

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21, 2021



Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church

516 East 13th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.452.6606

www.ststanserie.org
email: ststaner@outlook.com

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday - Friday at 8:00AM
Temporary Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM

*** Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

2220 Reed Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.456.0671

www.holytrinityrc.org
email: parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate
Mary Ann Merski, Secretary
Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:00AM
Temporary Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM

*** Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public**



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



February 21, 2021
1st Sunday of Lent

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion-oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

Daily Readings

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15 [1st Sunday of Lent]
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19 [Chair of St. Peter]
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15 [St. Polycarp]
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9-18/Ps 116:10-19/Rom 8:31-34/Mk 9:2-10 [2nd Lent]

Sacrament of Baptism: Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation programs are hosted at Saint Luke's Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

Confirmation preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint Luke's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.6920).

Sacrament of Holy Orders: God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Fr. Michael Polenik, at 1.800.374.3723.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

Sacrament of the Sick: Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

Leave A Legacy: Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

Bulletin Information Deadline: Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission

"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Rose Marie at 814.923.4438.

"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452-3395) from Saint Stanislaus, or Kathy Benes (898-1091) or Kathy Smith (392-8974) from Holy Trinity.

PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Linda at 814.864.8476.

THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Ray Luniewski at 882-1032.

PROLIFE COMMUNITY

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please Check: ☐ New Registration ☐ Change of Address ☐ Change of Telephone Number

☐ Change of E-mail ☐ Moving out of Parish ☐ Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome

Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Feb. 22nd - Edward Czulewicz (Janet & Rick York)
 Tues., Feb. 23rd - Gabriella Wlodarczyk (Family)
 Wed., Feb. 24th - Deacon Bob Walker (Pat Steves & Joanne Haulik)
 Thurs., Feb. 25th - Stanley Widomski (Bernie & Barbara Tuszynski)
 Fri., Feb. 26th - Leo Ignasiak (Gloria)
 Sat., Feb. 27th, 4:00PM - Sophia Francis Stankavich (Marie)
 Sun., Feb. 28th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for **SOPHIA TATARA** on Wednesday. Please keep her and her family and loved ones in prayer. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **MARY ANNA KLEINER** as gifted by the Richard & Diane Valahovic.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Villa Maria Academy students **Haley Rohrbach** and **Marlen Shaba** for earning academic honors during the second quarter of the year. We are proud of your accomplishments!

DAILY MASSES

Although our weekend Masses have been public since mid-July, we never resumed a daily public Mass, primarily because our "regulars" were still reluctant to come to church. However, moving forward, if the daily Mass intention is for a loved one and you would like to attend, please call the Parish Office a day in advance and Father will be sure to open the church is opened for you.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Although the pandemic has prevented us from meeting together and crocheting, we continue to produce blankets in our own homes. Any member who needs more yarn can pick some up at the Parish Office. If any parishioner is aware of someone who could benefit from a Shawl, please contact Fr. Jason. Parishioners who would like to make a donation of yarn to this worthy ministry, please drop it off at the Parish Office. This work of God continues, even during a pandemic!

EASTER CASH RAFFLE

The Women's Society is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win either \$1,000 in cash, or \$1,000 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets. Tickets are only \$5.00 each and can be purchased before or after Mass, at the Parish Office, or by calling Diane Valahovic at 825-5748. The winning drawing will take place Sunday, April 11th.



On the way home from the Ash Wednesday service, a young boy asked his mother, "Is it true that we are made of dust?" "Yes, darling." "And do we go back to dust again when we die?" "Yes, dear." "Wow!" said the boy. "When I said my prayers last night and looked under the bed, I found someone who is either coming or going!"

Today's readings remind us why we partake in this 40-day Lenten journey - to prepare our hearts for the resurrection of Christ on Easter. St. Peter reminds us in our Second Reading of the blessings we receive from Christ's passion, death and resurrection - "Christ suffered for sins once... that he might lead you to God." And again, "[Baptism] is... an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." In order to more readily receive the blessings from Christ's passion, death and resurrection, we too are called endure 40 days "in the desert." In our Gospel, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where He was tempted by Satan. Jesus was called to face trials and to confront evil. During this time, He committed to intense prayer and fasting. It was not necessary for Jesus to go into the desert so that He might be purified, but rather, to endure temptations of man for our sake. He was fully man, and experience temptations just like us, yet responded to them perfectly, never falling into sin. We should strive to fully participate in this Lenten season by mirroring Jesus. Through our time in the desert, we will confront evil by weeding out the roots of sin in our lives through fasting. And we will be sustained and nourished in the desert by prayer. Let us strive to purify our hearts so that we might be ready to receive the glorious gift of Christ and partake in the riches that pour forth from this Gift.

WEEKLY OFFERING (FEBRUARY 14, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$132,992.00
Amount Received	\$1,944.00	\$89,542.00
Net over/under	(\$2,212.00)	(\$43,450.00)

Mass Attendance:
 4:00PM = 36
 9:30AM = 39



Holy Trinity Parish Community



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **ROBERT DORAU** as gifted by Kathy Wisniewski.

A Funeral Service was held for **RICHARD SEBASTIAN** this past Wednesday, February 17th. Please keep Richard and his family and loved one in your prayers.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Feb. 22nd - Members of the Daniszewski & Gorka Families (Estate)
 Tues., Feb. 23rd - Members of the Warfel Families (Estate)
 Wed., Feb. 24th - The Souls in Purgatory (Lloyd Jackson)
 Thurs., Feb. 25th - Msgr. John Daniszewski
 Fri., Feb. 26th - For the People of Holy Trinity (*Pro Populo*)
 Sat., Feb. 27th, 5:15PM - Anne Marie Neimeic
 Sun., Feb. 28th, 10:30AM - Joseph Ganska (Lillian Maciulewski)

Today's readings remind us why we partake in this 40-day Lenten journey — to prepare our hearts for the resurrection of Christ on Easter. St. Peter reminds us in our Second Reading of the blessings we receive from Christ's passion, death and resurrection — "Christ suffered for sins once... that he might lead you to God." And again, "[Baptism] is... an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." In order to more readily receive the blessings from Christ's passion, death and resurrection, we too are called endure 40 days "in the desert." In our Gospel, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where He was tempted by Satan. Jesus was called to face trials and to confront evil. During this time, He committed to intense prayer and fasting. It was not necessary for Jesus to go into the desert so that He might be purified, but rather, to endure temptations of man for our sake. He was fully man, and experience temptations just like us, yet responded to them perfectly, never falling into sin. We should strive to fully participate in this Lenten season by mirroring Jesus, the model steward by Whom we are called to imitate. Through our time in the desert, we will confront evil by weeding out the roots of sin in our lives through fasting. And we will be sustained and nourished in the desert by prayer. Let us strive to purify our hearts so that we might be ready to receive the glorious gift of Christ and partake in the riches that pour forth from this Gift.



2/26- Anna Malinowski

MUSIC CAN BE PRAYER, TOO!

Hymns, songs, and readings in church serve to increase our devotion. Lent is a perfect way to enhance our full and active participation in each liturgy. You are invited to take a free copy of the 2021 Breaking Bread hymnal as your personal hymnal which you will bring to each liturgy. This same hymnal will return home with you until the next time you attend liturgy. To quote a familiar credit card, "Don't leave home without it."

- Jeannie

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Regular Offering: \$ 1,639.00 (27/140)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$99,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$78,217.00
Total Offertory:	\$1,639.00	\$66,946.00
Net (over/under):	(\$726.00)	(\$11,271.00)

Attendance: 5:15PM = 19; 10:30AM =44

Into the Wilderness with Jesus

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. Mark 1:12-13 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 1:12-15 (NIV)



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

TEMPTED	SATAN	COME	REPENT	WILDERNESS
NEWS	BELIEVE	TIME	FORTY	ANGELS
ANIMALS	DAYS	SENT	GOOD	WILD

"... he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan."

- Mark 1:13

News for Our Partnership

Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity Partnered Parishes

LENTEN DINNERS

TAKE-OUT ONLY



4:00 - 7:00 PM (or until sold out)

- **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th at HOLY TRINITY**
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 5th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 12th at HOLY TRINITY**
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 19th at SAINT STANISLAUS**

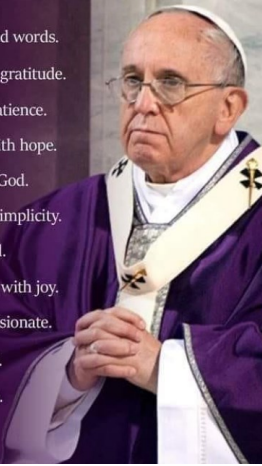
Saint Stanislaus 513 East 13th Street Fish & Pierogi \$10.00 for adults \$5.00 for children 6-12 Free for children under 5 (Take-Out Only)	Holy Trinity 2220 Reed Street Baked Fish, Pierogi, & Potato Pancakes \$12.00 Platter \$10.00 Dinner \$5.00 for children under 12 Free for children under 5
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DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.



LENT, ON-LINE

The Diocese of Erie has launched a on-line devotional website as spiritual nourishment during this graced season of Lent. It can be found at www.eriecd.org/lent.html. Please take advantage of this innovative approach to this season.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Check out our parishes' Facebook page (under the "Video" tab) to find a variety of Stations of the Cross videos for your Lenten devotional purposes.

2021 LENTEN REGULATIONS

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord begins at the start of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021.

The following practices and regulations are promulgated and binding for all Latin Rite Catholics in the Diocese of Erie for Lent and the Paschal Triduum, 2021. If the COVID situation requires modifications to these practices, those will be communicated as they develop.

1. Traditional Lenten practices of PRAYER, FASTING, and ALMSGIVING, and other forms of self-denial, are recommended most warmly by the Church. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.
2. ASH WEDNESDAY, ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT EXCEPT MARCH 19, and GOOD FRIDAY are days of abstinence from eating meat for those 14 years of age and older. Because the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19) falls on a Friday of Lent, and solemnities are never days of penance, the faithful are not obliged to abstain from meat on that day.
3. ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY are also days of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. (On these days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.)

LENTEN DINNERS

Other area parishes are also holding fish dinners during the Lent, take out only...

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL:

February 26th
March 9
March 23

*Must pre-order by noon the Tuesday before (call 814.825.7313 or on-line at www.olmc-erie.org)

* Pick up between 4-7PM

ALL SAINTS

February 19
February 26
March 5
March 12
March 19
March 26

* \$10 for adults; \$4 children under 12
* Call 814.796.3023 for more information.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

- 2/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 2/22) Kathy Wisniewski; 2/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman;
- 2/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski & Diane Valahovic; 2/25) Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman;
- 2/26) Patricia Straub & John Kleiner; 2/27) Sr. Maxine Kaminski & Regina Jaworski;
- 2/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, & Suzanne Sundy

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

- 2/21) Fr. William Sutherland; 2/22) Fr. Marc Stockton; 2/23) Fr. Jerry Priscaro; 2/24) Fr. William Rice;
- 2/25) Msgr. Gerald Ritchie; 2/26) Msgr. Joseph Wardanski; 2/27) Msgr. Richard Stack; 2/28) Pray for Consecrated Life

Sunday, Feb 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Doing the rite thing

Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

"The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going!

Monday, Feb 22, 2021

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE

Recognize the chair

1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

"I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."

Jesus loved us so much that he entrusted us to someone he trusted deeply. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus asked Peter three times if his devotion was assured. He named him "rock" so he would be a solid foundation upon which to build the church, and for 2,000 years Peter's successors have had the responsibility of tending his sheep. Today we celebrate the seat of the pope's authority as Christ's representative on Earth, the protector Jesus wanted for his flock. Ask the Holy Spirit to always guide the one who sits in Peter's chair.

Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

Words to live forever by

Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Polycarp's death in 155 is one of the first accounts of Christian martyrdom in a public arena. The elderly bishop was resolute and serene even as he was burned and stabbed before a frenzied crowd. Included in the accounts is the two hours of prayer Polycarp began upon his arrest, so powerful it unnerved his Roman guards. But Polycarp was also an Apostolic Father, specifically a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Thus, he had firsthand knowledge of John's words from Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

A good day to make amends

Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

"At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."

We are one week into this Lenten season, so perhaps it is time to have a conversation with our Lord. Imagine you are walking with Jesus, side by side, and he asks you, "Is there any person you think of who you have hurt or judged, or any action that comes to mind that you know was wrong? Anything you repent?" You take a moment, and standing next to him, you feel his love for you. Regret and sorrow arise as you admit the mistakes that come to mind. You ask for the grace to make amends in whatever way possible. Find a way today to make something right.

Thursday, Feb 25, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Has prayer moved you?

Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12

"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."

It is tempting to think about prayer in a transactional way: I ask, therefore God gives. Today's gospel may even appear to encourage this form of thought: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." But Catholic teaching urges us to see God's response to prayer broadly. Pope Francis explains: "Prayer always transforms reality: if things around us do not change, at least our hearts are changed. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and woman who prays." If you have a prayer that seems unanswered, consider how your heart was moved by the mere act of praying.

Friday, Feb 26, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

The low rumble within

Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

"Go first and be reconciled."

Anger is one of our human "passions," the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs, neither good nor bad in and of itself. Anger can provide us with helpful information that we feel wronged by someone or something. It may be intense or a low rumble within. Lent is an opportunity to become still, listen to our anger, and examine its source. How might we invite God into these rough spaces for healing? Desiring healing does not disregard hurt or suffering; rather we seek to "unhook" from anger to live in peace. Unhooking might mean talking with a loved one who hurt us. It might mean protesting against injustice. It might mean forgiving ourselves. What might be rumbling within your heart?

Saturday, Feb 27, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Agree to disagree

Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

"But I say to you, love your enemies."

There is no more timely message for our divided age of partisan politics than "love your enemies." But how is that even possible? One perspective that some find helpful is that "you don't have to like someone to love them." Love in this context is not a warm, fuzzy feeling but a decision to treat with respect, to "do unto others." A tall order, but it does help to remove the expectation that we have to become fast friends with those we oppose. And maybe it will lead to a time when we can see difficult folks as people with whom we happen to disagree, rather than mortal enemies. Jesus was all about reconciliation. Let's take up the mantle.



