**, so I, the Lord, your God, I am just going to **detach** it from you, so that it doesn't **enslave** you.” Some of the things that Jesus wants us to leave behind in **the desert**, some of these things we readily agree with Jesus: ‘yes, I don't need that’ or ‘yes, I can see it is **harmful** to me’ – ‘please, Lord, take it away from me.’ **But** then there are other things.... Things that **sin, the world**, and **Satan** have **convinced** us that we really need, and so when God tries to take them out of our **life**—when Jesus tries to get us to leave these things behind in **the desert**—we object! ‘Oh, no, Lord, don't take that from me this is something I **want** to attach myself to—I don't want to lose that thing, that thing **defines** who I am!’ And this is where Jesus must tell us, “No, **Fr. Randy**, that is not who My Father **made** you to be. My Dad doesn't want you to be **defined** by this thing; rather, My Heavenly Father would like you to open up that **space in your soul**—that this thing now occupies—and make room for something so much greater: My **Love**! See, **Fr. Randy**, I brought you into **the desert** for these **40 days** to empty your **soul** of all this clutter and make a great space—make your **soul** a **worthy receptacle** to **pour** all of My **Love** into. Allow Me, your Brother, the Son of Man, allow me, Jesus Christ—to lead you along **the path** to My **Easter glory**, where I will fill your **heart** to overflowing with My **Love**; and then, come **Easter**, you can **love** My Father as I **love** Him.”

Yours on the Path Fr. Randy



BE RECONCILED DAY: APRIL 9TH



I **love** the **definition** of **reconciliation** that to be **reconciled** to someone is to be **eyelash** to **eyelash** with them. To be **reconciled** to someone means that they see only what you see, and you see only what they see. When I have **reconciled** with someone – I have made them see that I am **sorry** for what I have done to them, and so I ask for their **forgiveness**. When someone has **reconciled** with me – they have made me see that they only wanted to give their **forgiveness** to me! When you are so close to someone that your **eyelashes** are touching their **eyelashes** – the only thing in your field of view is the other person and the only thing in their field of view is you! **St. Paul** says, that the Christ came to **reconcile the world** to His Father. The Son of God did this by **reconciling the world** to Himself by **the blood** of His **Cross**. Come **eyelash** to **eyelash** with God on **Wednesday, April 9th** – don't miss this **great opportunity** to say you are sorry for having offended God's **love** for you by **sinning** against Him – don't miss this **great opportunity** to hear God say, *"I absolve you of your sins—now let My Son **pour** all of His **love** into you when you receive **Holy Communion!**"*

Fr. Randy will be in the **Confessional** at these times/ at these **Churches**:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church: 8:45 – 10:30am & 7:00 – 8:00pm

St. Mary of the Assumption Church: noon – 1:30pm

St. Patrick Church: 4:00 – 5:30pm

Fr. Gow will be in the **Confessional** at **St. Patrick's in Amboy** from

8:30 - 10:30am, noon – 2:00pm, & 5:30 – 7:30pm

The Forty Hours Devotion is coming to **St. Patrick's Church** in Amboy!

Our Lord will be visible for the same number of hours that **Jonah** preached to **the Ninevites**—the same number of hours that Christ descended into **Hell** and took possession of **the holy souls!** From **Thursday, April 10th at 7:00pm** until **Saturday, April 12th at 11:30am**—the Lord will be in the **Monstrance** on **the Altar** in Amboy. Let's help our **Sister Parish** tell our Lord how **beautiful** we think He is by stopping by for **an hour!**



CEMETERY CLEANUP

Help us **spruce up** our **Cemeteries** by removing **old** and **wind-tattered** decorations and putting any good **Seasonal decorations** into **Summer storage**.

THE MASS AND THE SAINTS/ *VISIO DIVINA*

Dante enjoys praying **Evening Prayer** with the other souls in **Purgatory** as the sun sets, and particularly – **Dante** likes praying **the Our Father** with other **sinners**, who are being purified for **Heavenly glory**. Just so, **the priest** stands before **the Heavenly Bread (the Eucharist)**, and encourages all present to desire this **Bread**. **St. Francis de Sales** thought that even though in the Latin Mass – it was **the priest**, who spoke **the Our Father Prayer** – that we ought either out loud or in silence, but with great **humility** and **devotion**, repeat it word for word after our **priest** – as if we were repeating it after the Lord, Himself. There then follows (in the **Mass**) a Prayer called the **Embolism** – where **the priest** offers yet another prayer for the people’s **sanctity**, which expounds on the final petition of the **Our Father**: “*deliver us from evil.*” Then follows a period of silence in the Latin Mass, for was not our Lord **silent** (according to His **flesh**) as He rested in **the tomb** on Good Friday and Holy Saturday; yet, in **Spirit** our Lord was descending into **Hell**, to do battle with the strong man (**Satan**) – to bind him and distribute **the spoils** – the Lord was winning **souls** for His Father’s Kingdom. (**Luke 11:21-22**) Our Lord, because **the priest** asks Him to be **lenient** with our **sins** against Him: past, present, and future – our Lord saves us from the (waterless) **pit** into which we (by our **sins**) flung the Christ. (**Genesis 37:24, Zechariah 9:11**) I just love **the Resurrection Icon**, which shows our Lord surf boarding down to **Hell** to bind **Satan** and loose **the souls** for **Heavenly Glory**. Notice to our Lord’s left – how the three men: **Abel**, **Abraham**, and **Melchizedek** are arranged. **Melchizedek** looks to be like the mirror image of the Resurrected Christ. Indeed, our Father in Faith, **Abraham**, is the only person in **the Icon** looking not at Jesus or out at us (the viewer of **the Icon**), but **Abraham** looks at **Melchizedek**, because **Melchizedek** is that mysterious **priest** from Salem—himself ‘a type’ of



Christ! Just as **Abraham** was shocked to find out that he had met the Second Person of the Trinity, while still on **earth**; so I tell all **married couples**, you will be shocked at your **Particular Judgment** to find out that you also met the Second Person of the Trinity, while still on **earth** – whenever you looked upon your **spouse**! It should send a shiver down the spine of every **married couple**, when your **priest** prays **the embolism prayer** for you, your **spouse**, your children, and your children’s children – that your **priest** is making our Lord promise that He will save you from **the waterless pit** – that Jesus promises again what He promised each of us at our **Baptisms** – that we should never know **death**, but **live** with His Father in **glory**!

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Saturday, April 5th

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

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Faye Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman & (+) Ron Fronck/ Roger Fronck & (+) 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

Monday, April 7th

(+) Rose Theiss/ Judy Althaus

Tuesday, April 8th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Klein & (+) Ron Leffelman/ Theresa Wilson

Wednesday, April 9th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Donna Sharkey/ Mary Kuebel

Thursday, April 10th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) James Gray/ Carlene Schuhler

Friday, April 11th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Leila Garland/ Theresa Wilson

10:45am, **Stoncroft** (+) Ron Leffelman & (+) Donald Henkel/ Fr. Randy

5:30pm, **OLPH** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Doug Klein

Saturday, April 12th

(+) Pauline Gillhaus & (+) Yvonne Koepke/ Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mixa

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Thomas Berry/ Neal Vaessen

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

Sunday, April 13th Palm Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mildred Schneider/ Larry Schneider

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

Living Mass Intentions:

St. Patrick: Tyler & Aubrey Burke

SMA: Doug Pettenger

OLPH: Abygail Buettner, Gage Mumm, Addison Perryman, Bradly Schmidt, Violet Widolff, Dan & Donna Stephenitch, Hector & Ana Gutierrez



EASTER FLOWER DONATION

Name of the Honoree: _____

Your Name: _____

**Church you would like the
Flower presented at:**

OLPH

SMA

St. Patrick

