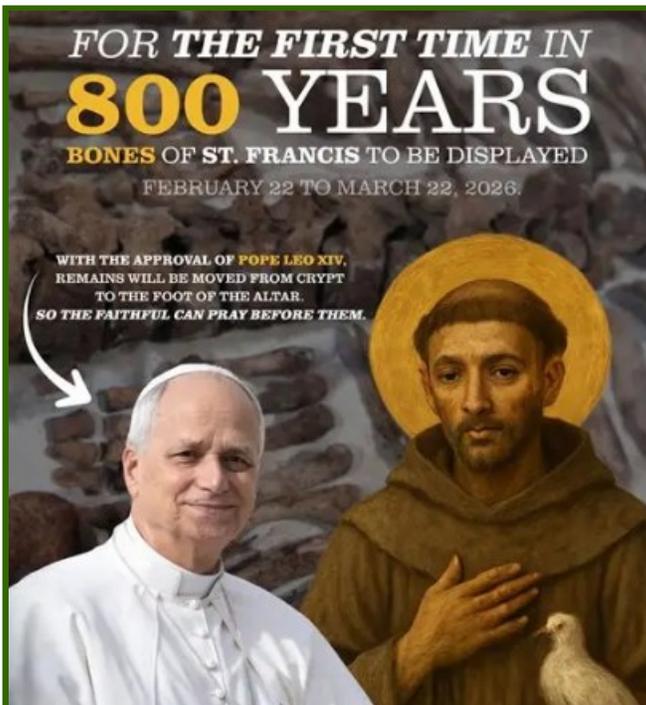


*6th Sunday of  
Ordinary Time  
February 15, 2026*





## From the Gusset

Grace upon grace has been added onto us! Coming out of **the great Jubilee of 2025** – where the Church celebrated **the 2,025<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the **incarnation** of our Lord – **Pope Leo** has proclaimed an **extraordinary Jubilee Year: the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the death of one of the Church's favorite sons: **St. Francis of Assisi**! This **special Jubilee Year** will run from **January 10<sup>th</sup> of 2026** to **January 10<sup>th</sup> of 2027**. Though I am **over-joyed** that we are given this **Jubilee Year** – I was thinking that we would have to wait until 2033 (**the 2,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the death of our Lord) to experience our next **Jubilee** – I wasn't completely shocked by the Vatican's announcement that **the Church** would honor the death

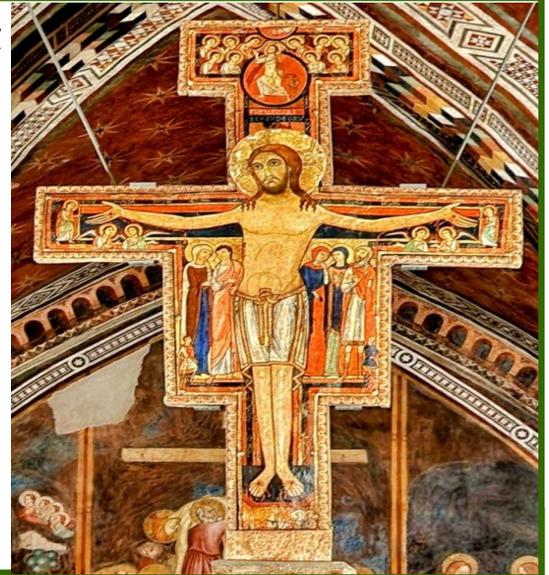
of **St. Francis**. Back in 2023-2024, **the Dominicans** had petitioned **Pope Francis** to grant their Order an **Indulgence** to celebrate the milestones in the life of **St. Thomas Aquinas**. The dates of 2023 and 2024 lined up with **the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the canonization of **St. Thomas**, the **750<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the death of **St. Thomas**, and **the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of his birth! Remember, I went to **Rome** for a week back in November of 2023 specifically to make a **pilgrimage** to my *alma mater* **the Angelicum University**, which is named after **St. Aquinas** (*the Angelic Doctor* of the Church). Since **the Dominicans** had asked the Holy Father **to honor** their great **Saint** – I knew **the Franciscans** would do the same to **honor the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of **St. Francis'** death. Just think, **the Catholic Church** is still holding up as an example for all of us to imitate – the life of this man from **Assisi**. Remember the requirements for working a **Plenary Indulgence** – the first four are always the same for every **Indulgence**: 1) **Sacramental Confession** of our sins (and a detachment from sin), 2) **Receiving the Eucharist**, 3) **Praying the Creed**, and 4) **Praying for the intentions** of **Pope Leo XIV<sup>th</sup>** (typically an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be). According to the decree of **the Apostolic Penitentiary** the fifth work can be a **pilgrimage** to a **Franciscan Church** (*the Poor Claires' Convent in Rockford*), participation in **Jubilee celebrations**, praying and meditating on **the Franciscan spirituality**, as well as daily acts of **charity** and **humility** that would make **St. Francis** proud to call us, his **penitent brothers and sisters**, who bask in God's great **love** for us! **Indulgences** are God's graces transforming our **weak human nature** and our tendency to **sin** – it is God who makes it possible to free our **hearts** from the burden of our **sins** by giving us the strength to **repent**, and cooperate with our Lord Jesus Christ as Jesus remits **the temporal punishments** our sins deserve by His death and Resurrection. This being said, one of the ways we can always cooperate with God and work an **Indulgence** (especially for our beloved dead) is to pray **the Stations of the Cross** devoutly. With **Lent** on the horizon; of course, we will talk more about this great **Sacramental**, which **St. Francis** gets credit for inventing. By praying **the Stations of the Cross** in the spirit of **St. Francis**, we can work a **Plenary Indulgence**, especially in this **extraordinary Jubilee Year**!

Yours on the Path Fr. Randy



We will celebrate the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (February 17th) with the burning of the palms at our 7:30am Mass in West Brooklyn, and with an RCIA class on the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6:30pm in the Hall in Sublette. Come and receive a special Rainbow Agate Stone Rosary, which we will pray throughout this Lent!

Friday, February 20th, will find us out at St. Patrick's Church in Maytown for Confessions at 4:30pm, the Stations of the Cross at 5:00pm, and the Holy Mass at 5:30pm. Come join us in working our first Communal Plenary Indulgence of this extraordinary Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi!



BETH BUBIK

Delay  
and Pray™



PERMANENT WEIGHT LOSS  
THROUGH SPIRITUAL FASTING

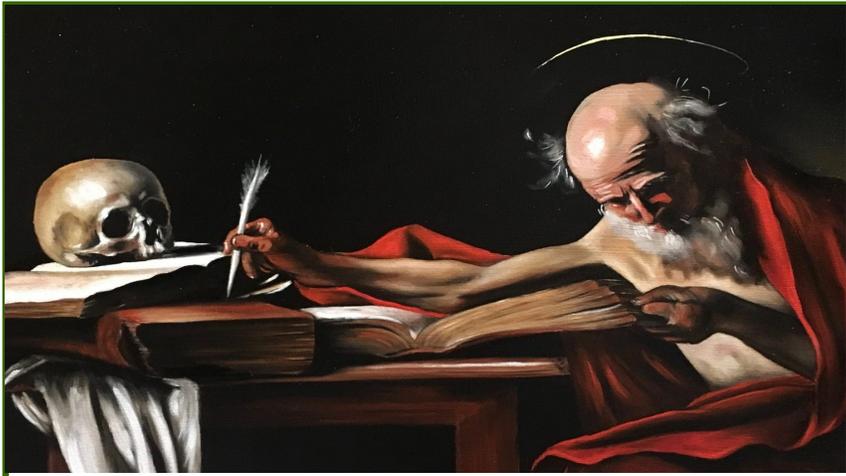
This Lent, join us for a deeply meaningful women's book study of **Delay and Pray: Permanent Weight Loss Through Spiritual Fasting** by **Beth Bubik**. Discover how **spiritual fasting**, rooted in the **Catholic Faith**, can lead to growing in **sanctity**, emotional healing, and **greater spiritual strength**. This is a 6-week study, where you will learn to fast with **Faith**, not **fear**, and offer hunger as **intercessory prayer**, the opportunity for **Eucharistic Adoration** will also be provided.

**When:** Wednesday nights, starting February 18th at 5:30pm

**Where:** Hall in **Sublette**

**Cost:** \$10 for **E-Book Bundle** go to [www.DelayandPray.com/book](http://www.DelayandPray.com/book) to purchase

**Contact:** Chris Klein



## THE MASS and THE SAINTS

**St. Jerome** instructed the nuns, who were helping him both **spiritually** and **physically**, as he translated the Bible from Its original languages (**Hebrew** and **Greek**) into the vulgate (**Latin**) – **St. Jerome** would tell the sisters every **morning** when you wake up, the first

words on your lips should be: **Blessed be God for ever!** I am thankful that we have recovered this most beautiful **Prayer** in our praying of **the Mass**. We pray it twice in what is known as the **'Offertory Prayers,'** but liturgically (at other parishes) these **prayers** have been lost to the **lay Faithful**. On account of the general rule – that whenever there is a **procession** – **music** ought to accompany the **procession** – as the Church encourages the **Faithful** to bring forward **bread** and **wine** for the celebration of **the Eucharist** – upon their delivery to **the priest**, we have gotten into the bad habit of continuing to play **music** and so **the priest's prayers** are drowned out and we miss our cue to say: **Blessed be God for ever!** **Fr. Randy** says, "Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for through Your goodness we have received the bread we offer You: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.** Blessed are You Lord, Lord God of all creation, for through Your goodness we have received the wine we offer You: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.** **St. Jerome** would tell us that the **Latin: *Benedictus Deus in saecula*** – that the *benedictus* means **"to speak well or to speak favorably about someone or something."** *Bene* means **well**; *dictus* means **to say** or **to speak**. Thus this **Prayer** means that "it is well that God should be for ever **praised!**" We are not claiming to confer some **favor** or **grace** upon God; as would be the meaning of the word "blessing" in **English**. Rather we mean that God's **external glory** and blessedness should be extended by us. You see, Theologically we can distinguish between God's **internal glory** and His **external glory**. There is not one thing we can add (or take away) from God's **internal glory**; for God is glorious and blessed all by Himself and has no need of our **praise** (nor, I might add – God has no need of the **praise** that **the Angels** provide). However, you and I (and especially in **the Mass**) can help to spread God's **external glory** by our **praise** and acknowledgment of God before others. You and I can consciously **reflect** (**animals** can **reflect** God's glory, but because of their feeble **intellects** – they are not conscious that they are **praising** God!) God's glory by living holy lives, by being **generous** (making **Spiritual Communion**s for others), and by conforming our lives to the Truth. This is the way we bless God in **the Mass**. When we pray: **Blessed be God for ever** – we are really saying: may God be **praised** (blessed) everywhere and for ever – that is throughout the world and for all times; but most certainly – may God be **praised** in our Church in (**Sublette/ Maytown/ West Brooklyn**) and right now! As **St. Jerome** told those nuns – so this great **Saint** tells me, your **priest**, "every day when you pray **the Mass**, **Fr. Randy**, you ought to bless God now, because if you do so now – every day; you will certainly do so in **Heaven** – and for ever!"

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, February 14th Feast of St. Valentine

(+) Joseph & (+) Mary McCoy/ Barbara Maria McCoy  
 4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Julie Malach/ Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Klein  
 5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Joseph & (+) Carol Widolff/ Janet Widolff

### Sunday, February 15th 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** Brian Quest/ Velma Quest  
 10:30 am, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

### Monday, February 16th

(+) Schoenfeld Family members/ Mr. & Mrs. Fred Schoenfeld

### Tuesday, February 17th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis/ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Henkel

### Wednesday, February 18th Ash Wednesday

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Family & (+) Don Marschang/ Family

### Thursday, February 19th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Edward & (+) Mary & (+) Jeanne Hamilton/ Karen McInnis

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Mary Kuebel

### Friday, February 20th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Robert Bulfer/ Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lachat

5:30 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) John & (+) Evelyn Ryan/ Family

### Saturday, February 21st

8:00 am, **St. Mary's Freeport** (+) Barbara McCoy & (+) Josephine McCoy/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Choir & (+) Janet Wagner/ Family

5:30 pm, **SMA** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

### Sunday, February 22nd 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Richard Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Klein

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Joseph Kuebel & (+) Edwin & (+) Alma McCauley/ Mary Kuebel



## Collection Amounts for the Month of January

	<b>OLPH</b>	<b>SMA</b>	<b>St. Patrick</b>
Loose Collection	\$441	\$20	\$600
Envelopes	\$2,831	\$1,020	\$1,065
Total	\$3,272	\$1,040	\$1,665
<b>Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,921</b>	<b>\$4,184</b>	<b>\$3,695</b>
<b>Diocesan Appeal</b>	<b>\$8,195/\$10,350</b>	<b>\$4,730/\$3,796</b>	<b>\$11,807/\$2,495</b>
<b>Solemnity of Mary</b>	<b>\$356</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$23</b>
<b>National Appeal</b>	<b>\$885</b>	<b>\$1,065</b>	<b>\$310</b>



### Lenten Reflection for St. Joseph & St. Mary Churches in Freeport

Saturday, February 21st

Mass at 8:00am at St. Mary's Church  
 (704 S. State Ave, Freeport, Ill.)

**Breakfast following Mass**

Talk on the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci &  
 praying the Infant Jesus of Prague Chaplet

9:00—11:00am at the Holy Family Community Center  
 (across from St. Mary's Church)

