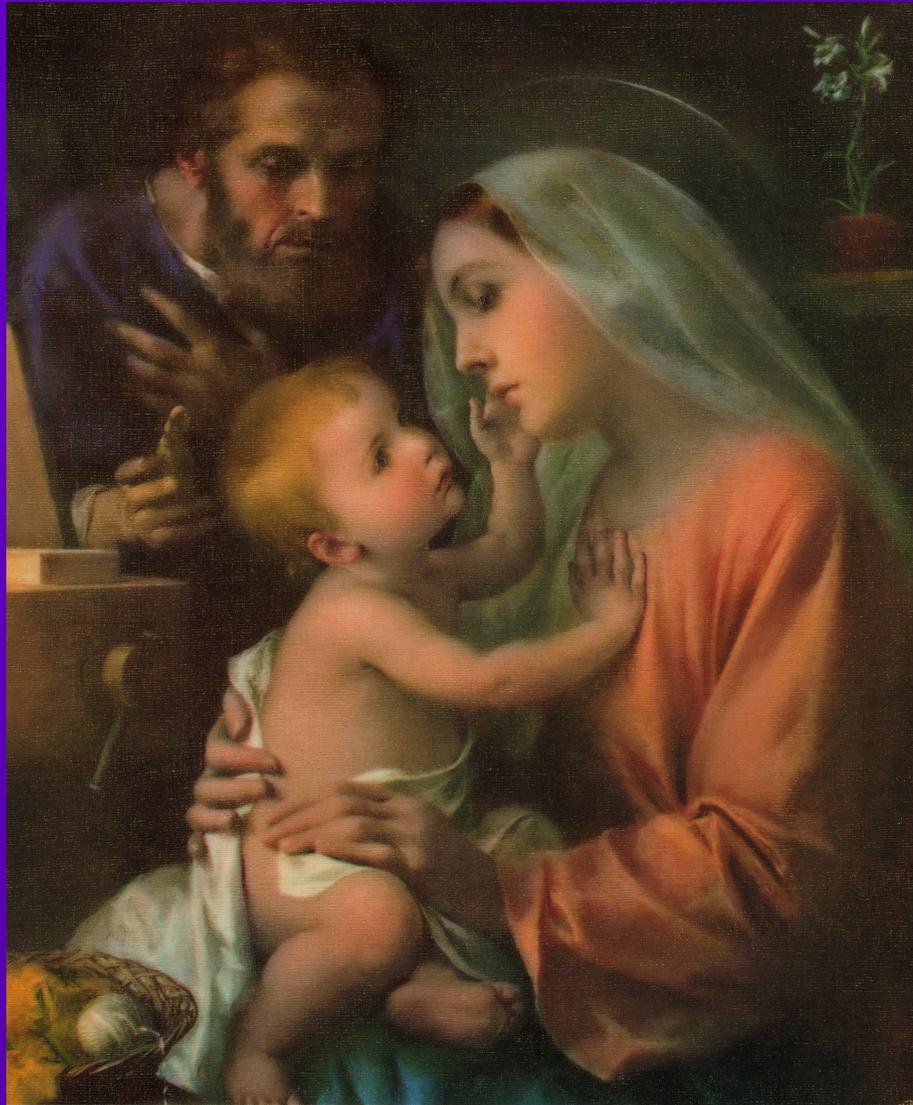


Solemnity of the Holy Family
December 28, 2025
Merry Christmas



Jubilee Year 2025
December 24, 2024—January 6, 2026
We are Pilgrims of Hope



From the Gusset

Merry Christmas! We know that, ultimately, Jesus is doing most of the work in a **Plenary Indulgence**. That **Eucharist** that we receive (known as the first work of the **Indulgence**) is what actually moves **the soul** from **Purgatory** into **Heaven**. Yet, once we do the four other works of the **Indulgence** – once we cooperate with our Lord – all **the temporal damage** of our beloved dead's **sins** are remitted. So, our Lord in feeding the souls in **Purgatory** the graces of **the Eucharist**, when we make a **Spiritual Communion** for them – our Lord glorifies their soul, so that they can no longer stay in **Purgatory**, but must be admitted into the presence of God the Father. One way of looking at **the genealogy** of Jesus Christ is that our Lord is giving **the Eucharist** to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the other **family members** listed in those 28 generations of **Matthew's Gospel**. You see, just like our Lord, you and I have a Mother and a Father, a grandfather and a grandmother, a great grandfather and a great grandmother. **The Catholic Church** encourages us during this **Jubilee**

Year of 2025 to work **Indulgences** for our ancestors. Maybe we cannot go back 28 generations, but that is the point of working multiple **Plenary Indulgences** for our Mom and for our Dad. It only takes one **Indulgence** to get a soul into **Heaven**, but when we work a second **Indulgence** for Mom (for example), Mom can grant the graces of this 2nd **Indulgence** to her mother. When we work a third **Indulgence** for our Mom, then Mom can grant the grace of this third **Indulgence** to her grandmother. And when we work the 4th **Indulgence** for Mom – because it only took that first **Indulgence** to make Momma a **Saint**, Mom can use the graces of that 4th **Indulgence** for her great grandma – and so on down the line, until before you know it, you can claim an ancestral line of relatives to be Saints in **Heaven**! It is so important to list out all the persons that you have worked a **Plenary Indulgence** for in this **Jubilee Year**. It is good to write them all down, so you can see in print **the small boatload** of **Saints** that you have helped Jesus and His **Eucharist** bring into the glory of **Heaven**, as we celebrate this **2,025 Anniversary** of the birth of Jesus Christ! And just think, when you work multiple **Indulgences** for Mom and for your Dad, you were in all actuality reaching back to help the Zadok's, the Abiud's, and the Rehoboam's of your own **family**!! I hope you have had $\frac{1}{2}$ as much **fun** as I did, working **Plenary Indulgences** for your **family members** and **our parishioners**. We still have until **little Christmas** (January 6th) to work more **Plenary Indulgences**.

Yours on the Path

Fr. Randy





Our final **Jubilee Church Pilgrimage** and **Mass** to close out the **Jubilee Year** (December 24, 2024—January 6, 2026) will have seen us go to all **7 Deaneries** in the **Rockford Diocese** (and the **Poor Clare's Monastery**). On Saturday, January 3rd, we will make a pilgrimage to **St. Mary's in Huntley** to celebrate the **Mass** at 11:00am, and complete all 5 works of an **Indulgence** in one day (**Confessions** will be heard after **Mass**). **St. Mary's** is the largest Church in the **Rockford Diocese** with 6,013 registered families, and **St. Mary's** is located in the **McHenry Deanery**. It has been an **honor** for me to **celebrate** these **8 Masses** for you and hear your **Confessions**. The only person more **elated** that you have worked an **Indulgence** during this **Jubilee Year** than your priest, **Fr. Randy**, is the person you worked the **Indulgence** for (the newest **Saint of Heaven**)!

April 5th **St. Mary's, Sterling**

July 19th **St. Mary's, DeKalb**

August 23rd **St. Peter's Cathedral, Rockford**

September 27th **St. Thomas More, Elgin**

October 25th **Poor Claire's, Rockford**

November 15th **Our Lady of Good Counsel, Aurora**

December 13th **St. Thomas Aquinas, Freeport**



JUBILEE 2025



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

LIGHT *in the midst of* DARKNESS

The Mass and the Saints

In the Pre-Vatican II Mass, it was an option of **the priest** to celebrate what was called a **“Rorate Caeli” Mass** during **Advent**; and more specifically, during the octave leading up to **Christmas**. This was a **candlelit Mass**, which was begun before **sunrise** and celebrated at such a time that the ending

of **the Mass** corresponded with **sunrise**. My Liturgist in Seminary thought that this was **the Pastor’s** way of saving electricity (but what about **the candle** budget?). **Isaiah** talks about **the Heavens** opening and dropping down or raining down (could we dare to say: **“pour down”**) the Just One. (**Isaiah 45:8**) This is a theme **Bishop Flores** took up for his **Eucharistic Congress** talk (July 21, 2024) that was so influential on **Fr. Randy** – that God knows nothing else than to **“pour Himself out.”** That verb: **rorate** is an interesting one – it is the present active imperative.

Believe me! I’m no language expert, but the imperative is a command that requires **an immediate action** to be performed by the subject. So, holy **Mother Church** is commanding God to give us the Savior! The full quote in the Breviary would be: **Let Justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above, like gentle rain let the skies drop it down.** God the Father wants to open **Heaven** and drop down or rain down His only Begotten Son like a gentle rain or the settling of **dew drops**, which don’t even bend the blades of **grass** that they land on! But to have **the Church** on **earth** want to have this happen to us – that **the Catholic Church** would **demand** this from God or **command** the Almighty to do to us what God already wants to do to us – that is what God **wishes** – this is what makes God **“well pleased”** with us! I believe every **candle** that we light in Church has this intention behind it. We light a **candle**, and we pray for the “Just One” – our Lord Jesus to come and bring His light into our **darkness**. After the sign of the Cross at a **Rorate Caeli Mass**, the **candles** are blessed and lit, and then we go into the **Penitential rite**. The **candles** stay lit for the reading, the Psalm, the Gospel, the homily, the Prayer Petitions, the Preparation of the Altar, and even the beginning of the **Eucharistic Prayer**. However, once **the**

consecration of **the Bread** occurs and our Lord is born on our altar just like that little baby in the manger on **Christmas** night – then we blow out our **candles**! See, once Jesus has **dawned** in our world – we no longer need the light of a **candle** or electricity or even the light of the sun – for **the Light** has been **poured out** to us. God the Father sees us basking in **the Light** of His Son, and the Father is **“well pleased”** with us – His **sons** and His **daughters**!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 27th Feast of St. John the Apostle

(+) Inocencio Marales & Maria Miraoda/ Aida Soto

4:00 pm, SMA (+) Justin Corcoran/ Ronald Haefner

Sunday, December 28th Solemnity of the Holy Family

8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Patricia Painter/ Mr. & Mrs. Rick Cardot

10:00 am, OLPH Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Monday, December 29th

(+) Floyd Wilson/ Mr. & Mrs. Pat O'Connor

(+) Elaine Henkel/ Fr. Randy

Tuesday, December 30th

(+) Gilbert & (+) Celia Haub/ Fr. Randy

(+) Thomas Dvorsky/ Fr. Randy

Wednesday, December 31st

4:00 pm, St. Patrick Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

6:00 pm, SMA (+) Howard McInnis / LuAnn Kromm & Connie Retzer

Thursday, January 1st Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

9:00 am, OLPH (+) Julie Malach/ Mr. & Mrs. Steve Klein

Friday, January 2nd

(+) Larry Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman

(+) Steve & (+) Josephine Dvorsky/ Rick & Roger Fronek

Saturday, January 3rd

(+) / Aida Soto

11:00 am, St. Mary's, Huntley Jubilee Church Pilgrimage Mass

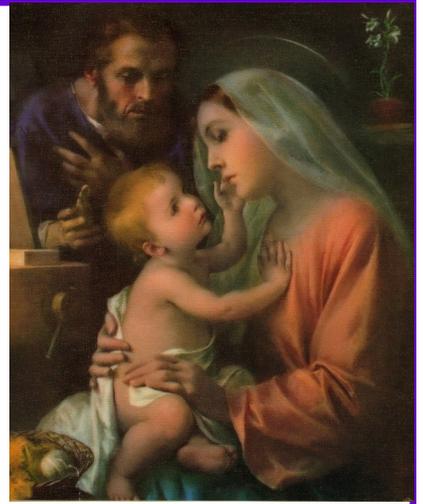
4:00 pm, OLPH (+) Patricia Painter/ Mr. & Mrs. Louis Vaessen

5:30 pm, SMA (+) Kelly Lewis/ Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bresson

Sunday, January 4th Epiphany Sunday

8:00 am, St. Patrick (+) Leo Bushman/ Will Klein

10:00 am, OLPH Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy



MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Vigil December 31st

4:00pm St. Patrick

6:00pm St. Mary of the Assumption

Solemnity January 1st

9:00am Our Lady of Perpetual Help

