

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026



“Recognition is the sweetest grace of the New Testament.” — Bishop Daniel Flores

Let us spend this Easter Season recognizing Christ in one another!

You Will Be My Witnesses Capital Campaign

“Doing the work of the Holy Spirit” is how **Bishop Malloy** described the **Capital Campaign** at the **Vigil Mass** for **Divine Mercy Sunday** at the Cathedral. One of the couples, who were volunteers at **Holy Family Church** during **Wave One** spoke afterwards at ‘the meet and greet session’ held in **St. Peter’s Hall**, where they talked about how “we would all like to see our young people coming to Mass and celebrating their **Catholic Faith**.” The main initiative of the **Capital Campaign** is **evangelization**: *getting more people in the pews celebrating the **Sunday Mass**!* As we are about a month out from launching the **Capital Campaign** in our Parishes (**Wave Two**), please consider how your **Catholic Faith** has been instrumental in living your **vocation** for **the glory of God**, and ask God to soften your **heart** that you might be as generous to your **Church** as the previous generation of **Catholics**.



From the Gusset

I was fascinated by **Daniel diSilva’s** talk about the **original Divine Mercy image** of Jesus. **St. Faustina** was told by our Lord that all, who looked upon the image, would be given special **blessings of Mercy**, but which is the original image? The one painted by **Eugene Kazimirowski** in **Vilnius, Lithuania** (the only image that **Sister Faustina** ever saw in her lifetime) or the image in the convent in **Krakow** where the **Divine Mercy Sisters** celebrate **Mass**, or the popular image enshrined in the Cathedral built just outside of **Krakow** where **Pope John Paul II** canonized **Sister Faustina** in the year 2000? One thing that **diSilva** said, was “*that you and I are better icons of Jesus Christ than any painting!*” Wow! Didn’t God, Himself, say that the man and the woman were created in His image; in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created us! This **Easter** our theme is to **recognize Christ in one another!** I urge you to come to **Church** and receive the **Sacraments** – especially the **Eucharist** and **Reconciliation** – **Sacraments** that make you look more and more like Jesus. Allow others to see you as **an icon** of God’s only begotten Son!



Collection Amounts for the Month of March

	OLPH	SMA	St. Patrick
Loose Collection	\$449	\$21	\$235
Envelopes	\$4,485	\$3,800	\$1,440
Total	\$4,934	\$3,821	\$1,675
Monthly Expenses	\$10,921	\$4,184	\$3,695
Diocesan Appeal	\$9,295/\$10,350	\$4,730/\$3,796	\$12,557/\$2,495
International Appeal	\$1,270	\$440	\$110



How did St. Mark come to be associated with the Blessing of Fields?



The more ancient Feast is **the Feast of St. Mark** – April 25th – however, **Rogation days** were days of **fasting** and **penance** – to beseech God for **a bountiful harvest**. What is pleasing to God? To be **humble** and **contrite** and **to fast** and **to pray** for **the forgiveness of your own sins**; and, most of all, to receive **the Eucharist**, so that a person has the strength **to forgive the sins of others**. About 1,500 years ago, **farmers** started asking their **priest** to help them **pray** for **a good harvest**, and **clerics** chose two sets of days – **Major Rogations days** and **Minor Rogation days** – the former surrounded **St. Mark's Feast day** and the latter were **3 days before the Ascension** of our Lord! Since **St. Mark** died in the 1st century – his **Feast day** is of course older than the **Rogation day** celebrations, but **farmers** always remember when **St. Mark's Feast day** is, but

since **Easter** varied each year – the days before **the Ascension** were known (usually) only by **the priest**. So, in modern times, **farmers** just ask for **a blessing on their fields** near the day of **April 25th**! Bring a **soil sample** from your **farm** to **Mass** with you on **April 25th and 26th**, and I will bless it. **Fr. Randy** will bring a **soil sample** from my Dad's garden at **Stonecroft** and a **soil sample** from the leeward side of **the Rectory** – asking God for a good **tomato crop** this year, so even if you don't have acres to **farm** – you may still obtain **God's blessing** for a **fruitful harvest**.



The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo's Masterpiece of *the Last Supper* was commissioned by the Duke and the Dutchess of Milan: Ludovico d'Este Sforza's family for the Benedictine monks at the monastery of *Santa Maria delle Grazie* in Milan, Italy. Many other artists were competing with Leonardo for the job of painting the Refectory walls – the place where the monks ate their meals every day. On one end of the Refectory was to be a Last Supper image and the opposite wall would illustrate the Crucifixion on Calvary. The Catholic Church has always taught us that these two events – the one taking place on Holy Thursday evening and the other taking place on Good Friday afternoon – that these two events are identical – the former being the unbloodied sacrifice of Christ and the latter being the bloodied sacrifice of Christ. Isn't that amazing then—that every time you and I go to Mass that we witness the Lord sacrificing His life for us. The Church invites us to gather around an altar just as the Disciples gathered around our Lord at the last supper and witness God's great love for us – the sacrifice of His Son. Da Vinci was competing with other artists to win the commission to paint the last supper (it is interesting to note that Leonardo did not compete with the other artists to paint the Calvary scene on the other wall) – and so he provided a number of sketches (now kept at Windsor Castle, Royal Collection) in which he illustrated the Twelve reacting to the Lord just having said: Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray Me. What was unique about Leonardo's interpretation was that all of the Disciples would be placed on the same side of the table, so that you and I can see the reaction of the Twelve – something not possible with the other artists' sketches, who were in competition with da Vinci. Both light and sound emanate from a single point and radiate out in all directions. The light and the sound have a different effect on objects closer to the point of origin than they do on objects farther from the point of origin. This can be seen in the Last Supper work – it seems that the group of three men immediately to Jesus' left and right are more animated than the two groups of three that are farthest from Christ. In Leonardo's own words: *the movements of men vary with the variety of accidents running through their minds: and each accident in itself moves these men to a greater or lesser degree according to their greater force and age; because the same occurrence will cause a different movement in a young man than in an old one.* This is true, and every Catholic priest can vouch for this. The older a parishioner is (the more Masses he has been to) the more in love with God he falls, because he becomes more and more aware of how God is loving him even though the person has committed more sins; and therefore, he should receive less of God's love. In other words, the zealot is beside himself – why does God love him more; when because of the man's sins against God – it should be that: God loves him less? Join me for a fascinating look at the reaction of the Twelve to the Christ's willingness to offer Himself up for us.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 18th

(+) Kathleen Romanoski/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Fr. Hughes/ Family

Sunday, April 19th 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Kelly Lewis/ Mr. & Mrs. Terry Moyer

Noon **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Monday, April 20th

(+) Special intention Klue's family/ Mary Schreiner

Tuesday, April 21st

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

Wednesday, April 22nd

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Jeaneene Komas/ Mary Kuebel

Thursday, April 23rd Feast of St. Mark

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis/ Charles Torri

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Theresa Wilson &

(+) Robert Bulfer/ Carlene Schuhler

Friday, April 24th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Donald & (+) Elaine Henkel/ Velma Quest

11:00 am, **OLPH Funeral Mass** Gilbert & Elaine Theiss

Saturday, April 25th

(+) Joseph Schauer/ Roger & Richard Fronck

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Frank Shepherd/ Betty Meznarich

Sunday, April 26th 4th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Lynne Swanson

10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Julie Kaelin/ Fr. Randy

Noon **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy



Vocation Office's Called by Name Campaign

Bishop Malloy is working with **Fr. Reichardt** to increase the number of men studying for **the Priesthood** in **the Rockford Diocese**, and they are asking all of us to participate in this Campaign. **Bishop Malloy** has written a letter, which is being inserted in this **Bulletin** (see the flipside of **the Easter Flower Donation** page) talking about the Campaign. Next weekend, **Good Shepherd Sunday**, there will be postcards in the pews, and you will be invited to submit the name of **a young man**, who exhibits a **love** for God and a desire to do God's will in **their life**. The names of these men will be given to **Fr. Reichardt**, **the Director for Vocations**, and he will contact them about upcoming **Vocation opportunities** such as **discernment retreats**. Would it not be something special to participate in the blowing of **the Holy Spirit** to help more men respond to this greatest of all **vocations**?

