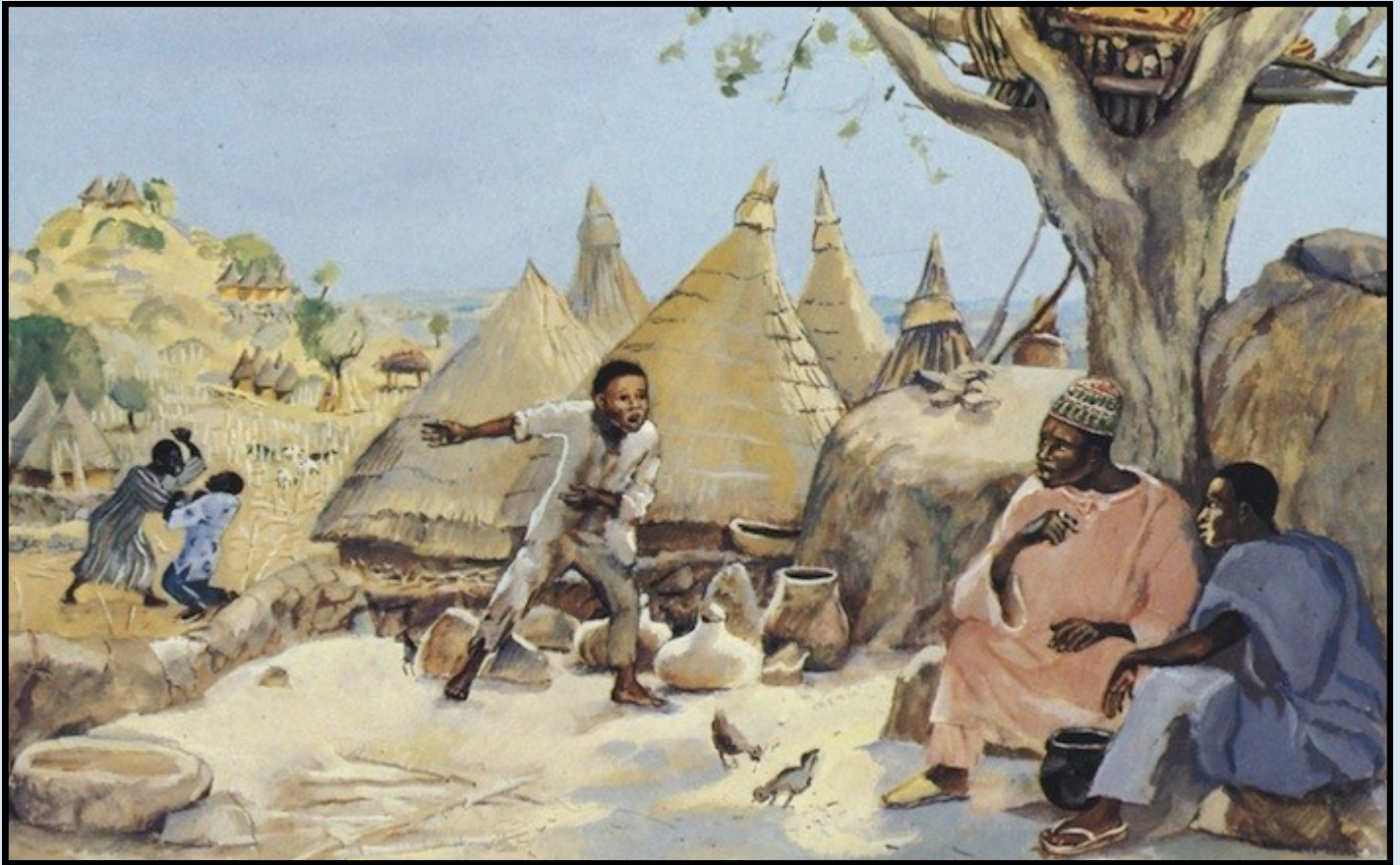


TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 17, 2023



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)

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

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)

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



September 17, 2023
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When I was in second grade, my prized possession was a metal Star Wars-themed lunch box. After school one day, another student ripped it from my hands. I helplessly watched in horror as my classmate threw it to the ground and violently stomped it into an unrecognizable heap of junk. I came home covered in tears of shame and rage. After a few months, I never thought about it again ... until I was almost thirty years old and on a retreat to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

That childhood memory — and the attendant outrage — came back afresh. My spiritual director helped me in the process of acknowledging that I was angry because that kid owed me my lunch box. Then she helped me, through the grace of Jesus, to forgive the debt. Almost immediately I felt a new peace. I was amazed that I hadn't forgotten what I had lost, even from years before. Aren't we human beings simply amazing at remembering what people owe us?

We see this week in Jesus' parable a servant who is forgiven much but then commands another servant: "Pay back what you owe!" He can't forget or let go of how he was wronged. He remembers — and he becomes a monster because of it. If only he had remembered not only the debts owed to him, but also his greater debt owed to — and forgiven by — his master. It's natural for us to remember what others owe us. But when we contextualize those offenses in Jesus' mercy toward us and them, we're free to be merciful like the Master and less like a monster who never forgets.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the week of September 17, 2023

Sunday: Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7-9/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1-6/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2-12/Ps 49:6-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1-5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20-27/Mt 20:1-16

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., Sept. 18th - Private Intention
 Tues., Sept. 19th - Richard Mielnik (Linda & Tom Zagenczyk)
 Wed., Sept. 20th - Rita Przepierski (Family)
 Thurs., Sept. 21st - Ray Przybyszewski (John Abate)
 Fri., Sept. 22nd - Stella Dombrowski (Rosemary Hoyt)
 Sat., Sept. 23rd, 4:00PM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)
 Sun., Sept. 24th, 9:00AM - William "Bill" Post (Jacque & Ed Macie)



Our sanctuary candle burns in honor of **THE REAL PRESENCE IN THE EUCHARIST**, as gifted by Mr. & Mrs. Horvath.



PIEROGI MAKING SESSIONS

The crew will be gathering in the Parish Hall on September 19th & 20th (9AM-2PM) to begin making pierogi for our annual "Parish Day/A Taste of Poland." All are invited to help. As always, no experience is necessary and lunch will be provided.

TOWN HALL MEETING

A Town Hall meeting will take place on Sunday, September 17th, following the 9:00AM Mass. Fr. Jason will present on the proposed changes to parishes in Erie County, specifically, how the plan will impact St. Stanislaus. Please make every effort to attend.

Life was not always easy with my father when I was growing up. Let's just say he made many decisions along the way that led to fear, anger, and sadness for my family and me. Unfortunately, I was the only one in the family that would years later truly forgive him for his actions. My mother and sister held onto the resentment and anger they felt all their lives. For my father and me, reconciliation led to several years of a deepening relationship before his passing in 2011.

Forgiveness is not easy and I do not consider myself better or stronger because I was able to forgive and my family members could not. However, I can say that the blessings I received due to forgiveness and a renewed relationship with my father were far better than the animosity experienced by others. I also learned that forgiveness benefited me far more than my father.

As good stewards of time, we must realize that each passing day will never come again. What we do with that time is completely up to us. We can be wise and use it to build bridges, heal wounds, and cultivate love where there is hate. We can also choose to waste time in fear, resentment, and anger. I thank God often for the gift of my dad. However, I thank God more for the gift of time spent with him and the ability to see him not with my human eyes, but with the eyes of Jesus.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

OCTOBER LOTTERY

Raffle tickets for the October Lottery are now available. Please see any member of the Holy Name Society. Tickets can also be purchased from the Parish Office, or after Masses in the sacristy. Thank you, in advance, for your ongoing support.

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

Life is not always easy on us and it can be hard to figure out the next step to take in our journey. We can even become immobilized by indecisiveness and fear about making the wrong move or choosing the incorrect path. I think of the song, Should I Stay, or Should I Go, as a mantra for many times in my life. Should I stay in this house, this job, or this car? Should I go here or there? When those times of decision surface, I usually turn to my wife, my friends, or even my children. Talking it out can help, and their perspectives give me more data to consider. When I lean on others to help me make a decision, it helps me become more confident in my choices. Discerning the will of God is not easy either. Rarely do we understand God's calling clearly at first. God's calling is always more easily discerned within a community of faithful disciples. Our stewardship way of life can suffer greatly if we refuse to allow others to assist us in the process of discernment. What gifts or talents are needed for the task at hand? Where do I fit best into God's plan? Where is God leading me? No one should have to decide the answers to these questions alone. We need to always lean on the Body of Christ to help us see the path that God has laid before us. Without a little help along the journey, over time we might find ourselves stuck in the same place where we started.

- Tracy Earl Welliver

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$45,716.00
Amount Received	\$1,877.00	\$25,402.00
Net over/under	(\$2,279.00)	(\$20,314.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 48; 9:00AM = 59

Envelopes: 56/168



Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **FLORENCE KAMINSKI** as gifted by her Family.



- 9/20) Theresa Ignaczak
- 9/21 Stanley Dubowski
- 9/23 Jane Thiemann
- 9/24 Dave Czerwinski
- 9/25 Jack Kempisty

MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon., Sept. 18th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
- Tues., Sept. 19th - The Souls in Purgatory
- Wed., Sept. 20th - Daniszewski & Gorka Families (Estate)
- Thurs., Sept. 21st - Msgr. John Daniszewski (Estate)
- Fri., Sept. 22nd - Warfel Family (Estate)
- Sat., Sept. 23rd, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
- Sun., Sept. 24th, 10:30AM - Joseph Chermack (Bill & Corinne Dyakon)

Today's readings call us to look inward to the state of our hearts, our thoughts and emotions. "Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?" We have all been wounded by others at some point, some perhaps quite deeply. Our emotions are gifts from God. But we must steward them well, rather than allowing them to overcome us. How do we do this? Sirach tells us. "Remember your last days, set enmity aside... Remember the Most High's covenant and overlook faults." We embrace the stewardship mindset — not brooding over hurts, but recalling all the gifts our good God has given us, all the love He continually pours out upon us, and we put our focus and trust in Him. In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus reminds us of the true position we have before Him in light of all that He has done for us, comparing the kingdom of heaven to a "king who decided to settle accounts with his servants." In the parable, a debtor is brought before the king, owing such an overwhelming debt that it could not possibly be repaid. Yet, the king is filled with compassion for the servant, forgives the debt and lets him go free. Doesn't that sound like each of us in relation to the King of Kings? The Father has given us life, and then sent His only Son to die for us to free us from our sin "debts" and make eternal life with Him possible for us. It is impossible for us to repay this debt. All we can do is thank God by giving Him our whole selves — inside and out. What joy and freedom we find in the stewardship way of life!

USHERS MEETING

The Holy Trinity Ushers will meet on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 7PM in the Social Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Unable to forgive another means we are holding on to a past wrong and hoping for a better past. That is not going to happen. We must move on with our life by accepting we were unjustly treated and it will not be corrected. We aren't condoning the injustice. We just don't let it control our lives any longer. Forgiveness is critical to living a healthy life in the present.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2023

Regular Offering: \$2,780.00 (32/120 envelopes)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$44,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$26,400.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,780.00	\$30,921.00
Net (over/under):	\$380.00	\$4,521.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 28; 10:30AM = 102

Keep On Forgiving

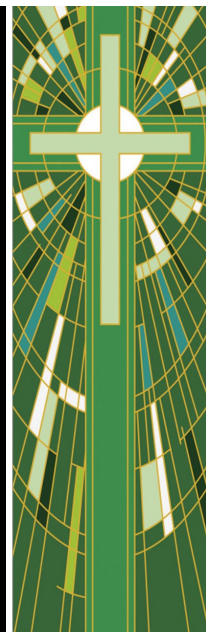
Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Based on Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)



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

MANY SEVEN ASKED	SINS TIMES BROTHER	PETER JESUS LORD	FORGIVE TIMES HOW
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"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

- Matthew 16:24

News for Our Partnership

Men are invited to half-day conference in Pittsburgh The 15th Gathering of Pittsburgh's Catholic Men's Conference has adopted "The Light of the World" as its theme. At this September 23rd gathering, speakers will equip men to respond to the call. The doors will open at 11:30 am on Saturday, Sept. 23, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 12:30 pm. The program will begin at 1 pm with the closing Mass at 4:00 pm. Register online at www.cmfwpa.org. The event will be held at the Duquesne University Power Center Ballroom, 1015 Forbes Avenue in Pittsburgh, within walking distance of a nearby parking garage.

WHAT IS THE RCIA?

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process of initiation into the Catholic Community of Faith.

It enables the study of the Gospels, Catholic Christian teaching, the acceptance of Christian values and morality, the development and deepening of a life of prayer and action with the support and involvement of the local Christian community. Who is RCIA for?

- Non-Catholics who want to find out more about the Catholic Faith
- Those who want to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, or Profession of Faith
- Those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, Confirmation, or First Eucharist.

If you are interested please contact the parish office or talk with one of the priests in the upcoming weeks.

WEDDING SEASON

Fr. Jason will be out of town this coming Friday and Saturday (September 22-23), in order to officiate at the marriages of a fraternity alumnus. The wedding is being celebrated in Loretto, PA. Fr. Dan will celebrate both Saturday Masses and Fr. Jason will celebrate both Sunday Masses. Thank you for your understanding as Fr. Jason celebrates these significant life-events with these former students.

HAPPY FALL (September 21st)

PRAYER REQUEST

Msgr. Dan will be making his annual priest retreat this week at Good Shepherd Parish, West Middlesex, PA. Keep him and all priests from our Diocese and the Retreat Director, Bishop Michael Woost, auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland.

Question: Are Catholics allowed to visit psychics? Why or why not?

Answer: It's part of human nature to experience some sense of unease and fear about the future. This can lead some people to seek out the services of psychics or consult horoscopes or turn to other occult practices or resources (e.g. Ouija boards or tarot cards). The Catechism of the Catholic Church is very clear that Catholics should avoid such practices: "Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone" (no. 2116). Despite the uncertainties we might feel, we are called to have faith and trust in God, confident of God's desire for what is best for us. This means that we are called to surrender, to pray and to reflect on how we can best move into the future in hope, knowing that God is with us.

MARRIAGE MOMENT

Last week, I urged married couples to take a "criticism break." But sometimes hurts or problems need to be aired. Was it hard to refrain from criticizing? If the complaint still bugs you agree to a calm time to share it, then pair it with an appreciation.

PARENTING POINTERS

"Forgive your neighbor's injustice;" (Sirach 28:2) Sometimes our neighbors hurt us. Children especially can get angry with a playmate or adult. Is there someone you have difficulty loving? Model for your child a forgiving heart.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

9/18) Pearl Wisniewski; 9/19) Bill Dyakon, Rob Lintleman, & Fr. Jason Glover; 9/20) Ed Korytowski;
9/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 9/22) Suzanne Sundy & Kathy Wisniewski;
9/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman; 9/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

9/18) Fr. Thomas More Sikora; 9/19) All in Consecrated Life; 9/20) Msgr. Jim Sanner; 9/21) All Vocations;
9/22) Fr. Ben Dagher; 9/23) Fr. Jerry Simmons; 9/24) Fr. Jim Piszker

Sunday, Sep 17, 2023

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?"

Each one, teach one

Teachers, preachers, and professors have their place. But most of us learn life lessons more broadly. The first school is our home environment. In 1935, the Vatican called for special acknowledgment of how our parish catechists pass on the faith. While it's right to honor our DRE or religion teachers on this Catechetical Sunday, let's recall too the role of parents and indeed all parishioners in modeling a life rich in love, generosity, compassion, and forgiveness.

Monday, Sep 18, 2023

1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10

"I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed."

Make of your life a mission of peace

In an address to the World Council of Churches, Dag Hammarskjöld, the second United Nations secretary-general (1953-61), referred to churches as the "guardians of ... the deepest beliefs and the loftiest dreams ..." of humanity. Pope Francis praised him in 2015 for giving his life for "reconciliation among peoples." May the example and inspiration of Hammarskjöld, and the many who work to end conflict in the world, unite the people of God in their pursuit.

Tuesday, Sep 19, 2023

MEMORIAL OF JANUARIUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17

"A great prophet has arisen in our midst and God has visited his people."

The real magic of relics

The significance of saintly relics is best understood in light of basic Catholic teaching: Relics aren't talismans born of superstition, nor are they magical souvenirs from worship-worthy saints. Moreover, relics deserve the same basic respect as other human remains. God alone works miracles and is worthy of worship. Saints merely agree to be the conduit - in obedience to Divine Love—sometimes paying the price with their martyrs' blood. Consider: The real miracle of Januarius' blood might be that he was willing to sacrifice it.

Wednesday, Sep 20, 2023

1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35

"To what shall I compare the people of this generation?"

Be inspired to broaden your concern

On this day in 1918, at the age of 58, Mary Theresa Dudzik entered into eternal life. She accomplished a lot of good in her time on Earth. After immigrating to Chicago from Poland at 21, she would invite poor elderly women and girls to her home. "I felt the misery and suffering of others, and it seemed to me that I could not love Jesus, or even expect Heaven if I were concerned only about myself," she wrote. Dudzik started the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1893, the first order of religious women founded in Chicago. The community devoted itself to aiding the elderly and those in need. She received the honorary title of "Mother" in 1948 and is now a candidate for sainthood. Learn more about Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik and her heroic virtue.

Thursday, Sep 21, 2023

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13

"Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience."

Witness value

When the name Saint Matthew comes up, many people recall him as the tax collector apostle who wrote the Gospel of Matthew. Modern scholarship has challenged the belief that Matthew the apostle wrote the gospel with his name on it, and other details of Saint Matthew's death by martyrdom cannot be definitively proven. Maybe having precision about all aspects of Matthew's life is not the most important factor in this feast, however. The church celebrates Matthew for being a faithful apostle and evangelist, things to which every Christian can aspire. Does your life evangelize, that is, bear witness to your belief?

Friday, Sep 22, 2023

1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3

"Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness."

Delve into fresh spiritual classics

The Spirit dwells in each of us and is expressed in myriad ways. The church treasures this rich diversity as "refractions of the one pure light of the Holy Spirit," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it. Too often erased historically, the experiences of women haven't always been allowed to shine as brightly, however. And so we lift up writers such as Monica Coleman, Gloria Anzaldúa, Mary Oliver, Jung Eun Sophia Park, and Phyllis Tickle, renowned spirituality author who died on this date in 2015. Read one of these or another author whose particular "refraction" resonates with your own.

Saturday, Sep 23, 2023

MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST

1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15

"And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold."

The essentials of sainthood

Controversy shadowed the life of the mystical Padre Pio, as Pius of Pietrelcina was known. He was said to bear the stigmata, or wounds of Christ, though detractors claimed he manufactured the wounds with carbolic acid. However one views such claims and counter claims, the undeniable fact is that he was a compassionate counselor to the thousands who came to see him during his lifetime, a tireless servant who lived a simple life. At Padre Pio's canonization Mass in 2002, Saint John Paul II said: "The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord." You don't have to be a mystic or stigmatist to mirror the ministry of Christ in your own life - all you need is a kind heart and generous spirit.

