

# THE 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## June 26, 2022



### *Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church*

516 East 13th Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.452.6606  
[www.ststanserie.org](http://www.ststanserie.org)  
email: [ststaner@outlook.com](mailto: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**

### *Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671  
[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
email: [parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org](mailto: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**



## *Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity*

### *Partners in Faith & Mission*



June 26, 2022

#### 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

And to another he said, "Follow me." In every moment of every day, in every circumstance and experience, God is calling us. We can easily get distracted and not hear it or simply ignore it, pretending it wasn't even heard. When we do hear it and favorably respond, there are some conditions that must be met. Jesus makes it clear that once we say yes to his invitation, we must stay focused and forge ahead. We cannot keep looking behind or worry about unfinished business. There are some tasks, and discipleship is one, that require our full devotion.

There are many "masters" vying for our attention. We need something or someone to give us direction. Our motives and actions reveal what has our allegiance. It is tempting to give ourselves to masters that lure us with intriguing promises. When given the choice between a "master" that promises worldly success, abundant wealth, status, privilege, and security versus a "master" that asks for self-sacrifice, hardship, suffering, ridicule, and death, to whom do we go? While the promise of immediate pleasure is enticing, there is always a catch. For all that secular masters can promise, they always keep us looking behind, checking on ourselves, second guessing choices, calculating options, and being slaves to excessive worry. Our guard can never come down. Only one master really promises life: Jesus Christ. Hearing his call, we either trust him or we don't.

Saying yes to following Christ does come with a risk. But it also comes with the brightness of future hopes and dreams. There is no need to keep looking behind. Sins are forgiven and regrets serve no effective purpose. God is not there. He's moved beyond all that stuff. God is in the today and the tomorrow and what he can continually do with our daily affirmation to follow Him. All we need to do is be obedient. St. Gianna Molla is credited with saying, "The stillness of prayer is the most essential condition for fruitful action. Before all else, the disciple kneels down." Begin with prayer. We will not only hear God's call but find the courage to trust that He will guide us where we need to be. God uses us in the most ordinary of ways through the simple daily expression of our lives.

#### Readings for the week of June 26, 2022

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:16, 19-21/Ps 16:1-8, 9-11/Gal 5:1, 13-18/Lk 9:51-62  
Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Ps 50:16-23/Mt 8:18-22  
Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4-8/Mt 8:23-27  
Wednesday: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19  
Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 9:1-8  
Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131/Mt 9:9-13  
Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9-14/Mt 9:14-17  
Next Sunday: Is 66:10-14/Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20 [1]/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-9

**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 Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606 or Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

### **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 Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

### **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 Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

### **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., June 27th - Private Intention  
 Tues., June 28th - Souls in Purgatory (H. Angeloff)  
 Wed., June 29th - Linda Gidos (St. Stan's Women's Society)  
 Thurs., June 30th - Deborah Ann Post (Anne Post)  
 Fri., July 1st - Doris Inter (Anne Post)  
 Sat., July 2nd, 4:00PM - Max & Florence Krasinski (Family)  
 Sun., July 3rd, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **BERNARD & MARY BAGNISZEWSKI**, as gifted by Janet and Jim.



## GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT

There will always be something behind us and before us. Time moves on and the world continues to rotate. Will we miss that which exists right before our eyes because they are shut while we are consumed by the past or worried about the future? When we go about whatever work God has set for us this day, large or small, we cannot get it done if we are looking behind us. Being mindful means to live for the present. It sounds like the simplest thing in the world, but we forget it (I forget it at least once every day). We must be guided by the Spirit. What I'm talking about here is a radical abandonment of ourselves to God — over, and over, and over again. We cannot put our hand to the plough, while our eyes are looking backward at what is left behind. We cannot turn back if we are to move forward. When we take up the yoke of stewardship, we will never be able to bear it if we rely on our own strength. When we put our hands to the plough, we will never get the job done if we look backwards at our own track record for inspiration. There is no inspiration there. Let the dead bury their dead.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated last Saturday (June 18th) for Shirley Jankowski. Please keep Shirley and her friends and family in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST BAKE SALE

St. Stan's Women's Society will be hosting a Bake Sale at our inaugural Pancake Breakfast being held on July 10th. They are asking parishioners to put on their baking mitts and consider donating some baked goods for this effort.

Additionally, the women will be sponsoring a 50/50 raffle during the breakfast.

## SAINT ROCH "MULTI-PARISH" MEGA-RAFFLE

We will, once again, participate in the St. Roch Raffle. St. Roch is a parish located in Greenwich, CT. They reach out to many, many parishes along the east coast to solicit participation. We were first invited to participate two years ago. On short notice, we didn't really "push" the raffle, but we do profit from it.

Tickets are \$25 each; 50% of all ticket sales (\$12.50/ticket) remain at St. Stanislaus. Prizes are paid out in American Express Gift Cards. First prize is \$30,000; second is \$10,000; third is \$8,000. There are also 20 winners of \$1,000. Drawing take place on August 13th and can be viewed live on-line. Please see John Villa for tickets, or call the Parish Office. Thanks for your support!

## JULY LOTTERY RAFFLE

The Holy Name Society is, once again, sponsoring a lottery raffle for the month of July. For only \$5, you can have 31 chances to win throughout the month. Tickets can be purchased from any Holy Name member, in the sacristy, or at the Parish Office.

# SUMMER 2022!

## WEEKLY OFFERING (JUNE 12, 2022)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$211,956.00
Amount Received	\$1,909.00	\$144,244.00
Net over/under	(\$2,247.00)	(\$67,712.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = N/A; 9:00AM = N/A  
 Envelopes: 58/168



## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Sometimes the strife in our world can feel heavy and burdensome. (Think Ukraine, political divisiveness, even family arguments). May the love that you carry for each other prompt you to find one act you can do to relieve someone else's suffering this week.



# Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **ANNA MARIE NEIMEIC** as gifted by the Laufer family.



June 30 - Irene Zambrzycki  
July 1 - Eric Simora  
July 2 - Mary Ann Biernik  
& Sarah Chermack

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., June 27th - Special Intention  
Tues., June 28th - All Living & Deceased Mothers  
Wed., June 29th - All Living & Deceased Fathers  
Thurs., June 30th - Gorka & Daniszewski Families  
Fri., July 1st - Special Intention  
Sat., July 2nd, 5:15PM - The People of Holy Trinity Parish (Pro Populo)  
Sun., July 3rd, 10:30AM - Delphine Gorniak (Jim Bojarski)

Today's readings take us back to the basics, inviting us to reflect honestly on our deepest priorities in life. In today's Gospel, from Luke, Christ refers to the struggle to put Him above all else as He encounters two "would be" disciples on His way to Jerusalem. "Follow me," Jesus says to the first man. "But he replied, 'Lord let me go first and bury my father.' The other said, 'I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home.'" These two want to follow Christ but only on their own terms, only after taking care of some other, more pressing matters (at least in their own minds). To this, Christ says thanks but no thanks! Following Him requires an unqualified "yes" not a "yes but..." We are called to put Christ and His kingdom ahead of our own plans if we truly wish to be his disciples and to find victory in the battle of selfishness. Living stewardship as a way of life can go a long way in arming us for victory. Stewardship living provides us with a custom-made "training plan" — the commitment to a specific offering of our time, talent, and treasure to the Kingdom of God. It is a plan discerned through prayer and by looking at the realities of our unique circumstances, strengths, and limitations. The daily discipline of committing to the plan strengthens us and helps us gradually move away from the "yes, but" attitude and towards an unqualified "yes!" to Christ and His will. Do not be afraid to give the best of yourself and your gifts to Christ. He deserves nothing less. And this way of life, while challenging, will be characterized by a joy and peace that only comes from living for Him.

## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel reminds us once we set our "hand to the plow" of parenting and marriage, "we cannot look back." This is what commitment means: to say 'yes' to the choice to give up other choices, and 'yes' to the promise to be faithful to an unknown future with our spouse.

## BIBLICAL BRAINTEASER

There are names of sixteen books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find: I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts... and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Rest assured, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

## First Things First

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:61-62 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 9:51-62



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

BIRDS NESTS MAN	HEAD LAY JESUS	WALKING HOLES PLACE	FOXES FOLLOW SON	AIR ROAD MAN
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## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JUNE 19, 2022

Regular Offering: \$2,738.00 (26/130)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$144,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$114,451.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,738.00	\$118,626.00
Net (over/under):	\$373.00	\$4,175.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 36; 10:30AM = 75

61 Days until  
ZABAWA 2022

*"And to another he said, 'Follow Me.'"*

- Luke 9:59

## *News for Our Partnership*

### **RECOGNITIONS**

We would like to publicly acknowledge the accomplishments of our students this past academic year. If your son or daughter earned special recognition this past year, please inform the parish office so that we can properly recognize their achievements.

### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Saint Stanislaus will host its first ever Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, July 10th in the Social Hall. Mark your calendars and plan to attend and support St. Stan's. More details will be forthcoming.

### **HELP WANTED**

Kathy Smith is in need of the wicker baskets that she uses for the Theme baskets for Zabawa. Her suppliers do not have them. If anyone has any and could donate them, she would appreciate it. You can bring them to a weekend Mass and we will be sure to get them to her.

### **DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration Liturgies on Sunday, July 31, 2022 at St. Mary in St. Mary's and Sunday, August 7, 2022 at Holy Cross in Fairview. Both liturgies will begin at 2:00 p.m. To register for either event or to receive a scroll by mail, please visit: <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or contact your parish office or the Family Life Office at (814) 824-1210.

### **BEEF-O-RAMA**

The Men's Council of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish announces the return of the annual "Beef-O-Rama" on Thursday, June 30th, on the parish grounds. **You must be 21 years old or older to attend.** Beverages are available beginning at 5PM. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6PM. Prime rib dinner at 7PM. Tickets are \$65 and must be purchased in advance; **no tickets will be sold at the door.** Tickets can be purchased at the parish office (814.825.7313), or from Dave Williams (814.825.2722 or 814.873.2778). The deadline to purchase tickets is June 19th.

### **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**

Following this weekend's Sunday Mass, we are inviting all parishioners (especially our ushers) to attend a brief presentation on "Situational Awareness," developing the ability to identify and respond to dangerous situations. John Villa, retired United States Navy, Emergency Response Administrator, and Police Academy Training Coordinator, will conduct a church-specific presentation that will cover everything from tornado threats, fires, and active shooter situations. While we never anticipate danger threatening our churches, it is always good to be prepared. The presentation will take place after the 9:00AM Mass at Saint Stanislaus and after the 10:30AM Mass at Holy Trinity.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Our annual parish picnic will be held on Sunday, August 14th, in the Saint Stanislaus Rectory courtyard. The communities of St. Stan's, Holy Trinity, and St. Hedwig's are warmly invited to attend. More details will be forthcoming.

### **UPCOMING MISSION-COOP PROGRAM**

On July 9 & 10, Sister Tina Geiger, a Sister of Mercy will speak at our parishes on behalf of Catholic Rural Ministries in Venango, Clarion, Forest Counties, and the towns of Tidioute and Titusville. Catholic Rural Ministries has been in the Oil City Deanery since 2007 when the Sisters were invited to be Women of Hope and Compassion to the people of that area of our Diocese. Their ministry includes offering spiritual enrichment opportunities for youth and adults; to persons and families in need, to offer financial literacy, referral and financial assistance as we are able. They are present on various boards providing social services to the folks in our area. Sister Tina personally grew up in Northwestern, NJ - with cows, tomatoes, and corn country. She entered the Sister's of Mercy in Rhode Island after completing college - graduating with a MA in Religious Education. She has since ministered in parishes, high schools, universities, Renew International. Her present ministry here in western PA has spanned 12 years. There will be second collection if you wish to write a check to our Parish and we will send one check for Rural Ministries.

### **THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS**

6/27) Sr. Maxine Kaminski & Regina Jaworski; 6/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, & Suzanne Sundy;  
6/29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak & Janis Leretsis; 6/30) Edie Luniewski; 7/1) Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski, & Mary Speice;  
7/2) Patty Czulewicz; 7/3) Judy Tucceri & Jackie Vargo

### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

6/27) Ross Miceli; 6/28) Fr. Ian McElrath; 6/29) Fr. Matthew Kujawinski; 6/30) Fr. Bill Miller; 7/1) Msgr. Bruce Allison;  
7/2) Fr. Brian Vossler; 7/3) Fr. Ben Daghir



**Sunday, Jun 26, 2022**

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21; Galatians 5:1, 13-18; Luke 9:51-62

"For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery."

**Respect your freedom**

The Statue of Liberty is the symbol of our nation's reverence for personal freedom. Yet too many of us lose our liberty to substance abuse and other addictive behaviors. More subtle than these overt practices are patterns of thinking and feeling we may be losing control over: anxiety, depression, rage, racism. Today is the World Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking. Prayerfully reflect on behaviors or emotional states that make you feel less free, and take a step today toward liberty.

**Monday, Jun 27, 2022**

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Amos 2:6-10, 13-16; Matthew 8:18-22

"Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

**Everyone needs a mother's love**

Saint Cyril of Alexandria died on this day in 444. He was the archbishop of his city, which was at the height of its influence over the Mediterranean world during his time. One of his most enduring legacies was his hard-fought teaching on Mary as the "Mother of God," which created the basis for all other theology about Mary. Saints aren't perfect, and neither was Cyril - the man who helped connect us to a tender, loving mother in Mary also committed acts of violence and injustice. Perhaps his deep flaws illustrate just how much all of us need her intercession.

**Tuesday, Jun 28, 2022**

MEMORIAL OF IRENAEUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Matthew 8:23-27

"The men were amazed and said, 'What sort of man is this?'"

**Come alive with faith**

For Irenaeus, the Incarnation says as much about the redeemed as it does our Redeemer. Yes, Christian doctrine teaches that Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine. And, yes, Irenaeus battled the heresy known as Gnosticism - which emphasized the divine nature of Jesus at the expense of his humanity. But for Irenaeus, the Incarnation also meant that the "glory of God is a human being fully alive." He believed that God became human so that humans might become divine. How will you choose to be "fully alive" today, in order to glorify God?

**Wednesday, Jun 29, 2022**

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19

"Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

**Rest in peace**

You might think that the two foundational giants of the Christian tradition who share a feast day would have been best buddies, but in fact Peter and Paul had their differences, especially around the question of whether people who weren't Jews needed to observe Jewish Law in order to become followers of Jesus. It is not entirely clear whether they fully reconciled their differences before they were both martyred in Rome, though it is clear that Paul's position carried the day over time. Perhaps there's a message for today's divided church—we can disagree with one another, even on matters of great importance, and still rest together in the same great tradition.

**Thursday, Jun 30, 2022**

MEMORIAL OF THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH IN ROME

Amos 7:10-17; Matthew 9:1-8

"He then said to the paralytic,

'Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.'"

**Keep their memory alive**

It is a deeply human act to remember the dead, especially those who died as result of acts of violence. Today's memorial for the First Martyrs of the Church in Rome places the church squarely within this tradition of remembrance. We recall innumerable Christians who were put to death in gruesome ways by the emperor Nero, who blamed Christians for a devastating fire in Rome in the year 64. Nero did not crush the church, and neither has the memory of those early martyrs been erased. Your reading these words keeps alive their memory and their sacrifice.

**Friday, Jul 01, 2022**

MEMORIAL OF JUNÍPERO SERRA, FRANCISCAN PRIEST

Amos 8:4-6, 9-12; Matthew 9:9-13

"Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor..."

**Mixed legacies**

On April 1, 2022, Pope Francis offered an historic apology to Inuit, Métis, and First Nations delegations for the church's role in harming Canadian Indigenous Peoples in Catholic residential schools. This is no small thing to do—for the church or for us individually. It is difficult to admit that we, and members of the church we call our own, have at times harmed others. Yet it is essential to begin the journey of healing. With Pope Francis, let us commit to an honest reevaluation of the church's colonial-era missionary efforts, such as those of Junípero Serra in what is now California. Let us also be aware of our own shortcomings, seeking forgiveness with humility and making meaningful amends wherever possible.

**Saturday, Jul 02, 2022**

Amos 9:11-15; Matthew 9:14-17

"Why do we and the Pharisees fast much, but your disciples do not?"

**Woe is me**

The Pharisees get a bad rap in the gospels, typically portrayed as Jesus' antagonists, narrow-minded and legalistic, focused on outward ritual rather than inner renewal. And surely there are elements that ring true. At the same time, some of their beliefs were quite compatible with Christianity as it evolved, including the belief in life after death, the resurrection of the body, keeping the Sabbath holy (i.e., Sunday Mass obligation), and the priority to spread the faith. It's easy to see the blind spots and shortcomings of others. Harder to see our own. Are you aware of your own inner Pharisee?

**Prayer for a Summer Day**

Long warm days...

The pace of life slows...

A time for picnics and rest in the shade...

Lord,

help me to rest a while in the cooling shade of your presence.

Slow down my restless heart and fill me with gentle compassion for all your people.

Amen.