

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 22, 2020



"Christ Healing the Man Born Blind," Doménikos (El Greco) Theotokópoulos (1573)

Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church

516 East 13th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.452.6606
www.ststanerie.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: Monday - Friday at 8:00AM

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy: Saturday at 4:00PM

Sunday at 9:30AM

Holy Days of Obligation: 8:00AM

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

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy: Saturday at 5:00PM;

Sunday at 10:00AM

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil at 5:30PM

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



March 22nd, 2020
4th Sunday of Lent

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man "sees" as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God's kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God's children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of March 22, 2020

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 23:1-3-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 [4th Sunday of Lent]
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2-13/Jn 4:43-54 [St. Turibius of Mogrovejo]
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-9/Jn 5:1-16 [St. Oscar Romero]
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 [The Annunciation]
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-12/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 [5th Sunday of 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 John's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.454.2873).

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., March 23rd, 8:00AM - Patricia Jenks (Vash & Ishman Families)
Tues., March 24th, 8:00AM - Theresa Szpara (Klugiewicz Family)
Wed., March 25th, 8:00AM - Herta Danowski (Dorothy Fearn)
Thurs., March 26th, 8:00AM - Joseph Pelkowski (Kruszewski Family)
Fri., March 27th, 8:00AM - Jean & Ed Kaliszewski & Shirley Seth (Family)
Sat., March 28th, 4:00PM - For the People of Saint Stanislaus (Pro Populo)
Sun., March 29th, 9:30AM - Marie & Ronald Inter (Family)

**THERE WILL BE NO
PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF
THE MASS UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **ALBERT CLEMENT** as
gifted by Helen Z.



March 1st Lottery Winner:
Ray Przybyszewski (#275)

FISH & PIEROGI DINNERS

Our final Fish & Pierogi dinner will be on March 27th. As of
this writing, this dinner will be available **FOR TAKE-OUT
ONLY**. Thank you to all who helping make our dinners this
year a success despite the challenges the Coronavirus
pandemic has caused. Everyone still had a wonderful time.

P.S. We will be accepting donations of baked goods to sell
during the dinner. Please consider supporting our efforts
by contributing your favorite sweets!

LOTTERY NOTICE

The Holy Name Society tickets for the "1st Day of the
Month" lottery will no longer be available. Many thanks to
those who supported this fundraising endeavor over the
years. The Holy Name Society has decided, instead, to
continue the "31 Day Lottery," as they did in January. The
next lottery will take place in May. Tickets are now
available for \$5. See a member of the Holy Name Society
to purchase yours, or pick one up at the Parish Office.

THE VAL JASKIEWICZ & RON BUKOSKI "SPRING FLING"...

... is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 19th at 5:00PM
in the Parish Social Hall. Have a chance to win \$2,500 in
prizes! Cost is \$25.00 for to admissions, and includes food
and refreshments. Only 150 tickets will be sold. Tickets
are available in the Parish Office, or by calling Chris at 835-
4235.

LENTEN & EASTER MARKETS

Our Partner Parish, Holy Trinity, will be holding their
annual Easter Market again this year. Order forms will be
available throughout Lent. The Market will be held on
April 3rd and April 4th.

**CONTINUE TO FOLLOW OUR WEBSITE
FOR UPDATES**

WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 15, 2020)

This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00 \$153,772.00
Amount Received	\$2,062.00 \$112,793.00
Net over/under.....	(2,094.00) (\$40,979.00)

Mass Attendance:
4:00PM = 55
9:30AM = 57



Patrick was born in Scotland in the year 347. When he was
about fourteen years old, he was captured and brought to
Ireland. At this time, the people of Ireland did not know about
Jesus. Ireland was not ruled by a king, but by several Celtic
chieftains. Each chieftain ruled a small piece of land but was
always trying to get more land through force. Because of this
unrest, not many people came to Ireland. As a slave, Patrick was
forced to take care of sheep. Patrick prayed often during his
captivity. When Patrick was twenty years old, he escaped from
slavery and returned home. However, he never forgot the
people of Ireland and wanted to return to teach them about
Christianity. Patrick began studying for the priesthood and was
eventually ordained a bishop. The Pope then sent him to Ireland
as a missionary. Because the people trusted him, many
converted to Christianity. Patrick built over three hundred
churches throughout Ireland and baptized thousands of people.
Patrick invited other priests and church leaders to join him in
Ireland. He remained in Ireland for forty years, preaching,
writing, and ministering to the people of Ireland. Patrick is the
Patron Saint of Ireland and of the Diocese. Saint Patrick, pray
for us!

CSA COMMITMENT SUNDAY UPDATE

Parish Assessment: \$31,019.00
Pledges to Date: \$23,505.00
Amount Collected: \$13,355.00

Thank you for the 68 families who have committed!
Together, let us reach our goal so we can move forward on
our improvement projects. If you haven't yet pledged,
please prayerfully consider doing so.

Holy Trinity Parish Community

**THERE WILL BE NO
PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF
THE MASS UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., March 23rd, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stan's
Tues., March 24th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stan's
Wed., March 25th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stan's
Thurs., March 26th, 8:00AM - Dianne Bernard (Audrey Dubowski)
Fri., March 27th, 8:00AM - Carl Milewski (Theresa & Skip Ignaczak)
Sat., March 28th, 4:00PM - The People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Sun., March 29th, 10:00AM - Mark Rutkowski (P., E., & A. Czulewicz)

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

If you wish to remember living or deceased family members this Easter with a donation toward the flowers and plants please return your envelope with the names by Monday, April 6th.

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Bill and Corinne Dyakon would like to thank everyone who donated rags and hand towels for use in the Parish Center. We greatly appreciate your generosity.



March 26th - Bridget Brieger & Audrey Dubowski
March 27th - James Rzomp
March 28th - Lucas Loeffler
March 29th - Jesse Carpenter

**CONTINUE TO FOLLOW OUR PARISH WEBSITE FOR
ONGOING UPDATES REGARDING COVID-19**

WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 15, 2020)

Regular Offertory..... \$2,042.00 (41/146 mailed)
Loose Cash.....\$49.00
Total Offertory.....\$2,091.00
Mass Attendance: 5:00PM = 32 / 10:00AM = 57

THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal	\$3,000.00
Amount we need	\$2,365.00
Amount Received	\$
Net over/under	(\$274.00)

2020 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Assessment: \$12,425.00

Pledges: \$19,427.00

Paid: \$16,742.00

Balance Due: \$2,685

* 51 Families have contributed thus far to the 2019 CSA



The sanctuary candle burns in memory of the
LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF HOLY TRINITY.

EASTER MARKET

It's time to order those special food items and baked goods for your Easter celebrations. Members of Holy Trinity Parish Catholic Education Program have been busy making pierogi, potato pancake batter, specialty breads, cookies and blessing breads and butter lambs for swieconka. Orders must be prepaid and received by Monday, March 30th. This year you can pay with Credit Card; call Edith (814-456-9970). Orders will be available for pick-up at the Social Center on Friday, April 3rd from 4:00-7:00PM or Saturday, April 4th from 9:00AM - Noon.

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).



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

BLIND	EYES	SPIT	POOL	WASH
WORLD	SINNED	SIGHT	NIGHT	BORN
HOME	MUD	LIFE	OPENED	LIGHT
SILOAM	PARENTS	RECEIVED	BIRTH	GROUND

“One thing I know is that I was blind and now I see.”

- John 9:25

News for Our Partnership

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Women's Conference scheduled for March 28th at Our Lady of Peace Church has been canceled.

TENEBRAE SERVICE CANCELED

The Tenebrae Service schedule at Saint Stan's for today, March 22nd, has been canceled.

2020 PARISH CENSUS

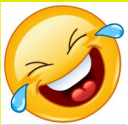
The information needed to conduct our 2020 Parish Census has been compiled and approved by our Joint Parish Council. Sample copies are posted in the main entrance of both parishes for you to preview and get an idea of the information for which the 2020 Census will ask.

This Census is critically important to the life, ministry, and planning of our parishes for reasons provided on the front cover of the Census and others besides. Please take a moment to review the sample copies.

Our intentions to disseminate the Census are currently on hold...

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2020

A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. You have joined together with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Erie to share of your blessings to help advance the mission of the church. We are grateful. If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late. Just drop your pledge envelope marked 'CSA' in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. Your generosity is appreciated and will make a difference for our diocese and parish to complete our parish improvement projects.



After the Baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

PASTRIES SALE

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish is selling rolled pastries (walnut, poppy seed, and apricot) for \$10 each. Pre-order by calling Michael at 969-0497. They will be available for pick-up on April 5th at Holy Family School.



Our first get-together brought 25 people together parishioners eager to brainstorm possible opportunities for this group. On Monday, April 6th they will gather in Holy Trinity Social Center at 2:00PM to share a casserole dinner and listen to a presentation by Msgr. Dan on Holy Week and the beautiful Triduum that leads to Easter. The group will carpool to St Peter Cathedral for the Chrism Mass at 4:00PM, at which Bishop Persico will bless the oils to be used in the 96 parishes of our Diocese.

CASH BINGO

The Third Street Falcons will host a Cash Bingo Sunday, March 22nd. Doors open at noon; Bingo starts at 1:00PM. Cost is \$20/pack; \$5/extra pack. Instant and 50/50 will also be available. Kitchen and Bar will also be open.



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you at this moment sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW OUR WEBSITES FOR UPDATES

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

3/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman; 3/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic; 3/25) Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman; 3/26) Patricia Straub & John Kleiner; 3/27) Sr. Maxine Kaminski & Regina Jaworski; 3/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, & Suzanne Sundy; 3/29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak & Janis Leretsis; 3/30) Edie Luniewski & Ed Czulewicz

PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS THIS WEEK:

3/23) Msgr. Robert Smith; 3/24) Fr. Paul Siebert; 3/25) Fr. Matt Strickenberger; 3/26) Msgr. John Swoger; 3/27) Fr. Tom Whitman; 3/28) Msgr. Gerry Ritchie; 3/29) Bishop Lawrence T. Persico

Sunday, Mar 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT; SECOND SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT

Clarity at last

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

"What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?"

Darkness and light are biblical themes that invite us to take an internal sight exam. How clearly do we see? Like the man in today's gospel, we're all born blind into a world grown accustomed to the blurred vision of habitual sin. We view most decisions in terms of what's in it for us. It's difficult and challenging to climb up to a higher point of view to ask: What will serve the common good? Today, we pray that our Elect will have the grace to seek and attain that higher ground. And might we too ask for the same?

Monday, Mar 23, 2020

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

Step down to your calling

Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

"He and his whole household came to believe."

God must have a great sense of irony. Imagine the head of an important court suddenly being summoned to pastor a far-off land filled with people who speak unknown languages. Such was the destiny of Turibius of Mogrovejo, summoned from his post as chief inquisitor in Granada, Spain to pastor the Lima archdiocese, which included the indigenous Andean communities of 16th-century colonial Peru. Turibius went with the flow admirably, traversing his vast archdiocese three times on foot, alone, ministering to all along his route. He defended those who suffered the greatest injustice under the colonial rule he himself represented. Downward mobility is a pattern in saints' biographies. Time to evaluate your priorities?

Tuesday, Mar 24, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Be a voice for the voiceless

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16

"Look, you are well; do not sin any more..."

Saint Oscar Romero, the archbishop of San Salvador who spoke out against grave social injustice in El Salvador, was assassinated by his opponents while celebrating Mass on this day in 1980, and it is commemorated by the United Nations as International Day for the Right to the Truth. Today is an opportunity for you to honor the memory of human rights victims, pay tribute to those who struggle to protect those rights for all, remember the important work of Romero, and commit yourself to his values of speaking truth to power, even when it costs you.

Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Say yes to God

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

"May it be done to me according to your word."

The Annunciation is a beautiful feast that celebrates Mary's "yes" to God during her encounter with the angel Gabriel. Mary doesn't rattle off a quick response but rather pauses and ponders, wondering what this might mean. Her response is a choice not simply to give birth to a child, but to fully embrace her identity and her calling as an intimate companion with God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." It is as if Mary is saying, "Look! My life is fully in God! Everything about who I am is for and with God!" During this day of Annunciation, reflect on your

Thursday, Mar 26, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Reflect in your heart

Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

"It is simply that I know you

and you do not have the love of God in your hearts."

Imagine taking a walk with the Lord today. As you walk along, he suddenly stops and looks at you with a question in his eyes. He hesitates, but then goes ahead and asks: "Do you have the love of God in your heart?" You might respond: "I am doing my best to be patient, to think of others first, to be kind and generous. It is Lent after all." Jesus persists: "But do you have the love of God in your heart?" Take five minutes today and consider that question. Be at peace with whatever thoughts come to mind. Then allow the insights you gain to set the rest of the day's course.

Friday, Mar 27, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

What price would you pay?

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

*"Some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said,
'Is he not the one they are trying to kill?'"*

Today's gospel has an aura of doom about it, with Jesus getting a clear message that authorities would like to kill him. The church teaches that "Jesus went up to Jerusalem voluntarily, knowing well that there he would die a violent death because of the opposition of sinners," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it (569). How far are you willing to go to "do the right thing"? Contemplate today the sacrifices you have made and what you would be willing to do to be true to your beliefs.

Saturday, Mar 28, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

The plot thickens

Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53

*"I, like a trusting lamb led to slaughter,
had not realized that they were hatching plots against me."*

Next weekend we observe Palm Sunday, ushering in a dramatic week that includes the tragedy of Our Lord's suffering and death. The gospels describe for us the suspicion and plotting that will lead to his Crucifixion. Among the religious leaders, only Nicodemus gives Jesus the benefit of the doubt and tries to argue his case. This is the same Nicodemus who has already visited Jesus under cover of night to discuss his teachings and who provides the burial spices after Jesus is crucified. How can you be

