

*Third Sunday of  
Ordinary Time  
Word of God Sunday  
January 25, 2026*



## From the Gusset

When I went with a small group of pilgrims to **the Eucharistic Congress** in Indianapolis in July of 2024 – my **priesthood** was changed for ever by a talk given by **Bishop Flores** of **the Diocese of Brownsville**, Texas (**Bishop Flores** is now **the Vice-President** of the USCCB). **Bishop Flores** inspired all **the priests** with his talk about how we are to rewriting **the Parable of the Prodigal Son**. I was as shocked as you now are to hear that we are called to **rewritten** Sacred Scripture. All three of our **Parishes** have **parishioners**, who no longer **worship** with us at the **Sunday Mass**. Whether they go to **Mass** at another Church or don't go to **Mass** at all – isn't the question. The mere fact that our **younger brother** and **younger sister** are not standing, sitting, and kneeling with us in the same pew at **Mass** is what should upset us. We **the older brother** or **older sister** are upset, because we know that God our Father wants us to come under His roof and **worship** and **adore** and **praise** His Son **in the Eucharistic Sacrifice** of **the Mass**. Remember how much **joy** is brought to the Father's heart when **the Prodigal Son** returns – the Scripture says the return of the younger son was marked by song, and music, and dancing, and wedding garments! What we want as **the older brother** and **the older sister** is to bring **joy** to God the Father's heart by helping **the prodigals** of our family and our Church family to return to **Mass**! Ultimately this is the goal of **Bishop Malloy's Capital Campaign: You will be my Witnesses!** **Bishop Malloy** does not want to have to close any Churches in **the Rockford Diocese**, and yet lower annual income Parishes (all 3 of our Churches fall into this category) are struggling to have healthy, vibrant **worship**. **The Campaign's major theme** is to promote **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!** Wouldn't that be **great**. To have all of our **CCD students** come to **Mass** after Church school let out; instead of, just a handful who already went to **the Mass** in **Maytown!** That we could again have children serving **the Mass** as **altar servers** and their parents being **Sacristans**; instead of having **Fr. Randy** do both of these jobs as well as being **the priest celebrant** for **the Mass**. Our Parishes will be participating in **Wave 2** of **the Capital Campaign**, and we will need **many volunteers** to be on **the committees** to raise the money that **Bishop** is asking of our Parishes. Because all 3 of our Churches fall into the category of **"lower annual income Parishes"** – this **Campaign** is especially designed for us. Besides getting 40% of the money we donate come back to our Parish if we meet our **Parishes' goal** – each of our Churches would also receive an **additional income** called **the Parish Opportunity Fund**. Again, this is because **Bishop Malloy** personally wants to see **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**, **St. Mary of the Assumption**, and **St. Patrick's Parishes** excel in **Evangelization!** Please consider being a good **older brother** or **older sister** and volunteering to be **a campaign committee member**. If there is nothing you want more than to see **young families worshipping** next to you on Sunday, please give **Fr. Randy** a call at **815-849-5413**; and bring **joy** to God the Father's heart when He sees His **prodigal children** coming home!

**Yours on the Path Fr. Randy**



# The Catechism of the Catholic Church

## Part 3: The Life in Christ

After **Section One**, which talks about **the Beatitudes** and **the Moral Life**, **Section Two** launches into **the 10 Commandments**.

When talking about **the 3rd Commandment: to remember the Sabbath day**—we see **St. John Chrysostom's** quote in paragraph 2179:

“You cannot pray at home as at Church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests.

- **St. John Chrysostom**

There is definitely something special about **our Churches**—not only are they **magnificent** structures over 100 years old that **confess** great architecture, but when we come together as **a Church Community**—God can be **worshipped, adored, and praised** in ways that we could never do by ourselves or with our individual family. Our **Church Community** is a strong voice announcing our **prayers** to God not only for ourselves, but announcing our **prayers** for those whose **sins** have made them selfish and so they stay away from **worshipping** God with us. In our making of a **Spiritual Communion** for them—we ask God with every good intention to strengthen them with **the Bread** that comes down from **Heaven** even though they do not partaking physically of **the Eucharist**. Never underestimate **the power** of our **Spiritual Communion Prayer** for others!



CCC22172: God's action is the model for human action. If God **“rested and was refreshed”** on the 7th day, man too ought to **“rest”** and should let others, especially **the poor**, “be refreshed.” The Sabbath brings everyday work to a halt and provides **a respite**. It is **a day of protest** against **the servitude of work** and the worship of **money**.

## THE MASS and THE SAINTS



to confess the sins, and so my **sins** are absolved. You see, with God **the intention** is as good as **the action**! And so, **the priest** swings **the thurible** three times over the offering that the fame of the deed that **Mary Magdalene** did might be spread throughout the Church at every **Mass** that **the priest** uses incense, as our Lord, Himself, foretold!

The **Bishop Durandus** (1230-1296), who wrote a treatise called the *“Rational of Divine Offices,”* which is often considered the last word of the Middle Ages on **the mystical meaning** of **the Mass**, taught **the priests** of his Diocese to **incense** the offering with three swings of **the thurible**. Why three? To recall how **Mary Magdalene** three times brought spices to anoint the Body of Jesus! The first time she anointed the Lord’s feet at the house of **Simon the Pharisee**. (Luke 7:36-51) The second time that **Mary** anointed Jesus was when she poured the ointment upon His head in the house of **Simon the leper**. (Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9) The final time was only an attempt. For **Mary** set out for the tomb while it was still **dark** to anoint Jesus on **Easter Sunday morning**, but the Lord was already risen; and so, she was unable to do so. Yet and still, she had **the intention** to anoint Jesus, and never forget – with God – **the intention** is as good as **the deed**! Remember, if I have **the intention** to go to **Confession** on Saturday afternoon, before I receive **the Eucharist** on Sunday, if I make my examination and leave the house to get to Church by 3:15pm, but a **Mack truck** runs me over flat as a pancake and so I never **confessed my sins** – God sees that it was my intention



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 24th

(+) Camilo & (+) Mercedes Lapid/ Sister Leticia Lapid

10:00 am **St. Andrew Deanery Confirmation Mass**

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Robert Bresson/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bresson

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Julie Malach/ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Henkel

### Sunday, January 25th 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time—Word of God Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Barbara Ewalt

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

### Monday, January 26th Feast of St. Timothy and St. Titus

(+) Howard McInnis/ Fr. Randy

### Tuesday, January 27th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Sister Chiduwe Oraegbu, (+) Sister Amabilis Chidowe, & (+) Sister Bernard Nnabugwe/ DDL

### Wednesday, January 28th Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Wellington & (+) Marion Chaon/ Mr. & Mrs. Don Dinges

### Thursday, January 29th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) John & (+) Betty Gehant/ Fr. Randy Fronck

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Robert Bulfer/ Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Goebel

### Friday, January 30th

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

### Saturday, January 31st

(+) Marty Leonard/ Frances Brand

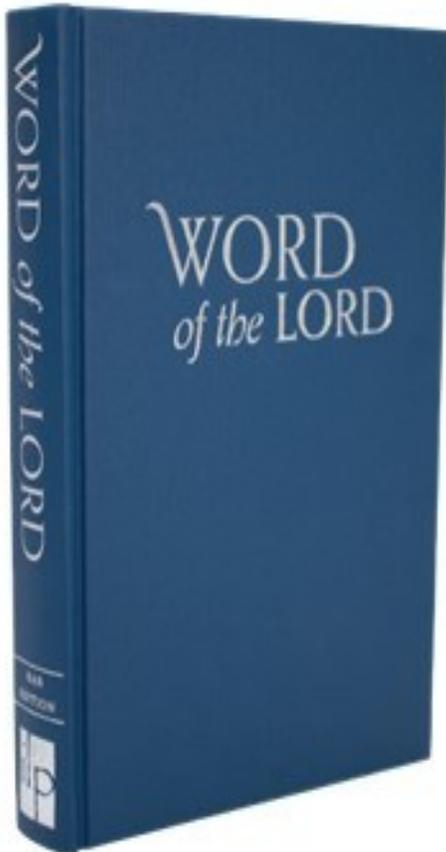
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Gene & (+) Faye Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman & (+) Jeffrey Marschang/ Family

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

### Sunday, January 25th 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



To celebrate **Word of God Sunday** a few years back, each of our Parishes bought more Lectionaries to stock **the pews** with. Remember during **the Pandemic**, we had to remove all **the Missalettes** from **the pews**, and so it was decided that we ought to get each person their own Lectionary, which they would take back and forth with them each Sunday, from home to Church. These Lectionaries will be good forever, because unlike the old **Missalettes**, which were only good for a year – these Lectionaries have **the complete 3-year cycle in them**. You will be able to use your Lectionary every Sunday until you die! Now, there should be a Lectionary in **the pew** for you to use, when you come on Sunday, but if you would like your own **Word of God Lectionary**, please let **Fr. Randy** know and he will purchase more, so you can have your own personal copy. **The Catholic Church** treasures **the Word of God**, much as the Israelites in the desert treasured the two silver trumpets with which **Moses** instructed the people. Might we **imagine**, as we stand for **the Gospel**, that our **hearts** are tingling with **delight**, because by the proclamation of **the Gospel**, we are readying ourselves to walk on the path that leads to **Heaven**.