

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

April 10, 2022



PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

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**

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**



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Pope St. John Paul II rightly taught, "To believe in Jesus is to accept what he says, even when it runs contrary to what others are saying. It means rejecting the lure of sin, however attractive it may be, in order to set out on a difficult path of Gospel virtues." Acceptance, rejection, suffering, betrayal, fear, reluctance, persecution, and painful, undeserved and unjust death are all played out in dramatic fashion today. Jesus spoke of God's unconditional love, mercy, and forgiveness. Who doesn't like hearing about love, especially God's? Jesus did not have backs turned on him, face intense suffering, and succumb to a horrific death because he spoke of God's love. All of those things occurred because of the implications of actually believing in God's love.

God's love comes with an intimate and equal bond with love of neighbor. This moves the believer outward to truly see their brothers and sisters as equals and compels them to work for a world that mirrors God's kingdom: a world based on justice, peace, mercy, and forgiveness. Sometimes, people want to keep God's love to themselves and use it solely for their own benefit. When they only want to use God's love to justify their own intentions and for their own projects, problems occur.

Sin makes something hurtful, destructive, and self-serving look very attractive and justifiable. The lure of sin creates friends who begin to believe the lie that the sin expounds. This is what happened on Calvary. When you begin actually doing what Jesus is saying and translate love into action, it inevitably will upset popular and longstanding conventions and structures. Many of these serve to protect status, foster personal gain and success, and further divide those who have from those who do not. Most people who hear the Gospel are attracted to what they hear, at first. When they realize that it means standing apart from popular opinion, even if that opinion is against the Gospel and sinful, they cover back in fear and join the throngs shouting, "Crucify him!" There is an ambivalence found in many believers as they struggle with whether their belief is strong enough "to set out on the difficult path of Gospel virtues."

It takes a lot of courage to admit that the system is broken. It takes even more courage to point out the sin. And it takes an

Readings for the week of April 10, 2022

Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 23:1-49

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-6, 15-17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31-34/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/ Ps 116:12-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-17, 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1-2:2/Ps 104:1-14, 24, 35/Rom 6:3-11/24:1-12

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9

Sacrament of Baptism: Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation programs are hosted at Saint Luke's Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

Confirmation preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint Luke's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.6920).

Sacrament of Holy Orders: God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Scott Jabo, at 1.814.824.1181.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

Sacrament of the Sick: Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

Leave A Legacy: Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

Bulletin Information Deadline: Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

*Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity
Partners in Faith & Mission*

"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606 or Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

PROLIFE COMMUNITY

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

"PRAYER CANDLE" MAKING MINISTRY

This ministry makes prayer candles from the church's left over bee's wax. They meet on Wednesdays, from 10AM - Noon in St. Stanislaus Parish Hall. No experience necessary.

ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please Check: New Registration Change of Address Change of Telephone Number

Change of E-mail Moving out of Parish Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome

Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., April 11th - Private Intention
Tues., April 12th - Casimir Lukowich (Pat)
Wed., April 13th - Stanley Markiewicz, Jr. (Family)
Thurs., April 14th 6:00PM - For Vocations to the Priesthood
Fri., April 15th, 2:00PM - For the Victims of War
Sat., April 16th, 8:30PM - Mass at Holy Trinity
Sun., April 17th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **RON KUJAWINSKI AND GERALD KIRK**, as gifted the Nancy & Art Kujawinski.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Women's Society meeting will be Sunday, April 10, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY RAFFLE

The Women's Society is sponsoring an Easter Raffle for a chance to win one of two \$500 cash prizes that will be drawn on Sunday, April 10th. Donations for a ticket are only \$5 and can be purchased before and after Mass, or by calling the Parish Office at 814-452-6606. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

CONGRATULATIONS

We failed to report our Fish & Pierogi dinner 50/50 winners. Eleanor Walker was our March 18th winner. Richard Valahovic won the 50/50 at our most recent dinner hosted on April 1st. Congratulations, and thanks for your support.

SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

The Sisters will not need baked goods for the month of April. Nonetheless, thank you for your generosity!

MARRIAGE MOMENT

In life and marriage there are also times of joy and celebration – like Palm Sunday. What is something that your beloved has done that makes you proud of him/her? Rejoice together today and remember it when the hard times of life also creep in.

IT'S A WRAP

Thank you to all our extraordinary volunteers who have executed another successful season of Fish & Pierogi dinners. Your time and commitment is truly appreciated! A final report of our dinner season will be provided in a future bulletin.

WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 27, 2022)



Due to early holiday deadlines, this information was not available at the time of publication.

MANY THANKS

Thank you to all the women and men who donated their time and talent in support of our bake sale at our last Fish & Pierogi dinner. Because of your generosity, we raised a whopping \$941.00 - far exceeding our expectations, and setting the record for the most money raised by our bake sale! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A GOD WHO KNOWS HOW IT FEELS

Christ could have spoken anything from the cross, so why did he choose to recite Psalm 22? And why is it so important that we recite that same Psalm at today's Mass? My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?" We've never known the Jesus of the Gospels to doubt the will of God. We've never known him to be a defeatist or to give into feelings of despair. He's the hero who walks on water, the Savior who is welcomed to Jerusalem with a pathway of palms. And he knows how this story ends; he knows full well that his Father has absolutely not abandoned him. So why does he say this? Jesus doesn't make offhanded comments, especially in his last hour. Today, when we repeat the words that he calls out in his darkest moment, we must remember that he wants us, very particularly, to consider them. With his crucifixion, Jesus reminds us of his humanity. He is a man of flesh that can be torn and blood that can be shed. Somehow, in tandem with his divinity, he still possesses a heart that knows fear and pain and longing. And with this seemingly hopeless cry, he reminds us of that. Let us never doubt that Jesus can relate to us in our brokenness. This is the week, friends. This is the week that reminds us that our God is a God who knows every pang, every trembling, and every uncertainty of human life. Our God knows what abandonment feels like. He knows what rejection feels like. He knows what it is to keep going when the strength and the will has disappeared.

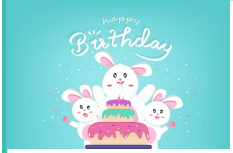
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory and honor of **PARISHIONERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS LISTED IN THE EASTER BULLETIN.**



- 4/10 Debbie Smith
- 4/11 Mia Lubak & Karen Winarski
- 4/12 Abigail Chermack
- 4/15 Sharon Baranski & Nina Mangini
- 4/16 Emilia Moore

MASS INTENTIONS

- Mon., April 11th– Chrism Mass at St. Peter’s Cathedral
- Tues., April 12th - Peter West (Friends & Family)
- Wed., April 13th - Special Intention
- Thurs., April 14th, 6PM, Holy Thursday (at St. Stanislaus)
- Fri., April 15th, 2PM, Good Friday (at St. Stanislaus)
- Sat., April 16th, 8:30PM, Easter Vigil (at Holy Trinity)
- Sun., April 17th, 10:30AM - The People of Holy Trinity Parish (Pro Populo)

HOLY TRINITY USHERS

Ushers will meet Tuesday, April 26th in the Gathering Place at 7:00PM. Men and women are welcome to be a part of this ministry. They will finalize plans for the upcoming Pre-Election Social the Sunday before the election.

Two very different responses to our Lord’s passion are highlighted during the Gospel reading from Luke today: the response of Simon of Cyrene and the response of Jesus’ acquaintances. Of Simon we are told, “They took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.” Whether Simon entered willingly and compassionately into this service or whether he took up the Cross of Christ with a grudge, we don’t know. What we do know is this: Simon did his part faithfully. He stayed near to Christ, carrying the Cross until our Lord reached Golgotha, the site of His crucifixion. We also know that Simon’s family was among the first early Christians. Staying near to Christ, embracing the Cross (quite literally), transformed his life and the life of his family. In contrast, near the end of this Gospel account, we are told of another reaction to Jesus’ passion and death, namely that “all His acquaintances stood at a distance.” They knew Jesus! They had heard him preaching and teaching, witnessed His signs and miracles, maybe even benefitted personally from them. Perhaps they did not participate in mocking Him or calling for His crucifixion. But they chose to stay a safe distance from Him when the going got tough. Unlike Simon, they refused to go too near to Christ. Where will you place yourself this week? Keeping your distance from all the pain and suffering Christ endured? Or close by, staying near to Him as Simon did? It is when we go near to Christ that we can be transformed by Him. It is by embracing the crosses in our lives, stewarding them well rather than trying to run from them, that we become His true disciples.

IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Irene Krol on April 7th. Please keep Irene and her family and friends in your prayers. “Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.”

REMINDER

Easter Flower requests are due **MONDAY, APRIL 11th.**

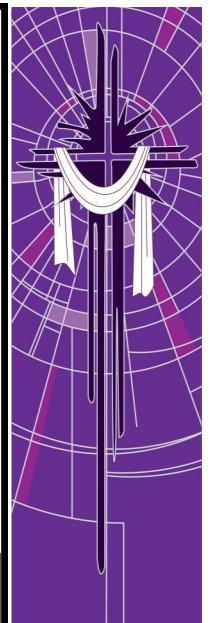
WEEKLY OFFERING FOR APRIL 3, 2022



Due to early holiday deadlines, this information was not available at the time of publication.

The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Luke 19:38 (NIV)



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

BLESSED	MIRACLES	HIGHEST	HEAVEN	CROWD
SPREAD	GLORY	PRaise	VILLAGE	PEOPLE
DISCIPLES	CLOAKS	VOICES	LORD	PEACE
NAME	ROAD	JESUS	HILL	COLT

"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you..."

- Luke 22:15

News for Our Partnership

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, 6:00PM (St. Stanislaus)
Good Friday, 2:00PM (St. Stanislaus)
Saturday, 2:00PM, Blessing of Baskets (Both Parishes)
Easter Vigil, 8:30PM (Holy Trinity)

2022 CSA APPEAL

A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. You have joined together with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Erie to share of your blessings to help advance the mission of the church. We are grateful. If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late. Just drop your pledge envelope marked 'CSA' in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. Your generosity is appreciated.

SSJ LENTEN COLLECTION

The Sisters of Saint Joseph minister to the youth of our area through tutoring programs and by helping them acquire and repair their bicycles. As part of our parishes' Lenten outreach, Parish Council is hosting a collection of school supplies and bicycle parts to be donated to the Sisters. Boxes will be placed in the rear of our churches to facilitate this collection. Thank you for your consideration.

PASSION TALK

Consider joining the Saint Joseph Parish community as Fr. Larry Richards presents a talk on the Passion of Jesus Christ. The talk will take place on Wednesday, April 13 at 7PM; Confession will be available afterward. The event is free and open to the public

ERIE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM SUMMER CAMP

Students are invited to join us at this year's summer camp. They will enjoy daily activities, weekly themes, and field trips – all in a safe, caring environment. Daily breakfast and lunch are provided. Camp is offered at 4 convenient locations. Visit www.eriecatholic.org for more information.



BINGO

All CASH prizes!!!

*** Instants * 50/50 Game**

- Sunday, May 1, 2022
- Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3rd St.
- 1:00pm, Doors Open at Noon
- \$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each add'l pk.
- Kitchen Food Available
- Holiday Auction
- Door Prizes
- Call 814-456-5300 to reserve your seat!

Walk Ins Welcome

All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity PCEP program

NEXT BINGO: AUGUST 13 - ZABAWA KICKOFF!

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Be Vigilant- Child Abuse Prevention Month should lead to heightened awareness of the need to be vigilant about providing a safe environment for all within the Church and for our communities. It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant concerning the behaviors of those who interact with children and communicating our concerns to the appropriate parties. Each one of us can play an important role in strengthening this culture of prevention. For example, we can better prevent abuse by ensuring that the signs of abuse are identified and reported. Noticing these warning signs, taking them seriously, and reporting them could prevent abuse in the future. When we witness inappropriate behavior or something that just doesn't seem quite right, we must report our concerns through the appropriate channels. For particular questions you may call: Cindy Zemcik, Coordinator for the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in the Diocese of Erie at 814-824-1195.

“Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday.”

- Fulton Sheen

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

4/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker; 4/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski; 4/12) Edie Luniewski & Debbie Oldenski; 4/13) Shirley Widomski; 4/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krasinski; 4/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark; 4/16) Corinne Dyakon, Mary Jo Sulecki, & Kay Stankiewicz; 4/17) [Open Date]

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

4/10) Fr. David Foradori; 4/11) Fr. Wally Packard; 4/12) Fr. Ed Walk; 4/13) All Vocations; 4/14) Bishop Persico; 4/15) Fr. Vince Cieslewicz; 4/16) Fr. Leo Gallina; 4/17) Msgr. Jim Sanner

Sunday, Apr 10, 2022

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Revealing companions

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14—23:56

“As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian... laying the cross on him.”

Today the church follows Luke's narrative of the Passion, where participants are revealed by the company they keep—or avoid. Most of Jesus' followers flee his side, fearing to share their teacher's fate. Meanwhile, the Roman governor Pilate makes a strange alliance with local puppet-king Herod, a man he despises. Both agree on one thing: Holding onto power is their highest priority. Then Simon, a Jew from the African dispersion, finds himself forced to carry Jesus' cross: something the disciples were terrified of doing. Tradition holds this Cyrenian and his family later joined the early church. Whose company are we keeping?

Monday, Apr 11, 2022

What's your pet project?

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

“You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

Everyone knows Saint Francis of Assisi loved animals—but so did many other saints. Saint Basil the Great urged Christians to see animals as our brothers. Saint Cuthbert made friends with birds. Saint Giles was a vegetarian. And Saint Gertrude of Nivelles, the patron saint of cats, is known for feeding and loving the strays around her monastery. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “God surrounds animals with His providential care” and Catholic moral theology and ecology have always insisted that it is an act of cruelty to abuse an animal. Today is National Pet Day, a chance to thank God for all creatures—as well as advocate for their welfare.

Tuesday, Apr 12, 2022

Reoiled and ready to serve

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.”

During this Holy Week your diocese will celebrate its annual Chrism Mass. Diocesan priests join their bishop as he mixes and blesses a year's supply of sacred oils to be used across the diocese for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (Oil of Catechumens), the Anointing of the Sick (Oil of the Infirm), and the sanctification of those who receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders (Holy Chrism). We are anointed for a noble purpose and receive a healing balm. Give glory to God who seals us with inherent dignity and makes us whole.

Wednesday, Apr 13, 2022

Cinema that inspires

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25 (259). “I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.”

On this day in 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Lilies of the Field*. The moment was also notable in that Poitier was an immigrant from the Bahamas and a black Catholic—bringing two marginalized groups together in one historic personage. His role was also unique, that of a handyman who helps a group of nuns—immigrants themselves—with their aging farm property. With its vision of interracial harmony and positive portrait of the church, the film attained legendary status. May we all aspire to live out the call of unity.

Thursday, Apr 14, 2022

HOLY THURSDAY; EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lean into the Real Presence

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15 (39). “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Do we ever plumb the depths of what the Eucharist means in our lives? Christ present. Blood poured out for the world. Unifying meal. The many ways to understand what Jesus gave to us on Holy Thursday may take more than a lifetime to truly grasp. Some of the deepest truths of faith are those that we cannot completely unlock intellectually. Perhaps today is a moment to let go and just relax into Jesus as we receive him at Mass. “He is present for your happiness,” Saint Francis de Sales tells us. “Welcome Him as warmly as possible, and behave outwardly in such a way that your actions may give proof to all of His Presence.”

Friday, Apr 15, 2022

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY); DAY OF ABSTINENCE

You were there for the long haul

Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42

“...my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.”

Good Friday, called “Long Friday” in some cultures, marks the close of the long fast of Lent. The word Lent, itself, derives from Old Germanic words for long, or lengthening, days, likely referring to spring. Regardless of what we call this day or the season that brought us here, it has indeed been a long fast. Have you spent these 40 days the way you had intended? Or did you perhaps pass the cup of self-sacrifice early on? Not to worry. In the end, it is more about quality than quantity. As Doctor of the Church Saint John Chrysostom says, “No matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great.”

Saturday, Apr 16, 2022

HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL

Experience the real absence

Genesis 1:1—2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15—15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7

“...we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”

Today the church is silent, the altar is bare, the tabernacle is empty. Holy Saturday is observed without ceremony of any kind. The Easter Vigil does not start until the sun goes down. Before the kindling of the Easter fire, Holy Saturday remains a blank spot in the church's calendar signifying the real death of Jesus. Perhaps it is a good time to visit your church and experience our lifeless Lord. If you get there before the hubbub of Easter preparation begins, you can keep vigil in the quietude of a church reflecting on its beloved Christ, crucified.

