

THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 24, 2022



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



July 24, 2022

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Meister Eckhart asks, "Who is the man whose prayers God always hears?" He answers, "God hears the man who appeals to God as God. When, however, man appeals to God, hoping for some worldly good, he is not appealing to God at all, but to what he is asking of God. He is trying to make God his servant. On this point, St. Augustine says: 'You pray to what you love, for true whole prayer is nothing but love!' Thus, we pray to what we love, and no one rightly prays to God but he who prays for God and has nothing on his mind but God." We struggle with what we want God to do and how we want our prayer validated. Meister Eckhart is correct. We often want God to be our servant. We further struggle with trusting that God knows what we need and that His will is best.

God's will is not some predetermined outcome of events that we must simply suggest. "Thy will be done" is not an invocation beckoning us to accept a particular state of affairs passively. Rather, it is the humble and confident placement of ourselves in the presence of the God we seek, whom we call "Father." We must remember that God is the God of life and light. It is from nothing that God brings something and from the darkness that God brings life. Prayer allows us to seek the One we love with the assurance that all will be well regardless of what course the events of our lives take. God is not about passive submission but the humble trust of love.

That's what makes the Lord's Prayer the perfect prayer. It provides us with proper disposition and focus, putting in line all of the essential relationships of our lives. It celebrates and fosters the ever-deepening relationship of trust we have with our Creator. It also calls us to keep open the doors of love between our brothers and sisters with the power that comes with forgiveness. If in one's darkest hour they can find the resolve to fervently pray this perfect prayer of Jesus' conviction, then there is no doubt that God will hear their plea, reach out in love, and bring them ever closer to His heart. What more does one need to weather the storms of life besides faith, hope, and love? These are God's most perfect gifts and all we really need.

Readings for the week of July 24, 2022

Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-8/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13 [17th Sunday]
 Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1-6/Mt 20:20-28 [St. James]
 Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8-13/Mt 13:36-43 [Sts. Joachim & Anne]
 Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18/Mt 13:44-46
 Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1-6/Mt 13:47-53
 Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Jn 11:19-27 [St. Martha]
 Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-34/Mt 14:1-12 [St. Chrysologus]
 Next Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21

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 Linda (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 (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., July 25th - Private Intention
 Tues., July 26th - James Bradley (Tom & Sharon Zielinski)
 Wed., July 27th - John Oldenski (Charlene & Charlie Schroeck)
 Thurs., July 28th - Emilio Delgado (H. Angeloff)
 Fri., July 29th - Adam & Pauline Bozek (Family)
 Sat., July 30th, 4:00PM - C. & G. Przepierski, and Cynthia Miraszek
 Sun., July 31st, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **RITA PRZEPIERSKI**, as gifted by the Family.



THANK YOU

A special thank you to all who volunteered to make our first parish-sponsored Pancake Breakfast a HUGE success, and thanks to all who came to support it! Our net profit was \$912.50, nearly \$400 of that coming from our bakery — so thank to all our confectioners! With this “trial run” under our belts, we intend to grow event in the future.

FROM THE ANNALS OF OUR HISTORY

Detective Sergeant James Higgins was the first police officer in the City of Erie who was killed in the line of duty in 1905, near the entrance to Central High School on 11th and Sassafras. The attempt to identify and track down the culprit was frustratingly slow. The break came when the police were able to link two local criminals to the murder suspect. The connection was made when police arrested Robert Bowen who confessed that he, along with James McCarthy and Frank Connors, “schemed a plan to break into St. Stanislaus.... Their escape plan, if needed, would be made possible, according to McCarthy, with some nitroglycerine. Later that night, Bowen was arrested, and McCarthy and Connors escaped. Bowen believed that either McCarthy or Connors was responsible for Higgins’s death.” Fred Caster - a.k.a. Frank Connors - was arrested in Columbus, Ohio, for the murder of a Columbus police officer. It is largely belied that he was Higgins’s murderer. “St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church, which unwittingly played a crucial role in the investigation into Higgins’s murder... still stands guard over the old Polish neighborhood, its double blue domes still visible on a clear day.”

- Murder & Mayhem in Erie, PA (by J. Dombrowski)

WHEN I CALLED, YOU ANSWERED

Some of us have that friend about whom we are constantly discovering new things. Maybe we’ve known this person for ten or even twenty years, and one day at lunch we’ll find out they’re a direct descendant of a dead president or they once met a major celebrity. “You never asked,” they’ll say with a shrug. As annoying as this can be, it makes perfect sense, doesn’t it? We never asked. There is something strangely sacred about the act of asking for something. It requires humility. It requires grace. It requires us to be awake, to be aware, to be vulnerable. Too often we fall into a pattern of entitlement, even when it comes to information. We go through life thinking that a great cosmic conveyor belt of what we want is going to roll on past us, and we’ll barely even have to extend our arms. We read our Bible and we hear all these amazing promises from the Father who loves us, and we get sort of complacent. He’s got this, we think, and we shut our eyes to take a snooze on the road trip of life, confident that someone else is going to look out for stop signs and wrong turns. It’s true: God’s got this. He is going to take care of us. But He wants us to be in relationship with Him. He wants us to be an active, receptive participant in our own salvation. See his patience with Abraham’s entreaties on behalf of the righteous of Sodom: He wants to answer, not simply to tell. He wants us to stay awake for the drive.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WEEKLY OFFERING (JULY 17TH, 2022)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$12,468.00
Amount Received	\$2,253.00	\$7,778.00
Net over/under	(\$1903.00)	(\$4,690.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 38; 9:00AM = 58
 Envelopes: 54/168



SAINT ROCH “MULTI-PARISH” MEGA-RAFFLE

We will, once again, participate in the St. Roch Raffle. St. Roch is a parish located in Greenwich, CT. They reach out to many, many parishes along the east coast to solicit participation. We were first invited to participate two years ago. On short notice, we didn’t really “push” the raffle, but we do profit from it.

Tickets are \$25 each; 50% of all ticket sales (\$12.50/ticket) remain at St. Stanislaus. Prizes are paid out in American Express Gift Cards. First prize is \$30,000; second is \$10,000; third is \$8,000). There are also 20 winners of \$1,000. Drawing take place on August 13th and can be viewed live on-line. Please see John Villa for tickets, or call the Parish Office. Thanks for your support!

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **DELPHINE GORNIAK** as gifted by Patty & John Stano.



July 25 - Gary Kaminski, Jim Kern, Stanley Kniowski, & Jameson Rawa
 July 28 - Armani Moore
 July 30 - Ed Czulewicz
 July 31 - Benjamin Otto

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., July 25th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
 Tues., July 26th - All Living & Deceased Mothers
 Wed., July 27th - All Living & Deceased Fathers
 Thurs., July 28st - Edward Pytlarz (Ed Czulewicz)
 Fri., July 29th - Edward & Wanda Majewski (Skip & Theresa)
 Sat., July 30th, 5:15PM - The People of Holy Trinity Parish (Pro Populo)
 Sun., July 31st, 10:30AM - F. Kaminski & M. Kaveney (Jack Kaminski)

ZABAWA PROGRAM ADS

Individuals or families wishing to include a personal message in the Zabawa 2022 program, please complete the flyer and return it to Holy Trinity's Parish Office as soon as possible. Thank you for your support!

CHRUSCIKI MAKING

We will begin making chrusciki for Zabawa 2022 on Monday, July 25th starting at 5:00PM in the Social Hall. All are welcome to join us; no experience necessary! We will continue to make chrusciki on August 1st.

PARENTING POINTERS

The 4th Sunday of July (July 24) is Parent's Day. Don't let it be just a Hallmark holiday. Take a moment this weekend to remember why you so wanted a child. Cherish each of your children in thought and words today.

In our Gospel reading from Luke, some disciples of Jesus ask our Lord to teach them how to pray. Jesus instantly offers them the beautiful prayer. The Our Father is truly a steward's prayer. In it, we call upon God in an intimate way, as Father. We ask that His will be done (not ours!) and that His kingdom come (not ours!). In other words, we remember that He is our Creator, everything is His, and our focus in life should be on His priorities, not our own. Then we ask Him to supply our needs (to give our daily bread), forgive our sins, and protect us from evil. That is, we proclaim our complete trust in His provision for us and mercy towards us. We, too, commit to extending mercy ourselves (as we forgive those who sin against us). As we pray the words of the Our Father, we recognize this basic truth about ourselves and God: God is our Father, and we are beloved and infinitely blessed to be His children. This is the basis of a stewardship way of life. At the end of the Gospel passage, Jesus encourages us to pursue a relationship with the Father: Ask Him, seek Him, knock on His door! He can hardly wait to bless us, His children. Remember that this week, then go, be a blessing to others! Stewardship is just that simple.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Mia Mangini, who earned Second Honors for the third term at Mercyhurst Preparatory High School. We are proud of your accomplishments!

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JULY 17TH, 2022

Regular Offering: \$1,978.00 (31/130)

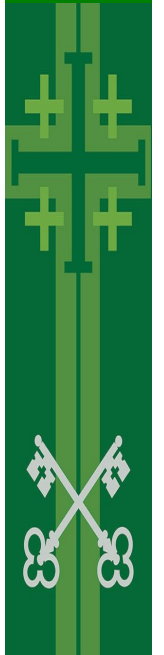
	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$12,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$7,200.00
Total Offertory:	\$1,978.00	\$6,361.00
Net (over/under):	(\$422.00)	(\$839.00)

Attendance: 5:15PM = 40; 10:30AM = 78

The Lord's Prayer

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

Matthew	amen	forever	glory
power	thine	evil	temptation
trespasses	forgive	bread	daily
earth	come	kingdom	hallowed
heaven	Father		



"Lord, teach us to pray..."

News for Our Partnership

GRAND RAFFLE 2022

Tickets for Zabawa's Grand Raffle are still available in Holy Trinity's Parish Office. The Grand Prize is \$3,000; Second is \$2,000; and Third is \$1,000. Get yours while they last! Also, if you have tickets to turn in, please do so soon.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Anyone willing to volunteer your time at Zabawa 2022, please call Holy Trinity's Parish Office with the days and times you would be available and someone will get in contact with you. Come and enjoy this glorious weekend!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our annual parish picnic will be held on Sunday, August 14th, in the Saint Stanislaus Rectory courtyard from 3PM-7:00PM. The communities of St. Stan's, Holy Trinity, and St. Hedwig's are warmly invited to attend. The parish will provide the proteins (chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs). As a *suggestion*, consider bringing a covered dish based on your family's last name:

A-G = salad (greens, macaroni, potato)

H-N = starch (potatoes, pasta, rice)

O-V = vegetable (casserole, beans, corn)

W-Z = dessert (cupcakes, cake, brownies)

These are just suggestions. If you have a favorite picnic dish you prefer to prepare, by all means! We had such a good time at our last "pre-Covid" picnic, and we look forward to this coming picnic!

33 DAYS UNTIL ZABAWA 2022

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Be aware that our parishes are completely out of votive candles. An order was placed well before Easter. Hoffman's, who is our supplier, tells us that there are "supply chain issues" and they are not sure when the candles will be delivered. Until further notice, we encourage you to save your votive candle envelopes until we are resupplied. We will keep you posted...

FRENCHTOWN HAM OR CHICKEN DINNER

The 126th Annual Frenchtown Ham or Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, July 31st at St. Hippolyte Church (25997 Highway 27, Guys Mills, PA - about 7 miles east of Meadville). Dinner is served from 12:30PM - 4:30PM (or until sold out). The cost of the dinner is \$14 for adults, \$13 for seniors, \$8 for children, and free for those under 5 years old. There will also be festival games, a bingo tent, gift auction, quilt/afghan raffle, 50/50 raffles, a country store, and a Grand Raffle for \$2,000.

PLEASE NOTE

Holy Trinity Masses will return to the church building on the weekend of **August 20th and 21st** so that we can begin preparations for Zabawa.

Dear Parishioners,

Many thanks for your expressed concern over the "episode" I've recently experienced while celebrating Mass. I've recently placed myself in the care of a physician. The prevailing thought, believe it or not, is "anxiety attack." It's origins may be in a negative experience I recently had while celebrating Mass at St. Stan's. During that Mass, I saw some unknown person in the back of the church whose behavior made me uncomfortable. When the adult-altar server came to wash my hands at the altar, I asked him to keep an eye on the suspicious individual. By time I turned back to the altar, my "fight or flight" instinct was on fire, but there was nothing I could do about it while celebrating Mass. In subsequent Masses, when I come to that specific part of the liturgy, something is triggered in my psyche which leads to an anxiety attack. My physician is currently treating me, temporarily, with anti-anxiety medication until, ultimately, I can "reset my brain" by disassociating that one-time negative experience from leading the Eucharistic Prayer. I say all of this to assure you that I am still in good physical health. Also, to ask for your patience if another "episode" manifests itself - I might be a little jittery, but I'll get through it. Finally, I want to express my thanks, again, for your concern and compassion. It is so reassuring to be with a community who personal interest in my wellbeing; to feel so cared for.

- Fr. Jason

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

7/25) Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman; 7/26) Patricia Straub & John Kleiner;
7/27) Sr. Maxine Kaminski & Regina Jaworski; 7/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, & Suzanne Sundy;
7/29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak & Janis Leretsis; 7/30) Edie Luniewski; 7/31) Sr. Anita Benecki & Bobby Sulecki

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

7/25) All Vocations; 7/26) Msgr. David Rubino; 7/27) Fr. Alex Amico; 7/28) Fr. John Jacquel; 7/29) Bishop Persico
7/30) Fr. Patrick McCormick; 7/31) Msgr. Bob Brugger

Sunday, Jul 24, 2022

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

"What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?"

This year the award goes to...

Are you a prize-winning parent? Do you know someone who deserves recognition for nurturing the future of society? Every fourth Sunday of July since 1994, our country has celebrated Parents' Day. Nationwide, parents are nominated for exemplary service and dedication to their families and to the broader local community. Celebrate the courage of parents and support the essential work they do.

Monday, Jul 25, 2022

2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28

"Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?"

You can't do it all

Sister Madeleva Wolff, C.S.C. was the author of more than 20 books and the third president of her alma mater, Saint Mary's College, in Notre Dame, Indiana, where she served for 26 years. She accomplished much—but like most of us, struggled with how much more there always was to do. She wrote, "Thinking of things to be done, hopes to be realized, persons to be helped, I say laughingly that I go to a multitude of funerals daily, burying so many deceased projects, so much of what I have had to let die and must bury without regret." Pray for the grace to surrender to God when you are overwhelmed with busyness.

Tuesday, Jul 26, 2022

MEMORIAL OF JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF MARY

Jeremiah 14:17-22; Matthew 13:36-43

"The field is the world, the good seed the children of the Kingdom."

A grand mission for grandparents

At a time when grandparents shoulder an ever-greater role in the nurturing of children, it's fortunate we have an international Catholic Grandparents Association, founded in 2009, to help fulfill a dual mission: "passing on the faith and keeping prayer at the heart of family life." The association hosts a podcast and encourages parishes to develop a thriving ministry for and by grandparents, recognizing their unique evangelizing presence. Remembering grandparents, pray today the official prayer of the

Wednesday, Jul 27, 2022

Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21; Matthew 13:44-46

"I will free you from the hand of the wicked, and rescue you from the grasp of the violent."

Take responsibility

Racial tension, economic unrest, and summer heat have fueled countless murderous altercations throughout America's short history. July 27, 1919 marks the start of one of the most violent and tragic race riots sparked by the stoning and drowning of a young black boy in Chicago who inadvertently swam into an area of Lake Michigan reserved for "whites only." By the end, 38 people were dead, 537 injured, and 1,000 families made homeless. These statistics are stacked upon decades before and after this date of the extreme violence that plagues our nation. In their 1994 statement, the U.S. Catholic Bishops conclude that "our society needs both more personal responsibility and broader social responsibility to overcome the plague of violence in our land and the lack of peace in our hearts."

Thursday, Jul 28, 2022

Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matthew 13:47-53

"Indeed...you in my hand, house of Israel."

Divine by any name

An accomplished Catholic writer used to joke that "God" was the worst nickname ever: The term had acquired way too much baggage for him. Fortunately, the church has dozens of terms and metaphors for God, including the vivid image of God as potter. The reality of God is beyond any one term or comparison, so it is fortunate that the Christian tradition gives us so many. Light, Rock, Creator, Wisdom, Savior, Shepherd, Fortress, Vine, Shield, and on and on. What terms help bring God alive for you?

Friday, Jul 29, 2022

MEMORIAL OF MARTHA, MARY, AND LAZARUS

Jeremiah 26:1-9; John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42

"Jesus entered a village where... Martha welcomed him."

What friends are for

It's not easy to picture God as one of our friends. We can't just call God up to meet us for a cup of coffee. But friendship has many characteristics that help us better understand our own relationship with God. "Friendship," writes Pope Francis, "is no fleeting or temporary relationship, but one that is stable, firm and faithful, and matures with the passage of time. A relationship of affection that brings us together and a generous love that makes us seek the good of our friend" (Christus vivit §152). For further reflection, look to Jesus himself and his friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

Saturday, Jul 30, 2022

MEMORIAL OF PETER CHRYSOLOGUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24; Matthew 14:1-12

"For in truth it was the LORD who sent me to you, to speak all these things for you to hear."

Golden moments

Peter Chrysologus (c.380–c.450) is the hands-down champion homilist of our tradition. Known as the "doctor of homilies," his name literally means "golden-tongued." Have you been moved by a great homily? Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium, 135) said that "The homily can actually be an intense and happy experience of the Spirit, a consoling encounter with God's word, a constant source of renewal and growth." Great homilies can be life changing, bringing about a deep conversion. May you encounter a great homily and be touched by the golden word of God.

Holy St. Martha, eager and willing to serve, be with me as I too seek to do that which pleases our Lord. Help me to balance my activity and work with a prayerful and listening heart. May I, like you, rush to meet Jesus whenever I hear him approach me in the sick, the poor and the downcast. Inspire my charity and service to be fruitful and humble. May I see Jesus in the faces of all those I am called to serve, and realize that whatever I do for one of them, I am doing for Christ himself. Through a life of generous service, may I too say to Jesus: "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God..." (*John 11:27*)

-Pedro de la Cruz