

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 16, 2023



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)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:

Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM

*** Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

*** Reconciliation is celebrated until 15 minutes before Mass
(If the priest is not in the confessional, inform a greeter)**

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)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:

Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM

*** Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

*** Reconciliation is celebrated until 15 minutes before Mass
(If the priest is not in the confessional, inform a greeter)**



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



July 16, 2023

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it's interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew's gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The Lord's riddles leave many people more confused than before. He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we're dealing with a relationship, not new data. When we aren't willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the "info" of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It'll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don't understand the Church or the Lord, let's be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed.

— Father John Muir

For more light in the day, we thank you,
 For gentle mornings, we thank you,
 For nighttime conversations, we thank you,
 For friends and family, we thank you,
 For gardens and all manner of creatures, we thank you.
 Help us, Creator and lover of our souls.
 Help us love this earth.
 Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives this day.
 Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest, and create.

Readings for the week of July 16, 2023

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:1, 11-14/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23
 Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1-8/Mt 10:34-11:1
 Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-34/Mt 11:20-24
 Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1-7/Mt 11:25-27
 Thursday: Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27/Mt 11:28-30
 Friday: Ex 11:10-12:14/Ps 116:12-18/Mt 12:1-8
 Saturday: 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
 Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-10, 15-16/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43

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, Scott Jabo, at 1.814.824.1181.

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 Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

“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 St. Stanislaus, or Kathy (392-8974) at 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, music minister, or usher/greeter, 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 Sue (450-2987).

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 (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.

“PRAYER CANDLE” MAKING MINISTRY

This ministry makes prayer candles from the church’s left over bee’s wax. They meet on Wednesdays, from 10AM - Noon in St. Stanislaus Parish Hall. No experience necessary.

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., July 17th - Private Intention
 Tues., July 18th - Special Intention
 Wed., July 19th - Ray Przybyszewski (Shirley Widomski)
 Thurs., July 20th - Michael Krawczyk (Shirley Widomski & Family)
 Fri., July 21st - Betty Romecki (Family)
 Sat., July 22nd, 4:00PM - Anna Przybyszewski (Family)
 Sun., July 23rd, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burn in memory of **RITA PRZEPIERSKI**, as gifted by the Family.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST — JULY 16TH, in the Parish Hall, following 9AM Mass

IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Michael Skrzypczak on Tuesday, July 11th. Please keep Michael and his family and friends in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord..."

SSJ NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Desserts will be needed for the SSJ St. Paul dinner on July 17th. Desserts can be left in church the weekend of July 15th - 16th or brought to the Nazareth Center by 3:00 Monday, July 17th, 2023

GARAGE SALE SET

The Parish Garage Sale will be held on Friday, September 8th, 9:00AM - 4:00PM, and Saturday, September 9th, from 9:00AM - 1:00 PM. There will be 2 more collection days; Saturday, July 22nd 9:00-11:00 and Thursday, August 17th 4:00-6:00. Thanks to all who have already donated!

WOMEN'S SOCIETY PICNIC

Our Women's Society will be hosting its annual picnic on Wednesday, July 19th, beginning at 5:30PM at the Colony Inn (2670 West 8th Street). This is a "members only" event and reservations must be made. Please call Sharon (814.790.1226) to make your reservation.

FOCUS ON THE GOOD

When I was a child, my mother had a set of sculptures resembling three human heads. One head had hands over the ears, one had hands over the eyes, and one had hands over the mouth. Of course, they depicted the phrase, "Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil." I have seen these images repeated many times since then, usually as the monkey heads from a Japanese proverb, which would have probably seemed a little less creepy to me when I was a small child. Apparently, there is no consensus about the full meaning or certain origin of these three images nor the phrase. At the very least, it causes us to reflect on the need to avoid evil and look for the good in things. As I have lived my life, I have come to believe there are more people who lives their lives in a contrary manner to these images. It is not that they seek evil, but it is as if they "see no good, hear no good, and speak no good." Gossiping is the way they pass the time, and they always seem to find the negative in people and situations. Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but more than that, it means that we see the abundance of good things all around us. These gifts of God are big and little, profound and ordinary. By seeing the world in this way, we begin to change our personalities and our overall disposition. We always need to follow a new proverb: see all the good, hear all the good, and speak about the good. Amen.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The stress and anxieties of family life are like "thorns which choke off" any opportunity to reflect on God's presence in our lives. Notice in today's gospel Jesus "went out of the house" so He could connect with the people he loved. Grasp five minutes each day to appreciate the people you love.

PARENTING POINTERS

Being born or giving birth is an amazing miracle. If your child is old enough, share memories of your own birth or your child's birth. Rejoice and maybe cool off with some water this week.



WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JULY 9TH

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$8,312.00
Amount Received	\$3,127.00	\$5,678.00
Net over/under	(\$1,029.00)	(\$2,634.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 50; 9:00AM = 49
 Envelopes: 59/168



Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **TED RZODKIEWSKI**, as gifted by Pearl & Kathy Wisniewski.



7/16 Raymond Luniewski
7/20 Charlotte Allen
7/23 Melissa Mangini

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., July 17th - Stanley Kniewski (Family)
Tues., July 18th - All Souls
Wed., July 19th - All Deceased Fathers
Thurs., July 20th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
Fri., July 21st - All Deceased Mothers
Sat., July 22nd, 5:15PM - Ted Rzodkiewicz (Angela Leasure)
Sun., July 23rd, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

40 Days Until Zabawa 2023!

Kathy Smith reports that we would like to have 30 Theme Baskets. As of today we are only halfway there. If you would like to sponsor one from your family please contact Kathy or the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Have you returned your tickets for the grand raffle? We count on our parishioners to sell or purchase tickets so that when Zabawa begins we have the money that will be given away covered by the parishioners who returned their tickets early.

In today's Gospel from Matthew, our Lord shares the Parable of the Sower who scatters seed on many different kinds of land. This is a wonderful analogy for the stewardship way of life, demonstrating the slow and steady, yet powerful effect this lifestyle will have on those who fully embrace it. In this parable, some of the seeds land on a path where birds carry them off before they can begin to take root. Other seeds land on rocky ground with little soil. As soon as things begin to heat up, they get scorched and die. Then there are seeds that land on soil cluttered with thorns which choke the seeds just as they are beginning to grow strong. Finally, there are seeds that land on deep and healthy soil. These seeds produce abundant fruit. This is where the stewardship way of life comes in. When we give the best of our time, talent and treasure to serve God and others, we create lives filled with that rare "good soil" needed for the Kingdom of God to thrive. How does this happen? Stewardship living removes the "rocks" of mistrust from our lives as we develop an unshakeable faith that God will always provide for our needs. It clears away the "thorns" of worldly ambition that make us self-centered, fill us with needless anxiety and stifle our focus on God. Stewardship living requires a deep reliance on the Word of God and the sacraments which continuously nourish and fertilize the soil of our lives. Let us deepen our commitment to this way of life, allowing the Sower to do His work in us, slowly and steadily. The Master Gardener will surely produce miraculous fruits through us.

STO LAT!

Congratulations to Jane (Tomczak) and David Thiemann as they celebrate their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary at our 10:30 Mass this weekend. We welcome their families and friends to Holy Trinity Parish as they join them today in giving thanks to Almighty God for the blessings of fifty wonderful years in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JULY 2ND, 2023

Regular Offering: \$2,500.00 (32/130)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,500.00	\$4,900.00
Net (over/under):	\$100.00	\$2,500.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 40; 10:30AM = 72

The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a
Based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)

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

PLANTS	SCORCH	FARMER	THORNS	CROP
WITHER	BIRDS	ROOT	CHOKE	SOIL
FELL	PARABLE	SCATTER	SEED	GREW
ROCKY	SHALLOW	GOOD	SOW	PATH



"Whoever has ears ought to hear."

- Matthew 13:9

News for Our Partnership

FROM OUR MISSIONARY SPEAKER

"I, Fr. Severine Iddi Msigiti the MCP Speaker for the Catholic Diocese of Tanga, Tanzania East Africa. I'm so grateful for generosity and hospitality to me and to our Diocese of Tanga. Thank you very much. In a special way I would like to thank the Most Rt Rev. Bishop of Erie Diocese. Pastor Rev. Fr. Jason Glover, Very Rev. Msgr Dan Magraw my host and the Parish Committee and all the Parishioners and all people of good will I met at St. Stanislaus and at the Parish of Holy Trinity. From the bottom of my heart, I say thank you very much for your caring love to me. May the good Lord grant you all the desires of your hearts and bless you abundantly in accordance to your needs. I will remember you in my prayers."

With best regards,
Fr. Severin

Holy Trinity raised \$878 and St. Stanislaus received \$711 to be donated to the Missions, for a total of \$1,589. Thank you all for your kind generosity and hospitality offered to our missionary speaker!

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebrations on Sunday, August 6 at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie. Celebrations include Mass with Bishop Persico followed by a light reception. To register for either event or to receive a certificate by mail, complete the online registration at <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html>, contact your parish office, or contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (814) 824-1210. Registrations are being accepted until July 21.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Fr. Jason and Msgr. Dan will be revising our Eucharistic Ministry schedules to incorporate ministers of the cup as we begin to reintroduce the reception of the Blood of Christ during Mass in August. More information about this reintroduction will be forthcoming in future bulletins.

RESTORING THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Since the pandemic we have had to remove a lot of options for worshippers. We will be restoring the distribution of the Precious Blood. This will become effective the weekend of August 5-6, 2023. Remember this is an option, no one has to receive from the cup. Many Dioceses around us have already resumed this practice. It is understood that if you are not feeling well, you should not receive from the cup. It is also advised that if you are immunocompromised, have respiratory symptoms, or may have been exposed to COVID or flu do not receive from the cup. With the above in mind, Holy Trinity is still in need of more Eucharistic Ministers. Let us know soon if you are interested. There will be a training class and there is a schedule.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Over the years I have wasted a lot: a lot of money, a lot of time, and a lot of talent. Sometimes I didn't realize I was wasting these things but, after reflection, I realized I could have done more and accomplished much greater things. Of course, I think that is part of our imperfect humanity. It truly is easier for us to waste our gifts than grow them into something more.

The parable of the sower speaks about the word of God that gets planted in our hearts. If the soil of our heart is rich, then the word will grow and change us. If that soil is rocky or full of weeds, the word will lie there without any impact, bearing no fruit.

This parable can be applied to living a stewardship way of life as well. As sowers, we have been given the seeds of our time, talent, and treasure. We have a choice of where to plant these gifts. As good everyday stewards, we are called to plant them wisely and prudently. Oftentimes it is not enough to simply give away what we have. We need to discern the best places to sow these gifts so the maximum harvest can grow. This takes prayer, reflection, and study. Without a solid discernment process, we can find ourselves sowing seeds endlessly without much to show for it. But joyful is the person who has used one's gifts wisely, for the bounty of the harvest is great.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

7/16) Corinne Dyakon, Mary Jo Sulecki, Kay Stankiewicz, & Richard Valahovic; 7/17) Ed Korytowski & Barbara Tuszynski; 7/18) Pearl Wisniewski; 7/19) Bill Dyakon, Rob Lintleman, & Fr. Jason Glover; 7/20) Ed Korytowski; 7/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 7/22) Suzanne Sundy & Kathy Wisniewski

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

7/16) Fr. Andrew Boyd; 7/17) Fr. Bill Laska; 7/18) Bishop-Elect Edward Lohse; 7/19) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak; 7/20) Fr. Chris Beran; 7/21) Fr. Joe Petrone; 7/22) Fr. Michael DeMartinis

Sunday, Jul 16, 2023

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

"My word shall not return to me void..."

Pause before speaking

Words are deeds, as theologian Peter Kreeft astutely reminds us. When we speak our thoughts into the air, we are doing something. So many words circulate in the machinery of our media that we tend to take them for granted and view them as cheap or even meaningless. But words matter. They take root in our minds and hearts, as well as in the thoughts and feelings of people who receive them from us. Before you utter the response, make the call, or hit the send key, pause to contemplate what impact your words may have on someone else.

Monday, Jul 17, 2023

Exodus 1:8-14, 22; Matthew 10:34-11:1

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."

Heartfelt holiness

Like any family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph experienced misunderstandings, disagreements, and hurt feelings within the family unit. Some of those experiences are told in the gospels. The Holy Family is a model for all families in the struggles and joys of family life. There are many devotional prayers to the Holy Family, including a litany and even a devotion to the hearts of the Holy Family. Most Catholics are familiar with the images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but perhaps less so with the Chaste Heart of Joseph. Consider adorning your family home with artwork of all three.

Tuesday, Jul 18, 2023

MEMORIAL OF CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, PRIEST

Exodus 2:1-15a; Matthew 11:20-24

"She was moved with pity for him."

Instituting a better bedside manner

Hospitals in Rome and throughout Europe were abysmal in the 1500s, when Camillus de Lellis was admitted with an infected leg. Hospital workers were poor who showed up mostly for free meals. Some even stole food from patients! Saint Camillus was so disgusted by this treatment that he got up from his bed to provide comfort—and cleanliness—to other patients. Thus his vocation was born, along with the Servants of the Sick, the religious institute Camillus founded after becoming a priest. A great Catholic tradition was likewise born: not just spiritual solace but clean and professional care as well. Visit the Catholic Health Association website to pray for hospital workers.

Wednesday, Jul 19, 2023

Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12; Matthew 11:25-27

"The Lord is kind and merciful."

Mercy me

Our tradition contains a variety of words to describe "missing the mark" when it comes to personal conduct: sin, transgression, and iniquity, a word used hundreds of times in scripture. Iniquity describes willful harming, where we choose to hurt or act with malice. It gets at the character or quality of our intentions. In a sense, our actions are all we really ever own. We carry them with us and we fall short at times. Thankfully, God's mercy is greater even than our iniquity. Examine your conscience, make amends where possible. Ask God to crown you with kindness and compassion, as today's psalm promises.

Thursday, Jul 20, 2023

MEMORIAL OF APOLLINARIS, BISHOP, MARTYR

Exodus 3:13-20; Matthew 11:28-30

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me..."

Inspiration for a dangerous mission

Today's saint, Apollinaris, was a bishop during the first century of the church, a dangerous time to be a Christian. Roman authorities and others disliked the followers of Jesus for disrupting social norms and threatening a social order that gave Roman emperors God-like authority. Christianity was also a new movement, making it even more untrustworthy. Apollinaris was bishop of Ravenna, Italy, and for that public role he was savagely beaten, later dying of his wounds. His martyrdom inspired early disciples. Who inspires you to live dangerously in faith?

Friday, Jul 21, 2023

Exodus 11:10—12:14; Matthew 12:1-8

"I say to you, something greater than the temple is here."

A beautiful work in progress

God is the creator par excellence and invites all of creation, especially human beings, to share in the gift of creating. God enables us "to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony" (Catechism §307). There is a beauty in the incompleteness or "unfinishedness" of creation. Not only does it give us the opportunity to follow God's lead, but, according to distinguished professor and theologian Sister Anne Patrick, S.N.J.M., it reveals a beauty of its own and stirs us to gratitude for creation's patient unfolding. What gifts do you find in your own acts of creating?

Saturday, Jul 22, 2023

FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE, APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES

Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; John 20:1-2, 11-18

"On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb."

Who do you say she is?

No biblical figure is surrounded by more mystery than Mary Magdalene. Who was she, really? What we know from the texts, says Catholic writer James Carroll, is that she was a leader in the community of Jesus' followers. While the men abandoned Jesus in his hour of need, Mary was one of the women who stayed with him even through the Crucifixion. She was the first person to whom Jesus appeared after his Resurrection and the first to preach that Good News, and her status as an apostle in the early church rivaled even that of Peter. Over time, her status was questioned, her reputation tarnished. Powerful women have contended with such treatment throughout the ages. Mary Magdalene stands as a symbol for gender equity and justice as well as faithful witness.

"In this period, students are free from scholastic duties and many families are taking their vacation; it's important that in the time of rest and detachment from daily concerns, they can re-energize the forces of body and spirit, deepening their spiritual path."

- Pope Francis on Summer