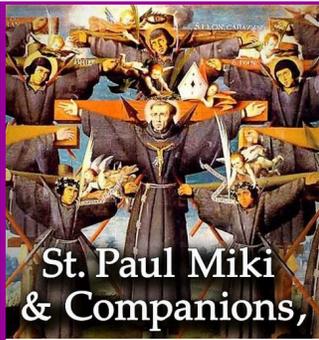


*3rd Sunday of Lent
March 8, 2026*



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

From the Gusset



St. Paul Miki
& Companions,

It is very difficult to keep our **Lenten promises** of **prayer**, **fasting**, and **almsgiving** for 40 days. It was difficult for our Lord – doesn't **the Scripture** say, at the end of 40 days, **He was hungry**. What **the Catholic Church** has found to be helpful in our quest to **pray** more during **Lent** (talk to God more often) and support those, who have less than we, with the product of our **fast** and being more generous in our **almsgiving** – what the **Catholic Church** has found to be helpful is if we realize that we are a **Community** of believers going through **Lent** together – that it is not just we, ourselves, who are doing these acts of **love** to God and neighbor, but that other people are trying to be more **charitable** just as we are. We are going through **Lent** this year with **St. Paul Miki** and his **martyred companions** – we have a relic of this great Saint and also first-class relics of **the four Jesuits**, who were **martyred** with him wayback in the 1597 in Nagasaki, Japan. It always **amazes** me, how universal is the **love** of God – that is why our **Church** is called **Catholic**, because people from all over **the world** have fallen in **love** with this God, who made us out of **the dirt** of the earth, and blew into us the **breath of life**; such that we became a living being – and then, when we **sinned** – this God did not stop loving us, but He did something even more amazing than getting His **knees dirty** when He **loved** us at our creation – God sent His only Begotten Son to die for us. Just think, we in these **rural farming Parishes** were privileged to go through **Lent** nine times, with nuns from Nigeria – when **the Daughters of Divine Love** lived with us; and now we have the privilege of going through **Lent** accompanied by **martyrs** from Japan! See, that is **the Catholic notion** I am talking about here – that there are others who can help us – that we are not just one star in **the night sky** trying to shine brightly for God, but we are just one star in a whole **constellation of stars** that are trying to show forth the beauty of God as a **Catholic Community**. We will talk more about **Paul Miki** and his **Jesuit companions**, who died over four hundred years ago in Asia – we will talk of how **St. Paul Miki** and his companions all **glorified** God in a different way as they were dying on their **Crosses** that God asked them to pick up daily. But it should not be that you and I are trying to shoulder the burden of our **Lent** by ourselves. We ought to realize that others are struggling just as we are to **pray** more and to **fast** for the benefit of another and to be more **generous** with our money, our time, and our possessions. It should not be that your spouse doesn't know what you gave up for **Lent**, or that your siblings or your children are **wondering** how you have determined you will **pray** more this **Lent**, or that only the U.S. Government finds out in the next tax year – what **donations** you made this **Lent**. No, your spouse should say – *'my love bunny gave up this item, so this Lent I'm going to give up the same thing.'* Your siblings or your children should say, 'Oh, you are going to go to one extra **Mass** during the week this year to **pray** more to God – may I come with you?' And finally, your best friend finds out you are **donating** your loved ones' clothes to this **Charity**, and so they will **donate** some of their **deceased's possessions** to that same **Charity**. See, then we are not just one light in the sky struggling to beam brightly for God, but **the night sky** becomes rich in the many lights twinkling in **the darkness** for God – that **the Catholic night** should be as **bright** as the day.

Yours on the Path Fr. Randy



Weekly Schedule of Masses

The week of March 10th, Tuesday through March 13th, Friday—will find us celebrating the Holy Mass at **St. Mary of the Assumption Church in West Brooklyn**. Mass will begin at 7:30 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.



The **St. Anne's Sodality** is supporting the **Toy Show** next weekend (March 15th) with a **Bake Sale** to be held at **Main Street Repair** starting at 8:00 am. Any **bakery items** would be greatly appreciated!

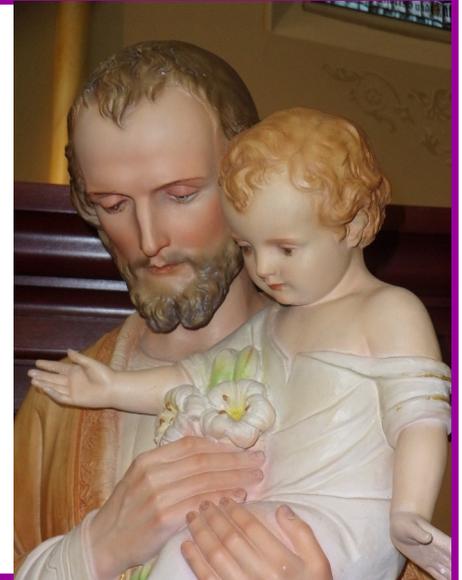


Our **Communal Penance Service** will be held on the evening of **St. Joseph's Feast Day**, Thursday, **March 19th** at 6:30pm at **OLPH Church**

A good **examination of Conscience** question to ask yourself is: Have I been **obedient** to God in my **prayers**, my **works**, and my **fastings** this **Lent**?



St. Joseph's purity is often symbolized by **the Easter lily flower**. Consider making an **Easter lily donation** to **honor** your **deceased loved ones** this **Easter**.

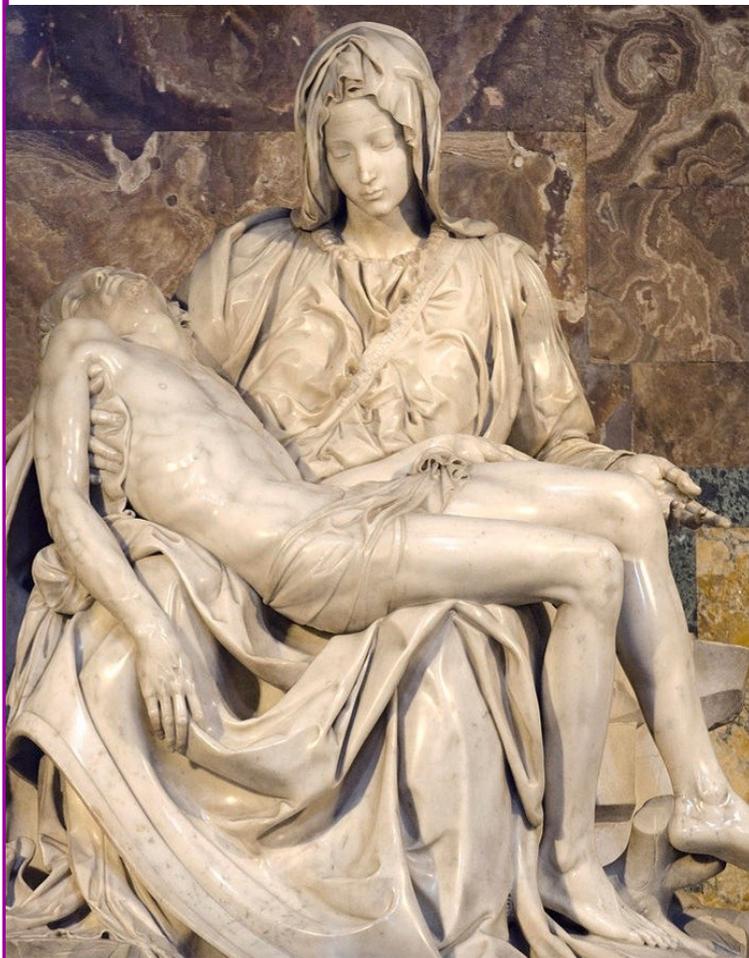


The Pieta

by Michelangelo



There are three types of **muscle tissue** in your body: **skeletal**, **cardiac**, and **smooth**. The latter two **muscle types** are what **Biologist** called **involuntary**, which means that they are controlled by a part of the brain that we are **not conscious** of – so you don't have to tell your **heart muscles** to contract nor do you have to tell the muscles in your **digestive tract** to contract either – our **subconscious** brain handles those little details – so we can concentrate our thinking on how are we going to show God our **love**! Now even though our **skeletal muscles** are **voluntary** – that is we have to actively think of raising our hand or touching our toe in order to accomplish that action, **neurologically** our brains **passively** control either the right side or the left side of our bodies or we could say it takes **active consciousness** to control both your right hand and your left hand at the same time. Our saying about **giving alms** comes from this **active/ passive** consciousness – “*don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.*” **Artists** often will display this behavior by having their subject **actively** doing something with his right hand and showing **passivity** to the left hand of the subject. For example, in **Michaelangelo's David statue** – the right hand of David has taken up the sling (which he will use to fell Goliath), but his left hand **passively** lays at his side! **Mary's** hands in **the Pieta** are doing two extremely different things. Her right hand is **actively** grasping the Body of Christ – while her left hand – palm up – appears to present the viewer (us) with the Body of Christ. **The Theology of the Hand** is all about: how we can either do God's will or our



own will. **Mary** being the Perfect Woman – the woman, who never **sinned** – **Mary** always wants to do the will of God! Remember after **the Archangel Gabriel** told her God's will for her life – **Mary** says, **I am the handmaid of the Lord. May It be done unto me according to Your word.** With her lefthand **Mary** presents her Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, first to the **shepherds**, then to **the Magi**, then to God in the Temple on the 8th day, and then, finally, to us and **the whole world** in **the Pieta** statue. **Mary's** right hand is the **active** hand, the grasping, clutching hand – the hand that holds the Body of Jesus. This hand almost appears to be in motion – that **Mary** is going **to raise** the Torso of our Lord to her breast or perhaps she raises the Body of her Son to give Him one last **kiss** before His **burial**. Both of **Mary's** hands in **the Pieta**, both the right and the left, both **actively** and **passively** – both of **Mary's** hands do the will of God.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 7th

(+) Joseph & (+) Catherine Schauer/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Arlene Schmitt/ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Henkel

Sunday, March 8th 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Diane Pugh

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Charles Henkel/ Family &
(+) Sharon Apple/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Henkel

Monday, March 9th

(+) Michael Widolff & (+) Robert Fischer/ Fr. Randy

Tuesday, March 10th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Mr. & Mrs. Pat O'Connor

Wednesday, March 11th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Rosetta Schuhler/ Carlene Schuhler

Thursday, March 12th

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

Friday, March 13th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis & (+) William Berger/ Fr. Randy

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

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner/ Sheila Halbmaier

Saturday, March 14th

(+) Msgr. Mahowald/ Fr. Randy

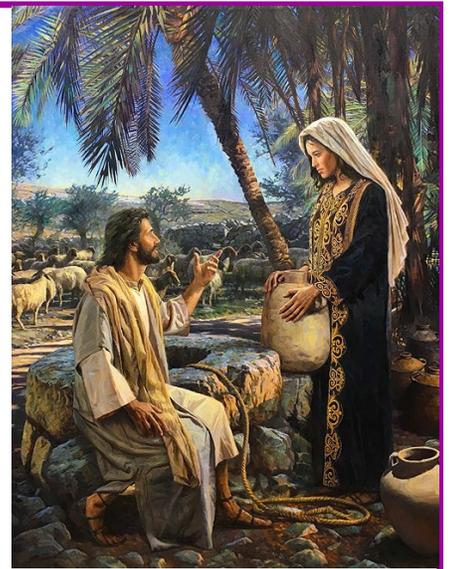
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Stacey Wertz & (+) Sue Leffelman/ Shawn Leffleman

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



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Icon talk

at **St. Rita's Church**

(6254 Valley Knoll Drive, Rockford, Ill.)

Saturday, March 14th

Breakfast 8:45am

Talk 9:30—11:00am

When we pray **the Hail Mary Prayer**, we ask our Lady to show us the way to her Son. The greatest **Byzantine Icon** is **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**. The **Virgin** is shown holding Jesus in her arms and she gently points with her right hand to **the Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

This type of Icon is called "**Mary as Hodegetria**." **Hodegetria** is a Greek word meaning: *the one who shows the way (hodos)*. If we ask in prayer, **Mary** will lead us into her Son's **Sacred Heart** and allow us to experience **the mercy** of God. Come learn how **to pray** with this **Miraculous Icon**.