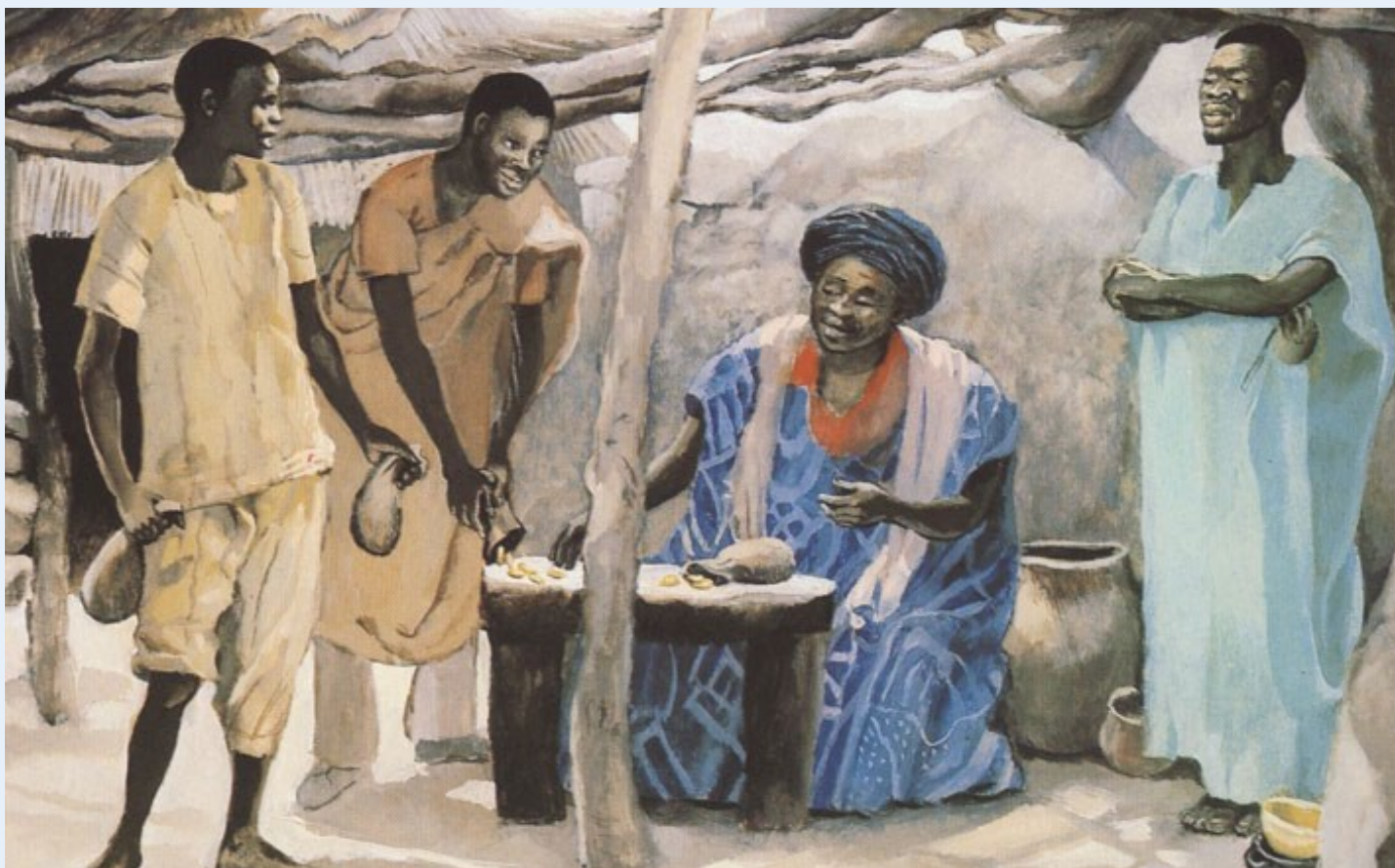


# THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## November 19, 2023



### *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**

**\* 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](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**

**\* 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*



**November 19, 2023**  
**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

When I was a kid, I hated playing Monopoly because my siblings and friends always seemed to win. But worse was how it happened. Scared to risk my fake money on buying properties, I'd hold on to it. My opponents hungrily bought up the various real estate squares on the board. Then, inevitably, my poor, low-equity self would land on their spots, pay them rent, and my money would drain to zero. It seemed so unfair. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. I had to learn that monopoly money is meant to be spent. I was scared to lose some of it. So, I lost all of it.

How do we see what we possess? Jesus' parable about the talents is not really about economics but about the investability of everything he entrusts to us. How marvelous that everyone in the fable who places talents in the open market doubles their investment. The only one who doesn't is the man who fearfully buries his one talent. Jesus' success strategy for us seems to be, whatever we have, get it out of our possession. Risk it as quickly and as fully as we can.

You and I have precious gifts. We have valuable things to invest — time, talents, treasure. The Lord invites us to be brave and even somewhat reckless, to give as much away as possible. If we give it away in the direction of love and truth, it will grow. If we hold on to it in fear, the little we have will be taken away. Let me challenge you this week: find something in your life you're holding on to, and risk it by giving it away. It won't double if you hold on to it.

— Father John Muir

#### **Readings for the week of November 19, 2023**

Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-5/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30  
Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 54-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150-158/Lk 18:35-43  
Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-7/Lk 19:1-10  
Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15/Lk 19:11-28  
Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44  
Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10-12/Lk 19:45-48  
Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-6, 16, 19/Lk 20:27-40  
Next Sunday: Ez 34:11-17/Ps 23:1-6/1 Cor 15:20-28/Mt 25:31-46

**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., Nov. 20th - Private Intention  
 Tues., Nov. 21st - Taylor Hawkins (Dr. Hal Angeloff)  
 Wed., Nov. 22nd - Tom Ruffley (Nancy & Frank Hodas)  
 Thurs., Nov. 23rd - Gay & Bob Waldarczyk (Family)  
 Fri., Nov. 24th - Clarence Mikolajczak (Family)  
 Sat., Nov. 25th, 4:00PM - Mary & Chester Radomski (Family)  
 Sun., Nov. 26th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **GAY & BOB WLODARCZYK**, as gifted by the Family.



## THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

I remember watching a television show about a high school that dug up a time capsule that students had buried twenty-five years earlier. They had buried it with the purpose of showing others many years later the trends of the day and how student life was at that time. It was a fun exercise and everyone--the current students as well as those now grown--laughed at the clothing styles, corny photos, and lack of technology from years ago.

I wonder how the former students felt about how they had grown in those twenty-five years. How many of them realized their high school dreams? Did they find their purpose in this world and feel fulfilled in life? Did they use the talents and gifts God gave them to really make a difference in the world?

We have all been given talents and gifts by God to be cultivated and offered back to him and those around us for his glory. As time has passed, hopefully we have taken seriously our stewardship of these gifts. But sometimes out of fear, misunderstanding, or even apathy, we have taken one or more of our gifts and buried them, hiding them away from others and stifling all growth. This is no way to honor God and certainly not a path to fulfillment in life. If we have anything buried in our backyard we might do well to dig it back up, clean it up, and begin building upon it. Like a time capsule, those things will not be buried forever. One day the giver of that gift will ask what you have done with it. When that day comes, I pray you don't need to find a shovel.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

St. Stanislaus Women's Society will host its annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 3rd. They will also hold the drawing for their Christmas Raffle (two \$500 winners). Tickets are now being sold for the raffle. They can be purchased from any Women's Society member, in the sacristy, or in the Parish Office. Thanks, in advance, for your support!

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Women's Society Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 3rd, at the 3rd Street Polish Falcons from noon-3PM. Members, parishioners, and guests are welcome to attend. The cost for the meal is \$15 per person. Call Sharon or Tom at 814-790-1226 for reservations. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, November 28th. We hope you can join us for this splendid afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship!

## PIES NEEDED

With apologies for the short notice, the Sisters of Saint Joseph are asking for pies for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Pies can be brought to the Parish Office parking lot on Monday, November 20th, from 2:00-3:00PM.

## HELP WANTED

A small number of volunteers could be used after next Sunday's Mass (November 26th) to help replace the Breaking Break books with the with the ones for the new liturgical year.

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR OCTOBER 22, 2023

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$83,120.00
Amount Received	\$2,060.00	\$44,832.00
Net over/under	(\$2,096.00)	(\$38,288.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 58; 9:00AM = 58

Envelopes: 59/168



## CONGRATULATIONS OCTOBER LOTTERY WINNERS

10/2 - Julie Markom	10/19 - Molly Joseph
10/3 - Joe Chromik	10/22 - Paul Modzelewski
10/4 - Mario Chiappazzi	10/23 - Kay Stankiewicz
10/6 - Hannah Ogorevc	10/24 - Randolph Radomski
10/8 - Bill Wycech	10/25 - Mark Valahovic
10/9 - Mooch Zielewski	10/26 - Sue Burkell
10/10 - Marie Barner	10/27 - St. Stanislaus
10/11 - Jennifer Bedar	10/28 - Kim Loper
10/16 - Bev Scarpino	10/29 - Tom Heath
10/17 - Corrine Dembski	10/30 - Laurena Valahovic
10/18 - Pam Barton	10/31 - Gloria Bruno

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **MARK NITKIEWICZ**, as gifted by Barbara & Lloyd.



11/19 - Fr. Jason

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Nov. 20th - Msgr. Richard Mayer  
 Tues., Nov. 21st - All Souls  
 Wed., Nov. 22nd - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)  
 Thurs., Nov. 23rd - In Thanksgiving for God's Blessings  
 Fri., Nov. 24th - Stanley Kniewski (Family)  
 Sat., Nov. 25th, 5:15PM - Richard, Robert, & Ron Homicz (J & S Kempisty)  
 Sun., Nov. 26th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (*Pro Populo*)

## THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

We are reminded today that we will each be called to give an account for the gifts God has given us — our physical, intellectual and material gifts — as well as the gift of time itself. Jesus illustrates this truth in our Gospel passage from Matthew. He tells the parable of a wealthy man who is about to go on a journey. Before he leaves, the man calls his three servants to “entrust his possessions to them.” The master in our parable gives to the care of each servant a portion of his money (“talent”) commensurate with that servant’s abilities. The first two prove to be good and faithful servants — they “immediately” put the talents to use, doubling what had been entrusted to them. The third servant reacted to this responsibility with fear — in fact, he did the opposite. He hid master’s talent, burying it in the ground. He took the safe way, the easy way out. What a tragic response! This servant did not understand his master at all. He failed to see what a privilege he had been given. The master wanted to give all his servants the joy and satisfaction of helping him grow his kingdom. This is what our Heavenly Father wants for us, too — the incredible privilege of helping to advance the coming of the Kingdom of God. Let us embrace the stewardship way of life, using all the gifts entrusted to us — Time, Talent, and Treasure — in such a way that at the end of our life on this earth, we will hear these words from our Father: “Well done, my good and faithful servant... Come, share your master’s joy.”

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER 12TH, 2023

Regular Offering: \$2,050.00 (33/115 envelopes)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$80,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$45,600.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,050.00	\$52,986.00
Net (over/under):	(\$350.00)	\$7,386.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 44; 10:30AM = 56

## OFFERTORY PROCESSION

We are asking worshippers to bring down the gifts at the offertory. If you would like to do this, please see one of the Ushers when you arrive at Mass or call the Parish Office in advance and we will put you down for the Mass you want. It is always nice to have families participate in the Mass when the intention is for their loved one.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

We could use some additional Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Adult and School Age Altar Servers. The New Schedule will begin in January 2024. Training or Mentoring by someone already in the liturgical ministry will be provided. To serve as a Eucharistic, there are some requirements and more training involved. If you are interested in serving your parish in one of these ministries, please call the parish office with your information. If you have questions, please speak to Father Jason or Msgr. Dan. Those already in any of these ministries, if you have special requests, please drop us a note or email the parish office, address on the bulletin cover.

## The Parable of the Talents

But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:18  
 Based on Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)



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

JOURNEY  
SERVANT  
ABILITY  
GAINED

WORTHLESS  
PROPERTY  
WICKED  
HAPPINESS

TALENT  
SHARE  
FAITHFUL  
LAZY

MASTER  
MONEY  
WEEPING  
ENTRUSTED



“Well done, my good and faithful servant.”

- Matthew 25:21

## *News for Our Partnership*

### **PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 22, 23, 24**

For some time now, Parish Council has discussed hosting a viewing of "The Chosen" series, a very popular and contemporary television series about the life of Christ. The Women's Society of Saint Stanislaus has purchased a large-screen television mounted in the Parish Hall for this purpose. In preparation for hosting this viewing, Fr. Jason is going to offer an Adult Faith Formation series focused on the Gospels. This series will mimic our annual Lenten Soup & Salad series. The sessions will be held at Saint Stanislaus Parish Hall on **December 6, 13, and 20. They will resume after the holidays on January 10 and 17.** All meetings will begin at 6:00PM.

#### **LECTOR WORKBOOKS**

Lector Workbooks for the new liturgical year, which begins on December 3rd, are available in the sacristy. Please take one workbook per household. More can be ordered, if necessary.

#### **OPLATKI**

Oplatki is available at St. Stan's for your holiday needs. They can be picked up in the Parish Office during the week, or following weekend Masses. Donations for the Christmas wafers are appreciated.

#### **REMEMBER SCRIP**

Consider supporting Saint Stanislaus's SCRIP program your upcoming gift card needs this holiday season. Cards can be purchased after weekend Masses. Orders can also be placed by calling St. Stan's Parish Office.

#### **POLISH COOKBOOKS**

We have sold out of our Polish cookbooks. More are being printed as of this publications and should be available in time for the holidays. Thanks for you patience!

### **THANKSGIVING DAY MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 23RD AT 9:00AM**

**\* Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate**

#### **WHAT REMAINS**

When my grandfather died, my parents, siblings, and I were left with the question: what's to become of the house?

Anyone who has inherited property knows that it's not simply a matter of assuming ownership of a plot of land upon which sits four walls and a roof. Those four walls and a roof usually contain memories and objects — an enormous volume of both, in the case of my grandfather. When they're left to you, you have to sift through them, the memories and the objects, and with each one you have to think: *Is it worth it? Do I keep it? Will I need it?*

And slowly, painfully, you disassemble the physical existence of the person who lived here. You accept, with a pang, that most of it must be given away or discarded. You cry when you bag up the clothes to take to Goodwill. You can't even bear to look when they break the piano into a hundred pieces and throw it in a dumpster, realizing that no one wants or has a use for something that was once so precious.

But when you come upon a rosary that was used so many times it has begun to fall apart, you don't even think twice before keeping it, and not because you need the rosary. You need what it means. You need what it reminds you of.

When all is said and done, each of us will be called before our master to settle accounts, just as my grandfather was.

"Where are the gifts I gave you? What remains of the fortune to which I entrusted you?" he will ask us. "What have you done with the peace? What have you done with the love? What have you done with the mercy?"

# THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

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

11/19) Bill Dyakon, Rob Lintleman, & Fr. Jason Glover; 11/20) Ed Korytowski; 11/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik;  
11/22) Suzanne Sundy & Kathy Wisniewski; 11/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman;  
11/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic; 11/25) Kathy Ciecierski, Jack Kempisty, & Helen Zimmerman;  
11/26) Patricia Straub, John Kleiner

#### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

11/19) Fr. Jason Glover; 11/20) Msgr. Joe Riccardo; 11/21) Bishop Persico; 11/22) Msgr. David Rubino; 11/23) All  
Vocations; 11/24) Fr. Marc Solomon; 11/25) Fr. John Beal; 11/26) Fr. Tom Brooks



### **Sunday, Nov 19, 2023**

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Proverbs 31:10-13, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30  
"For all of you are children of the light and children of the day."

#### **Curl up with the Good Book**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated the first National Bible Week. Presidents since have continued the tradition of encouraging scripture reading during the holidays. The practice began in 1941, when NBC radio hosted the National Bible Association's founders. News of the attack on Pearl Harbor interrupted the program, and NBC asked the association to continue reading the Bible all day to a grieving nation. This week, spend some time with scripture daily.

### **Monday, Nov 20, 2023**

1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43  
"What do you want me to do for you?"

#### **Can we talk?**

The word bible is from a Greek word meaning "book." If you could have no other book, the Bible would be the one! As you count your blessings this week, don't forget to give thanks for sacred scripture and spend some time with the inspired word of God. If you haven't before, try lectio divina (Latin for "divine reading")—it's a traditional monastic form of praying with scripture in a meditative way to open ourselves to hearing what God is saying to us and listening for our own interior response. Scripture isn't just text, it's the Living Word —strike up a conversation!

### **Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023**

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10  
"Today salvation has come to this house."

#### **Mary, most exemplary**

According to tradition, Mary's parents were so grateful for the unexpected birth of their daughter, they presented her in the Temple to thank God. Accounts also say the toddler Mary "danced with joy" on the third step of the Temple, signifying her future role. Other qualities of the Blessed Mother, present even from her youth, are enumerated in the "Ten Evangelical Virtues of Mary" that we're all encouraged to emulate as Christians: pure, prudent, humble, faithful, devout, obedient, poor, patient, merciful, and sorrowful. Cultivate these in your own life by praying the Virtues of Mary chaplet used by the Marian religious order since 1699.

### **Wednesday, Nov 22, 2023**

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, MARTYR

2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28  
"I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

#### **Let the music play!**

Today's gospel from Luke tells the parable of the 10 gold coins. Matthew tells the same parable (Matt. 25:14-30), only he replaces Luke's "gold coins" with "talents." Whichever version you read, it's clear that God wants us to make the most of what we've been given—and that he recognizes our efforts! In honor of today's Feast of Saint Cecilia, patron of music and musicians, enjoy Anton Bruckner's Te Deum as performed by the talented musicians of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (National Academy of St. Cecilia, founded under Pope Sixtus V in 1585) or check out the contemporary namesake band La Santa Cecilia, recipient of the 2013 Grammy for Best Latin Rock Album (Alternative or Urban).

### **Thursday, Nov 23, 2023**

1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44

Mass for Thanksgiving Day

"If this day you only knew what makes for peace."

#### **Give thanks for a virtuous day**

Because Thanksgiving brings together family members, personalities sometimes grate, children might misbehave, and the gravy surely will spill. It's an ideal day to practice what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the "cardinal virtues": prudence (think before you act), justice (be fair), fortitude (don't give up), and temperance (maintain your equilibrium). These virtues smooth out the bumps in human interaction. Ask God to increase in you the virtue you most need for a happy celebration today.

### **Friday, Nov 24, 2023**

1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48

"Let us go up to purify the sanctuary and rededicate it."

#### **Follow the rule**

"Keep the rule, and the rule will keep you." In this monastic proverb, "rule" refers to the daily rhythm of life for monks and nuns that is grounded in their foundation and charism as a community and oriented toward Jesus the Christ. The rule helps the community develop habits for prayer, work, relationships, study, and even play. Monastics still follow a rule of life, as do other intentional communities. Each of us can develop a rule of life according to our own daily rhythm and relationship with God. This rule will keep us grounded, even when the inevitable storms of life roll in.

### **Saturday, Nov 25, 2023**

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, YOUTH MARTYR

1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40

"They are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise."

#### **No room for violence**

On this day in 1960 a trio of courageous sisters was brutally assassinated for opposing the murderous regime of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. Since 1993, the U.N. has commemorated World Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in honor of the Mirabal sisters. It is an appropriate coincidence that today we also honor Catherine of Alexandria, a young convert martyred at the tender age of 18 during Roman persecutions around the year 300. She was reportedly subject to terrible tortures, but her courage instead attracted hundreds more converts. No woman should have to endure violence for any reason. Today is a day we can honor martyrs both modern and ancient with a firm "No más, no more."

#### **thanksgiving prayer**

Thank You, God, for this day of thanksgiving. I am grateful for a day dedicated to gratitude, appreciation, and abundance. Thank you for a table set with food, good people to share it with, and love of You, the divine provider. As I extend thanks, I am reminded of how difficult it is for those less fortunate to enjoy this holiday. Please, bless them with plenty and watch over us all.

