First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026



FROM THE GUSSET

You give them their fill of Your treasures;
they rejoice in abundance of offspring
and leave their wealth to their children. – Psalm 17:14

In the Gospel of 'the talents,' Jesus told us: "everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away." You and I are growing richer by the week! Every Sunday that we come to Mass and receive the Eucharist, we are storing up treasure in Heaven where neither moth nor decay can damage our wealth. Yet, we want to be known as *"prudent stewards"* of the wealth (the graces) that God has given to us – we wish to be generous with our wealth (God's love for us) and freely give that love to others – both to those who are not Catholic and so are not given the tremendous gift of the Eucharist every week and to those who are Catholic, who fail to accept the invitation to Christ's banquet Feast in the Mass every Sunday (especially our *Family members*). This is why we are always, always, always making a Spiritual Communion for others. I love the Davidic Psalm that foreshadows the gift of grace God would give us in the Eucharist of His Son (who could ever have dreamed that God would become man and die for our sins and that His essence would pass into Flesh that we could eat and Blood that we could drink?!??). King David talks about how God will fill us with His Treasure (His Son, Jesus!), and that we (you and I), practicing Catholics, would be so overjoyed at receiving this gift in all of Its great abundance (God pours out all of His love upon us (Roman 5:5)) that we would pass this wealth that we have received physically and Sacramentally to others, especially our non-practicing children – that they could be the recipients of God's love even in their ignorance! Please continue to pray our Spiritual Communion Prayer for many, come forward and receive the Eucharist, and then when you go back to your pew – list out name by name all the *Family members*, relatives, friends, Church Community members, and priests (don't forget Fr. Randy) that you love and make known to God your wish for the Almighty to give these Eucharistic graces to so many.



Yours on the Path Fr. Randy

BLUE CHRISTMAS MASS

Christmas is always difficult when a loved one cannot physically come home for Christmas. Whether we turn blue, because someone we loved has died or because the person simply cannot come home and we will be physically separated from them – we still celebrate the Mass! On the day my priesthood changed – a special Bishop said, "Life looks different after we celebrate the Paschal Mystery!" *The Paschal Mystery* is the life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension into Glory of Jesus Christ. This must be true or there is no such thing as God! That God could become man – Wow! – who would have ever thought that God would even desire to be like us?! That God could suffer death – isn't that the meaning of God – that God cannot die?! That God could be raised from the dead and Ascend back into Heaven – it just does not seem possible that anyone could rise from the dead and then continue to rise and rise and rise until they enter Heaven – Wow! Why not give God a chance to be God next Saturday, December 5th – come to our Blue Christmas Mass at 11:00am – celebrate the Eucharist – and allow God to chase away your blues by radiating His love into your heart in Holy Communion.







The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
- a National Feast Day
- a Holy Day of Obligation
Monday, 7th Vigil 7:00pm Maytown Mass
Holy Day, 8th 7:30am West Brooklyn
Holy Day, 8th 7:00pm Sublette

RCIA: The Strangest Way

The number one complaint about our **RCIA program** is that it is too hard. We are being challenged by **Holy Mother Church** to go to the next level of our **Catholic Faith** – to be more **holy** today than we were yesterday – to know more about our **Lover**, Jesus Christ, so as to fall deeper in **love** with Him (**Linus** (of **Charlie Brown** fame) would say: ***to know God is to love God***). Yet for how difficult are ***the three Paths*** that lead to God in **Bishop Barron's** book, ***The Strangest Way*** – for how difficult they are – **Bishop** always ends each chapter with practical ***"Practices"*** for walking **'the Path.'** For example, practical **practices** for walking **Path #1**: **Finding The Center** are: **prayer**, **pilgrimages and processions**, **medals, Crosses, and Garb**, and finally – **fasting**. **Prayer** is to focus our life on Christ. We speak to the Father through the Son and in the Holy Spirit! Here **Bishop Barron** talks about ***the psychology of Prayer*** – that when we **pray**, ***"it is not so much keen feelings of devotion that force us to our knees as kneeling that gives rise to keen feelings of devotion."*** Isn't that so true?! Some of my greatest **"prayer moments"** in life have been when I have come into a **Church**, been **awed** by Its **beauty**, and fallen to my knees. See, **Bishop** is saying **bodily posture** is very relevant to the quality of one's **communication** with God. The Bible is full of **pilgrimages** – to go on **pilgrimage** is to go "to be with" someone: **the Saint**, whose hometown you visit or their burial place. **The Prodigal Son** goes on **pilgrimage** when he finally comes to his senses – he says, **"I know, I shall get up and go to my father!"** He went on **pilgrimage** – **pilgrimage** always brings us to **"the Center."** To cover the practice called: **Medals, Crosses, and Garb**, **Bishop** explains that simply touching a crucifix that you keep in your pocket focuses your entire **personality** on **the power** of Christ – Ie. centering and grounding yourself. When a person is **baptized** (especially as an adult – like in **RCIA**!) they feel as though ***"they have put on Christ."*** With **the water** dripping from their **body** they put on a white garment, feel the oil on their head, and hold a candle which gives off light, but also emits the odor of burning wax. The very clothes that we wear to **Mass** have such an influence on our time spent with God. Who doesn't remember **Mom** telling us to put on our ***"Sunday best"*** to go to **Church**. Only **the Devil**, himself, would have **the audacity** to **contradict** our own **Mothers** and say that "it doesn't matter what you wear to Church!" Finally, **Fasting** – we force ourselves to go hungry so that the deepest hunger might be felt and fed. As we won't have another **RCIA** session until after **Christmas** – we will finish up **Chapter 1: Finding The Center** with these **practical practices**, so that we can explore **Chapter 3: Realizing Your Life Is Not About You** - when we come back after **Christmas** break.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 28th

(+) Anita Vaessen & (+) Donna Vaessen/ Fr. Randy

4:00pm OLPH (+) Richard & (+) Stacey Wertz/ Shawn Leffelman

Sunday, November 29th First Sunday of Advent

8:00am St. Patrick (+) Floyd Wilson/ Theresa Wilson &
(+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Edward Klein

10:30am SMA Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Monday, November 30th Feast of St. Andrew

(+) Schoenfeld Family Members/ Dr. Fred & Marcia Schoenfeld

Tuesday, December 1st

(+) Rita Haefner/ Fr. Randy

Wednesday, December 2nd

(+) Joseph Stewart/Nancy Neal

Thursday, December 3rd Feast of St. Francis Xavier

(+) Howard McInnis/ Fr. Randy

Friday, December 4th

(+) Robert Bulfer/ Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burke

Saturday, December 5th

(+) David Carradine & (+) Charlton Heston/ Fr. Randy

11:00am Blue Christmas Mass

4:00pm OLPH (+) Raymond & (+) Jean Ritola/ Mary Lynn Valentin

Sunday, December 6th Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am St. Patrick Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

10:30am SMA (+) Donna Levan-Jungles/ Regina McCoy







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