

*6th Sunday of Lent*  
*March 29, 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!***

## You Will Be My Witnesses Capital Campaign

Our entire Diocesan family will be invited to support Bishop Malloy's historic: **You will Be My Witnesses Campaign**. When asked to do something big, whether a project or a donation, it is often easiest to take the biggest piece and divide it into smaller parts. Making your gift into a pledge can help maximize your ability to support the goal of the Campaign. If a family is asked to consider a gift of \$3,600, it may seem like too much at one time. If the family divides it annually—\$1,200 over 3 years—this may seem more manageable. Or if a family decides to break it down even further, to monthly, it will come out to \$100 a month over 3 years, or about the amount the family might spend eating out at a restaurant during the month. Your family will need to decide what is appropriate and meaningful for your situation. Soon, Bishop Malloy will ask each of us to consider a gift in the hopes that all of us will pledge to support the Campaign's Goals in some way. You will be asked: **what can you sacrifice for the next 3 years in order to make our Catholic Churches in the Rockford Diocese thrive in the decades to come?**



### From the Gusset

*“You have distanced loved one and neighbor from Me; darkness is My only friend.” – Psalm 88:19*

This has been our *Goal* for Lent this year – that when all others have run away – deserted our poor Lord – that we would stay with Him in the darkness of His Passion. The sins of the world are so many and our Lord has taken them all upon Himself – nailing them to the Cross – the sins of the world are so many that all Jesus can see is *the darkness of sin* – that is the darkness the Son of God is experiencing in Psalm 88 verse 19. Jesus says, *“I cannot see My lovers or My neighbors anymore”* – it is as though they are so far off – the Lord would need a telescope to see us. Sin puts a distance between ourselves and our Savior. It is as though every time we sin, we take a step away from God. The Catholic Church gives us the wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Confession! Confession draws us back to close quarters with our Lord. We go into the dark confessional and we whisper our sins to God – you must be close to someone in order for them to hear you whisper! You see, in Confession, we come close to Jesus and we take ownership of our sins. Instead of just seeing the sin – the darkness – when we tell Jesus: ‘Lord, I am responsible for this sin ..., I am responsible for that one...’ – suddenly, Jesus associates a face with the sin, and this makes our Tremendous Lover want to forgive the sin all the more! Jesus has already died on the Cross for all the sins of the world, now in Reconciliation, the Lord mercifully loves the sinner and gives him forgiveness of his particular sins. That is our Goal for Lent: that we would make a good Confession, take ownership of our sins by telling our sins to Jesus and asking for His merciful forgiveness for the part of the darkness we have caused. Our Goal for Lent is to be our Lord's lover in the darkness, because everyone knows a Lover is more passionate in the dark!

Yours on the Path Fr. Randy



## Holy Week Schedule of Masses

The beginning of Holy Week will find us celebrating the Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Maytown. Mass will begin at 8:00 am on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, April 2nd, after the Chrism Mass, we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm at St. Patrick's. I would love for twelve men to volunteer for the foot washing. After Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will only be exposed until 11:00 pm at which point I will repose the Lord in a tabernacle back at the Rectory—not allowing our Lord to enter the tabernacle in Church until His incarnation on the altar at the Easter Vigil Mass. All are welcome to be our Lord's companions in the darkness until 11:00 pm on Holy Thursday night.

### **EASTER FLOWER DONATION COUPON**

**CHURCH YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR FLOWER  
TO BE DISPLAYED:**

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**

**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

**ST. PATICK'S CHURCH**



**NAME OF THE PERSON(S) TO BE MEMORIALIZED:**

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## *The Pieta*

*by Michelangelo*

In Latin, the word for ‘*compassion*’ can be rendered quite a few different ways: misericordia, pieta, miseratio.... Compassion means ‘sympathy’ or ‘**suffering with another.**’ Compassio (in Latin) is derived by combining ‘com’ with ‘pati’ – c-o-m in Latin means ‘with’ or ‘together,’ and p-a-t-i in Latin means ‘to suffer;’ so compassion is **to suffer together with someone.** You could look at Mary as the one that God the Father created to suffer together with His Son, Jesus.

Remember, I am always telling you that, that was the major part of the job description of the Apostles – to be the best friends of Jesus Christ and specifically to be there at the foot of the Cross and watch our Lord suffer and die for mankind – **to suffer together with Jesus;**

yet, only Mary was there to show compassion (St. John was only there, because Mary dragged him along!). The Church Fathers – in talking about the Mystery of the Incarnation – they speak often of how the virginal womb of the mother of our Lord is the place where ‘peace’ between God and the human race came to be. Eden was supposed to be that place of peace between God and Adam and Eve, but then Adam and Eve fell – they ruptured the peace of God by sinning. Mary, however, free from sin from her conception in the womb of St. Anne – Mary allows at the Annunciation – Mary allows her womb to be the new Eden – the place where God came to be at peace with His favorite creature, the man! It is not by chance that Michelangelo drapes the Body of Jesus across the Virgin Mother’s lap in *the Pieta statute* – Mary is physically and spiritually



that place of peace, because our lady always **chooses to suffer with her Son!** Let us – you and I – be like St. John this Lent and allow our Lady to drag us along to the foot of the Cross – let us draw close to Mary and learn from Momma how to suffer together with Jesus. Let us allow Mary to bring peace between God and the human race again! **Our Lady of Sorrows... pray for us!**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 28th

(+) Howard McInnis, (+) Robert Bulfer, & (+) Lynn Peterson/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Thomas Berry/ Ruth Ann Vaessen

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) John Gehant/ Ronald Haefner

### Sunday, March 29th Palm Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Elaine Henkel/ Mr. & Mrs. John Payne

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

### Monday, March 30th

(+) Leo & (+) Norma Bushman/ Fr. Randy

### Tuesday, March 31st

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Mr. & Mrs. Brian Wilson

### Wednesday, April 1st

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Faye Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman &  
(+) Betty Prendergast/ Family

### Thursday, April 2nd Holy Thursday

11:00 am, **St. Peter's Rockford Chrism Mass** (+) Msgr. McDonnell &  
(+) Msgr. Mahowald & (+) Msgr. Donovan/ Fr. Randy

7:00 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Edward Klein

### Friday, April 3rd Good Friday

1:00 pm, **OLPH** Veneration of the Cross

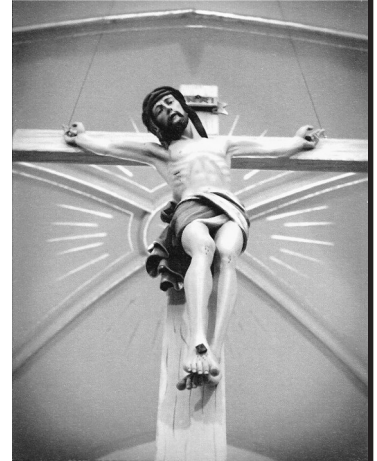
### Saturday, April 4th Easter Vigil

7:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Darlene Gehant/ Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bresson

### Sunday, April 5th Easter Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Julie Malch/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Streit

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



## Two Hundred and Fifty Holy Hours for our Country!



My Spiritual Director has a much bigger Parish to shepherd than I have, but Father is having his Church host 250 Holy Hours through out this Anniversary Year of our Country. I thought, what a great idea, we should always be praying for our Elected and Government Officials, but we should also be praying in gratitude for the gift that God has given to us—of being citizens of the United States of America. This is a gift that has not been given to all, and this is the reason so many leave another country to come to ours (because they see what a great gift God has given to Americans!). We will be unable to sponsor 250 Holy Hours in this special year, but I would like to offer an extra hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays that we might beseech God to continue to Bless our Land. In the month of April, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the Monstrance from 5:00pm to 6:00pm in Sublette—come and thank God for His blessings on our Country.