

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

AUGUST 15, 2021



Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church

516 East 13th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.452.6606

www.ststanserie.org
email: ststaner@outlook.com

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday - Friday at 8:00AM

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
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 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM

Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



The Assumption

Although there are no explicit proof texts in Scripture for Mary's assumption, some biblical themes may at least shed light on this doctrine. For example, the notion of being taken up into heaven has some precedent in Scripture. Enoch was taken into heaven without seeing death (see Hebrews 11:5), and Elijah was whisked into heaven by the chariots of fire at the end of his life (see 2 Kings 2:11). If God could assume these righteous men of the Old Testament, it is certainly possible that Jesus could assume his own mother as well.

Even more, since the Bible presents Mary as the first Christian disciple, it is fitting that she would be the first to receive the blessings of following Christ. In the New Testament, Mary is presented as the first to hear God's word and accept it at the annunciation (see Luke 1:38, 45). She responds to God's word promptly by going in haste to help Elizabeth. She also describes herself as a servant of the Lord (see Luke 1:38, 48).

Mary remains faithful to her son, following him even to the cross (see John 19:25-27), where she experiences the fulfillment of Simeon's prophecy at the Presentation: "A sword will pierce through your own soul also" (Luke 2:35).

She perseveres in faith throughout her life. She gathers with the apostles for prayer even after her son's ascension (see Acts 1:14). Thus, the New Testament presents a clear portrait of Mary as the first and preeminent disciple of Christ, who hears the word of God and keeps it in her heart. Since one of the blessings promised to all faithful disciples is victory over death, it is fitting that Mary, who is the first and model disciple of Christ, would be the first to receive this blessing. Catholics thus believe that the privilege of resurrection promised to all faithful Christians was given first to Mary and in a totally unique way.

While the rest of us hope to have our bodies raised to glory at the end of time, Mary experienced the resurrection and glorification of her body at the moment her earthly life ended. Thus, her assumption anticipates to some degree our own share in the fullness of that victory if we persevere as followers of Christ.

Readings for the week of August 15, 2021

Sunday: Rv 11:19, 12:1-6, 10/Ps 45:10-16/1Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56 [Assumption]
Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-44/Mt 19:16-22 [St. Stephen of Hungary]
Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24/Ps 85:9-14/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-7/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39/Ps 40:5-10/Mt 22:1-14 [St. John Eudes]
Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14-22/Ps 146:5-10/Mt 22:34-40 [St. Bernard]
Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1-5/Mt 23:1-12 [St. Pius X]
Next Sunday: Jos 24:1-2, 15-18/Ps 34:2-3, 16-23/Eph 5:21-32/Jn 6:60-69 [21st Sun.]

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 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.

"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 the 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

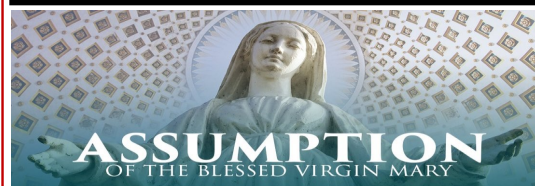
Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Aug. 16th - Private Intention
 Tues., Aug. 17th - Mary Rzymer (Wass Family)
 Wed., Aug. 18th - Charles Britton (Family)
 Thurs., Aug. 19th - Stanley Widomski (Eileen Ropelewski)
 Fri., Aug. 20th - Sophie Tatara (Pauline Tatara)
 Sat., Aug. 21st, 4:00PM - Jean & Stanley Markiewicz (Family)
 Sun., Aug. 22nd, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **MILLIE MODZELEWSKI** as gifted by Rich & Diane Valahovic.



IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for RICHARD NIEDZWIECKI on July 30th. Please keep Richard and his family and loved ones in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord..."

JULY LOTTERY WINNERS

The following were "winners" of the Holy Name's Society July Lottery Raffle:

7/1 - Sally Bojarski	7/18 - Nancy Widomski
7/2 - Jon Bresslin	7/19 - Richard Valahovic
7/3 - Richard Drenziak	7/20 - James Conroy
7/4 - Roberta Charzanowski	7/21 - Jackie Vargo
7/6 - Daryl Wood	7/22 - Tony & Sue Mazzone
7/7 - Fr. Urbaniak	7/23 - Dave Post
7/8 - Jeff Lesnieski	7/24 - Kay Stankiewicz
7/11 - Jeanette Brocious	7/25 - Sophia Stafford
7/12 - Mark Valahovic	7/28 - Dave Stahlman, Jr.
7/13 - Chet Myiett	7/29 - Bob Brocious
7/14 - Richard Denziak	7/30 - Julia Coleman
7/15 - Charlene Schroeck	7/31 - Greg Ross
7/17 - Bob Brocious	

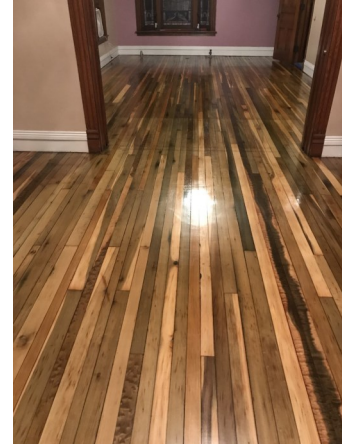
Special thanks for all who participated to make this a successful raffle. Proceeds benefit improvement projects around our facility.

WWJD bracelets were all the rage about 25 years ago in Christian circles. I've always wondered if a WWMD bracelet might not make just as much sense, and maybe more. What Would Mary Do? I would argue that Mary was the most exemplary steward who ever lived. Her answer was always "Yes." Yes, Lord, I am Your handmaiden. Yes, I will visit Elizabeth, and help her in the last difficult months of pregnancy. Yes, I will bring my son up in the Mosaic law and present him at the Temple of Jerusalem. Yes, I will give him to the crowds and to public ministry. Yes, I will offer him on this Cross, if it is Your will. Yes, yes, yes. Well, I can't be like Mary, we think to ourselves. There's an intimidation factor with the Blessed Mother and Catholics sometimes - one that almost exceeds that of Christ. Perhaps it's because we are in awe of the fact that she was not divine in any way - she was a mere creation, like us - but somehow, she always had the courage to say yes. How could she do it, when we find it so hard? Well, God certainly lavished on Mary extraordinary graces. Her lack of original sin liberated her to conform her will to God's. But God is impatient to give us, too, all the graces we need to be a steward in the example of Mary. He's waiting for us simply to ask. Just as in Adam we died, so in Christ - through Mary - we live. What can we say yes to today, in Mary's example?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

RESTORED

Before leaving for Germany, Dan Kerner and Fr. Jason decided to restore a 120+ year old hard wood floor in the rectory sitting room...



WEEKLY OFFERING (AUGUST 8, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$199,488.00
Amount Received	\$3,145.00	\$138,833.00
Net over/under	(\$1,011.00)	(\$60,655.00)

Mass Attendance:
 4:00PM = N/A; 9:00AM = 62
 Envelopes:



August

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of DON BENCKOWSKI as gifted by Joyce Bujnoski



August 16 - Lisa Lubak & John Otto
August 18 - Samuel Otto
August 19 - Bill Dyakon

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Aug. 16th - Kulig, Laszczewski, and Habas Families (Estate)
Tues., Aug. 17th - Don Benczkowski (Bob & Cindy Miller)
Wed., Aug. 18th - For All Mothers, Living and Deceased
Thurs., Aug. 19th - Msgr. John Daniszewski (Estate)
Fri., Aug. 20th - Warfel Family (Estate)
Sat., Aug. 21st, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Sun., Aug. 22nd, 10:30AM - For the Deceased of Holy Trinity School

**ONLY 11 Days until
ZABAWA 2021**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT ZABAWA

Looking for a great opportunity to help out over the summer and be involved in one of the Erie Diocese's most well attended events? Then Holy Trinity's Zabawa is the place for you! Ten to 12 energetic volunteers (teenagers and up) are needed for each shift to serve food. Shifts are Aug. 27 from 4:30 to 9 p.m.; Aug. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and 5:30 to 9 p.m.; and Aug. 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sign up for as many hours as you'd like by contacting Sarah Chermack at schermack@eriefamilylaw.com. Note that this is an ideal way for high school students to get service hours.

PARISH DAY OF PRAYER (AUGUST 22nd)

St. John-Marie Vianney, the Cure of Ars, was once asked by one of his parishioners why he spent hours in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, "My good father, what do you say to our Lord in those long visits you pay Him every day?" "I say nothing to Him," was the priest's reply; "I look at Him and He looks at me."

Please join us on Sunday, August 22nd, as we settle ourselves before Zabawa weekend by spending some time with the Blessed Sacrament. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the Social Hall.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR AUGUST 8, 2021

Regular Offering: \$3,579.00 (31/134)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$147,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$116,009.00
Total Offertory:	\$3,652.00	\$111,458.00
Net (over/under):	\$1,214.00	(\$4,551.00)
Attendance:	5:15PM = 35; 10:30AM = 37	



POTATO PANCAKE MAKING SESSION

Tuesday, August 24th
Potato washing, onion cutting at 3pm
Potato Pancakes at 6pm
Please, come & join us!

ZABAWA SET UP DAY!!

Saturday, August 21st
Set up starting at 9:00AM.
Coffee and Donuts will be served!!

ZABAWA FOOD/BEVERAGE TICKET PRESALES

Saturday August 21-22 after masses

DRIVE THRU PURCHASES (Church Parking Lot)

Tuesday, August 24th (4PM-7PM)
Wednesday August 25th (4PM-7PM)
in the church parking lot!

Mary, Mother of God

J	E	S	U	S	L	J	M	E	S	S	I	A	H
C	E	M	C	H	I	L	D	O	R	P	R	A	Y
R	A	N	N	U	N	C	I	A	T	I	O	N	L
E	P	M	A	R	R	I	E	D	H	H	M	M	A
R	E	A	N	G	E	L	S	N	L	U	E	A	T
D	S	N	O	I	T	P	M	U	S	S	A	R	B
E	T	O	O	I	T	E	B	G	E	H	S	Y	E
G	A	V	U	E	P	U	L	A	D	A	U	G	T
A	B	I	R	E	A	R	E	J	O	S	E	P	H
B	L	R	L	V	L	O	S	Y	M	S	O	M	L
R	E	G	A	Y	T	S	S	B	S	T	A	R	E
I	R	I	D	D	E	A	E	A	G	O	D	I	H
E	I	N	Y	I	R	R	D	B	O	N	S	R	E
L	R	A	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	M

BABY
MARRIED
OUR LADY
MESSIAH
STABLE
MOTHER
GUADALUPE
MARY
BETHLEHEM
VIRGIN
ROSARY
CHILD
ANGEL
ANNUNCIATION
GABRIEL
BLESSED
HOLY SPIRIT
JESUS
GOD
ASSUMPTION
STAR
PRAY
JOSEPH

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

- Luke 11:28

News for Our Partnership

HE HAS ARRIVED

We have received word that Fr. Jason has arrived safely in Munich, Germany, without any glitches in his travels. He is enjoying the early days of his travels. He is also posting some highlights of his travels on our Facebook pages. Please continue to keep him and his friends in your prayers for safe and refreshing travels.

LEGION OF MARY ROSARY MARCH

The Legion of Mary rosary march, lead by Bishop Persico, will take place on Sunday, August 21, from Noon—2PM. Mass will be celebrated at noon, with the march to follow. The event begins at Saint George Church, Erie. All are welcome to participate.

Today we celebrate the Assumption of Mary — the moment she was taken up, body and soul, into heaven. This day reveals much about our Holy Mother. Next to her Divine Son, Mary truly is the model steward for us as we journey through this life. Our Gospel recounts the story of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth who was soon to deliver John the Baptist. Mary truly is a dwelling place for Christ. Even baby John the Baptist noticed as he leaped in his mother's womb upon Mary's greeting! We too are called to be a dwelling place for the Lord. Yet for Christ to dwell in us, we must prepare our hearts for Him. Mary was prepared for Christ to reside in her, and her Magnificat expresses how we can imitate her and prepare a place for Christ in ourselves: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord..." How can we proclaim the 'greatness of the Lord?' It is simply by how we choose to live our lives. Each day is an opportunity to grow as a disciple of Christ. We can choose to rise each day in prayer, respond to those around us in kindness, serve in our vocations and occupations from a place of love and selflessness, and use our gifts and talents for the glory of God. As we reflect on the life of Mary today, let us strive to imitate her in proclaiming the greatness of God by how we live our lives. Let us celebrate her as our Mother, our Queen, and a Model Steward. She is not distant or out of reach, rather, she is as close to us as a mother to her baby — constantly watching, interceding, and guiding us to be with her Divine Son in eternal life.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: PARISH PICNIC

Many have asked and the answer is "yes," we will resume hosting our annual parish picnic after the pandemic forced the cancellation of last year's picnic. Many places, like our traditional venue at Camp Glonodo, are still not accepting reservations. For those that are, the reservation fee is too steep to justify. So, it was decided that our picnic will take place at Saint Stanislaus Rectory & Courtyard on **Sunday, September 13th, starting at 11AM**. More details will follow.

Question:

What lessons should I learn from the Assumption of Mary?

Answer:

Growing in holiness is similar to training in a sport. We need someone to show us how we can live our faith well. Mary is a model of sanctity. She shows us how to be faithful to God's will, living each day with confidence in God's mercy and love. At the Nativity, in Jesus' public ministry, and at the Crucifixion, we see her steadfast trust. She allows the Lord to use her life to accomplish his plan for her and for all of us. In the Preface of the Mass for the Assumption of Mary, we pray: "For today the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people."

It is this image of holiness that we strive to imitate. In the office, at home, or in our community, we look for signs of God's grace that call us to an ever greater love of him and each other. A greater awareness of God is a sign of our conversion of heart that lives the lessons Mary teaches.

FISH & PIEROGI DINNER

Our Lady of Mount Carmel will host a Fish & Pierogi dinner on Friday, September 17th, from 4-7PM. They are offering both a "dine-in" and "take-out" option. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. All meals are served with two sides (potato salad, cole slaw, macaroni cheese, green beans, or French fries), a roll, and ice cream. The Fish Dinner consists of 3 pieces of fish; the Pierogi dinner comes with 2 pieces; and the Combo dinner includes 2 fish and 1 pierogi.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

8/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark; 8/16) Corinne Dyakon, May Jo Sulecki, & Kay Stankiewicz; 8/17) Dave Slubowski; 8/18) Pearl Wisniewski; 8/19) Bill Dyakon & Fr. Jason Glover; 8/20) Ed Korytowski; 8/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 8/22) Kathy Wisniewski

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

8/15) Fr. Sam Bungo; 8/16) Msgr. Richard Siefer; 8/17) Fr. Phil Bilotte; 8/18) All Vocations; 8/19) Fr. Scott Detisch; 8/20) Fr. Michael Ferrick; 8/21) Msgr. Bob Smith; 8/22) Fr. John Detisch

Sunday, Aug 15, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Some assumptions prove true

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56

"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun,
with the moon beneath her feet."

Catholicism acknowledges twin sources in scripture and tradition. While our faith is biblically rooted, we embrace an expanding truth discerned by saints and mystics, church doctors, and popes. Mary's Assumption isn't narrated in the gospels and wasn't taught dogmatically until 1950. It evolved from the second-century appreciation of Mary as the New Eve: preserved from sin at conception and therefore not subject to sin's effects in death. Liturgists, saints, and theologians promoted the Assumption for centuries, and devout Catholics championed this understanding. Finally, Pope Pius XII bowed to the "sense of the faithful" and made it official in 1950.

Monday, Aug 16, 2021

MEMORIAL OF STEPHEN OF HUNGARY

Concern yourself with the greatest Kingdom

Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22

"Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?"

Royal families are typically concerned about succession and making sure they have an heir. They want their lineage to survive them. Many monarchs eventually failed at that, including King Saint Stephen I of Hungary, who founded the country in the year 1000 and made it Christian. Only one of his sons lived to adulthood but died before Stephen did. What Stephen did leave behind is a country that is still majority Catholic. We might not be remembered for sowing faith long into the future here on Earth—but if we remain faithful, we could end up with royal treasure in heaven.

Tuesday, Aug 17, 2021

Pray for the persecuted

Judges 6:11-24a; Matthew 19:23-30 (420). "We have given up everything and followed you."

On this day in 1798, Our Lady of La Vang first appeared to Vietnamese victims of persecution. When Vietnam's emperor outlawed Catholicism, inciting brutality and martyrdom, believers fled to the rain forest of La Vang. They sought Mary's consolation, gathering beneath a large tree to pray the Rosary. They began seeing an apparition of Mother and Child, flanked by angels. She comforted them and is said to have pointed out nearby healing plants. Our Lady of La Vang is honored in the United States with a chapel at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Ask her to intercede for victims of racist hate.

Wednesday, Aug 18, 2021

Let's work on making work better

Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16

"Are you envious because I am generous?" Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The U.S. Catholic Bishops have spoken on The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, saying in part: "The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living... If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected." Food for thought at a time when workers' reluctance to return to low-paid, unfulfilling jobs is much in the news. Is the problem with the worker—or the workplace?

Thursday, Aug 19, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JOHN EUDES, PRIEST

Take this devotion to heart

Judges 11:29-39a; Matthew 22:1-14

"Everything is ready; come to the feast."

The Sacred Heart of Jesus image is ubiquitous in the Catholic world, and today we celebrate one of the people who helped create a devotion to it, John Eudes, a French priest (1601-80), who also founded the Eudists, the Congregation of Jesus and Mary. The Sacred Heart image is a heart encircled by a crown of thorns often depicted with radiating rays of light and placed on the chest of Jesus. The image is physical and mystical, a reminder of Christ's bodily sacrifice and mysterious in its supernatural appearance. Seek out this image and allow it to shape your prayer today.

Friday, Aug 20, 2021

MEMORIAL OF BERNARD, ABBOT, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

All hail Doctor Mellifluous

Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40

"For wherever you go, I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

No, Mellifluous is not the newest superhero villain; it's a title for one of the greatest heroes of the Roman Catholic faith. Bernard of Clairvaux earned the nickname because his writings were eloquent, as suggested by the Latin root of his nickname: "flowing honey." This gift was founded on his deep love of God, scripture, and the church's tradition. His description of the Holy Spirit as the "kiss" between God the Father and Jesus the Son gives us a beautiful example of how to image the relationship of love among the three persons of the Trinity. Following in the good doctor's footsteps, how have you experienced the kiss of the Holy Spirit in your own relationships?

Saturday, Aug 21, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PIUS X, POPE

The year of living humbly

Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12

"The greatest among you must be your servant."

Prior to COVID-19, plagues mentioned in history books seemed like remote disasters that only happened in times and places where rats roamed streets filled with sewage. Now that we've been humbled by our continued vulnerability to unseen agents of disease and death, perhaps we can bring a renewed appreciation to Pius X, who endeared himself to the people of northern Italy because of his efforts tending the sick during the cholera plague of the early 1870s. Take a moment this week to thank someone who has tended the sick during our very modern plague.

"Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices."
Teresa of Ávila

