33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
November 15, 2026



Bound for the Kingdom, and thus to do things that glorify God.

FROM THE GUSSET

An epidemic has broken out that is more deleterious to our soul's salvation than the COVID virus was to our bodily health. When a loved one dies, we are not having a Funeral Mass prayed for them. Often it is the case that the family members who remain are not going to Mass every Sunday, and so they are not contacting the Church and asking that the Funeral Mass be prayed for their relation that has just passed away. I do not want to get into the priestly debate about who the Funeral Mass is really prayed for – is it prayed for those who remain *"that we might be comforted with assurances of Faith that we will one day be together with our brother/sister when we all meet in Christ"* or is it prayed for the deceased himself that because of our prayers (pleading) on their behalf *"they would pass from this life and be given kind admittance into God's Kingdom?"* Rather, I like to look at the reason a Catholic Funeral Mass is prayed for anyone who dies is because it is their Baptismal right! I used to love to play in Chess Tournaments before I entered the Seminary (I have not been in a tournament since before my pre-Theology year in Seminary, because all Chess tournaments are on the weekends – the busiest part of a Priest's week). When I became a member of the United States Chess Federation (USCF), they sent me a membership I.D. card, and on the back of the card were listed out all of the privileges that came with being a registered member of the USCF. Such as a copy of the monthly magazine, *Chess Life*, the posting of your rating with all the other Chess players in the January issue, and the ability to play in tournaments sponsored by the USCF. This is how we ought to look at Baptism – that not only does Baptism give us an indelible mark and repairs the wound to our soul caused by Original Sin, but Baptism opens our souls up to the Sacramental life of the Church: Reconciliation, the Eucharist,…. One of the rights that someone who has been baptized has is that they are assured of having a Funeral Mass prayed for them, so that one last time (before their particular judgment) they may receive the graces of the Eucharist when all present at the Funeral Mass make a Spiritual Communion for them! With the Blood of Christ fresh on their souls (still wet) – God the Father sees this – that His Son, Jesus, has shed His Blood upon them – God the Father cannot help but have mercy on their soul and prepare a place for them at the Eternal banquet table in Heaven! I have even prayed Funeral

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Masses for non-Catholics. Their families did not ask for me to celebrate the Mass for them (why should they have, they were not Catholic), but because I loved the persons that died, I celebrated a Mass for them: Peter Rose, Bobby Fischer, Walter Payton, Bruce Suttter…. I log on to the websites of local Funeral Homes and sometimes I become aware of a burial without a Funeral Mass having taken place, and then I simply celebrate a Funeral Mass typically at 5:00pm on Wednesdays in Sublette – simultaneously with our Patriotic Holy Hour. God recognizes – hears our prayers – when we pray for the living and the dead. Jesus taught us to do this, and Mary teaches us in her Prayer to pray for the living and the dead. To do nothing when a loved one dies is a trick of Satan – what could possible be the benefit to we, the living, to celebrate a Mass; and surely, it will not bring your deceased loved one back to life (this is the lie of Satan). A Funeral Mass is one of the most powerful Prayers of all-time – untold graces are given every time we celebrate the Mass – let us make sure that we have one prayed when someone we love dies! Yours on the Path Fr. Randy





MAYTOWN COAT DRIVE

-place coats in the Narthex at all 3 Parishes



Collection Amounts for the Month of October

	OLPH	SMA	St. Patrick
Loose Collection	$560	$102	$131
Envelopes	$6,175	$2,020	$1,685
Total	$6,735	$2,122	$1,816
Monthly Expenses	$10,921	$4,184	$3,695
Mission Appeal	$1,040	$450	$80
Diocesan Appeal	$9,990/$9,376	$3,205/$2,590	$6,785/$1,953



RCIA: The Strangest Way

Bishop Barron calls the book: Brideshead Revisited – "one of the greatest religious novels of the 20th century" – "Evelyn Waugh's masterpiece!" Sebastian tells the main character (Charles) in the book: "O dear, it's very difficult being a Catholic." Charles, who is an agnostic, asks Sebastian, "why does being Catholic make a difference in your life? – you cannot possibly believe all those things about Christmas and the star and the 3 Kings and the ox and the ass." Sebastian replies, "that he believes it all – he takes it all seriously, because it is so lovely an idea!" Charles says, "you cannot believe things because they are a lovely idea." But Sebastian is adamant, "but I do – that is how I believe." Theologians always describe God as all beauty, all truth, and all goodness! See what has happened is that Sebastian has fallen in love with the beauty of God – namely Jesus Christ! The first path (of the 3 paths that lead us back to Heaven) is to have God at the center of your life! Bishop Barron tells us – that to the Catholic - "living in Christ is both simultaneously alluring in its beauty (Sebastian fell in love with the beautiful Christmas narrative) and (at the same time) terrifying to us in the demands that our Faith makes of us (Sebastian said, "it is so hard to be Catholic" – it is not easy to love God above all else and neighbor as much as you love yourself – or to turn the other cheek – or to forgive 77 times 7 times)! God is very harsh – God is uncompromising – God demands that we love His Son – we are either with Christ or against Christ (all-or-nothing seems to be the case with our relationship with God). As Chapter one progresses in *The Strangest Way* – we start to learn how to rise above the passions and attachments of this world, and how being attached to anything save God alone – is actually harmful to us! Bishop talks about how anytime our will is attached to something less than God, we become (automatically) addicted to the thing – and this addiction/ obsession finally takes away our freedom. He is speaking of the Catholic definition of freedom – Ie. that freedom is be the man or the woman that God created you to be! The Scriptural reference that Bishop Barron uses to highlight the first Path (besides numerous quotes from the letters of St. Paul) are Luke's Beatitudes (the Sermon on the Plain). Much more difficult to understand than Matthew's Beatitudes (the Sermon on the Mount), if we are detached from the things of this world; and instead, attached to the Lord – than blessed are you when people hate you and exclude you – blessed are you, because then you are free from the addiction of the approval of others. Yet, know if Christ is your center this automatically puts you in spiritual conflict with those who are still in chains! I am beginning to think Sebastian is dead right: it is very difficult being a Catholic!

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, November 14th
(+) Matthew Leurck & (+) Mark Leurck/ Mr. & Mrs. Steve Leurck
1:00pm OLPH Wedding Mass Ryan Burd & Valerie Klein
4:00pm OLPH (+) Sharon Apple/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Henkel
Sunday, November 15th 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
8:00am St. Patrick (+) Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy
10:30am SMA (+) Quin & (+) Josephine Torri/ Torri Family
Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy
Monday, November 16th Feast of St. Gertrude
(+) Kathleen Romanoski/ Fr. Randy
Tuesday, November 17th Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungry
7:30am SMA (+) Howard McInnis/ Mr. & Mrs. Pat O'Connor
Wednesday, November 18th Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter & St. Paul
8:00am OLPH (+) Sylvia Leffelman & LaVerne Klein/ Mr. & Mrs. Don Dinges
Thursday, November 19th
7:30am SMA (+) Rita Haefner/ Fr. Randy
8:30am OLPH (+) Floyd Wilson/ Tom Schuhler
Friday, November 20th
8:00am St. Patrick (+) Ronald & (+) Eileen Leffelman/ Theresa Wilson
Saturday, November 21st Presentation of Mary
(+) Susan Hayes/ Karen McInnis
4:00pm OLPH (+) Stacey Wertz/ Shawn Leffelman &
(+) Donald Marschang/ Family
Sunday, November 22nd Solemnity of Christ the King
8:00am St. Patrick (+) Marty Quest/ Velma Quest &
(+) James & (+) Anita Hendron/ Mr. & Mrs. Marty Bickett
10:30am SMA Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy



Church Addresses:

St. Mary of the Assumption: 2520 Johnson street, West Brooklyn, Ill. 61378
Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 201 Locust Street, Sublette, Ill. 61367
St. Patrick Church: 1336 Maytown road, Amboy, Ill. 61310
The P.O. Box for correspondence at all of our Churches is:
P.O. Box 80, Sublette, Ill. 61367