

*5th Sunday of
Ordinary Time
February 8, 2026*



Our Lady of Lourdes

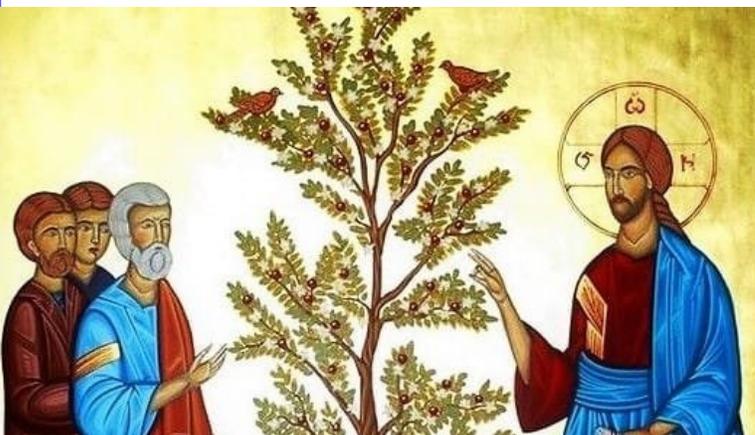
From the Gussset

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that becomes the largest of plants...(Mark 4:30-34)

One of my favorite things **in life** is to be **surprised** by God. **C.S. Lewis** called it to be surprised by **'joy,'** but being a **Catholic**, I know that the giver of every **joy in my life** is God, Himself. Just think for a moment: God created the universe all to make you **happy** and to fill you with **joy**, to **pour out** all of His **love** into you. In the Gospel, Jesus surprises us, He compares His Father's **Kingdom** to a **mustard plant!** See there is a **surprise** here: it is **the humility** of God that should **surprises** us – that God is able to give us

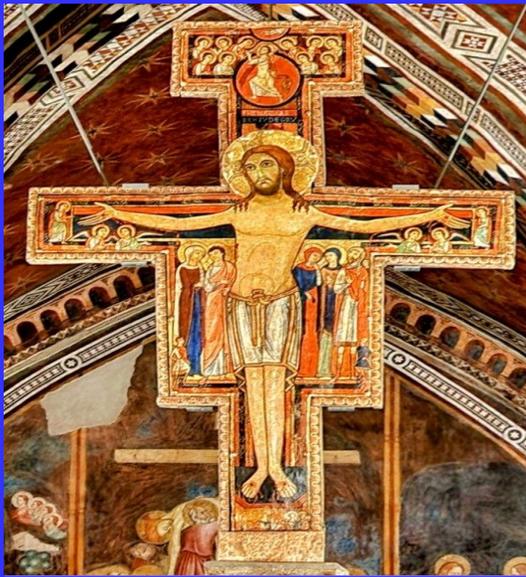


joy – not in a **flashy way**, but in a simple way! In the Old Testament, **the Prophet Ezekiel** told a parable about God's **Kingdom** and he compared **Heaven** in this parable to a mighty **cedar tree**. The **cedar tree** in the parable was this noble tree in whose branches all the birds of **the earth** sought shelter. **Cedar trees** in the Holy Land were as rare as **gold**. Remember **King David** said to God, “I will build You a House of **cedar**, because You, Almighty God, deserve such a palace – a palace made out of **cedar wood (gold)**. But our Lord does not use the **cedar tree** in His parable about the Father's mansion in **Heaven** – no, Jesus uses an overgrown shrub, a bush, **a mustard plant!** This is not a grand, but a lowly picture of the **Kingdom** of God that Jesus paints for us. Jesus says, “come and roost in the branches of My **mustard bush.**” Jesus is calling us birds, and He says to us, don't build your nest in a **cedar tree** and its hardwood branches – no, make a nest in an **overgrown bush**. Make a nest for yourselves in the branches of My arms is what **the Good Shepherd** is saying. That would be the equivalent of your suitor picking you up in an **old beat-up jalopy** versus your boyfriend picking you up in a **racy sports car**. Doesn't that **surprise** you? God is enticing us not so much with a **carrot** as with a **stick!** God does not use **glamour** and **gold**, but God draws us to His **Sacred Heart** using **humility** and **brown paper**. I put it to you



this way: God does not provide us in **the Mass** with rich food and tasty wine – no, God **surprises** us with **joy** – shows us His **humility** and feeds us **bread** in **the Eucharist**. The question becomes: can you and I see past the **Bread** and behold **the Flesh** of God's Son? The question becomes: are we able to allow the **humility** of God to **surprise** us and bring us **joy?** **Yours on the Path Fr. Randy**

I always find a few palms tucked behind a holy painting or a Crucifix after Ash Wednesday. That is why I am asking you early and often to check your home and office for last year's Palms. Bring them to the back of your Church, and we will burn last year's Sacramentals to create the ashes of Ash Wednesday, and have our priest mark our foreheads to show our dying to the old life of sin and our desire to rise to the new life of repentance!



With the start of **Lent**, we will honor **Fridays**, the Day of the **Crucifixion**, by **celebrating** an evening **Mass at 5:30pm**. There will also be the opportunity to go to **Confession on Friday at 4:30pm** and to work a **Plenary Indulgence** during this **Extraordinary Jubilee Year** of St. Francis of Assisi by praying the Stations of the Cross at **5:00pm**. Our **daily Mass schedule** will change for **Lent**. Starting **the 1st full week of Lent** all **Masses** during the week—**Tuesday through Friday**—will be sponsored by one Church, and then we will rotate through our Churches two times. Check **the bulletin** and the **monthly calendar** (both on our website: www.olphmarystpatrick.com) for details.



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**.

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 to purchase

Contact: Chris Klein

BETH BUBIK

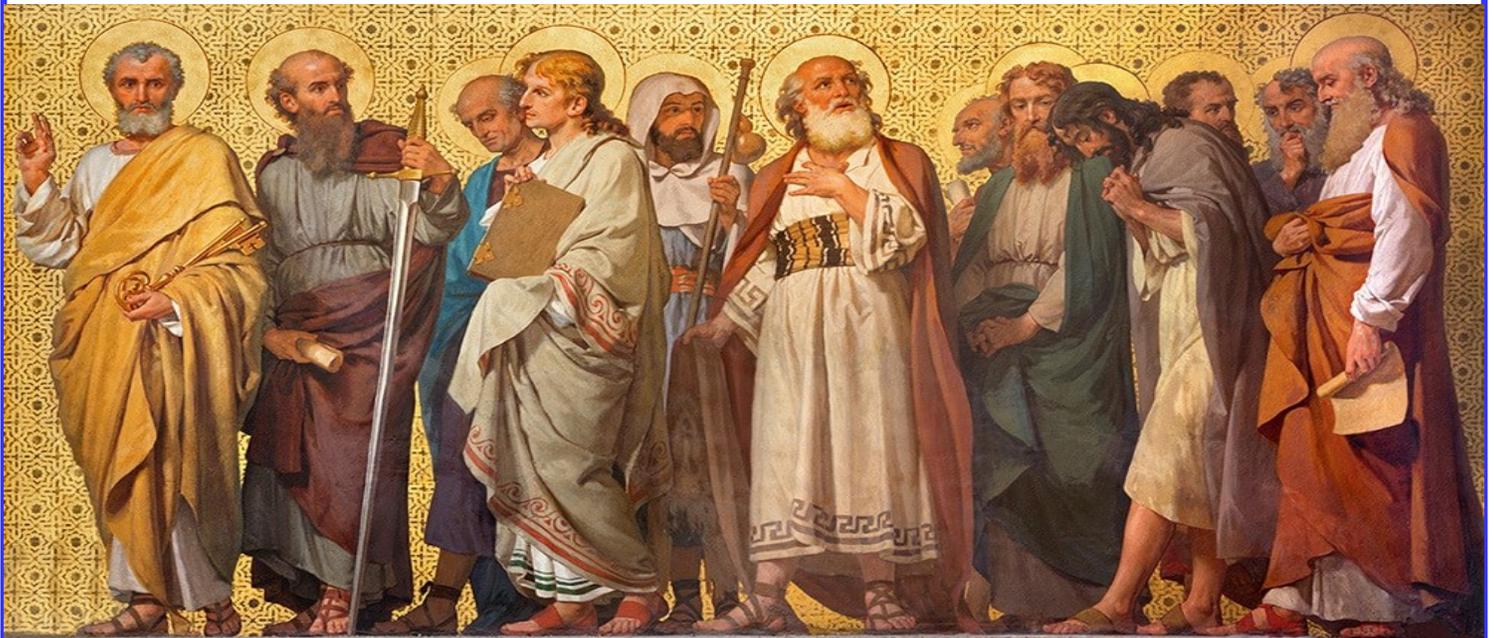
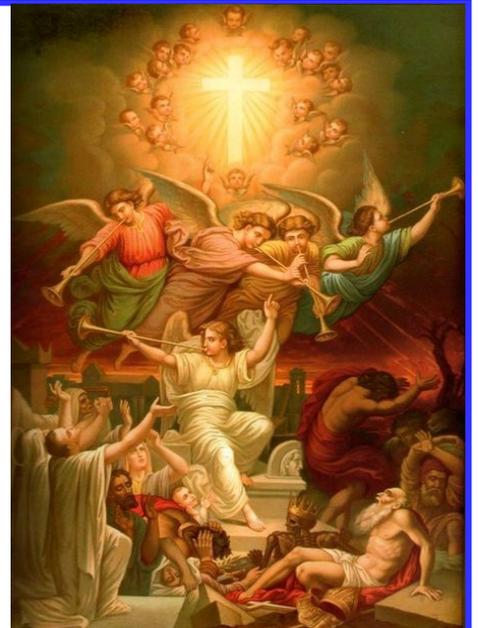
Delay
and Pray™



PERMANENT WEIGHT LOSS
THROUGH SPIRITUAL FASTING

THE MASS and THE SAINTS

I am always telling the **RCIA students** that the greatest part of the **Confirmation Sacrament** is when the **Confirmandi** must recite **the Creed** before their Bishop. The **graces** bestowed by the **Sacrament of Confirmation** are no different than the graces already given at the **Sacrament of Baptism**; only now, the **Confirmandi** must ask for these **graces**; whereas once before (typically when they were babies), their **parents** asked for these **graces** for them. So, the greatest concentration of learning both in **CCD Confirmation classes** and in **RCIA** ought to be on the students learning the articles of **the Creed**. Typically numbered twelve, these articles were taught by our Lord to **the twelve Apostles** – this definitely the case in regards to the **Apostles' Creed** (hence the name), but also with added details in the **Nicene Creed** (that **Creed** we recite most often at **Mass**). **St. Thomas Aquinas** quotes our Lord, “If I say the truth to you, why do you strike Me?” The Christ came to teach us **the Truth** – how God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and how the Son came that His **Father's Kingdom** might extend to **earth** by building His **Church**. It is not necessary that **the candidates for Confirmation** understand every nuance of **the Creed** – for that would indeed take a life-time to learn and practice and live out in one's life, but to have **a basic knowledge** of each article and to give the Bishop their assent by **Faith** to all that the **Holy Catholic Church** teaches as coming from Jesus Christ. **The Creed** so unites us as Catholics, that even when the Bishop is questioning the **Confirmandi** on **the Creed** (typically the Bishop recites **the Creed** in the **Baptismal form** of questioning the **Confirmandi**) all others, who are present at **the Confirmation Mass** also respond to the questions of the Bishop by saying: “**I do.**” That not only would the **Confirmandi** have their Sponsor to help them to continue to learn and practice and live out the articles of **the Creed** in their life, but also, the **Confirmandi** may ask for the help of any, who were present at **the Mass** on the day of their **Confirmation**!



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, February 9th

(+) Larry Leffelman/ The Schielein Family

Tuesday, February 10th

(+) Dorothy Tobiaski/ Choir

Wednesday, February 11th Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day

(+) Robert Bresson/ Fr. Randy

Thursday, February 12th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis/ Kristine Furar

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Donald & (+) Elaine Henkel/ Family

Friday, February 13th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mildred Schneider/ Larry Schneider

10:45 am, **Stonecroft** (+) Sophia Hraback & (+) Josephine Hraback/ Fr. Randy

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



The Daughters of Divine Love are back with us this weekend to celebrate our **Masses** for the **5th Sunday of Ordinary Time!** The Church of **St. Mary of the Assumption** will host a light dinner for the **Sisters** in the Hall following the **5:30pm Mass** in West Brooklyn—all are welcome to greet the **Sisters** and receive their **blessing**. The **Daughters** will also be selling their **Raffle Tickets** to raise money for their ministry. Welcome home, **Sisters!** We miss you.



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Financial Officer: Donna Stephenitch

CCD Director: Teresa Machen

