# Mass of Thanksgiving

# November 8, 2026



# FROM THE GUSSET/ RCIA

**Our RCIA text books this year are not your typical primers for Catechesis; yet, in typical Bishop Barron fashion (the author of both books) the Catholic Faith is easily covered from the Creed and the Sacraments to Prayer life and the Commandments. I warned folks during the Summer, not to come to RCIA if you were not up for a challenge; that is, if you did not want to have to change your life in relation to the things that you would learn about your Faith. Of course, only a few have accepted the challenge, but one of the eye opening or should I say: life changing views on the Catholic Faith came roaring out of Chapter 2 of the book: *The Strangest Way* – this was a principle so like I have never heard before that I thought I ought to present it to you. The 2nd Path that leads to Heaven (according to Bishop Barron) is *"knowing you are a sinner."* At the end of each chapter, Bishop summarizes by giving us a few practical practices for staying on *"the Path"* of that chapter. Here is Bishop Barron: "Forgiveness is one of the most vital and most misunderstood practices on path two! The importance of forgiveness is obvious from the Gospels – where it is a central feature in the preaching and practice of our Lord. The forgiveness of enemies is insisted upon in the Sermon on the Mount, and the pardoning of those who trespass against us is at the heart of the Our Father Prayer. What is forgiveness? Forgiveness is an act and not an attitude. Forgiveness is something relentless, even aggressive, and forgiveness amounts to a refusal ever to give up on a relationship!" Remember, when Peter asks how many times he must forgive a member of the Church, who has sinned against him – Jesus tells him after you have forgiven him 70 times seven times – then you can stop!! Sin (it turns out) is like a fire to a fireman! When the call comes into the Fire Station that a building is on fire, the fireman does not stop to consider who lives at that address – no, he simply rushes with sirens blaring to the address to put out the fire! Here is Bishop Barron agian: "To walk the 2nd Path is to know that we are sinners and that we, accordingly, stand in constant need of forgiveness. What makes our forgiveness of others necessary is their sin!!! What makes forgiveness possible is our deep gratitude for having first been forgiven ourselves! When sin severs a relationship, each party should do his part to reestablish the bond (of love that all relationships are based on). Forgiveness is to bear the other person's burdens (doing penance for another's sins) – moving toward that person (who sinned against us) even if the other refuses to move an inch toward you (or in reality, is actually running away from you)."** **(Continued on next page)**



**Ok, here is Fr. Randy now. When the Prodigal son sinned against his father (he also sinned against his older brother. See, sin not only ruptures our relationship with God, but it also hurts our relationship with each other) - when the younger boy ran away from home with everything he could carry, but the kitchen sink and the fattened calf – he was running away from his father and his brother. According to Bishop Barron's paradigm (which is also the way that Bishop Flores, from Brownsville, Texas looks at the parable) the older boy ought to have gone in search of his brother to bring him back home – back into right relationship with the whole family! See, "forgiveness is not just to put another's offense out of my mind and have resolve to 'move on' – not feeling anger at the one, who hurt me and not doing any harm to the sinner. This is not real forgiveness;" and yet, that is the type of forgiveness that our parents and our culture teaches us. 'Real forgiveness' is to repair the relationship and to love the person hoping that they (like the woman of ill-repute in chapter 7 of Luke's Gospel) would overflow with love toward us, because they feel the power of our forgiveness of them! Wow! I do not think I will ever be able to look at forgiveness in the same way. I do not know, if I will be able to put this type of forgiveness into practice in my own life (because it is hard to teach an old dog new tricks), but my conscience has been pricked; and now I know how far I have to go on Path Two – knowing that I am a Sinner. Elsewhere in *The Strangest Way* – Bishop Barron tries to get us to realize that as we, sinners, run further and further away from God the Father and the Heavenly Home that God wants to give us – that we are running into the arms of God the Son, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who has come to earth to put us back on the Path. If we would chase after those who sin against us – although all we may see is the back of their heads as they run away from us – if we stay in pursuit of those who sin against us – eventually we will see the face of Jesus waiting to catch the sinner in His arms. It will happen (take it to the bank) that Jesus will eventually catch every sinner that runs away from us and His Father, so that we can finally catch up to them, give them our forgiveness (love them), and then walk back home with Jesus and that person that sinned against us! Once again, RCIA (this year), is truly for the practicing Catholic, who is not content to simply take what he already knows about the Catholic Faith to his grave, but RCIA (this year) is for the Catholic, who is trying to be one of the great Saints in Heaven.**



**Yours on the Path Fr. Randy**

# Maytown Coat Drive

**From November 7th through December 10th, the Altar and Rosary Society will be collecting coats, hats, and gloves (winter outdoor wear). Donations may be placed on the coat rack in the narthex at St. Patrick's Church and there will be totes in the same locations at St. Mary of the Assumption and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Thank you for your kind consideration.**

**Good News: The Fall Fundraiser out at Maytown raised $1,000 for the Altar and Rosary Society. Thank you once again!**



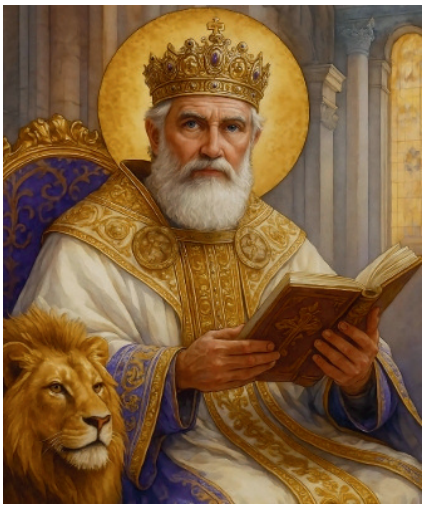


# GREAT LAKES MEN'S CONFERENCE



**It is so important to our families that the man's spirituality would blossom and bear fruit for God. It is built into the man (starting with Adam) that he not only tend the garden, but that the man would do penance for his families' sins and at the same time ask God for more blessings. The Men's Conference is a great way to energize the male spirituality. Just tell Nancy that you would like a free ticket and enter the arena for your Family. 815-849-5412**

## MASS INTENTIONS



**Saturday, November 7th**
**(+) Sophia Hraback/ Roger & Richard Fronek**
**11:00am OLPH Anointing Mass**
**4:00pm OLPH (+) Gene & (+) Sue Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman**
**Sunday, November 8th 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**
**8:00am St. Patrick (+) Joseph Stewart/ Velma Quest**
**10:30am SMA Donna Levan-Jungles/ Regina McCoy**
**Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy**
**Monday, November 9th Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**
**(+) Howard McInnis/ Fr. Randy**
**Tuesday, November 10th Feast of St. Leo the Great**
**7:30am SMA (+) Michael Widolff/ Fr. Randy**
**Wednesday, November 11th Feast of St. Martin of Tours/ Veterans' Day**
**8:00am OLPH (+) Patricia Stenzel/ Carlene Schuhler &**
**(+) Thomas Dvorsky/ Richard Fronek**



**Thursday, November 12th**
**7:30am SMA (+) Darlene Gehant/ Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Leader**
**8:30am OLPH (+) Fr. Kramer/ Theresa Wilson &**
**(+) Lynn Peterson/ Mark Lauer**
**Friday, November 13th Feast of St. Frances Cabrini**
**8:00am St. Patrick (+) Lynn Peterson/ Mr. & Mrs. Marty Bickett**
**10:45am Stonecroft (+) Patricia Stenzel & (+) James Fronek/ Fr. Randy**
**Saturday, November 14th**
**(+) Matthew Leurck & (+) Mark Leurck/ Fr. Randy**
**1:00pm OLPH Wedding Mass Ryan Byrd & Valerie Klein**
**4:00pm OLPH (+) Sharon Apple/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Henkel**
**Sunday, November 15th 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
**8:00am St. Patrick Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy**
**10:30am SMA (+) Quin & (+) Josephine Torri/ Torri Family**

# 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**