

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
May 11, 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

For the bread of God is that which comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world. (John 6:33)

Happy Easter! Recognition is the sweetest grace of the New Testament. We are all trying to **recognize** God's true presence amongst us, and this **recognizing** God is not something new that only happens to us in **the Easter season** of **the Year of Grace 2025**, which, by the way, I must always point out to you: is a **Jubilee**

Year. This year, **Easter** is very special. Yet, **recognizing** God's presence in our **life** has always been **the goal** of **mankind**. I think that is why **the Catholic Church** gives us the Gospel of **John chapter 6** to read in its entirety in the 2nd and 3rd week of **Easter**. Because you see, the people are trying to **recognize**, who Jesus is. Is Jesus the Son of Man? Is Jesus God's Son? Is Jesus a **Prophet**? Is Jesus, **Moses** come back from **the dead**? The people are trying to discover—**recognize**—who is it that just multiplied **the loaves** and fed the 5,000?! And so they say to themselves, the last time something like this happened—the last time a vast multitude was fed in a deserted place—was when **Moses** called down **bread** from **Heaven**—**the manna**. Now **Moses** just did not do it once, but every **morning** for 40 years—**the dew** evaporated on the desert floor and **the manna** could be harvested. So what do the people ask Jesus to do? **'Do it again! You fed us at Tiberius, now feed us today, on the other side of the lake.'** Do you see what is going on here? God allows us, **human beings**, to choose the means or the way that we want God to become evident to us. We get to choose how we will **recognize** God!! Remember **Adam**?! **Adam** said, "OK, yeah I know you are God. You created all these trees and **fruit bearing plants** and **animals** for me, **a man**; but I will **recognize** you as God, if you make me a **wife**!" The next thing you know, **Adam** opens his eyes and he sees **Eve**. You see that?! God is always giving us what we ask for! The people ask for **bread**. **'Give us bread to eat Jesus, and we will believe You are the Son of God.'** Jesus says, My Father does not give **bread**—My Father is so much more than a **baker**. No, Jesus says, God gives **Life**! **Eve** is God's gift of **Life** to **Adam**. **The man** wanted **a wife**—God gave **Adam**, **Eve**. The Israelites wanted **bread** in the desert—they were hungry, they were going to starve to **death**, so God gave them **manna**, food—food that gave them **Life**! What is it that the people of **John chapter 6** really want? What is it that you and I really want? We want Jesus to give us **the Eucharist**! **The true bread that comes down from Heaven and gives Life to the world!** Do you **recognize** that? Do you **recognize** that Jesus is **the Bread of Life**? That whoever comes to **the Catholic Mass** will never hunger—will never thirst—will never **die**; rather, whoever comes to Jesus will be given the greatest gift—the gift **mankind** has always been wanting—the gift of **Life**! And not just regular get up, go to work, eat, play, suffer, and go back to bed **life**; **the Eucharist** gives us a **Life** lived in God's **presence**! **The Eucharist** is the **Easter Freedom** we have seeking all along—to **love** God with all our heart, mind, **soul**, and strength and to experience God's **love** for us in **the Eucharist** of **the Mass**!

Happy Easter!

Yours on the Path

Fr. Randy



JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Part of **the Theology** of the Lord Jesus being such a **Good Shepherd** to us, His lost **sheep**, is that when the Lord leads us back to **the flock**—He carries us! We are **the ones** who have **abandoned** God—God has never, nor will He ever **abandoned** us!! This is why the **Good Shepherd** uses His righthand to hold on to us—His lefthand grasping His **staff**—**the Cross**—He **guides** us **Home**.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

As **Pilgrims of Hope**, we will work a **Plenary Indulgence** next Tuesday, **May 13th** after the **7:30am Mass** in **West Brooklyn**, at **St. Mary of the Assumption Church**. We will pray with our Lord for **an hour** in **the garden**, and then we will pray all **the Prayers** for **the Indulgence** before our **Lady of Fatima's statue**! **Confessions** will be made available during **the Holy Hour**!



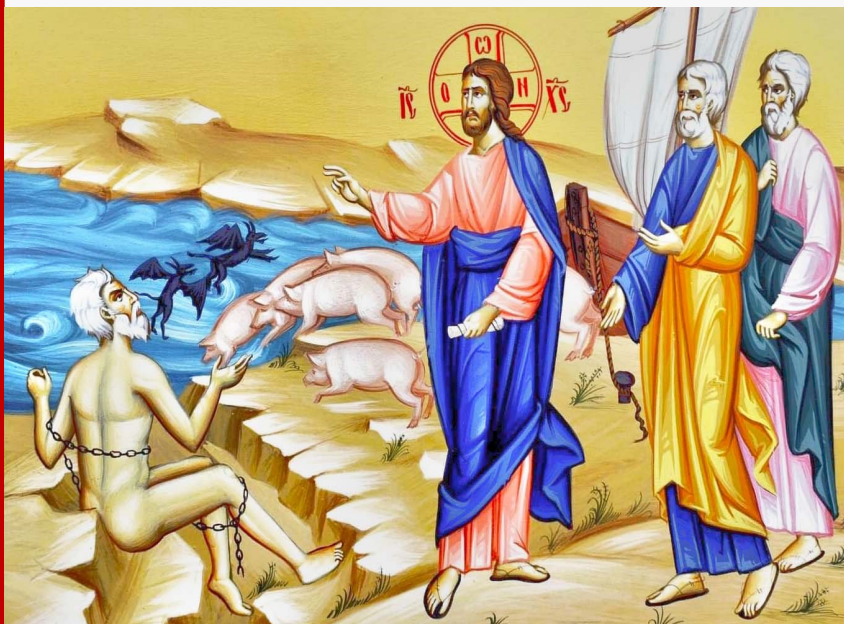
CONFIRMATION RETREAT

In preparation for our **Confirmation Mass** with **Bishop Malloy** on **May 24th** at **St. Andrew's Church in Rock Falls** at **10:00am**—we will prepare **the souls** of the **Confirmandi** with a short **retreat**, where **the Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be made available. It is so, important to be in **a state of grace** when this **second indelible mark** is placed on our **souls**! Parents and sponsors are of course **invited** to this **retreat**, which will start at **10:00am** in the Church of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Sublette** on Saturday, **May 17th**. After a **fervorino** on **the Sacrament of Confirmation**—**confession** will be made available. We will then adjourn to **the Hall** for breakfast, and then come back to **the Church** for a **walk-through** of **the Confirmation Mass liturgy**. For those **parishioners**, who have been praying for our **young people** about to receive this great **Sacrament**—if you would like to come to the talks of **the retreat** and eat breakfast we the **Confirmandi** (reminiscent of Jesus and the Twelve on the seashore of Tiberius), you are more than **welcome** to come! **The retreat** will be **finished** around **noon**.



THE MASS AND THE SAINTS

Ite, Missa est. The final words of the **Mass**. “The **Mass** is ended.” The whole ceremony of *the Paschal Lamb* or the ceremony of consecrating **the Eucharist** is called *Missa*, ‘*the sending*.’ For did not Jesus tell us that He was **sent** by the Father. The Lord came from **Heaven** to **earth**—**sent** by the Father to **rescue** us from **sin** and **death**. **St. John Fisher** said, ‘the living Victim (Jesus) is **sent down** to us from **Heaven** by the Father.’ Other Theologians have define the word *Missa* to mean *sending across*, since **the prayers** and **the oblations** are *sent across* from the people to God through **the priest**. And remember who **the priest** is in the **Mass**—**the priest** is the one who plays the part of **a mediator** between **man** and God; that is, **the priest** is Jesus Christ in the **Mass**. Still others think that the word *Missa* can be defined as a *sending back*, since when the **Mass** is done the Lord Jesus Christ *ascends back* to the right hand of His Father, and we the people are *sent back* to our homes! Remember when Jesus cured the man from **the territory** of the **Gerasenes**, who was possessed by **a legion of demons**? The man had been dwelling among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any longer, even with a chain. In fact, he had frequently been bound with shackles and chains, but the chains had been pulled apart by him and the shackles smashed, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day, **St. Mark** tells us, the man wandered about the tombs on the hillside crying out and bruising himself with stones. Well, when Jesus finally **cures** him—drives **the demons** out, the man wanted to go with Jesus and the disciples—he wanted to get into **the boat** with them. But Jesus would not permit him, but told him instead, “go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in His pity has done for you.” The scripture says **the man went off and began to proclaim in the Decapolis** (the 10 cities) **what Jesus had done for him; and all were amazed!** Indeed, we have been *sent back* by Jesus through our **priest**—we are *sent back* to our homes after the **Mass**, and our lives are **completely changed!** God is now inside of us through our reception of **Holy Communion**, and although we go back to the same house and to the same people (our **family members** are the same who did not come to **Mass** with us: **the sick**



are still **sick**, the **angry** are still **angry**, those **confused by sin** are still just as **confused**), but we have changed and so has our **perspective** on everything changed; because of what Jesus did for us in the **Mass**. The word *Missa* means *to send* - *Missa* is a *sending across*, a *sending out*, a *sending down*, and a *sending back*! You and I, we want to go to **Mass**, so that Jesus can **send** us! For don't we hear through **the Prophet**, the voice of the Lord said, ‘whom shall I **send**?’ Here I am; I said, **send** me!

Website: www.olphmarystpatrick.com

Secretary: Nancy Neal Phone #: 815-849-5412

Finance Officer: Donna Stephenitch

Gmail: olph.mary@gmail.com

Saturday, May 10th

(+) Rosa Dillie & (+) Thomas Palmer/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Richard Wertz Shawn Leffelman

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner/ Mr. & Mrs. John Corcoran

Sunday, May 11th Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Delbert Bonnell/ Jeanne Shanyfelt &
(+) Geraldine Fronek/ Roger & Rick Fronek

Monday, May 12th

Living Intention of Terry Conneely/ Mary Schreiner

Tuesday, May 13th Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Sister Benedict/ DDL

Wednesday, May 14th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Larry Leffelman / LaVerne Klein &
(+) James Gray/ Mr. & Mrs. Hugh McCoy

Thursday, May 15th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Quin & (+) Josephine Torri/ Charles Torri

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Mr. & Mrs. Pat O'Connor

5:30 pm, **St. Peter** Mass for those with Anxieties/ Fr. Randy

Friday, May 16th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Dennis McCoy/ Mr. & Mrs. John Corcoran

Saturday, May 17th

Roger & Kimberly Fronek/ Family

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Joseph & (+) Bernadine McNally/ Family

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) John Gehant/ Ron, Sharon, & Janice Haefner

Sunday, May 18th Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

10:30 am, **OLPH** Bob & Betty Jones 60th Wedding Anniversary &
(+) Clement Henkel/ Family

Living Mass Intentions:

OLPH: Steve & Kathy Leurck, Ty & Jane Simmons,

Theresa Wilson, Harold Bonnell

SMA: St. Mary of the Assumption Choir, Mike & Julie Burkardt, Darlene Gehant

St. Patrick: Marilyn Weeks, Finance Council members



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

The Knights of Columbus, Council 8277,
are treating our **Moms** to a **Mother's Day**
Breakfast. Bring **Mom** and the whole
family to **the Hall in Sublette** from 8:00am
to 11:00am on **Sunday, May 11th!**

