

# THE 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## October 23, 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*

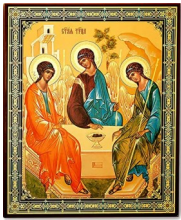
2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671

[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
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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*



**October 23, 2022**  
**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

There is a thing called “false piety.” It is when we wear a religious disguise of devotion, attend to our obligations, and outwardly abide by rules while being inwardly unkind, uncharitable, and exclusive. Wearing the right clothes, saying the proper prayers, being in sacred places, and reading devotional books, those exhibiting false piety craftily try to control others using the pretense of love. The Pharisees are prime examples. Thinking they are superior to others, they foolishly believe they are better positioned with God and more worthy of God’s attention. Forming an exclusive “club,” they divide things between “mine” and “yours” and “us” and “them.” They quickly criticize and point out flaws and errors in rituals and thinking. Conformity becomes the first commandment and control is the game’s name.

The requirements for “club membership” are clear: do what we do, think what we think, and believe what we believe. Attempting to control others using the lure of “status” or “salvation,” they seduce others into thinking that conformity is the only way to holiness. Clinging to “my beliefs,” “my parish,” “my way of thinking,” they fail to see the more significant relationship with God that is veiled in all of these superficial rules and practices. Shallow, hollow, and empty vessels, they gloss over the more important virtues of justice, mercy, faithfulness, and forgiveness. Sparkling clean on the outside, but dirty on the inside. Spiritual arrogance is a grave sin. It alienates and hurts the little ones, those considered “least” in the kingdom.

God knows no favorites. Everyone belongs regardless of whether you are an official, bona fide member. Sometimes membership may be a detriment to actually living the Gospel if you’re joining the team for the wrong reasons. The genuinely humble ones may not appear to be overly “pious.” They may not know all of the proper prayers or abide by all of the correct rituals, but they know that they are broken and need mercy. There is no shame in being broken. In fact, many things need to be broken in order to be what they truly are! There is a reason Jesus told us to pray in private. It’s only between you and God. It is nobody else’s business.

#### **Readings for the week of October 23, 2022**

Sunday: Sir 35:12-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-23/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14  
Monday: Eph 4:32-5:8/Ps 1:1-6/Lk 13:10-17  
Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-5/Lk 13:18-21  
Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9/Ps 145:10-14/Lk 13:22-30  
Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1-2, 9-10/Lk 13:31-35  
Friday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-5/Lk 6:12-16  
Saturday: Phil 1:18-26/Ps 42:2-5/Lk 14:1, 7-11  
Next Sunday: Wis 11:22-12:2/Ps 145:1-2, 8-14/2 Thes 1:11-2:2/Lk 19:1-10

**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, 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 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., Oct. 24th - Private Intention  
Tues., Oct. 25th - John Zielinski (Nancy & Dean Haupt)  
Wed., Oct. 26th - The Souls in Purgatory (H. Angeloff)  
Thurs., Oct. 27th - Roman Radomski (Family)  
Fri., Oct. 28th - Raymond Ruffley, Jr. (Tom & Sharon Zielinski)  
Sat., Oct. 29th, 4:00PM - Linda Gidos (Prayer Shawl Ministry)  
Sun., Oct. 30th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **ED PRZEPIERSKI**, as gifted by Marie Przepierski.



## MORE THAN A BUZZWORD

If you roll your eyes at the mention of the term stewardship, it's probably because, in the modern Church, stewardship has become something of a corporate buzzword. It's often used interchangeably with the concepts of financial endowment and volunteerism. What's wrong with supporting your parish monetarily? What's the issue with giving of your time in service and ministry? Nothing at all, in fact — we should all be doing more of these things. But as we do them, we should be constantly asking ourselves the all-important questions: Why am I doing this? How am I doing this? For whom am I doing this? A donation to the parish school is a great thing. But ideally, the donor would have made the gift regardless of the ability to name the school gym. A tireless volunteer who always finds time for her parish certainly glorifies God with her commitment. But hopefully, her commitment would be just as enthusiastic if she knew there was no prospect of being written up in the bulletin as Volunteer of the Month. God knows no favorites. The prayer of the Pharisee in the temple did not justify him because the Pharisee didn't really mean it as a prayer. His intent wasn't to thank God, his intent was to draw attention to his gifts. God did not reject the Pharisee's fasting and his tithes, he rejected the spirit in which they were offered. God desires to transform us — our hearts, our souls, our communities. When we give of ourselves — either through money or through time — he is honored by the act of giving, not the gift itself. We should never make the mistake of thinking that stewardship is "time, talent, and treasure." Stewardship is the spirit of offering these gifts freely.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, October 13th for Helen Janka. We extend our prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Helen. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."

## ALL SOULS DAY: NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

If you would like to remember your loved ones by name on the All Souls Day Flyer for next week's bulletin, please return the information sheet to the Parish Office by Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Please print their names it helps us to avoid misspellings.

## NOVEMBER: A MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

A memorial "garden" will be created in the church to remember our beloved dead during the month of November. If you would like your loved one(s) remembered, please complete the forms that are available at the entrances to the church.

## THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY

... will meet next on November 13th at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend!

## MARRIAGE MOMENT

It is my wish that...all should pray...without anger or argument." (1 Timothy 2:8). I don't know of any marriage that has not had time(s) of anger or argument. Can you remember your last argument? Is it time to ask for forgiveness, pray, and let it go?

## WEEKLY OFFERING (OCTOBER 16TH, 2022)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$66,496.00
Amount Received	\$2,825.00	\$39,445.00
Net over/under	(\$1,331.00)	(\$27,951.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 51; 9:00AM = 49  
Envelopes: 65/168



CONGRATULATIONS to our "A Taste of Poland" Grand Raffle winners:

3rd Prize (\$250.00) - Nancy Dash  
2nd Prize (\$500.00) - Lilly Macie  
Grand Prize (\$1,250.00) - Susan Plizga

## CORRECTION

In last week's bulletin, regarding the article about Casimir Pulaski, the image pictured was incorrect. The bust is not that of Casimir Pulaski. The editor apologizes for this mistake.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in honor of **SHIRLEY BUZANOWSKI** as gifted by Mary Ann Merski .



10/21 - Jane Mientkiewicz  
10/22 - Tim Wiley  
10/26 - Adam Nitkiewicz

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Oct. 24th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)  
Tues., Oct. 25th - Daniszewski & Gorka Families (Estate)  
Wed., Oct. 26th - Theresa Feick (Marilyn Presor)  
Thurs., Oct. 27th - All Deceased Mothers  
Fri., Oct. 28th - All Deceased Fathers  
Sat., Oct. 29th, 5:15PM - Daniel Patalita (Michael DeDad & LouAnn)  
Sun., Oct. 30th, 10:30AM - The People of Holy Trinity Parish (Pro Populo)

## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Listen to Jesus in today's gospel: "...who humbles himself will be exalted." It is not the occasional big events, but the daily humble routine of family life and "ordinary time" which creates bonds and relationships which last a lifetime. Try it and you'll see.

## ALL SOULS DAY IS NOVEMBER 2ND

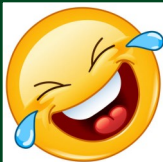
If you would like to remember your loved ones by name on the All Souls Day Flyer for next week's bulletin, please return the information sheet to the Parish Office by Monday, October 24th. Please print their names it helps us to avoid misspellings.

## USHER'S MEETING

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00PM in the Gathering Space to make final plans for the upcoming annual Pre - Election Party. All are welcome!

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Pride and ego are the root causes of most of our sins. Thinking your time is so valuable or your talent is better than anyone else or your money gives you status is another way of making those things "gods" before God. Pride is the opposite of humility. Remember, all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We should be humbled by God's incredible generosity and be grateful for all we have been given. Ultimately, gratitude leads us to humility.



Father O'Malley answers the phone. "Hello, is this Father O'Malley?" "It is" "This is the IRS. Can you help us?" "I can."  
"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?" "I do." "Is he a member of your congregation?" "He is."  
"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?" "He will."

30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## PARENTING POINTERS 10-23-2022

Oct. 24 is United Nations Day. These days it may feel like our world is more divided politically than united. Why not challenge your family to learn about one unfamiliar nation. What do we share in common and how are we different from the people in the nation you chose?

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR OCTOBER 16, 2022

Regular Offering: \$2,401.00 (23/130)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$58,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$33,600.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,401.00	\$34,529.00
Net (over/under):	\$1.00	\$929.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 45; 10:30AM = 45

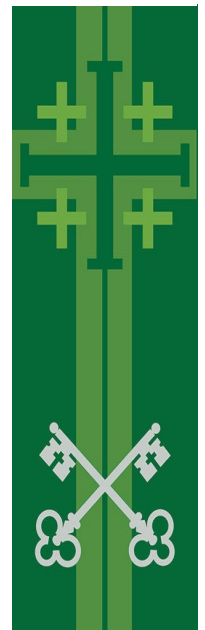
## The Pharisee & The Tax Collector

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 18:14b (NIV)  
The puzzle is based on Luke 18:9-14 (NIV).



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

TEMPLE	EXALT	TAX	PARABLE	LOOK
JUSTIFIED	HEAVEN	PHARISEE	RIGHTEOUS	HUMBLE
BREAST	COLLECTOR	ROBBERS	THANK	EVILDOERS
MERCY	PRAY	ADULTERERS	CONFIDENT	SINNER



"... whoever humbles himself will be exalted"

- Luke 18:14

## News for Our Partnership

### THE HOLY TRINITY USHERS' SOCIETY

... invites everyone to their annual "Pre-Election Get-Together" on Sunday, November 6th, from 4:00PM - 7:00PM at the Holy Trinity Social Hall. Candidates running for political office will be introduced at 6:00PM. Admission is \$15.00 and includes Ox Roast Sandwiches, Sausage Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Chicken Wings, and Beverages. You *must be* 21 to attend.

### ANNUAL PROLIFE ADORATION/ROSARY

Our Annual ProLife Adoration and Rosary will take place on Sunday, October 23rd at 1:00PM at Saint Stanislaus Church. All are welcome to attend!

### OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL LADIES' GUILD

... will hold its Annual Fall Luncheon and Auction on Sunday, October 23 from 1-4 pm at Scheffner Hall, 1531 East Grandview Blvd. Tickets are \$9.00 and include a delicious lunch. Also on tap – a Basket & Gift Card Auction (100+ items), a Line Dance Demo, Dessert Auction, tip boards, and a 50/50 drawing. Reserve a table for your group today! For tickets or more information, call Carolyn at 814-825-3895.

### ANNUAL MEMORIAL FALL FEST

The annual Val V. Jaskiewicz & Ron Bukoski Fall Fest, sponsored by St. Stan's Holy Name Society, will be held at Saint Stanislaus Parish Hall on Saturday, November 5th from 5-9PM. Only 150 tickets will be sold for \$25 (admits 2 people). Drawings will take place throughout the evening from a total pot of \$2,500. Food and refreshments will be provided. Tickets can be purchased from any St. Stanislaus Holy Name Society Member, from St. Stan's Parish Office (M-F, 9AM - 3PM, closed from Noon - 1PM), or from Father after Mass at St. Stan's. Come out, have a good time, and support St. Stanislaus Holy Name Society!

### SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 13: St. Benedict alumnae bingo at Polish Falcons (431 East 3rd). Doors open noon; Bingo at 1PM. Kitchen and Bar will be open. Packet \$25.00. Bring a pair gloves, hat, or scarf for a child, and get another packet free. 50/50, \$100.00 lottery wreath, tips/instant.



Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish patriot, was also an American Revolutionary War hero. He was praised for his expertise as a military engineer and was instrumental in the founding of West Point. He later returned to Poland to fight for their freedom. He became friends with Thomas Jefferson and put Jefferson in charge of his will. In his will, Kościuszko left his American estate to be sold to buy the freedom of black slaves, including Jefferson's own, and to educate them for independent life and work.

St. Stanislaus Parish Hall, "Kościuszko Hall," is named after him. It was constructed in 1905 at a cost of \$17,000 and designed by parishioner Paul Rysiowicz (Rys.) In the early years, it served not only as a center of St. Stanislaus, but Erie's Polonia as a whole.

A bust of Kościuszko is located in the Parish dining hall, and a painted medallion of him is located on the left as you enter the Church up near the choir loft.

-Bobby J. Sulecki Erie Polonia History



Pasta Dinner featuring "Ginny's Sauce"

Sunday, October 23rd 11am-6pm

\$12 Pasta Dinner (2 Meatballs)  
\$15 Chicken Parm Dinner

Special Early Bird Takeout Option  
Saturday, Oct 22nd  
4-7pm

Live Music with Dean Martin!  
Basket Drawings, Winavette Tickets, and More!

606 Lowell Ave St. Jude School Gym



### THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

10/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic; 10/25) Kathy Ciecierski, Jack Kempisty, & Helen Zimmerman;  
10/26) Patricia Straub & John Kleiner; 10/27) Sr. Maxine Kaminski & Regina Jaworski; 10/28) [Open];  
10/29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak & Janis Leretsis; 10/30) [Open]; 10/31) Bobby Sulecki

### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

10/24) Fr. Mark Nowak; 10/25) Fr. Larry Richards; 10/26) Fr. James Campbell; 10/27) Fr. Wally Packard; 10/28) All in Consecrated Life; 10/29) Fr. Vince Cieslewicz; 10/30) Fr. David Carter; 10/31) Fr. Mike DeMartinis



### **Sunday, Oct 23, 2022**

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

"The Lord stood by me and gave me strength..."

#### **Share some good news**

The church isn't stationary but missionary. The word Mass shares the same root as mission: to be sent. This World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis shares his "dream of a completely missionary Church." To embrace this vision is to do three things: Bear witness. Do it everywhere. Trust the Spirit. We remember the Adorers of the Blood of Christ from Illinois, who embraced the vision and were martyred in Liberia in 1992. One sister wrote: "We need to move to the call of our mission, not to the call of our comfort." Venture out of your comfort zone.

### **Monday, Oct 24, 2022**

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP, FOUNDER

Ephesians 4:32—5:8; Luke 13:10-17

"Woman, you are set free of your infirmity."

#### **The other cheek is forgiveness**

Think it's hard to "turn the other cheek"? What if someone stabbed you in the cheek in an attempt to kill you?! Consider what Saint Anthony Mary Claret did when it actually happened to him: He got his would-be assassin's death sentence commuted. As the archbishop of Santiago, Cuba in the mid-1800s, Claret had made enemies by advocating for the downtrodden and denouncing racism. He's an example that turning the other cheek is not a passive action, as some might think, because it has two parts: first, not responding in kind, and then, actively giving a second chance to the offender to do the right thing. Such brave love can and has stopped hate in its tracks.

### **Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022**

Ephesians 5:21-33; Luke 13:18-21

"[The Kingdom] is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened."

#### **God blesses the work of human hands**

Few Catholics know the significance of French priest Jacques Paul Migne, born this day in 1800. But without Migne's skills as a journalist and prowess as a publisher, precious few would know anything about the early church fathers. Migne launched a publishing company that produced hundreds of volumes of church history and theology. Even today, his writings on the early church fathers are considered the most complete ever written. Migne's inventiveness reminds us that we, too, can glorify God with our daily work.

### **Wednesday, Oct 26, 2022**

Ephesians 6:1-9; Luke 13:22-30

"... some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

#### **Faithful to the end**

On this day in 1529, Saint Thomas More became Lord Chancellor of England under King Henry VIII, who soon after began to forcefully agitate for independence from the dictates of the pope. This led to a clash with Thomas, who refused to betray his faith and accede to the royal demands. By 1534, he was imprisoned on charges of treason and was executed the next year after Henry declared himself head of an independent Church of England. As Anglicans and Roman Catholics continue to dialogue in view of shared ecumenical goals, let's remember the faithful witness of Thomas More—a friend to all and a Catholic par excellence.

### **Thursday, Oct 27, 2022**

Ephesians 6:10-20; Luke 13:31-35

"Some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, 'Go away, leave this area because Herod wants to kill you.'"

#### **Watch your attitude**

In today's gospel King Herod Antipas (who beheaded John the Baptist) is depicted as a menacing tyrant, like his father, Herod the Great (who ordered the Slaughter of the Innocents). Such sins can seem far removed from ours. But Pope Francis has noted: "We must not think that we imitate Herod only if we become tyrants. No. In reality, it's an attitude to which we can all succumb, every time we try to dispel our fears with arrogance, even if only verbal or made up of small abuses intended to mortify those close to us." Let's pray for a world free of powerful tyrants—and free of any tyrannical impulses of our own.

### **Friday, Oct 28, 2022**

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16

"... built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets."

#### **You can lead from behind, too**

Of the 12 apostles, Peter is always front and center—rightfully so, for one called "the rock" (the literal meaning of the Greek name Pétros). Others are recognizable from various gospel stories. But then there's the zealots Simon and Jude (a.k.a. Thaddeus or "Son of James"). We know virtually nothing about them. Yet, they are remembered to this day because Jesus chose them to help lead the early church. Jesus knew that different kinds of leaders were needed to proclaim the gospel—the headliners like Peter and the "behind the scenes" people like Simon and Jude. What kind of leader are you called to be?

### **Saturday, Oct 29, 2022**

Philippians 1:18b-26; Luke 14:1, 7-11

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

#### **The mother of all virtues**

Humility is not much in demand these days, when celebrity status and social media popularity seem all the rage. But precisely because humility challenges all that is near and dear to our ego, it is worth wrestling with, especially if we wish to draw closer to God. Saint Augustine said in one of his letters, "The way to Christ is first through humility, second through humility, third through humility." He also said, "It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes [humans] as angels." Humility has a transformative quality if we understand it not as groveling but rather as knowing our true measure, of keeping our feet firmly on the ground (the Latin for earth—humus—is the word's root). Perhaps Saint Thomas Aquinas defined it best: "Humility means seeing ourselves as God sees us: knowing every good we have comes from Him as pure gift."

