



"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.

Luke 16, 19-20

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

## HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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[814] 456-0671  
FAX: (814) 461-1150

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### PARISH STAFF:

*Father Jason A. Glover*  
Pastor

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Senior Associate

*Mary Ann Merski*  
Secretary and Office Manager  
[parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org](mailto:parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org)

### MASS SCHEDULE:

*Monday – Friday*  
*In the Dom Boze Chapel 8:00 am*  
*Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm*  
*Sunday 10:00 am*  
*Holy Days of Obligation 5:30 pm*

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Monday – Friday  
Closed for Lunch 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
Closed Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Pre – Baptismal program for parents who desire to share their faith with their children is held monthly in one of the parishes in the Erie East Deanery. Call the Parish Office for the schedule. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics and obtain a Letter of Recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sponsor.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturday – 4:15 – 4:45 pm  
Individual Confessions by appointment call Office to schedule.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Before a date is scheduled the engaged couple is to meet with one of the priests at least six months in advance to complete the required preparation.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:** Can be requested when a parishioner is seriously ill or in danger of death, please contact the Office. With the privacy laws we do not always know when a parishioner is hospitalized or in a nursing care facility, if they would like a visit or to receive Holy Communion from the Eucharistic Minister or priest let us know.

**Parish Catholic Education Program – PCEP** Holy Trinity Parish will assist with tuition costs for families who desire a Catholic School Education for their children in the primary or secondary level. To be eligible for the Parish Grant, families must actively participate in the program and attend Mass and be involved.

**PLEASE REMEMBER HOLY TRINITY IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING**  
As you meet with your attorney or financial planner consider the needs of our Parish Family for future years as a legacy to you and your family with your generous remembrance.

**BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE:** Submit to the Parish Office for the following weekend bulletin – Monday by Noon

*“A Parish built on tradition...  
where everyone is Welcome.”*

Sept. 29, 2019  
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## HUMANKIND SHOULD BE OUR BUSINESS

### REFLECTION:

I am a great fan of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. It is, among other things, as powerful a tale of conversion of heart as one is likely to find anywhere. But before Scrooge can undergo his eventual transformation, he first must be made to see the consequences of his past choices.

Scrooge's redemption begins with a visit from the ghost of his deceased business partner, Jacob Marley. Scrooge asks, "Why do spirits walk the earth?" Marley explains that he and his fellow ghosts are condemned to walk among their fellow humans because they failed to do so in life. Their torment in death is to witness what they "cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness."

As the tale unfolds, Scrooge begins to see the loneliness and lack of love in his life, which he unwittingly has chosen for himself. He also gradually awakens to the sufferings of those around him — notably, the family of his clerk, Bob Cratchit — and realizes that he often has contributed to those sufferings or, at least, has failed to remedy them. In other words, as with any conversion, Scrooge gradually faces the truth about himself, unpleasant as

it may be. But he also begins to see that something better may be possible, and he comes to desire and hope for a better future.

Scrooge is fortunate enough to entertain his haunting spirits while he is still alive and so is able to change his ways.



The rich man in today's Gospel parable is not so lucky, although his sin is the same as Scrooge's. While alive, he manages his wealth without ever even noticing the poor man, Lazarus, who is lying on his doorstep. It is only in the afterlife, when the rich man is in torment in the "netherworld," while Lazarus is comforted in "the bosom of Abraham," that the rich man begins to grasp the consequences of his choices.

We are blessed, while still alive, to know Jesus' parable and the story of Scrooge's redemption. We are also blessed to know the Scriptures and to have a loving personal relationship with "someone who rose from the dead." But with great knowledge comes great responsibility. If Jesus has loved and blessed us, he expects us to go and do likewise — especially for the poor men and women who may be lying on our doorsteps.

### OPENING the Word:

#### First Reading

AM 6:1, 4-7

The prophet here denounces private luxury — that is, self-indulgent excess — which has no concern for "the collapse of Joseph."

#### Responsorial Psalm

PS 146:7-10

"Praise the Lord, my soul!"

#### Second Reading

1 TM 6:11-16

Timothy is set apart for the pursuit of virtue and for the propagation and defense of the Faith.

#### Gospel

LK 16:19-31

In the well-known parable of Lazarus and the rich man, Jesus asserts that the wealthy who are indifferent to the poor in this life will be "in torment" in the hereafter, while the poor whom they ignored will be consoled.

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- What is our response as Christians when we are confronted with the poor?
- Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel has written, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference." How does this resonate with you?
- Does Timothy's "priestly" vocation also serve as a good guide to living out our baptismal vocation?

### LOVE AND COMPASSION

*"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."*

— The Dalai Lama

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, September 28 – 26 Sunday**

### **Ordinary**

5:00 + Nick Muntean (Bernard Markiewicz)

**Sunday, September 29 – 26 Sunday Ordinary**

10:00 + For the People Holy Trinity Parish

**Monday, September 30 – St. Jerome**

8:00 + Father Jerome Ciecierski (at St. Stan's)

**Tuesday, October 1 – St. Therese of the Child**

**Jesus** - Seventh Anniversary of Bishop Persico's  
Episcopal Ordination & Installation as Bishop of  
Erie

8:00 \* Sisters at Carmelite Monastery

**Wednesday, October 2 – Guardian Angels**

No Mass

**Thursday, October 3 – Weekday**

8:00 + Poor Souls

**First Friday, October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi**

8:00 + Deceased Friars of Holy Name Province

**Saturday, October 5 - 27 Sunday Ordinary**

5:00 + Albert & Carolyn DiMattio

**Sunday, October 6 – 27 Sunday Ordinary**

10:00 + For the People of the Parish

## **WEEKLY OFFERING – SEPT. 22, 2019**

Regular Offertory \$1,313.00 /146 mailed

Loose Cash \$ 76.00

Total Offertory \$1,389.00

Votive Candles \$ 45.00

Catholic Education \$ 183.00

Mass Attendance: 5:00: 48 & 10:00: 88

### **This Week**

### **July 1 to date**

Dream Goal \$3,000.00 \$36,000.00

Amount Needed \$2,365.00 \$28,945.00

Amount received \$1,389.00 \$26,497.00

Net over/short (\$ 976.00) (\$ 2,448.00)

## **CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL – 2019**

As of September 23, we are happy to report:

Pledges: \$26,185.00

Paid: \$23,815.00 Due: \$2,370.00

80 families have contributed to the 2019 CSA.

## **MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER 5 & 6**

### **Lectors**

5:00 PM John Otto

10:00AM Sue Carpenter

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

5:00 PM Kathy Smith & Marc Moore

10:00AM Sarah Chermack, John &

Patty Stano

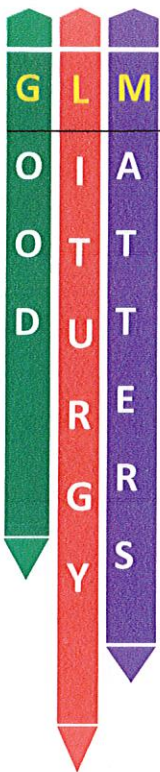
### **Altar Servers**

5:00 PM Armani & Lilliana Moore

10:00 AM Josh & Tyler Chermack

## **26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

We all have been given great power by God in the form of Time, Talents, and Treasure. Today's readings remind us that this power is meant to be used for great good. And, the failure to do so has eternal consequences. We see the urgency for us to put our powers to good use in today's Gospel passage from Luke. Our Lord tells the rather chilling parable of the rich man who ignored poor Lazarus during their lifetimes. At the moment of the rich man's death, he goes down to the netherworld while Lazarus is taken to the eternal joy and comfort in the bosom of Abraham. The rich man keenly regrets his indifference towards the needs of Lazarus, but it is too late for regret. His choices have played out, and now the rich man will face the consequences of his failure to use the gifts God gave him. Pursuit of God's kingdom and care for the poor are not trifling matters. Our Lord makes this clear to us over and over in the Scriptures and the constant teachings of our 2,000 year- old Church. We are free to ignore these teachings and live instead for ourselves. But there will be tragic results for us in the end. And, because we are made for eternity, living selfishly on this earth doesn't really bring us true happiness anyway. So how can we use our great powers for great good? By embracing a stewardship way of life. By putting God first in all areas of our lives — in the way we spend our time, the ways we share our talents, the ways we give of our financial resources. Stewardship living calls us out of our comfort zone and into commitment to the Lord and the things that matter to Him.



## JOT

### Holy Days of Obligation

"Does it count for Sunday," the caller asked, "if I go to Mass on Saturday evening for *such and such* a holy day?" The call is not unusual. The formal question might be phrased this way: "Does a holy day mass on Saturday meet my obligation to attend mass on Sunday?" Usually this question arises when a holy day falls adjacent to a Sunday. Often, there is a simple answer. But sometimes one call raises a flurry of related questions. Holy days of obligation can be confusing because they are treated differently depending on their importance in the liturgical year. So, let's list the six holy days of obligation and then explore the terms and issues that surround them.

<u>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</u>	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>
<u>Ascension of the Lord</u>	40 days after Easter
<u>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u>	Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup>
<u>All Saints Day</u>	Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup>
<u>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u>	Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>
<u>Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</u>	Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>

**Obligation:** Catholics are required to participate at mass on every Sunday and holy day of obligation unless the obligation is removed. Notice, I said participate, not "attend" or "go to mass."

**Anticipated Masses:** You may fulfill your Sunday or holy day obligation by participating in an anticipated mass the previous evening.

**Lifting or *abrogating* the obligation.** The bishops of the United States established a rule in 1993 to remove the obligation for three of the six holy days in certain circumstances. When January 1<sup>st</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup> or November 1<sup>st</sup> fall on a Saturday or a Monday, the obligation to participate at the holy day mass is lifted or *abrogated*. Nonetheless, the church still encourages participation at mass on these days.

**Other holy days:** The Nativity is always a holy day of obligation even when it falls on a

Monday or Saturday. The Immaculate Conception of Mary, as the patronal day of our country, remains a holy day of obligation except when it falls on a Sunday of Advent. Only then, when the celebration must be moved to December 9th, is it not obligatory.

The Ascension of the Lord is always a holy day of obligation but with a twist. The dioceses of the ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Omaha, and Philadelphia (which includes Erie) celebrate on the proper Thursday. All other provinces of the United States transfer the Ascension of the Lord to the following Sunday.

**No *Twoifers*:** When there are adjacent holy days of obligation, one being a Sunday, you are obligated to participate in liturgies for both days unless the obligation has been lifted for the holy day as described earlier.

For example, when Christmas falls on Monday you must participate in mass for Sunday — either the anticipated mass on Saturday evening or the Sunday morning mass — as well as mass for Christmas— either one of the evening masses or a mass in the morning. Mass celebrated on Sunday evening does not "count" for both days. When you are obliged to participate at mass for a holy day there are no *twoifers*.

Precise language helps. Callers sometimes say: "So, it's not a holy day this year?" Yes, it is. Holy days do not go away just because the obligation is lifted. It remains a holy day and we are encouraged to celebrate mass and the special way that day helps us understand the mystery of Christ and our redemption.

To summarize, some days are so important in the life of the church that we are obligated to participate in mass on those days even when they fall on days adjacent to Sunday. Three other days regularly lose their obligation when they occur on a Saturday or a Monday. As always, if you're not sure, ask "Has the obligation been lifted for this holy day?" And then consider participating in mass anyway.

A very wealthy man lost his wife when their only child was very young, so the man hired a housekeeper who would take care of the house and also, care for the young boy. The boy and the housekeeper became very close, as a matter of fact, the housekeeper looked upon this child as her very own, and the boy regarded the housekeeper as the mother he never had. But then, strangely, one day, the boy also died before he reached manhood. The housekeeper stayed on caring for the wealthy man who now was in such an emotional state having lost his wife and his son that he soon died of a broken heart. When the man died, his lawyer and his business partners began looking for the will, which they were certain he had made out years before, but which no one had seen. They looked everywhere but they could find the will. The estate was eventually taken over by the state and an auction was held to dispose of the man's personal property and his mansion. The housekeeper went to the sale, not because she had so much money to spend, but there was one item that she hoped she could get, there was a picture of the little boy that hung on the wall that she desperately wanted. She loved that boy and still carried fond memories of the times she had spent with, him. When the picture came to the auction block, nobody else wanted it so she bought it for a few pennies. She brought it home and since no one had cared for the house in many years, the picture had become very dirty, so she decided to take it apart, clean the frame and the glass, put in new backing and then find a place to hang it so that she might have the memories of those wonderful years. As she was taking the picture apart, some very important looking papers fell out of the back of the picture. At first she didn't know what to make of them, so she brought them to the family lawyer of the rich man. As the lawyer read the papers, he soon discovered it was the long lost will that everyone had searched for, but could not find. There was a note with the will that said, "I leave all my wealth to the one who loved my son enough to buy that picture." For the housekeeper, left with only memories of the child, the photograph was a priceless reminder of the love that she had for the boy. May we value the love of God and the love of our family and friends far beyond anything else in this world.

### **Blessed Sacrament Fall Festival**

Today, Sunday, September 29th noon to 5pm  
Children and Adult games, Bake Sale, Theme Basket raffle \$500 drawing every half hour from 12:30 to 3PM At 3:30- \$1,500, 4PM -\$2,500, 4:30-\$3,000 Grand Prize Drawing at 5PM - \$5,000 \$50 additional prize if winner is present Tickets are \$5. each Flu shots available noon to 4PM.

### **Stewardship Parish Prayer**

My Parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. It will be holy, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will be prayerful, if I pray. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my parish to be.

### **St. Stanislaus Parish Day**

Next Sunday, October 6th, 2019 Noon to 5pm  
Polish Platter Dinner. Cost for Adults-\$11, Children (6-12) \$5, and Children under 5-free. Festivities are in the Parish Hall at 520 E 13th St. Special Awards, Fresh Baked Goods, Chinese Auction, Theme Baskets, Raffles & Children's games. Proceeds benefit the Parish.

### **31 CLUB Pray for Vocations**

29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak

30) Edie Luniewski

1) Kathy Smith & Debbie Majewski

2) Patty Czulewicz

3) Judy Tucceri

4) Ed Czulewicz

5) Mary Ann Merski

### **PRAY THE ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

Zabawa wrap up meeting will be held Saturday October 12, 9am in the gathering room. The Zabawa Thank You dinner will be Wednesday October 23, 6pm at the Social Center, reservations need to be in by Friday October 18. Please call the parish office to make your reservations.

### Marriage Moments 9-29-19

Wonder how to protect your child from being vulnerable to manipulation or abuse by bullies? There's no magic vaccine but a child who knows they are unconditionally loved and respected by their parent(s) is inclined to accept their own worth and not depend on validation from others.

### Transitions Support Group This Weekend

Transitions, a monthly support group for Separated, Divorced and Widowed persons will meet on Sunday, September 29th, from 2 – 4 pm at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd.. at: <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/transitions.html> Come as you are; you are always welcome. This month's topic is: "Stress and Relaxation Chair Exercises."

### A Family Perspective

In today's gospel the rich man died and was condemned to "a place of torment" because he ignored the poor. He asked Lazarus to go and warn his five brothers to change their ways. Evidently ignoring the poor was a family pattern. What is your family's attitude toward those who are poor?

### ANNUAL ROSARY MARCH

Plan now to attend the 25th annual Erie Diocesan Rosary March. This year marks Fatima's 102-year anniversary.

The event will be October 13 at St. Peter Cathedral, 10th and Sassafras Streets, Erie, PA at 2 p.m. Speaker is Msgr. Edward Lohse. For more information, please call John Walsh (814) 868-1100. Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

September 29 – Brandon Brieger

October 2 – Marcia Nitzynski

October 4 – John Stano

October 6 – Kenneth Koszegi

### Cursillo News

October Ultreya October 4th, 2019 at Saint Andrew Church....7:00PM

Men's #250 October 17-20th, 2019  
Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek, Pa.

### TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL

Three guys are fishing when an angel appears. The first guy says, "I've suffered from back pain for years. Can you help me?" The angel touches the man's back, and he feels instant relief. The second guy points to his thick glasses and begs for a cure for his poor eyesight. When the angel tosses the lenses into the lake, the man gains 20/20 vision. As the angel turns to the third fellow, he instantly screams, "Don't touch me! I'm on disability!"

The clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?" The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open. So the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?!" Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God?!" The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "what happened?" The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time dude. GOD is missing, and they think we did it!"

# Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

## Word Search Puzzle

L	U	A	L	X	C	S	N	P	G	C	A	T	B	U
A	I	B	Q	T	O	U	E	H	A	R	N	O	O	A
Z	D	R	H	P	M	M	T	A	R	O	G	N	S	A
A	L	A	B	R	F	P	H	R	M	S	E	G	O	H
R	I	H	R	O	O	T	E	I	E	S	L	U	M	T
U	F	A	O	P	R	U	R	S	N	I	S	E	W	Y
S	E	M	T	H	T	O	W	E	T	N	F	L	A	V
C	T	O	H	E	E	U	O	E	S	G	I	I	T	T
R	I	S	E	T	D	S	R	S	T	N	N	S	E	I
A	M	E	R	S	T	L	L	E	E	V	G	T	R	R
P	E	S	S	E	J	Y	D	N	P	D	E	E	P	Q
S	T	O	R	M	E	N	T	U	U	E	R	N	O	D
G	T	F	L	A	M	E	S	H	X	Y	N	R	O	J
C	S	O	R	E	S	T	A	B	L	E	C	T	R	D
F	J	W	E	Y	G	D	C	S	E	C	H	A	S	M

Pharisees  
sumptuously  
scraps  
angels  
netherworld  
water  
lifetime  
crossing  
prophets

garments  
Lazarus  
table  
bosom  
torment  
tongue  
comforted  
brothers  
listen

linen  
sores  
poor  
Abraham  
finger  
flames  
chasm  
Moses  
repent

## Sunday, Sep 29, 2019

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Try a little tenderness

We hear folks wish out loud for more patience. In church circles, many voice the ambition to be more devout, loving, or kind. Cultivating a spirit of gentleness, however, is rare on the wish list. Why the oversight? Gentleness makes it onto a lot of Saint Paul's checklists, including his nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. Paul was sensitive to this virtue, perhaps because he could be pretty rough on fellow Christians who disappointed him! What would happen if you spent one day choosing the softer look, the more careful word, the gentler touch? Try it and find out.

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31 (138). *"Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness."*

## Monday, Sep 30, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Consider the source

When you make a photocopy of a photocopy, the original becomes harder to see, read, and understand. Saint Jerome, the great linguist, experienced this with the Septuagint, a Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament. As the use of Latin spread with the Holy Roman Empire—edging out the Greek used by early Christians—the church began to rely on Latin translations of the Septuagint. Jerome thought we could do better. He went back to the original Hebrew, mining the texts as Jesus and other Jews knew them. Not everyone agreed with Jerome. Saint Augustine preferred the Greek. Arguments ensued; a compromise evolved. A strength of church teaching that benefits us today: Differences of opinion can birth a better outcome.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50 (455). *"An argument arose among the disciples."*

## Tuesday, Oct 01, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Sailing toward the eternal shore

How would you describe your life's journey? Thérèse of Lisieux—Carmelite nun, saint, and doctor of the church—imagined her life journey as sailing the sea. Reflecting one evening on the sun setting across the sea at Trouville, she wrote of how the sun left a "luminous trail." "It was to me the image of God's grace shedding its light across the path the little white-sailed vessel had to travel." She committed herself to following Jesus "in order to travel peacefully towards the eternal shore." What image would you use? And how do you experience God with you along the way?

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). *"I too will go to seek the Lord."*

## Wednesday, Oct 02, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

### Stand by me

Today the church gives a shout-out to guardian angels. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him [or her] to life," is how the Catholic catechism puts it. Whether you picture a comforting winged angel at your shoulder, or see your guardian angel as more of a metaphor for God's loving care, great comfort can be found by relaxing into this protection.

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 2:1-8 (457); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650). *"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."*

## Thursday, Oct 03, 2019

MEMORIAL OF THEODORE GUERIN, RELIGIOUS (SAINT THEODORA)

### Discipleship with backbone

"Sisters, let's pack our bags," Mother Guerin's community responded when a clueless bishop locked her up and tried to excommunicate her for challenging his need to control. Guerin inspired loyalty; the first sisters bonded after landing on the raw Indiana frontier, speaking only French. As if hunger, overturned stagecoaches, financial hardships, and terrible health weren't trials enough, the bishop believed he owned them. After epic battles, Guerin finally triumphed. A simple frame shed eventually became Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the country's oldest Catholic liberal arts college for women. Learn how Guerin's college empowers students at the website: [smwc.edu](http://smwc.edu).

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458). *"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."*

## Friday, Oct 04, 2019

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RELIGIOUS

### Faithful to the end

Saint Francis of Assisi gave us two kinds of crosses. One is the San Damiano Cross, depicting the Crucifixion and its witnesses. It replicates the cross Francis prayed to when God said, "Rebuild my church." The other is the simple T-shaped tau cross, made of wood—reminding us to be flexible and humble—which is the final letter of the old Hebrew alphabet (as omega is in Greek, when we say Christ is "Alpha and Omega"). Francis loved the tau and used it as his seal. The prophet Ezekiel said that those faithful to God at the end would be marked with a tau. Remember this Beatitude: Those who are last will be first with God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). *"Will you be exalted to heaven?"*

## Saturday, Oct 05, 2019

MEMORIAL OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST

### Good medicine

Born in Bavaria, Francis Xavier Seelos joined the Redemptorists to serve as a missionary to German immigrants in the United States. By all accounts he flourished in ministry—and did so with a kind and cheerful attitude. After being stationed in New Orleans, however, he contracted yellow fever caring for the ill and died at the age of 48 in 1867. Imagine the suffering that could have been avoided if the yellow fever vaccine had been available then. So it is disconcerting today to see the anti-vaccine movement grow so strong. The World Health Organization identifies this movement as one of the top 10 global health threats of 2019, all the more troubling given the overwhelming scientific consensus about the safety and efficacy of vaccines. God gave us intelligence so that we might use it to alleviate suffering in the world. Get the facts and talk to those who have been swayed by baseless claims.

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460). *"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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