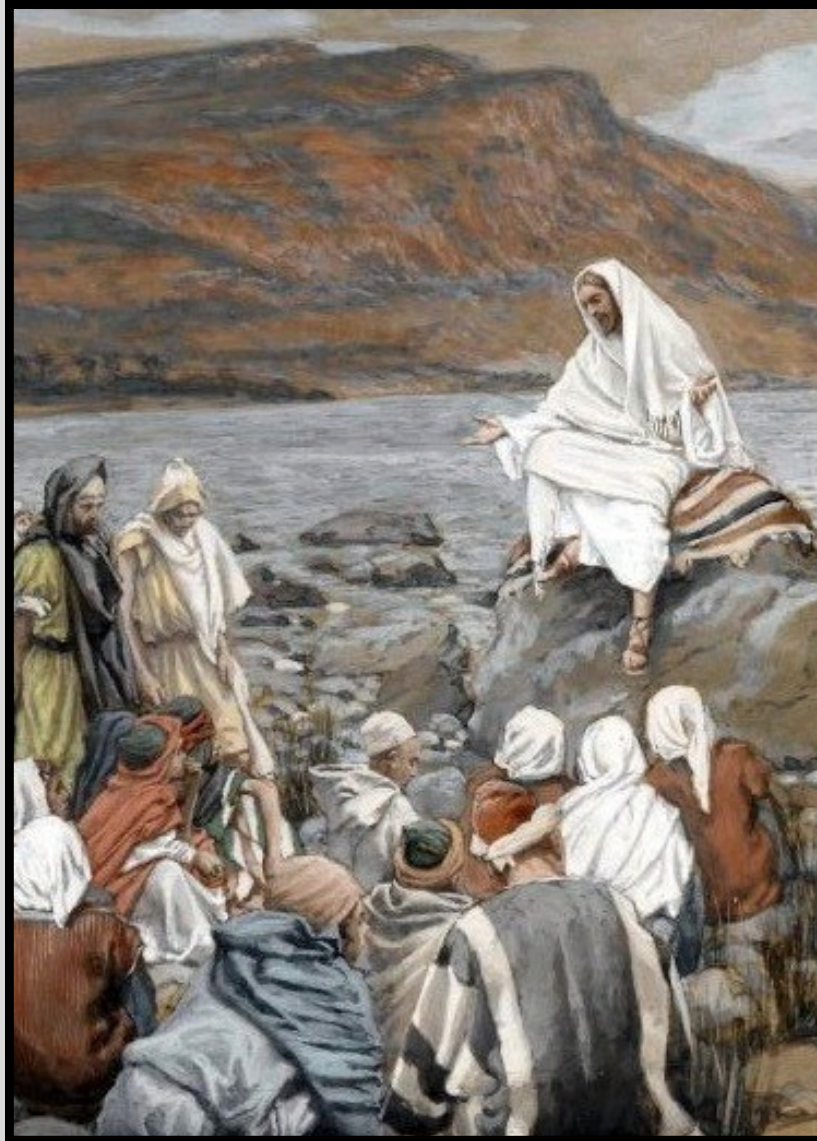


SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 18, 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

Temporary 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

Temporary 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 18, 2021

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

There's an ordinary pine grove located on a tree farm not too far from town where life's stresses and demands seem to melt away. It is here that all that seemed so important out there no longer is and one can get lost in the rows of trees and majestic beauty. God is here and all is good. We need to connect with the Divine Source of all that is in order to understand what it is we are doing and why we are doing it. Otherwise, things stop making sense and bitterness can overcome one's spirit. It's okay to play once in a while and to discover that place of profound life and peace. People always have needs and there is constantly something to do. And while all of that is necessary and we are needed, there is also that inner solitude within that needs to be celebrated and released.

We all need a pine grove. It's that little place we can go and leave all that consumes us behind. It's a place where technology can be set aside and wonder, and awe given some time. We don't have to text, calculate, or orchestrate anything in the pine grove. It is a somewhat deserted place where all of that can be set aside and we can just be. The anger, frustration, exhaustion, discouragement, helplessness, and occasional apathy, all can fall to the ground like all of those pine needles that once held their place on the branch of a Frasier Fir. The needles can let go. We can let go. We are beings connected with Being and we all need to remember what really matters, who really matters and what life is truly all about. We need to find that place where we can rest and let go of all of the barnacles we accumulate. Rest, breathe, seek, and love.

The world will need us again when we leave the pine grove. It will all be waiting for us, beckoning for our attention. But we will have prayed and will have marveled at the silence and the beauty of goodness. We can go back, ready, and eager to listen, to help, to heal, to cry, to embrace, and attend to all that is asked of us. But, having let go of the distractions in that deserted place we will have a renewed sense of purpose. We will know better Who it is we serve and what we are meant to do. It will all be clearer now that we have been Divinely touched and refreshed.

Readings for the week of July 18, 2021

Sunday: Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34 [16th Sunday]
 Monday: Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1-6/Mt 12:38-42
 Tuesday: Ex 14:21-15:1/Ex 15:8-12, 17/Mt 12:46-50 [St. Apollinaris]
 Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-28/Mt 13:1-9 [St. Lawrence of Brindisi]
 Thursday: 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18 [St. Mary Magdalene]
 Friday: Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 13:18-23 [St. Bridget]
 Saturday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1-6, 14-15/Mt 13:24-30 [St. Sharbel Makhluf]
 Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-18/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15

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.

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 19th- Private Intention
 Tues., July 20th - Linda Love (Paul & Renee Gambill)
 Wed., July 21st - Jean Wiertel (Anne Post)
 Thurs., July 22nd - Mitch Oblinski (Elaine Tomczak & Family)
 Fri., July 23rd - Robert Sisco (William & Maria Kuhn)
 Sat., July 24th, 4:00PM - Ed Przepierski (Marie)
 Sun., July 25th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



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

IN MEMORIAM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for **ROBIN "MAGGIE" McNAUGHTON** on July 6th. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."

GARAGE SALE SUCCESS

Last weekend's garage sale was an incredible success! Our parish profited an amazing **\$3,418.54!** We never imagined raising that amount of money. Many thanks for your donations and for the generous time given by our volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you!

ERIE GIVES 2021

The 2021 Erie Gives Day is slated for August 10th. The Holy Name Society, on behalf of our parish, has registered Saint Stanislaus as a recipient of charitable donations.

Any donations received will be matched on a pro-rated basis. Online giving extends from 8AM-8PM on August 10th and can be made at <https://www.eriegives.org/organizations/st-stanislaus>. The minimum donation is \$25, along with a nominal credit card fee. Donations to Saint Stanislaus can also be mailed to Erie Community Foundation (459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507), but they must be accompanied by a "Check Donation Form," which can be found at www.eriegives/about. Checks will be accepted August 9th and 10th.

Recently, the Holy Name Society was undertaken several projects around our campus: cementing our parking lot entrance, upgrading our security system, re-stringing our flag pole, and more. Any support for their ongoing efforts would be greatly appreciated. Consider donating on August 10th!

THE STEWARD'S WORK IS NEVER DONE

Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock! When you hear these strong words from the Old Testament, you're probably thinking, thank goodness I don't have any sheep — dodged that bullet. Nobody misled here! No flock scattered on my watch! However, we are all shepherds of a kind, called to tend our own sheep: our families, our parishes, our communities.

But it's exhausting. Don't we all sometimes just want to take a break from being a steward? The excuses are so familiar: we're tired, we've done enough, we've given all we can, what more does the parish (or my spouse, or my kids, or my boss, or my friends, or my community) want? We give ourselves permission to be selfish. So, what if the flock scatters just a little?

Jesus gets that. We can just imagine him weary with exhaustion, can't we? We see him on his boat, attempting to sneak away for a quick break — maybe just a chance to eat a bite of food in peace. He is God, but he was still human, after all. Even the most dedicated shepherds need to sleep. But people couldn't leave him alone. They were hungry for him. They needed what he could offer, and they needed it now.

As tough as it is, that's the example we are tasked with imitating. Everyday Stewardship demands accountability. It demands our showing up even when we are tired. It demands that we look at our lives, our time, our energies, our talents, our hearts, our bank accounts and think: where do I still have more to give?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

SUMMER VIBES

WEEKLY OFFERING (JULY 11, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$8,312.00
Amount Received	\$4,712.00	\$7072.00
Net over/under	\$566.00	(\$1,240.00)

Mass Attendance:
 4:00PM = 52; 9:00AM = 71
 Envelopes: 85/168



SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

Baked Goods are needed for the SSJ Soup Kitchen for Monday, July 19th. They are asking for individually wrapped treats like "Hostess Twinkies" or "Little Debbie's" snack cakes. All donated goods can be dropped off at the church vestibule Sunday, July 18th, between 9:00AM-Noon, or brought to the Nazareth Center on Monday, July 19th, between 2:00-3:00PM.

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in for **EDWARD MAJEWSKI** as gifted by Jack & Sandy Kempisty.

**39 Days until
ZABAWA 2021**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., July 19th - Chester Matusiak (Deacon Tom)
 Tues., July 20th - Maria Jarema Ostapa (Family)
 Wed., July 21st - For All Mothers & Fathers, Living and Deceased
 Thurs., July 22nd - Pat Howard (Ed Czulewicz Family)
 Fri., July 23rd - Kathleen Suizzo (Ed, Patty, & Anna)
 Sat., July 24th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
 Sun., July 25th, 10:30AM - Raymond Dyakon, Jr. (Bill & Corinne Dyakon)

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Nina Mangini who earned the "First Honors," and Mia Mangini earned "Second Honors," both from Mercyhurst Prep. Also, Nora Sebastian earned "First Honors" from Villa Maria Academy. Know that we are proud of your classroom accomplishments!

IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, July 8, for Lillian Maciulewicz. Please keep Lillian and her family and loved ones in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7/23 - Melissa Mangini
 7/25 - Gary Kaminski, Jim Kern, & Stanley Kniewski



GOLABKI MAKING SESSIONS!

Wednesday, August 4th, noon-9pm
 Thursday, August 5th, 9am-9pm
 Friday, August 6th, 9am-9pm
 No experience necessary.
 Any help is appreciated!

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.

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU!"

... to Jack Kempisty, who spent considerable time removing the tattered carpeting on the stairwell leading up to the choir loft, thus exposing a beautiful hardwood flooring. In the interest of the safety of our choir members, he also installed rubber anti-slip "pads" on the individual stairs. Thank you so much, Jack! It looks great!

CHRUSCIKI MAKING!

Monday, July 19th & July 26th

If you would like to help our bakers,
 please come to the Social Hall. Doors open at 5:00PM.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JULY 12, 2021

Regular Offering: \$2,389.00 (33/134)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$4,730.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,389.00	\$5,286.00
Net (over/under):	\$24.00	\$556.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 34; 10:30AM = 47

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Mark 6:8 (NIV)
 Based on Mark 6:6-13 (NIV)



Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two. Mark 6:7 (NIV)

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

AUTHORITY	TWELVE	TAKE	REPENT	SANDALS
SPIRITS	JESUS	TUNIC	MONEY	BAG
EVIL	VILLAGE	JOURNEY	BREAD	HEALED
TEACHING	STAFF	SENT	PREACH	NOTHING



"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile

- Mark 6:31

News for Our Partnership

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Couples celebrating their 25th, 50th or 60th or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration Liturgies on Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception in Clarion and Sunday, August 8, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Jude in Erie. Both liturgies will begin at 2:00 p.m. To register for either event or to receive a scroll by mail, please visit <https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or contact your parish office or the Family Life Office at (814) 824-1261.

ANGELS

Question:

I've heard that we become angels when we die. Is this what the Church teaches?

Answer:

As human beings, we are both spiritual and corporeal. We are body and soul. This makes us unique in all creation. No other physical creature — plant or animal — possesses an immortal soul made in God's image and likeness. Like the distinction with plants and animals, angels have an entirely different sort of existence. Angels are pure immortal spirit, and they have been so since the moment of their creation. While they may take on an appearance of a body in Biblical history, they are not a body like we are. Angels are neither male nor female, despite the art we often see.

As the result of the Fall, human beings experience death. Our souls are temporarily separated from our bodies. However, we do not become something other than human. Every Sunday in the Creed we profess "I believe in the resurrection of the body." As Jesus was united with his body on the third day, so too will we be united with our bodies at the end of time.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

The Diocese of Erie is seeking a dedicated, organized and enthusiastic individual to become the administrative assistant for the Office of the Religious, St. Mark Seminary and the Vocation Office at St. Mark Catholic Center. This is a full-time position that is split between the three departments. For details and the application process, go to <https://www.eriecd.org/employment.html>.

Today's readings remind us of how our God is compassionate and passionately loves us. "Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the Lord." Our First Reading from the prophet Jeremiah addresses false prophets who had misled God's people away from the Lord. The Lord declares that He will restore His people by bringing back those who have gone astray and providing for them new shepherds so that they will "no longer fear and tremble." Oftentimes, we are like the people who are blind to His goodness and enticed by sin. God is the one who constantly pursues us and gives us opportunities to say "yes" to Him. He wants to win us back, and ultimately, He will make us happy. So, we must ask ourselves, who or what is blinding us or leading us away from our ultimate happiness? Stop for a moment and name that thing — money, status, a person, career, laziness, addiction, self-image, health, etc. — that could be leading you away from a full and happy relationship with God. As Christian disciples, deep down we really know that our true happiness is God. So, what are we waiting for? Take the leap of faith and allow yourself to radically love God in return. As we begin this new week, let us name the things in our lives that are robbing us of our ultimate happiness, work to let go of them and let us strive to make Jesus our true shepherd by seeking Him in our daily lives.



ZABAWA KICK OFF BINGO!!

Sunday, August 15th

Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3rd St.

1:00pm, Doors Open at Noon

All CASH PRIZES!!!

*Instants

*50/50 Game

*\$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each add'l pk.

*Pierogi, Polish Sausage along with other kitchen food available.

*Door Prizes & Giveaways

*Basket Raffle

*Zabawa food/beverage tickets available for purchase, beat the crowd!!

CALL 814-456-5300 TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity PCEP program.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

7/19) Bill Dyakon & Fr. Jason Glover; 7/20) Ed Korytowski; 7/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik;

7/22) Kathy Wisniewski; 7/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman;

7/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski & Diane Valahovic; 7/25) Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

7/19) Msgr. Robert Smith; 7/20) Bishop Persico; 7/21) Msgr. Joe Wardanski; 7/22) Fr. Mark Hoffman;

7/23) Msgr. Dan Magraw; 7/24) Fr. Bill Sutherland; 7/25) Fr. Johnathan Schmolt

Sunday, Jul 18, 2021

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Help others find their way

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:13-18; Mark 6:30-34

"... His heart was moved with pity for them."

What makes you sad? For Jesus, the ignorance that governs so many lives is the saddest sight there is. Even when he was personally exhausted, shepherd-less masses awakened in Jesus the desire to offer guidance. Today, our Jewish friends memorialize their saddest day, Tisha B'av, the day when the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed not just once, but twice in history. The despair of being without moorings is acute for any displaced people. Consider offering aid to today's refugees to help them find their way.

Monday, Jul 19, 2021

Read deeply

Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42

"Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you."

Sacred scripture is the living word of God, and the ancient monastic practice of lectio divina (Latin for "divine reading") is a contemplative way of "conversing" with it. It involves four basic steps: lectio ("reading"), meditatio ("meditation"), oratio ("prayer"), and contemplatio ("contemplation"). By narrowing in on certain passages, reading them slowly and repeatedly, noticing what stirs you, and reflecting prayerfully on it, you can grow closer in personal relationship with God. To learn more about lectio divina, read *Open Heart, Open Mind* by Trappist monk Father Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O.

Tuesday, Jul 20, 2021

Special needs evoke special support

Exodus 14:21—15:1; Matthew 12:46-50

"Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."

On this day in 1968, the first Special Olympics took place in Chicago. The brainchild of Eunice Kennedy Shriver—devout Catholic, sister of President John F. Kennedy, and tireless advocate for people with intellectual disabilities. Shriver's husband, Sargent Shriver—as a Knight of Columbus—encouraged the Knights to support the cause, not only of Special Olympics but of what's become the Knights' annual Tootsie Roll Drive to raise funds for people with intellectual disabilities. Visit the National Catholic Partnership on Disability to become a better advocate for people with disabilities and their families.

Wednesday, Jul 21, 2021

Choose wisely and well

Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15; Matthew 13:1-9

"But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit."

Good preachers know that if they tell a story as part of a sermon, their people are more likely to remember the message. Such preachers take their lead from the master storyteller. Jesus used stories, often parables with a lesson, to help listeners then and now understand what really matters in his Father's kingdom. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "the simple images of the parables . . . confront the hearer with a radical choice (about) entering the kingdom of God." Do not get lost in the details, but rather see the choice the stories provide. Will you be the seed that grows in good earth? Or will you die among the thorns? Choose love and bear much fruit.

Thursday, Jul 22, 2021

FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE

Grace under pressure

Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; John 20:1-2, 11-18

"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord.'"

Mary Magdalene is often referred to as "Apostle to the Apostles." The gospels attest to the fact that she did not abandon Christ on the cross, and in several gospel accounts she is the first witness to the Resurrection, bringing the news to the other apostles. Despite her loyalty and stature, ironically she is not mentioned in the Holy Week liturgies. However, the church in 2016 set a feast day in her honor. On that feast today, reflect on your own loyalty to Christ: Can you be unwavering even under pressure, as was Mary Magdalene?

Friday, Jul 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF BRIDGET, RELIGIOUS

Love, embodied

Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 13:18-23

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit."

It's great to have a deep connection with another person no matter what kind of relationship it may be. Birgitta Petersson (later known as Saint Bridget of Sweden) found this in Ulf Gudmarsson, whom she married while both were very young. Early on in their relationship they were focused on raising a family of eight with each maintaining a job outside the home. Their relationship and love grew over time with each other and with God. A major bonding experience came when together they made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, a popular religious destination in northwestern Spain. Years later when Ulf died, Birgitta reportedly said that she had "loved him like my own body." Take time to strengthen the bonds of your own loving relationships.

Saturday, Jul 24, 2021

MEMORIAL OF SHARBEL MAKHLUF, PRIEST

A quiet mystic speaks to our age

Exodus 24:3-8; Matthew 13:24-30

"If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest."

Saint Sharbel Makhluf (1828-98) was a Maronite monk and priest in Lebanon, renowned for his quiet holiness. On the occasion of his beatification in 1965, the Eastern Catholic hermit was described by Saint Pope Paul VI as "a new, eminent member of monastic sanctity," who "through his example and his intercession is enriching the entire Christian people." In the midst of busy, noisy life, make some time to hear the still, quiet voice. Recite the Jesus Prayer revered by the Eastern Church for centuries, now gaining adherents in the West, including Saint Pope John Paul II, who compared the meditative quality of the Jesus Prayer to the Rosary: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

