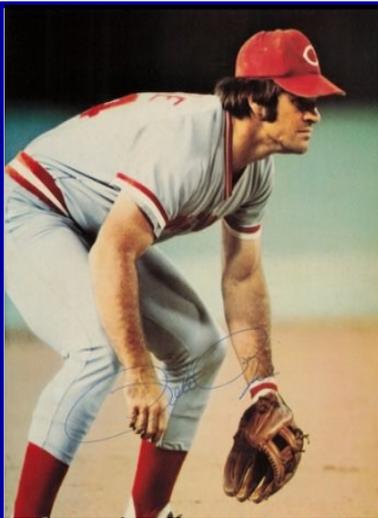


*Epiphany Sunday
January 4, 2026
Merry Christmas*



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



From the Gusset

Merry Christmas!

I can still remember our Minor league Coach going **ballistic** when half of **the infield** and **two outfielders** allowed a sure pop out to drop in for a base hit. I was playing third and a lazy pop fly pushed me back into **the outfield** and towards second base. The shortstop ranged out as well and both **the left fielder** and **center fielder** converged on the spot—and I have no idea why **the pitcher** raced out to catch the pop fly (other than he was the best player on the field at the time); but the ball wound up falling to **the ground** right between all of us. The Coach was **livid!**

“You have got to ‘call’ the ball. Talk to each other out there!” The Acts of the Apostles tells us that just before **St. Stephen** was stoned to

death that he called out: **Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!** This is what we do when we **celebrate the Funeral Mass** of our beloved when they die – we call out to God: *“Lord, receive the spirit – receive the soul of our loved one who has died!”* We don’t leave it up to chance that God will simply have **mercy** on our brother or sister, who has died (though surely He will). We don’t leave it up to another **family member** or **relative** to pray **the Funeral Mass** with **the priest**. No, we run to **the Mass** and we call out – especially in our **Spiritual Communion Prayer** – the same Prayer that **St. Stephen** prayed: **Lord Jesus, receive the soul of my loved one!** As this great **Jubilee Year** – the 2,025th Anniversary of our Lord’s **birth** – winds to a close, it would be a good thing to take “the Coaches’ advice” – and talk to other **family members** and **friends**, and find out, who they have worked **Plenary Indulgences** for and to tell others, whom we have worked **Indulgences** for – least someone we all **love** has managed to slip through the crack – and no one has worked an **Indulgence** for **crazy Uncle Norbert** or **Silly Aunt Sue**. We all have the best of intentions to get as many as our **relatives** and **Church Family members** into **Heaven**, but a holy conversation with others may help us to avoid a **loved one** being forgotten. We must be **bold** when **the Catholic Church empowers** us with **Indulgences** – we must ask God to **receive the Spirit of our loved ones**. We have to talk to one another – **precious souls** are at stake here – we don’t want a **‘sure’ Saint** to wait any longer to receive **the Beatific vision!** **Merry Christmas!**

Yours on the Path

Fr. Randy



LECTOR TRAINING

St. Thomas Aquinas taught that the initial phase of **the Mass** was one of preparing our **souls** to come into contact with God; and thus, consisted of a **Penitential rite**. After this Preparation phase comes **the Instruction**, since this **Sacrament** (**the Eucharist**) is **the Mystery of Faith** this **Instruction** was done initially by the teaching of **the Prophets** and then **the Apostles**.

Would you like to be involved in **the Instruction** of **the Faithful** by being a **Lector**?

We will have three **Lector Training classes** on the Saturday's of January: **the 10th, 17th, and 24th** at **2:00pm**. Though you need only go to one **Training class**—if you would like to **Lector** at multiple Churches simply come to the **Lector** class at those Churches you would like to **proclaim the readings**.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be
January 10th at **2:00pm**

St. Mary of the Assumption will be
January 17th at **2:00pm**

St. Patrick Church will be
January 24th at **2:00pm**



HOLY HOUR WITH THE CCD STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH at **OLPH Church**

9:30AM TO 10:15AM

Come pray before **the Blessed Sacrament**.
Allow God to look at you, and allow yourself to look at God! We will **pray the Infant Jesus of Prague Chaplet** for our **Sacramental**.



The Mass and the Saints

Though **the Sacrifice** of Christ on **Calvary** was offered once for **the sins** of all **mankind**, the Lord, knowing that our **human** weakness is that we tend to forget what God has done for us (like the Israelites forgot **the 10 wonders** God worked against **Pharaoh**) and knowing that **mankind** would treat **the Sacrifice** of **Calvary** as a mere historical fact, consigned to the pages of the **Church's** annals, where few would even think of seeking **It**; and so, our Lord said on the night of the Last Supper – **do this in memory of Me**. The **Catholic Church** then says, *“what was done once on Calvary needs to be renewed until the end of time,”* and this is why **the Sacrifice** is offered every Sunday before the people – that is: **the Mass!** **St. John Fisher** said, that we **sinner**s must by some suitable means be united with the offering of Christ; in order, to receive the benefits of

Watercolor By
Sidonie Coryn

Christ's **Sacrifice**. And this then is **the Mystery** of mingling **water** with **the wine** in the Chalice. **The wine** represents Jesus Christ as God; the **water** represents Jesus Christ as man. The weakness of the **water** compared with the strength of **the wine**, expresses the difference which exists between **the humanity** and **the Divinity** of Jesus. Back in the 11th and 13th centuries the **Carthusians** and **Dominicans** both – performed the liturgical action of mingling **water** with **the wine** in the Sacristy before **Mass**. This gives us the sense of how slow the people of God were to see Jesus of **Nazareth** as **Divine**. The **priest** would make the sign of **the Cross** over the **water** before mixing it with **the wine**—if the **water** is our **humanity** about to be mingled with Christ's **Divinity** – we, poor souls, need a **blessing** that we might be capable of union with God. **Wine** is not **blessed**, because Christ needs no **blessing**. **St. Ambrose** talks about ‘the **water** falling into the chalice of **wine**, and then springing up to **eternal life!**’ To fall under the influence of gravity takes no energy – that is: we simply allow God to **humbly** bring us into the presence of His Son, and then the Son with all the energy of His death and **Resurrection** boosts us up to **eternal life!** That is Jesus does all the heavy lifting to raise us to **eternal life**. It is so important, that we see ourselves on **the altar** at **Mass** – that we are truly there in the ordinariness of **water**; yet, we are truly elevated when we come in contact with **the wine**, Jesus Christ. Always remember, the **water** and **the wine** cannot be separated once they are mingled – the **water** becomes lost in **the wine!** Lose yourself in the person of Jesus Christ when you come to **Mass!!** Make it so that God the Father cannot distinguish you from His Son!!!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 3rd

CCD Students & Teachers/ Fr. Randy

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

Monday, January 5th Feast of St. John Neumann

(+) Ronald Fronck/ Roger & Richard Fronck

(+) James & (+) Geraldine Fronck/ Fr. Randy

Tuesday, January 6th Little Christmas

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis/ Fr. Randy

6:30 pm, **OLPH Conclusion of the Jubilee Year Mass** (+) Robert Bulfer/ Fr. Randy

Wednesday, January 7th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Robert Bulfer/ Mr. & Mrs. Hugh McCoy

Thursday, January 8th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner & (+) Otto Stephenitch/ Fr. Randy

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Ruth Ann Vaessen

Friday, January 9th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Makenna Saylor/ Fr. Randy

10:45 am **Stoncroft** (+) Arlene Schmitt/ Fr. Randy

Saturday, January 10th

(+) Joseph & (+) Mary McCoy/ Barbara Maria McCoy

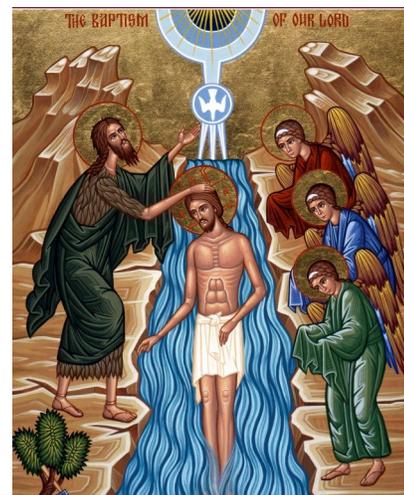
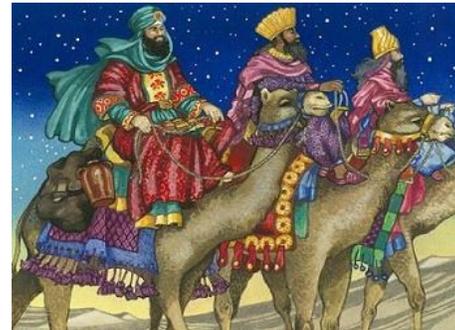
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Craig Bresson/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bresson

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis/ Fr. Randy

Sunday, January 11th Baptism of the Lord

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Marty Quest/ Velma Quest

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



EPIPHANY CHALK BLESSING

Lord God of **Heaven** and **earth**, You revealed Your only begotten Son to **every nation** by the guidance of **a star**. Bless this **house** and all who inhabit it. Fill them with **the light** of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect Your **love**. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Write above **the doorpost** of your **house** and /or **the lintel** of each bedroom:

20 + C + M + B + 26

May Christ Jesus **dwell with us**, keep us from **all harm**, and make us **one in mind** and **heart**, now and forever. Amen.