

*Seventeenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
July 26th, 2026*



From the Gusset

Jesus tells many, many **parables** about what His Father's **Kingdom** is like, and just one of them is that It is like a **fishnet**. This **net** thrown into **the sea** collects all kinds of fish – some good and some bad (inedible) fish. Only at **the Last Judgment** will it be clear just who is **a Saint** and who is not. I think it was **Msgr. Mahowald**, who said, “it would be surprising if there were no surprises!”

Meaning **the thief on the Cross** next to Jesus turns out to be **a Saint**, but Judas, one of **the Twelve**, was not. Isn't that **surprising** – that someone, who was intimate with the Lord for three years turned out to be a bad fish, but then



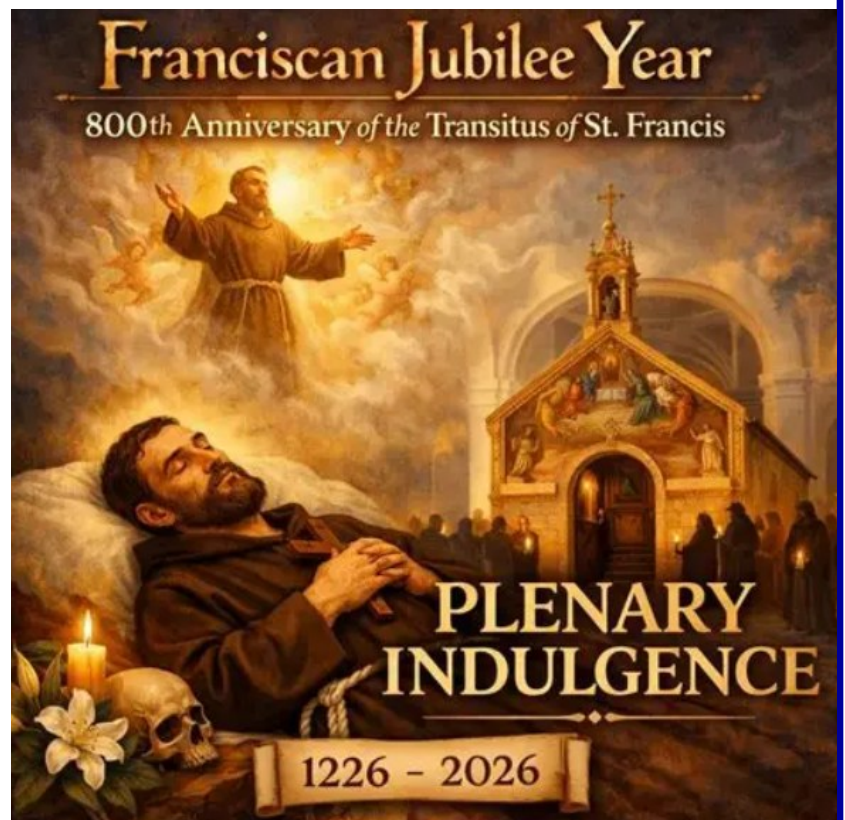
someone, who was next to our Lord for only 3 hours turned out to be a good fish!?? **The Saint** that made me want to become **a priest**, **St. Augustine**, said that there are only two kinds of people or only two **Kingdoms** of people. **Augustine** called one of them “**the city of God**” and the other, “**the city of the world**.” Now, his definition of **a city** – is not a bunch of buildings or a geographical area; rather, a “**city**” is a group of people, who **love** each other – or maybe **Augustine** would just say, a **city** is a group of people, who **love** the same thing. **Dante** takes off on this on his descent into **Hell** – he comes upon a city called “**Dis**.” Which he describes as an anti-city – since the citizens of **Dis** hate each other! Which city do you and I belong to: **the city of God** – where the **love** of God is what we have fallen in **love** with (having God as our final end) or **the city of the world** – where we **love** ourselves and the physical things of this world as our final end? This weekend is called our **Capital Campaign Commitment Weekend**. You and your family have a chance to cast your lot with **the city of God**, by making **a pledge**. Do we **love** our **Church Community** – a **Community** that comes together every Sunday to worship and praise and **adore** God? Do you look forward to kneeling around the altar of your **Church** and watching and listening with bated breathe as your **priest** calls down the Holy Spirit of God and makes the Second Person truly present? Do you thank God for making you a part of His **Catholic Church** that Jesus died on **Calvary** to build? Do you see your **fellow Parishioners** as persons that **love** the same thing that you **love** (God), and are you inspired by their presence to **love** God more, and do you try to inspire them by your presence every Sunday at **the Mass**, so that they want to **love** God more this Sunday than they did last Sunday? **St. Augustine** would call all three of our **Parish Communities**: **a little city of God**. But I would add the word **fragile** to that title. We are three **fragile, little cities of God**. Out here amongst the corn fields – away from the big cities – susceptible to **violent wind gusts** – Parishes, with **collections** less than \$100,000 a year – our **Bishop** wanting to help us, help ourselves has launched this **Capital Campaign** to help us in our **frail** condition. Will we make **a sacrificial pledge**, because we want there to be no doubt in God's mind that our family members want to be called **citizens of the city of God**?

Yours on the Path

Fr. Randy

POOR CLARE PARISH PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY

The greatest single act of **Pope Leo XIVth**'s young **Pontificate** was his declaration of an **extra-Ordinary Jubilee Year** to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the death of **St. Francis of Assisi**. Perhaps because we just came out of an **Ordinary Jubilee Year**: the commemoration of **the 2,025th anniversary** of the birth of Christ – perhaps **the great gift** that **the Catholic Church** gives us of being able to work **Plenary Indulgences** – perhaps because it has become rather routine, we may not fully **appreciate** what an **honor** the Church is bestowing on us nor the incredible opportunity that She is giving us to grow ourselves in **holiness**; but we should see **Jubilee Years** as occasions of great **joy** and **peace**. Think of how distraught and **anxiety prone** you were when your loved one died – how helpless you felt. Now the Church is **empowering** you to speed their entrance into **glory**. As a part of honoring – one of the greatest **Saints** in **Heaven** – if we visit a **Franciscan Church** during this **Jubilee Year** (January 10, 2026 – January 10, 2027) this qualifies as **the 5th work** of an **Indulgence**. **The Poor Clares' Corpus Christi Monastery** in Rockford have **graciously** opened their doors and invited us to visit their **Monastery Chapel** and obtain a **Plenary Indulgence**. I have filled out an application for our **Parishes** to **celebrate the Mass** on a Saturday morning in August, and I encourage you to make **the pilgrimage** with me, receive **the Eucharist** and go to **Reconciliation** and work an **Indulgence**, and then go on a short tour of **the Monastery** and talk with one of **the Sisters**. Pending the **Sisters'** availability, we would conclude our **Retreat** on **the Spirituality of St. Francis** by making this **pilgrimage** to Rockford. Of course, you are free to visit the **Poor Clares' Chapel** on your own at any time, so if you are ever in Rockford and have a few moments to grow the **Church Triumphant** stop by 2111 S. Main street.



Collection Amounts for the Month of June

	OLPH	SMA	St. Patrick
Loose Collection	\$697	\$30	\$105
Envelopes	\$3,950	\$690	\$1,285
Total	\$4,647	\$720	\$1,390
Monthly Expenses	\$10,921	\$4,184	\$3,695
Diocesan Appeal	\$4,440/\$9,376	\$1,905/\$2,590	\$6,485/\$1,953
Mission Co-Op	\$1,400	\$326	\$392





Our Lady of the Snows

The old Roman explanation for why it was so hot during the month of August was that our planet was warmed not only by our Sun during the day, but also our planet was heated by the bright star in Canis Major at night. The brightest star in the Northern hemisphere's night sky is **a-Canis Major**. At the end of the month of July, as the Sun was setting in the West, a-Canis Major was rising in the East. This star

would be visible the whole night long, and so the Romans believed that it would keep the nighttime temperature from dropping. Canis Major is the name of the constellation – it means **'the Big Dog.'** That is why the Romans refer to these days as the **'dog days of Summer!'** It was an extremely hot August in the year 352, when **Pope Liberius** went to bed on the night of August 4th. Barely able to sleep, because of the heat, the Pope was visited in a dream by **the Blessed Virgin Mary**. She told the Holy Father that she wanted a Church built in her honor on the site where the snow would fall that night. Waking the next morning, the Pope chuckled to himself: **"at least this heat will prevent me from having to build a new Basilica."** Suddenly a Deacon burst into his quarters to tell him snow had fallen on the Esquiline hill! The Pope went up to this spot on the highest of the 7 fabled hills of Rome, and drew the outline of the Church in the snow. Since then, **the Feast of Our Lady of the Snows** was introduced to the Church calendar, so that

every 5th of August the whole Catholic Church should celebrate this miracle. I find it difficult to believe the Tradition that May and October are the only Marian months. I challenge you to find one of the twelve months in the year that does not have a Marian Feast, and here in the month of August we will wind up celebrating 3 great Feasts to the honor of her, who is full of grace: **the Feast of Our Lady of the Snows, the Assumption, and the Queenship of Mary.** Because my Grandfather died of heat prostration on August 5th – **the Feast of Our Lady of the Snows** has always been special to my family. We always celebrate a **memorial Mass** for Grampa's repose during which we ask our Blessed Mother to intercede for **Grampa** and to put her **cool hand** onto his sweaty brow and awaken him to life everlasting. I always marvel at how the Catholic Church so easily takes an event of great sorrow, and transforms it into an occasion of happiness and **joy**.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 25th Feast of St. James

(+) Michael Leurck & (+) James & (+) Geraldine Fronek/ Fr. Randy
1:00 pm, **Holy Angels Wedding Mass** Zachary Woods & Katheryn Stevens
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Atherton

Sunday, July 26th Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time & Feast Day of Grandparents

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Edward Klein
10:00 am, **SMA** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy
Noon, **OLPH** (+) Anita Nanez/ Ana Gutierrez &
(+) Rose Theiss/ Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Chrabaszc

Monday, July 27th

(+) The Schoenfeld Family/ Fr. Randy

Tuesday, July 28th

(+) Franklin Fronek & (+) Robert Fronek/ Roger & Rick Fronek

Wednesday, July 29th Feast of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

(+) Robert Bulfer/ Shawn Leffelman

Thursday, July 30th

(+) Howard McInnis & (+) Darlene Gehant/ Fr. Randy

Friday, July 31st Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola

(+) Thomas Sharkey & (+) Howard McInnis/ Fr. Randy Fronek

Saturday, August 1st

(+) Michael Leurck/ Mr. & Mrs. Steve Leurck
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Jeffrey Marschang/ Family & (+) Thomas Fassler/ Sue Fassler

Sunday, August 2nd Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy
10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bresson
Noon, **OLPH** (+) Albertus McCauley/ Mary Kuebel



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL PROGRESS REPORT:

Parish Goal for **St. Patrick's Church** is \$30,044

Total Funds Raised: \$26,520

Percent to Goal: 88.2%

Parish Goal for **St. Mary of the Assumption** is \$43,388

Total Funds Raised: \$48,864

Percent to Goal: 112.6%

Parish Goal for **OLPH** is \$115,881

Total Funds Raised: \$164,755

Percent to Goal: 142.2%



Capital Campaign Commitment Weekend

The Goal of *Commitment Weekend* is get **100% participation**—of all of our registered families making a **pledge** to the Capital Campaign. All of us that come to **Mass** are the **beneficiaries** of receiving all of God's **love** in the **Eucharist** we receive, and so it should be that everyone shows their **gratitude** to God by **sacrificially** giving back to God a **pledge** that comes from their **heart**. Everyone coming to **Mass** this weekend will be given a **pledge card** to fill out, so as not to **embarrass** those who have yet to contribute. These are to be filled out during the **Mass**, and **Fr. Randy** will collect them before we pray the **Creed** together. Thank you to all who have already **pledged**, and thank you for your **love** of your **Church**.