

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 12, 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**

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



March 12, 2023
3rd Sunday of Lent

When I became the pastor of a large parish, I soon found myself, for the first time in my life, riddled with anxiety, headaches, difficulty making decisions, and fatigue. I called a therapist friend and told her my symptoms and asked if she thought I needed a serious medical exam. She said, "How much water do you drink?" I told her, "I haven't had time to drink water lately." She responded, "You're chronically dehydrated. Drink eighty-five ounces a day and call me in a week." I started guzzling water and in a week all my symptoms went away. I felt great.

Like me, the people in the Exodus wanderings were dehydrated. But unlike me, they knew it. Their symptoms were bad. They fight with each other. They accuse God of being a monster who wants them and their children to die of thirst. Their thirst drives them to plot the bloody assassination of the man who rescued them. God responds by using Moses to strike a rock from which rivers of living waters flow to quench their thirst for years to come.

The Holy Spirit is the living water of love which flows from the pierced side of Jesus, the new Moses. What symptoms in your life suggest you're spiritually dehydrated? Anger at God? Cynicism at your leaders? Bitter rivalry and bickering with others? Don't panic. Of course we have those symptoms. Ask God to provide his water to quench your spiritual thirst, and he will. And all those symptoms will soon disappear.

— Father John Muir



Readings for the week of March 12, 2023

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-14, 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41

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., Mar. 13th - Private Intention
 Tues., Mar. 14th - Linda (Gambill) Love (Paul & Renee Gambill)
 Wed., Mar. 15th - Mary Ann Zamieroski (Richard & Pat Mielnik)
 Thurs., Mar. 16th - William "Bill" Post (Martin & Catherine Jaskiewicz)
 Fri., Mar. 17th - Ray Przybyszewski (David & Jane Thiemann)
 Sat., Mar. 18th, 4:00PM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)
 Sun., Mar. 19th, 9:00AM - Stanley Baginski (Diane & Rich Valahovic)



Our sanctuary candle burns in honor of **the East-side Parishes**, as gifted by Helen Zimmerman.



Happy Birthday! It may or may not be your birthday now, but I know it will be coming up at some point. I hope you receive many cool presents and get to spend quality time with friends and family. On special days like birthdays, Christmas, and anniversaries, it is good to celebrate. After all, we need some fun and celebration in our lives.

But what about the day after? Presents remain, but the presence of others may be over, and it is back to the daily grind. Yesterday, you were filled with gratitude. You hold the memory of yesterday still close so that fuels you for the day. However, how about 2, 3, or 4 days from then? The truth is that many joys in this life cannot stay with us forever. They belong to a certain place in time. We will have our memories, yet those thoughts will never be a suitable substitute for the real thing.

There is one joy that remains throughout all our days: the joy we find in Jesus. What he gives us does not fade. The amazing thing about what he offers us is that it also provides a lens through which we see all things. Now we can see the smallest reasons to be grateful. We no longer have a life where we go from one celebration to another with the ordinary in between. All life and time are extraordinary! All gifts, great and small, are precious. This offering seems too good to be true, so what's the catch? Like all gifts given to us, for the gift to have meaning, we must be willing to receive it. The choice is yours. You can live in the ordinary, or you can revel in the extraordinary, now and forever.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

The Women's Society will meet **today (March 12th) at 1:00PM**. We will gather in the Social Hall.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR MARCH 5TH

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$149,616.00
Amount Received	\$2,607.00	\$87,613.00
Net over/under	(\$1,549.00)	(\$62,003.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 49; 9:00AM = 59
 Envelopes: 66/168



APRIL LOTTERY

The Holy Name Society has raffle tickets available for the April lottery. Tickets are only \$5 each and gives the buyer 30 chances to win during the month of April, one chance each day of the month. Tickets are available in the back of the church, from any Holy Name member, in the sacristy, or in the Parish Office.

LENTEN WALK

Dave Piotrowicz is walking 20 laps a day, 5 days a week, over the course of the Lenten season. Dave walks at the East-side YMCA, beginning at 9:00AM; all are welcome to join him!

Dave is seeking sponsorship for this endeavor, either as a one-time gift or a "per lap" donation. Proceeds will be split evenly between The Mercy Center for Women, Brookside Fire Department, and Saint Stanislaus Church. You can call Dave with your sponsorship (814-528-4971) or stop by the East-side YMCA. Cash or check are acceptable. Thank you for your support!

SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

The next time we will be collecting donated goods for the SSJ Soup Kitchen (individually wrapped items like Little Debbie's and Hostess) will be on the weekend of **MARCH 19TH**. They can also be brought to the Nazareth Center between 2:00-3:00PM on Monday, March 20th.

SPRING FLING 2023

Mark your calendars: the Holy Name Society will be hosting their traditional Spring Fling on Saturday, April 15th, beginning at 4:00PM. More information to follow...

PARENTING POINTERS

In Jesus' day Jews and Samaritans were not friends but Jesus strikes up a conversation with a Samaritan woman (John 4:5-42). Sometimes it helps to reach out beyond our friends. As a family, seek out someone you might not normally encounter – perhaps someone of a different race or economic status than yourselves. Say "Hi." If possible, strike up a conversation.

LENT 2023

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week for the intention of **SANDY KEMPISTY'S** recovery, as gifted by Bonnie.



3/13) Ed Korytowski,
Kerry Sebastian, &
Ron Slupski
3/18) Michael Brieger
3/20) Dave Thiemann

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Mar. 13th - The Souls in Purgatory
Tues., Mar. 14th - For the Health of Sandy Kempisty (Bonnie)
Wed., Mar. 15th - Deceased Mothers
Thurs., Mar. 16th - Stanley Kniewski (Family)
Fri., Mar. 17th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
Sat., Mar. 18th, 5:15PM - Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki (Pearl & Kathy)
Sun., Mar. 19th, 10:30AM - Living & Deceased Members of the Ushers'

A JOB WELL DONE!

A special word of congratulations to **Christopher Beres** and **Lilliana Moore** who earned First Honors during the second academic quarter at Cathedral Prep. Congratulation as also in order for **Tyler Chermack** and **Roman Luniewski** who earned Second Honors during the second quarter, also at Cathedral Prep. All four students are in our PCEP program. We are proud of your accomplishment!

COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Our annual Communion Breakfast, sponsored by the Ushers' Society, will be held on Sunday, March 19th, following the 10:30AM Mass. We will feature our guest speaker, Dr. Eric Dart, Ph.D., the Chair of the Department of Theology at Gannon University. A buffet-style breakfast will be served.

MARRIAGE MOMENT

You may already turn a "blind eye" to some of your beloved's faults and annoying habits. Good. That's progress. Are there any bad habits of your own that need some corrective attention?

Today's readings on this third Sunday of Lent present us with the theme of "thirst" and show us that a stewardship way of life can both satisfy our spiritual thirst for Christ and help us to satisfy Christ's thirst for souls. Our first reading, from the book of Exodus, begins with the words, "In their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses." What little faith and lack of trust they show after all God has done to free them from slavery. But Moses cried out to God for help, and sure enough, God provided generously to satisfy their thirst. He continues to provide generously for us these many centuries later. Our Gospel passage from John recounts the life-changing encounter Christ has with the Samaritan woman at the well beginning with His words to her, "Give me a drink." Then, He adds, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him and he would have given you living water." Christ is speaking the very same words to us today. These two verses encapsulate the call to stewardship. Christ asks us to "give him a drink" by sharing what we have with Him and with others for His sake. Yet, it is Christ Himself who provides the water — the living water that is His grace. God has chosen to include us in His plan for bringing all people to salvation through Him. We live out our part in His plan through a stewardship way of life. This Lent, let us resolve to respond to His call with passion and commitment. Let us do our part to quench His thirst.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR MARCH 5, 2023

Regular Offering: \$2,529.00 (33/130)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$133,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$79,200.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,529.00	\$79,956.00
Net (over/under):	\$129.00	\$756.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 48; 10:30AM = 64

```

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

PROPHET LIVING THIRSTY	WELL WATER LIFE	GIFT ETERNAL SPRING	DRINK JESUS SAMARITAN	MESSIAH WOMAN HUSBAND
------------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------

"... we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

- John 5:42

News for Our Partnership

Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity Partnered Parishes

LENTEN DINNERS



4:00 - 7:00 PM (or until sold out)
* GOOD FRIDAY: TAKE OUT ONLY

- **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd at HOLY TRINITY**
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 10th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 17th at HOLY TRINITY**
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 24th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- ***GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7th at HOLY TRINITY**

Saint Stanislaus 513 East 13th Street Fish, Pierogi, Fries, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Mac-n-Cheese \$15.00 for adults \$6.00 for children 6-12 Free for children under 5	Holy Trinity 2220 Reed Street Baked Fish, Pierogi, & Potato Pancakes \$18.00 Platter \$15.00 Dinner \$6.00 for children 6-12 Free for children under 5
--	--



ST. STANISLAUS PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Saint Stanislaus Prayer Shawl Ministry will have a blessing of their crocheted blankets at the end of all Masses, at both St. Stanislaus and Holy Trinity, the **weekend of March 26th**. If you know someone who would benefit from one of these blankets, please encourage them to join us for Mass. If they are unable to join us, offer to bring a shawl to them.

RETURN OF SOUP & BREADS DINNER

For the first time since the pandemic, we are resuming our practice of hosting a "Soup & Breads" gatherings. The evening will begin at 5:30PM with Stations of the Cross with dinner to follow. A brief presentation on the various aspects of the Liturgy will be offered by Fr. Jason. Gatherings will take place on the following days (those in green will take place at Holy Trinity; those in red will take place at St. Stanislaus):

- Wednesday, March 15th**
- Wednesday, March 22nd**
- Wednesday, March 29th**

LENT 2023



Saint Patrick, the "apostle to Ireland," is one of the world's most famous and celebrated saints. His missionary zeal arguably matched that of Saint Paul, whose missionary activities, though oftentimes a severe struggle, remained in the territories governed by Roman law. Saint Patrick, however, was the first recorded Christian missionary to evangelize beyond the bounds of Roman rule and into the darkness of what was then considered the end of the earth. "Patricius" was born in Roman Britain around 385. His father was a public official and church deacon. He was kidnapped by Irish slave traders while in his mid-teens and forced into slavery; herding sheep on remote Irish hillsides under harsh conditions. Spending most of his time in solitude, he grew to trust in God and embrace a life of prayer. After six years, he made a dangerous and harrowing escape over land and sea that finally resulted in a return to his parents. They found him, at age 22, a serious visionary who sought holiness and friendship with Christ. Patrick entered the priesthood, and in time, was sent to evangelize the Irish. He was appointed the bishop of Ireland in 435. The Irish were known to be wild, unrestrained and corrupt. But Patrick's success in making converts to Christianity was nothing less than astonishing, even to him. He traveled to most parts of Ireland, winning the hearts of the Celtic people by his deep faith, humility, simplicity and pastoral care. He took great measures to incorporate pagan rituals into his teachings on Christianity. Patrick's profound witness to the Gospel eventually brought an end to human sacrifices, trafficking of women, and slavery in general. He is the first person in recorded history to publicly oppose slavery; a protest that would not be taken up again for another millennium. He is thought to have died on March 17, 461, the date which became his feast day. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Erie.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

3/13) Mary Brocius & Shirley Widomski; 2/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krainski; 3/15) Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark; /16) Corinne Dyakon, Mary Jo Sulecki, Kay Stankiewicz, & Richard Valahovic; 3/17) Ed Korytowski & Barbara Tuszyński; 3/18) Pearl Wisniewski; 3/19) Bill Dyakon, Rob Lintleman, & Fr. Jason Glover; 3/20) Ed Korytowski

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

[The Diocesan website's "Pray for Priests" calendar has not been updated since February. Take this week to pray for all vocations]

Sunday, Mar 12, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

"...those who worship God must worship in Spirit and truth."

Truth be told

Pontius Pilate famously asked Jesus, "What is truth?" Pilate didn't stick around for the answer, but if he had, he might have heard something like the definition the Catechism of the Catholic Church provides: "Truth as uprightness in human action and speech is called truthfulness, sincerity, or candor. Truth or truthfulness is the virtue which consists in showing oneself true in deeds and truthful in words, and in guarding against duplicity, dissimulation, and hypocrisy." Now we have a sense of what it means to imitate Christ in all things.

Monday, Mar 13, 2023

2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30

"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."

On the frontiers of servanthood

When you think of the legendary figures of the Wild West, Billy the Kid, Buffalo Bill, Annie Oakley, come to mind. But how about Sister Blandina Segale? Born in 1850, this Italian-American Sister of Charity of Cincinnati traveled alone through the American frontier to serve the poor and sick (including saving the life of a seriously wounded Billy the Kid), to advocate for Native American civil rights, and to fight against lynching. This Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14) count Segale among the heroic sisters who have your gratitude for spreading the faith.

Tuesday, Mar 14, 2023

Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35

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

No room for hate

Fannie Lou Hamer died this day in 1977. But she nearly died in 1963, in a Mississippi jail cell—so badly beaten, as a civil rights advocate, that her cell mate didn't think she'd survive the night. In fact Hamer lived to testify, on television, before the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Follow Hamer's lead in fostering forgiveness: "I feel sorry for anybody that could let hate wrap them up. Ain't no such thing as I can hate anybody and hope to see God's face."

Wednesday, Mar 15, 2023

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19

"You have the words of everlasting life."

Printing the truth is worth the struggle

On this week in 1827, Freedom's Journal began publication as the first African-American newspaper in history. Founded by Protestant minister John Wilk and leading free black men in New York City, the paper would set off a revolution in U.S. media, resulting in similar papers being established nationwide, forming the black press. Daniel Rudd founded the first black Catholic newspaper in 1885, and the explosion in African-American conversions to Catholicism in the 20th century can be attributed in large part to these newspapers advertising better conditions in the northern United States (where Catholic parishes and schools happened to be plentiful). The black press continues today in many American cities and represents one of the nation's original justice-focused professional institutions. Consider supporting a local—or national—black news outlet today.

Thursday, Mar 16, 2023

Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23

"But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you."

Let God carry it

The comedy-drama *The Banshees of Inisherin* features a man gloomy about his eventual death going to Confession over a period of weeks. Each time, the priest asks, "And how is the despair?" implying despair itself might be seen as a sin—rather tough but also tender in the way the priest wants to understand the whole man. The church upholds hope as a virtue and warns against despair because it can leave no room for God's grace. That said, our faith leaders have long shown compassion for the complexities of depression in its many forms. Whatever your emotional state, consider turning today's burdens over to God.

Friday, Mar 17, 2023

MEMORIAL OF PATRICK, BISHOP

Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34

"Straight are the paths of the LORD, in them the just walk."

As luck would have it

The Lord expects great things from us: namely, to love God with our whole heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Are humans really capable of such love? Irish writer Oscar Wilde had his doubts: "I sometimes think that God in creating man somewhat overestimated his ability." We human beings do tend to make a mess of things when left to our own devices, but luckily for us, we have a loving God who sent Jesus to show us the way to love, and the Holy Spirit to keep us on the path of love. In honor of Saint Patrick, remember to draw on the Trinity as you continually recalibrate your trajectory toward love.

Saturday, Mar 18, 2023

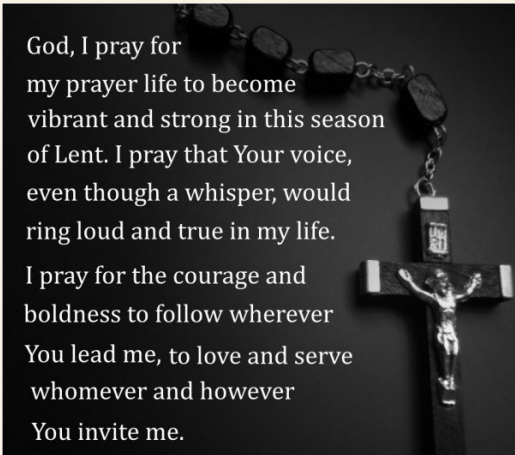
MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14

"O God, be merciful to me a sinner."

The fragrance of forgiveness

Cyril, a fourth-century bishop of Jerusalem and a doctor of the church, was instrumental in forming the church's doctrinal understanding of the Holy Spirit. He wrote, "The Spirit comes gently and makes himself known by his fragrance. He is not felt as a burden for God is light . . . The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen and to console." The formula for absolution in the sacrament of Reconciliation identifies the Holy Spirit as sent "for the forgiveness of sins." Celebrate the sacrament at your church this afternoon.



God, I pray for
my prayer life to become
vibrant and strong in this season
of Lent. I pray that Your voice,
even though a whisper, would
ring loud and true in my life.

I pray for the courage and
boldness to follow wherever
You lead me, to love and serve
whomever and however
You invite me.