

*4th Sunday of
Ordinary Time
February 1, 2026*



St. Agatha

From the Gusset

Jesus Christ is always present to **the Catholic Church**, but most especially in **the actions** of the **Mass**. Jesus is present in **the sacrifice** of **Mass** – **the Catholic Church** tells us that our Lord is **born** and **dies** and **ris**es from the dead on our **altar**. The **altar** (to which all of our attention is focused after **the priest** genuflects to our Lord in **the Tabernacle**) represents **the wood** of the manger in Bethlehem. The **altar** represents **the wood** of the **Cross** on Calvary. The **altar** represents **the tomb** from which our Lord rose to **new life** on **Easter Sunday** morning. Jesus is present in the person of our **Priest** for **Fr. Randy** allows the Second Person of the Trinity to borrow his **body** and speak the words of **consecration**, and then **the Eucharistic species** become the real, true, and substantial presence of Jesus Christ. Jesus is present in **the Word of Scriptures** that are proclaimed at the **Mass** – it is as if Jesus truly speaks when **the Gospel** is proclaimed! Finally, Jesus is present when **the Church** comes together and prays and **worships** God – for Jesus, Himself, promised: *where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in their midst!* Our **Sunday Mass** is a great work, which gives **glory** to God and makes us **holy**! In the words of **the Vatican II Fathers**, “Christ is always joining in partnership with Himself and His beloved Bride, the Catholic Church, to call upon God the Father, and through our Lord Jesus Christ to give worship to God.” (Sacrosanctum Concilium #7) If this is so, there can be no other **human activity** which could match **the power** of **the Catholic Mass** to make us **holy**! This is why **Bishop Malloy** has instituted a **Capital Campaign** called: **You will be my Witnesses!** With **Mass** attendance numbers (from the October/November **Mass** counts taken yearly) down, especially in rural farming Parishes like our three Parishes, **Bishop Malloy** will be dedicating 70% of the 60 million dollar **Campaign** toward **Evangelization**. At one of the **Capital Campaign** meetings that I attended they gave a definition of **Evangelization** as being: *having young families in the pew every Sunday worshipping God in the Holy Eucharist!* Our Parishes will be participating in **Wave 2** of the **Capital Campaign**, and we will need 10 volunteers from **Sublette**, 5 volunteers from **West Brooklyn**, and 5 volunteers from **Maytown** to work with **Fr. Randy** to call parishioners, who don't normally attend **Mass** on Sunday and invite them to the **Wedding Feast of Heaven** on earth. I know it seems **frightening** to ask others to come to **Mass** with us; but ultimately, we do this, because we **love** them and we wish more than anything to see them gathered around **the Heavenly Altar** where **the Body** of Christ is broken and distributed to all **the Saints** of **Glory**. Please **prayerfully** consider volunteering to be a **campaign committee member**. Call **Fr. Randy** at 815-849-5413, if you wish to give a foretaste of **the Heavenly Eucharist** and a share in **the liturgy of Heaven** to your brothers and sisters, who have wandered away from the **Mass**.



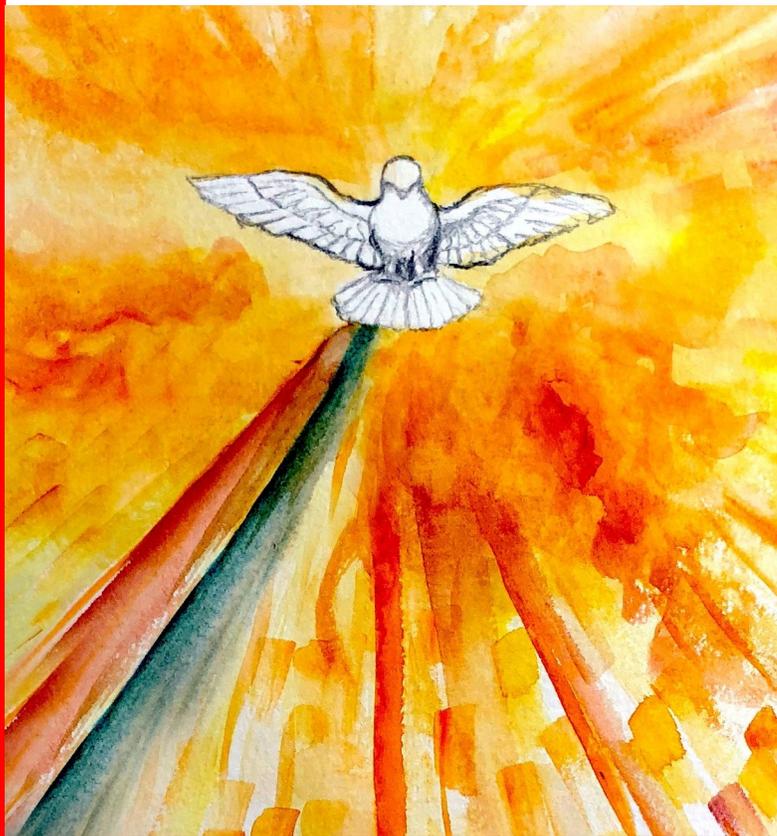
Yours on the Path
Fr. Randy

Ash Wednesday is fasting approaching and our entering into the Season of Lent. To show, not only that we are sorry for our sins, but that we wish to show our love to the Lord and help Him to make up for the damage our sins have caused to the Body of Christ – we ask our priest to mark us with ashes. On Tuesday morning, February 17th, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, we will have the burning of last years palms that will be turned into these ashes. You may bring your Palms from home to add to our bonfire. Place them at the back of Church and Fr. Randy will gather them and bring them all to West Brooklyn.



The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Though we each received **the seven gifts** of **the Holy Spirit** at our **Baptism – Confirmation** gives us an increase in these **gifts**; and **the Church** says: **Confirmation** completes and perfects **the graces** we received at **Baptism**.



Wisdom allows us to see things as God does and to desire God and **not the world**.

Understanding helps us to understand **the Faith** by giving us insight through prayer, scripture, and **the Sacraments**.

Counsel helps us to avoid **sin** through knowledge of right and wrong.

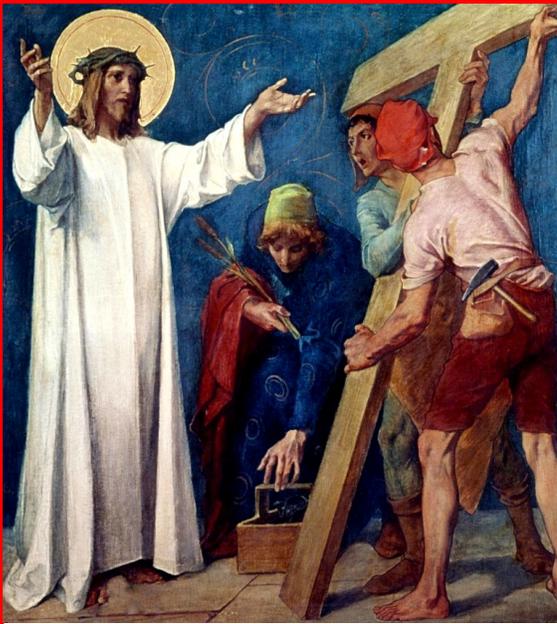
Fortitude allows us to endure evil, defend our **Faith**, and persevere in the life of Christ.

Knowledge is the actual ability to judge all things according to the truths of **the Catholic Faith**, and to see the circumstances of our life the way that God sees them.

Piety is the willingness to **worship** and obey God.

Fear of the Lord gives us the desire not to offend God, because we **love** God so much.

THE MASS and THE SAINTS



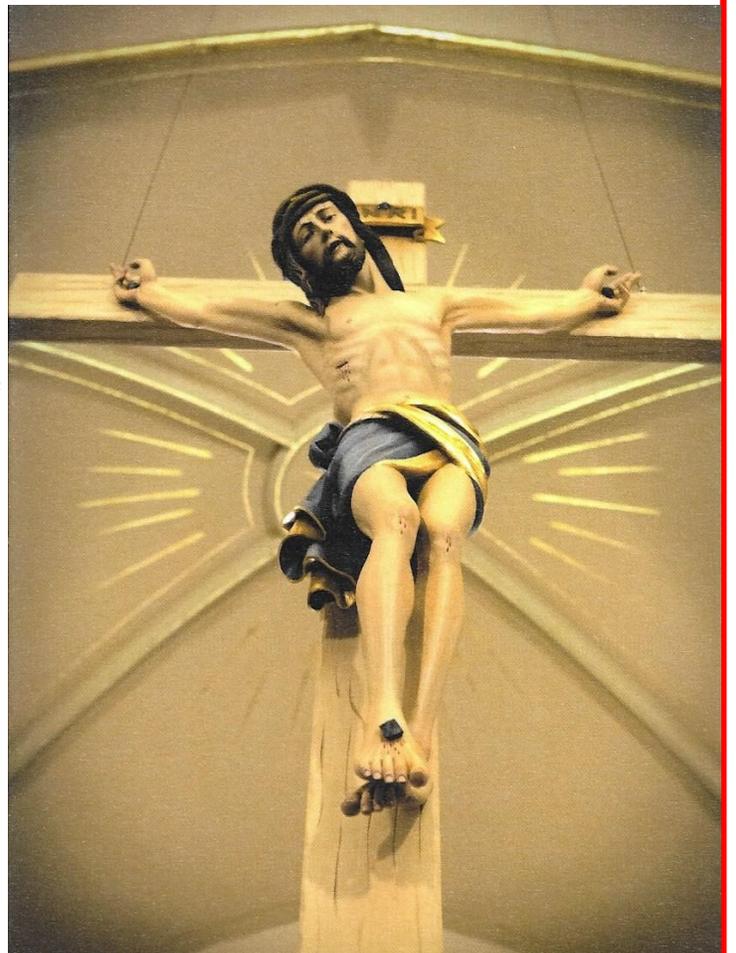
The great **St. Francis de Sales** instructed us that when **the Gospel** is to be read at **Mass**, “stand up to show that you are ready and equipped to walk on the way that **the Gospel commands** us.” That just as our Lord was **obedient** unto death – that our Lord almost **joyfully** took up **the Cross** for us (the 2nd Station of **the Cross**); so also, we wish to show our **obedience** to all that **the Gospel** would ask of us. We change our position from a relax-full sitting to standing – in **anticipation** of our Lord **sending** us out into **the world**. When you hear which **Gospel** writer’s work will be proclaimed, **St. Francis de Sales** would say, we should sign **the Cross** on our **forehead** and mouth and **heart**, and say,

“May God be in my heart and on my lips, that I may worthily receive His holy Gospel.” This is very similar to **the silent prayer the priest** prays to himself or over **the Deacon** (should **Deacon Steve Jolly** be with us to proclaim **the Gospel**). *“May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may worthily and well proclaim His holy Gospel.”* You see, we never **blush** (**St. Augustine’s** word) or are **ashamed** of **the Cross** of Christ. I do not try to hide **the Cross** in some **hidden place**, but rather I would bear it on my **forehead**. For my **face broadcasts** what I am **ashamed** of when I **blush**. Jesus said, if men are **ashamed** of Me before others, then the Christ will be **ashamed** of them before His **Heavenly Father**! Soon we will enter into **Lent** and **the Cross** and **Praying the Stations of the Cross**

will be come a daily source of our **meditation** on all that Christ has done for us. Don’t be **afraid** to make the sign of **the Cross** on yourself even if you are out in **the public forum** doing something as **Catholic** as praying grace at a restaurant. **The priest** that **Baptized** you, along with your parents and Godparents – they all traced **a Cross** on your forehead before you went under **the waters** of **the Baptismal font**. How many tens of thousands or if you become **a priest** or **religious sister** how many hundreds of thousands of times will you



make the sign of **the Cross** on yourself? And even those who are not very **religious** at all – when they die – **the Church** will pray for them and **the priest** that prays their **Funeral Mass**, will make the sign of **the Cross** a ½ dozen times over them!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 31st

(+) Marty Leonard/ Frances Brand

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Gene & (+) Faye Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman &
(+) Jeffrey Marschang/ Family

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

Sunday, February 1st 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Mary Henkel/ Family & (+) Rose Theiss/ Alice & Jennifer Fahs

Monday, February 2nd Candle Mass

(+) Joesph & (+) Catherine Schauer/ Fr. Randy

Tuesday, February 3rd Feast of St. Blaise

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mary Sue Parla

Wednesday, February 4th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Elaine Henkel/ Theresa Wilson &
(+) Arthur Prendergast/ Family

Thursday, February 5th Feast of St. Agatha

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Gerald & (+) Janet Hornung/ Fr. Randy

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Robert Bulfer/ Janet Widolff

Friday, February 6th Feast of St. Paul Miki

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Richard & (+) Mary Ann Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Full

Saturday, February 7th

(+) Marian Brand Keefe/ Frances Brand

4:00 pm, **OLPH** Louie & Carol Vaessen's 60th Wedding Anniversary/ Family

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

Sunday, February 8th 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

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



Haven't seen one of our good Sisters lately?

The Daughters of Divine Love will be celebrating the **5th Sunday of Ordinary Time** with us. After all **Masses** on February 7th and 8th, the Sisters will be selling **Raffle Tickets**. This is the Daughters of Divine Love big **Fund Raiser** for the year. Please be as **generous** as possible.

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Parish Secretary: Nancy Neal

Financial Officer: Donna Stephenitch

CCD Director: Teresa Machen

