

*4th Sunday of Lent  
Laetare Sunday  
March 15, 2026*



***“Friend and neighbor You have taken away:  
My one companion is darkness.” Psalm 88:19  
This Lent—let us be the companions of our  
Lord!***

**TO CELEBRATE THE PATRONAL  
FEAST OF MAYTOWN'S CHURCH**

**ALL MASSES WILL BE**

**CELEBRATED AT**

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH**

**NEXT WEEKEND — March 21-22**

**SATURDAY 4:00PM SUNDAY 8:00AM SUNDAY 10:30AM**



Come to **Mass** and experience the unique **beauty** of **St. Patrick's Church** and receive a **St. Patrick's rosary** and a **green donut!**



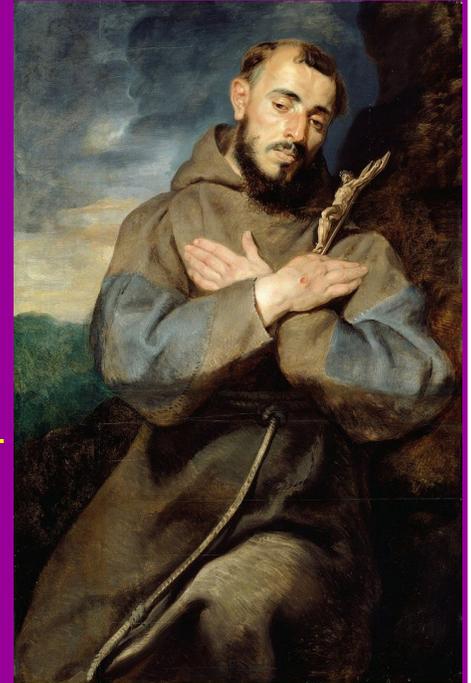
**From the Gusset**

When the **love** of **the Trinity** first started to overflow **Itself** and all of **creation** occurred – the first thing that God made for His Son was the light! Now, yes, this light first shown forth in the **creation** of all the **Angels**, but shortly after that (when time began) God created **two great lights**, the greater one to govern the day (the sun), and the lesser one to govern the night (the moon), and God made the stars. Or course the greatest creature in **creation** was the one God made to resemble in image and likeness His Son – we, **human beings!** When you were **baptized** you were given as **a gift** from God the Father to His Son, Jesus – we became **the friends, the companions**, the people who were to be **neighbors** to the Lord, people He could eat with!! Isn't it ironic then – that Jesus must call out the most **mournful prayer** on Holy Thursday night – as Jesus is imprisoned in a cell – awaiting His trial before Pilate the next **morning** – Jesus prays: **Father because of You, My friends and neighbors shun Me; My only friend is darkness!** Do you see the irony? That when we **sin**, we run away from God – we hide like **Adam** and **Eve** did in **the Garden** – we ditch our Lord Jesus – we allow Jesus to stand alone in **the darkness** – the one thing His Father did not want to happen, and so God had busily made light, so His Son would always have the light to walk in! This **Lent**, lets you and I not ditch our Lord. Yes, let us try to **sin** less (we should always be trying to do this), but maybe we could talk more (**pray**) to Jesus during the course of the day, but especially at **night** – when we have said **Compline** and we turn out the light – perhaps, we could just tell Jesus: “Lord, I’m here for you, in the **darkness!** I cannot see You, but Lord, would you stretch out Your hand and hold my hand in the **darkness**. Watch over me as I sleep that I might rest in Your **peace**, and when You awaken me to a **new day**: open my lips, so I again might praise You with my **life.**”

**Yours on the Path Fr. Randy**

# Weekly Schedule of Masses

The week of March 17th, Tuesday through March 20th, Friday—will find us celebrating the Holy Mass at St. Patrick’s Church in Maytown. Mass will begin at 8:00 am 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. In addition we will have a Holy Hour following the 8:00am Mass on Thursday and Friday—that we might work many Plenary Indulgences in this Extra-ordinary Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi!



## Collection Amounts for the Month of February

	OLPH	SMA	St. Patrick
Loose Collection	\$410	\$0	\$105
Envelopes	\$3,770	\$1,020	\$1,233
Total	\$4,180	\$1,020	\$1,338
Monthly Expenses	\$10,921	\$4,184	\$3,695
Diocesan Appeal	\$9,195/\$10,350	\$4,730/\$3,796	\$12,557/\$2,495
National Appeal	\$300	---	\$300

## Communal Penance Service

Thursday, March 19th at 6:30pm at OLPH Church

### Examination of Conscience

- Have you accompanied our Lord more this Lent—praying extra Prayers—asking our Lord to stretch out His hand and touch you more often in the course of the day?
- Have you been a neighbor to the Lord—allowing Him to break the Bread for you—and dine with you on Sunday and perhaps another occasion during the week?
- Have you allowed the Blessed Mother, St. Paul Miki, and St. Francis of Assisi to come with you into the garden to kneel and to watch and to pray with our Lord?
- Have you been generous in giving alms—not allowing your right hand to know what your left hand is doing?

## The Pieta

by Michelangelo

**Michelangelo's Pieta statue** is revered as the greatest sculpture in the world, and easily makes everyone's top 10 list. It is drop dead gorgeous both in its technical prowess and high **Catholic Theology**. How beautiful is Christ's Body—such that the viewer must look twice: is Jesus **dead** (He has just been taken down from **the Cross**) or is the Lord merely sleeping in **Mary's** arms? Fascinating that the look on **the Virgin Mother's** face almost leads us to believe that it is the latter, which is true. **Mary's** youthfulness of face, her serene expression, and even the positioning of her arms and hands; suggests to us that **Mary** just might be – she just might be – seeing her Baby in **the manger of Bethlehem!** If her Son has just been crucified, why does **Mary** look this way? **Michelangelo** professed that this is how his own **Mother** looked. The boy



**Michelangelo** lost his **Mom** when he was only 6 years old. **Michelangelo** loaned **the Virgin** the face of his own **Mother**. Yet, if the Christ died when He was 33 years old, and **Mary** was given **the Annunciation** when she was a young girl – then **the Blessed Mother** would have been minimally in her mid-40's on **Good Friday**. Why did **Michelangelo** give **the Virgin** the face of a young woman – not a wrinkle or a crease – and no sign of anxiety. When asked this question by no less than **the Cardinal** who commissioned the young artist to sculpt **the Pieta**, **Michelangelo's** response was: “do you not know that chaste women stay fresh much more than those who are not chaste?” Put away **the Oil of Olay cream, ladies** – remain **Faithful** to your husband, and you will advance in age and beauty before God and man. **Mary** is **the Catholic Church** – the spotless Bride of Christ. Her Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ, died for her, so that she might be (as the Scriptures tell us): **without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; that she might be holy and without blemish**. The Bride of Christ, **Mary, the Catholic Church**, you and



I – we are **radiant** with **joy** at what Jesus Christ has done for us. He **loved** us and handed Himself over for us to **sanctify** us – that God might present to Himself **the Church** in **splendor**. Of course, **Mary** is beautiful – God gave her that beauty, and God wants you and I to be beautiful also – we who make up **the Body of Christ** – we will be beautiful in Christ Jesus. Let us go to **confession** this coming Thursday, **the Feast of St. Joseph**, and let us **confess our sins** and receive absolution – that we might be **radiant** as we look with **Mary** upon the Body of Christ taken down from **the Cross** on **Good Friday** afternoon.

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

## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, March 14th**

(+) Msgr. Mahowald/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Stacey Wertz & (+) Sue Leffelman/ Shawn Leffleman

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

**Sunday, March 15th Laetare Sunday**

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Allerton

**Monday, March 16th**

(+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Rick Considine

**Tuesday, March 17th**

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) James Meznarich/ Betty Meznarich &  
(+) Edward McLaughlin/ Fr. Randy

**Wednesday, March 18th**

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mildred Schneider/ Mr. & Mrs. Rick Cardot

**Thursday, March 19th Solemnity of St. Joseph**

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Henry Robinson/ Fr. Randy

**Friday, March 20th**

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

10:45 am, **Stonecroft** (+) Arlene Schmitt (+) Patricia Painter, (+) Elaine Henkel/ Fr. Randy

5:30 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Judy Sharkey

**Saturday, March 21st**

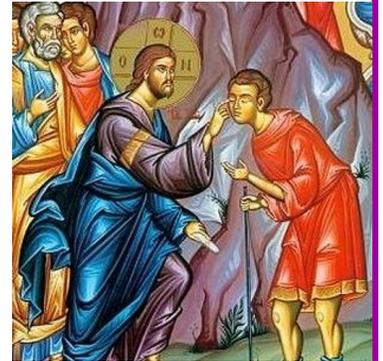
(+) Darlene Gehant & (+) Edward McLaughlin & (+) Douglas Pettenger/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Ritola Family & (+) Arthur Prendergast/ Family

**Sunday, March 22nd 5th Sunday of Lent**

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Doug Blaine/ Diane Blaine

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



### Lenten Parish Mission

Last Supper talk

at **St. Mary's Church**

(226 East Second Street, Byron, Ill.)

**Sunday, March 22nd**

**Soup and Salad 5:00pm**

**Last Supper Talk 6:00pm**

Our Lord has just said: "one of you is about to betray Me," (John 13:21) and all **pandemonium** has broken loose. All of **the twelve** have a different reaction, and how they respond with their **hands**, with the expression of their **faces**, and with their **body postures**—allows **Leonardo da Vinci** to introduce us to **the 12 best friends** of our Lord. The **Lenten Mission** at **St. Mary's** will teach us not only how to pray **the Infant Jesus of Prague Chaplet** and memorize **the 12 Apostles**, but we will also discover: which three Apostles were at **the Council of Jerusalem**, how the disciples were **martyred**, our Lord's response to **Philip's** question: Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us, and much more.