

*1st Sunday of Lent  
February 22, 2026*



*“Because of You (My God) friend and neighbor shun Me;  
My only friend is darkness.” Psalm 88:19*

*This Lent—let us be the companions of our Lord!*

## From the Gusset

Take up My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you shall find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy, and My burden light.” (Mt 11:29)

**St. Thomas Aquinas** taught that during **Lent** we are called to practice the **Evangelical counsels** to a greater degree: **poverty**, **chastity**, and **obedience**. Though **the Evangelical counsels** were tailor made for those called to **the Religious** life of **a priest** or **a nun** – **the laity** can easily translate them into the **single** and **married** realm.

**Poverty:** to live simply

**Chastity:** to practice **Fidelity** in all of our relationships

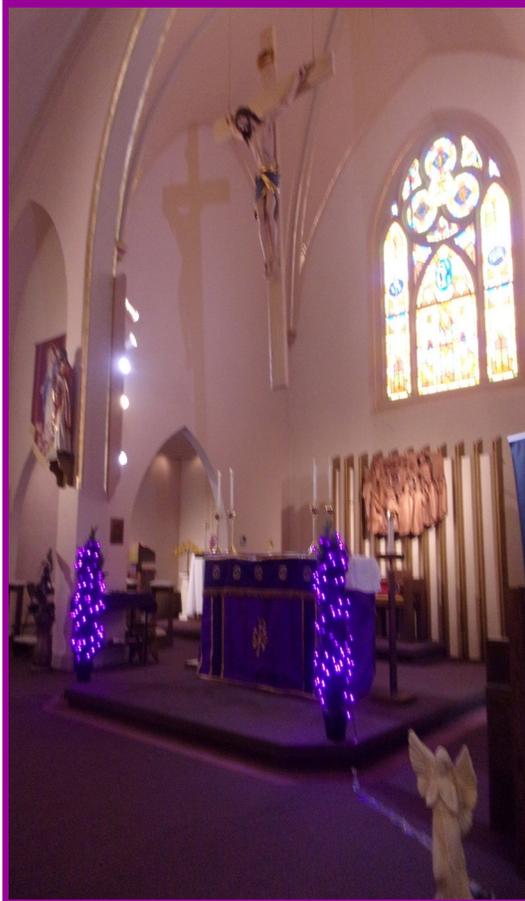
**Obedience:** following **Church teachings**

**The Angelic Doctor** was thinking that during **Lent**, we can make strides to live **the Golden Rule: love** God

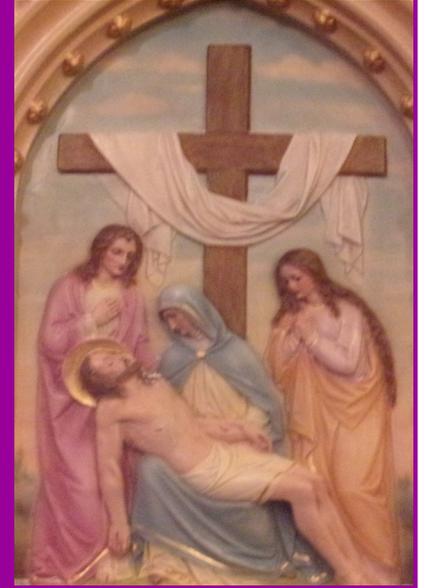
with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to **love** our neighbor as our self. To be **meek** and **humble** of heart as **the Sacred Heart of Jesus** is – we are **meek** when it comes to dealing with our neighbor – we are **humble** when it comes to dealing with God. **The Sacred Heart of Jesus** calls us to be **meek** and **humble** as He is. Here I, personally, like to substitute **“generosity”** for **meekness**. So, during **Lent** I try to be **generous** in giving to my neighbor. Whereas, during most (if not all) of **Ordinary Time**, I more often am heard to say, “no,” – during **Lent**, I try to say, “yes,” to another person’s request more frequently. For example, if an indigent asks me for a **gas card** during **Ordinary Time**, I will only give him help – maybe – once every 4 months. God is so **generous** with me, the Lord teaches us, during **Lent**, to be more like our **Heavenly Father**. So, during **Lent**, I would try to be more **generous**. Of course, **“humility”** is the key to living every **virtue** to its maximum! If I don’t see **the priesthood** as **a gift** from God, I will never be able to be **chaste** and **celibate**. God set a boundary in how I am to **love** others in regards to **the Sacramental grace** that I was given at my **Ordination**. **To trespass** – to step beyond that boundary that God set up for my good – would be: to be **prideful**. I must **humbly** accept the boundaries God has set for me—for to wander off **the path** would surely **jeopardize** my chances of making it back to **Paradise**. By trying to live simply, by being **Faithful** in all my relationships, and by listening closely to how **the Catholic Church** calls me to live – I am **humbled** when I do these things. The **Prophet Isaiah** said, **“to whom does God have respect for, but the man who is poor and little – the man who has a contrite heart.”** (Isaiah 66:2) Most people try to give something up during **Lent** – make **a sacrifice** – however small – to show their **love** for God. Why not try to practice being more **generous** and **humble** this **Lent**. Look for the opportunities to put on **the sweet yoke** of Christ – become aware of how much Jesus **loves** you that the Lord does most of the heavy lifting (as He always does) this **Lent**.



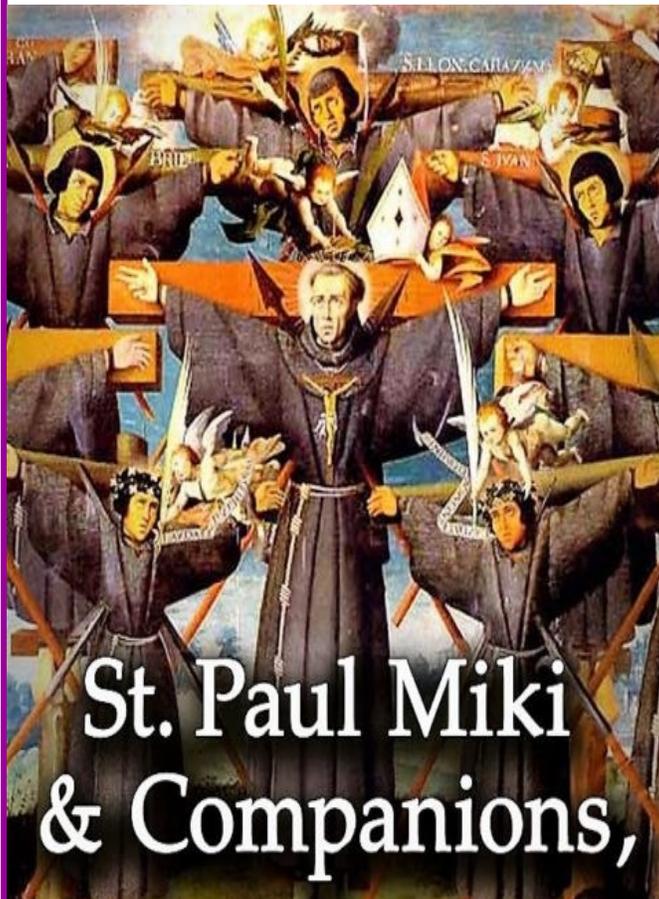
Yours on the Path Fr. Randy



The week of February 24th, Tuesday through February 27th, Friday—will find us celebrating the Holy Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in West Brooklyn. Mass will start at 7:30am each day, and then on Friday, we will also have a Mass at 5:30pm preceded by Confessions at 4:30pm and the Stations of the Cross at 5:00pm.



My cousins in Kansas gifted me with a relic of St. Paul Miki, which includes relics of four of his companion martyrs. I will



place this relic on our altar for all of our Masses of Lent. Just one of the beautiful things about our Masses during Lent is that every day's Mass may end with a Solemn blessing—unique to that particular day in Lent. When I pray this blessing over you, I will bless you with the relic of St. Paul Miki and his companions. That these great Jesuit martyrs may help you to offer more zealous prayer to God during this penitential season.



## *The Pieta*

*by Michelangelo*

*The Pieta* was sculpted between the years of 1498 and 1499 by the budding young artist **Michelangelo**. The sculptor was only 24 years old when he executed this Masterpiece. The story goes that the young artist was visiting his work, placed in **the Chapel of St. Petronella** in the old **St. Peter's Basilica in Rome**, when he heard a group of strangers from Lombardy praising *the Pieta*. One of the members asked who the artist might be, and the answer came back that it was, "*our own Gobbo from Milan.*" The prodigal

**Michelangelo** was disturbed that his labor should be attributed to another; and so, that very night,

armed with a chisel and a **small lantern** he snuck into **the Chapel** and carved on the sash running across the **Madonna's breast** the words in Latin: *Michaelangelus Bonarotus Florentinus Faciebat*. That is: *Michelangelo Buonarroti, the Florentine, made it*. It is the only work **Michelangelo** ever signed. A person's name is special to them. **A bride** revels in **the joy** of changing her name over to her husband's name. At the end of her **Wedding Mass** when the groom and bride are announced as **husband** and **wife** for the first time – the bride's new name is met with thunderous applause, and she **joyfully** kisses her **husband!** **RCIA candidates** sign their names to **the Neo-Catechumenate book** before they undergo the first scrutiny, and their **Pastor** smiles. Would it not be great – would we not take **pride** – would there not be everlasting **joy** in our **hearts**, if we too signed our name to the breast of **the Holy Catholic Church**?! **Mary** represents **the Catholic Church** in *the Pieta* statue. **Mary** represents **the bride** – the eternal bride of Jesus Christ. In a **love** that will never end, Jesus, our **Bridegroom** continues **to sacrifice** His life for us in **the Holy Mass**. **The sacrifice** of **Calvary** goes on every time we celebrate **the Mass** – Jesus dies on our altar; and even when time has ended, that **sacrifice** that took place for the first time on **Good Friday** – that **sacrifice** will go on for all of **eternity in Heaven** as we gather around the banquet table our Lord has prepared for us there. May you take great **pride** and **joy** to sign your name to the enrollment of **the Holy Catholic Church** (that is what you do when you receive **the Eucharist** at **Mass**, you sign your name to **Mary's** breast!). For **the Holy Catholic Church** is a work in progress, but she is a work worthy to sign our names to as her latest disciples in Christ.

**Our Lady of Sorrows... pray for us!**

## Mass Intentions

**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

**Monday, February 23rd**

(+) Josephine Hraback/ Fr. Randy

**Tuesday, February 24th**

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Elaine Henkel/ Mr. & Mrs. Terry Moyer

**Wednesday, February 25th**

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Theresa Wilson

**Thursday, February 26th**

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Quin & (+) Josephine Torri/ Torri Family

**Friday, February 27th**

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bresson

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis/ Mr. & Mrs. John Schmidt

**Saturday, February 28th**

(+) Thomas Dvorsky/ Fr. Randy

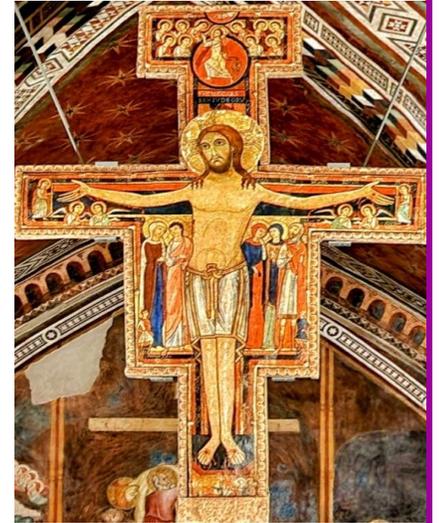
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Gene Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman

5:30 pm, **SMA** Rita Haefner/ Cheryl Nauman

**Sunday, March 1st 2nd Sunday of Lent**

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Julie Malach/ Mr. & Mrs. Westin Montavon

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



Are you looking for more opportunities to work a **Plenary Indulgence** during this **extra-ordinary Jubilee Year**? **St. Francis of Assisi** is truly a remarkable **Saint**, who continues to influence us even though he died 800 years ago this year! **Pope Leo** has responded to the **Franciscans** to **honor St. Francis'** death date with an **Indulgence**, if a person makes a pilgrimage to a **Franciscan Church**. We can also obtain an **Indulgence** by making a **Holy Hour**. Next week, Tuesday, following the 7:30am Mass in **West Brooklyn**, we will have our monthly **Holy Hour** at **St. Mary of the Assumption Church**. Also, on Wednesday from 5:00pm to

6:00pm, our Lord will be exposed in **the Monstrance** for a **Holy Hour** in **Sublette** at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**. We will **pray** the **Sorrowful Mysteries** with our blessed **Agate stone Rosaries**—**adore** our Lord—and remit **the Temporal Damage of sin** of a loved one in **Purgatory**. God is truly **glorified** in His **Saints!**

