# **Ascension Sunday** June 1, 2025 "Recognition is the sweetest grace of the New Testament." —Bishop Flores



#### JUBILEE YEAR 2025 WE ARE PILGRIMS OF HOPE

#### From the Gusset—Easter Freedom



Happy Easter! Sometimes, depending on the price of gas, Fr. Randy won't fill the tank all the way up; rather, I will just put in \$20 to get me past the Memorial Day weekend or just put in a few gallons – enough to visit a cheaper gas station in another town. I guess that is the Bohemian in me. Thank God that Jesus is only a small part Czech.

For every time that we **celebrate the Mass**, Jesus **pours out** His life to us, and once filled to **the total capacity of our soul** with God's **grace** – then we are sent out into **the world** for another week! See, God does **not** partially fill my **soul** with His **love** or simply top off my **soul** (my tank); no, God **fills to the brim** 



- to the point of overflowing—my being with His *Divine Being*! Recently, **Fr. Randy** had his **chalice regilded** to celebrate his 20<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary** as a **Priest**. My **chalice** has always been *super-special* to me (any priest's ordination chalice is special to him), because my parents bought me the **chalice**, because **Pope St. John Paul the Great** used my **chalice** to celebrate one of his **Masses** just before he died (March 14, 2005)—but my **chalice** is *super-special* to me, because the Christ **pours** His **precious Blood** into my **chalice** from His wounded side as He dies **on Calvary** at every **Mass I celebrate**!!! Yes, **Pope St. John Paul II** consecrated my **chalice** nineteen days before he died (and **the Holy Father** spent the last two weeks of his **life** in coma), but my **chalice** is **consecrated** at every **Mass**. This is why I pause before I pick up the **chalice**. I reflect (just for



a moment) that I am about to touch **the vessel** that God will **consecrate**. Every time I touch the **chalice**, Jesus shares His **consecration** by God the Father with me. What is **consecration**? **Consecration** is a setting apart for a **sacred use**. And so, we say, Jesus was **consecrated** – Jesus was set apart as a *super-special* man (who was both **human** and **Divine**) to bring us God's **love** through the sacrifice of His **life**. Thus, when we drink from my **chalice** at **the Mass**, when we receive **Holy Communion**, we are sharing in **the life** of Christ – Christ is **consecrating** us! We are being set apart by God for a **'sacred use'**—God is using us to (once filled to the brim-to the point of overflowing)—God is using us to go out from **the altar**, after having received **the Eucharist** to go and **consecrate** others. What does **Fr. Randy** say at **the conclusion** of all his **Masses**? **"Go in** *peace to glorify the Lord by your life!*" Go, go out into **the world** – you have been **consecrated** – go and share **the life**, **the grace**, **the love** that

God gave you in **Holy Communion** with others that they might become **holy** – that they might share in **the life** of Jesus Christ!! You see, **Fr. Randy** is always telling you how special **Catholics** are, we are the persons through whom God **consecrates the world**!!! **Catholics** are fed from a

consecrated altar—fed with Christ—fed by Christ, and then sent by Christ to consecrate others. You are *super-special*, you are consecrated, you share in the life of Jesus the Christ—God consecrates the world through persons called Catholics—people whom His Son has touched in the Holy Mass! Happy Easter! Yours on the Path Fr. Randy





## **PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS**

on June 7th at 11:00 am at St. Peter's Cathedral in Rockford. An open invitation to any young men, who are considering a vocation to the Priesthood, as been offered. Bishop thinks that a front row seat to this beautiful Mass will be the final effort of the Holy Spirit to help a man want to enter into a sacred covenant with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

### **MISSIONARY SUNDAY June 7th & 8th**



Please welcome Fr. Benjamin Asibuo Kusi from the Diocese of Goaso, Ghana West Africa. Father will be praying all the Masses on Pentecost Sunday. Please be as generous as possible to Fr. Benjamin's mission.

### **SUMMER RETREAT ON ICONS**

To celebrate our Lady of Perpetual Help's Feast Day (June 27<sup>th</sup>), we will pray a Novena of Masses starting on June 19<sup>th</sup> and have a retreat on Icons – highlighting the most popular Icon in the world: Our Lady of Perpetual Help. We will use the Eastern Catholic Church's definition of an Icon: Icons are 'energy-filled' realities that draw us into a relationship with the person portrayed in the Icon, and Icons help us *recognize* the Divine in our midst. Our Lady is constantly in our midst in Sublette and she wishes only that we would have a more intense relationship with her Son.

The First Holy Communion retreat will be on June 14th at 10:00am at the Church of St. Patrick's in Maytown. Breakfast will be made available in the Hall for parents and all family members and any other zealots, who wish to come on retreat.



#### THE MASS AND THE SAINTS

Luke's Gospel tells us that after our Lord ascended into Heaven that the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God. The end of the Mass is very much like this. Think about it. Jesus, after spending 40 days with the disciples (following the Resurrection), leads them out as far as Bethany, raises His hands, and blesses them. As Jesus blessed them He parted from them and was taken up to Heaven. In the Mass, Jesus has called us from the world, from our homes, from our work, from the mundane-Jesus leads us to the altar in our Church where the Paschal Mystery takes place (the birth, life, **death**, and **resurrection** of our Lord)—Jesus allows us to experience all that He has done for us; and then, through the raised hands of the priest, Jesus blesses us and ascends (returns to the right hand of His Father), and sends us back into the world. Bishop Amalarius, a 9th century Bishop, whom many claim was a mystic, would say that "just as the disciples looked up at the sky in awe of our Lord's ascending into Heaven, so also our minds should long for the Heaven to which Jesus has preceded us." We wish to be in Heaven, because Jesus wishes for us to be with Him in Heaven. Remember, our Lord said, I wish (Heavenly Father) that where I am they also may be...so that they can see My glory – a glory, which You (Heavenly Father) gave Me before the foundation of the world. See, that is what Heaven is like: we want what God wants! We do not want what we want anymore—we only want what God wants. The Garden of Eden was not Heaven, because Adam was desirous of things: fruit trees, animals, a wife... so, God gave Adam these things as gifts. But Adam did not ask for a deeper relationship with God, he did not ask for God to love him more; for that is **Heaven**—**Heaven** is the place we only want what God wants, we only want God to love us more (isn't that wild? that God wants to **love** you). **Dante Alighieri** would say, "eternity is that place where you finally get what you want." If you want God's love, you spend eternity in Heaven, if you want some object, some person, some authority or power, you spend eternity in **Hell** experiencing that object, longing for that person, suffering under that authority or **power**. It is interesting that in the old Latin Mass during the Advent and Lenten Seasons, the deacon would not say the normal Mass ending: Ite, missa est - the Mass has ended—but the deacon would say: let us bless our Lord. The great Jesuit, Cardinal St. Robert Bellarmine said, "this is done to express the more severe



character of these seasons; for it seems somehow to be rather mournful, that the dismissal is not public, but rather each person departs by himself." See, the disciples went back to Jerusalem <u>together</u> and with great joy! Our response to the end of the Mass is: Thanks be to God! We are so happy that God has blessed us, poured all of His love into us, and has gone back to Heaven to prepare a place for us!

#### Website: www.olphmarystpatrick.com **Finance Officer: Donna Stephenitch Secretary: Nancy Neal** Phone #: 815-849-5412 Gmail:olph.mary@gmail.com Saturday, May 31st Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (+) Geraldine Fronek/ Fronek Family 4:00 pm, OLPH (+) Thomas Berry at (+) Donna Vaessen/ Joni Walker 5:30 pm, SMA (+) Quin & Jospeh Torri/ Charles Torri Sunday, June 1st Ascension of the Lord 8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) John & (+) Evelyn Ryan/ Family 10:30 am, OLPH Pro Populo/ Fr. Kandy Monday, June 2nd (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Rick Considine & (+) Geraldine Fronek/ Fr. Randy **Tuesday, June 3rd** 7:30 am, SMA (+) Patty Torman/ Fr. Randy Wednesday, June 4th 8:00 am, OLPH (+) Betty Henkel/ Family & (+) Pat Syskowski/ Mr. & Mrs. Steve Klein Thursday, June 5th 7:30 am, SMA (+) Sister Benedict/ DDL 8:30 am, OLPH (+) James & (+) Candy Hanson/ Carlene Schuhler Friday, June 6th 8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Sylvia Montavon/ Mr. & Mrs. Westin Montavon Saturday, June 7th (+) Msgr. Donovan & (+) Msgr. Mahowald/ Fr. Randy 4:00 pm, OLPH (+) Flovd Wilson/ Carlene Schuhler & (+) Lynn Peterson/ Mark Lauer 5:30 pm, SMA (+) Quin & Jospeh Torri/ Charles Torri Sunday, June 8th Pentecost 8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Fran Anderson/ Mr. & Mrs. Rick Cardot 10:30 am, OLPH Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy **Living Mass Intentions: OLPH: John & Lisa Corcoran, Don & Donna Dinges,** Doug & Colleen Klein, Mary Jo Zimmerlein

SMA: Larry & Linda Lindenmier, Raymond Henkel St. Patrick: Joe & Marci Hebert, Leo Bushman



Make sure to congratulate our Confirmandi when you see them at Mass:

Landon Jackson, Abel Mumm, Blake Mumm, Nolan Scully, Olivia Perryman, and London Jones