

# SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 19 JANUARY 2020



“Behold, the Lamb of God,” by Domenico Zampieri (1581-1641)

### *Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church*

516 East 13th Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.452.6606  
[www.ststanserie.org](http://www.ststanserie.org)  
email: [ststaner@outlook.com](mailto: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: Monday - Friday at 8:00AM  
Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy: Saturday at 4:00PM  
Sunday at 9:30AM

Holy Days of Obligation: 8:00AM

### *Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671  
[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
email: [parishoffice@holytrinity.org](mailto:parishoffice@holytrinity.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  
Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy: Saturday at 5:00PM;  
Sunday at 10:00AM

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil at 5:30PM



# Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

## Partners in Faith & Mission



### 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 19, 2020

On the cusp of fame, power, or influence, would you turn it down? Today's Gospel again features John the Baptist. Controversial but popular, John has gathered quite a group of followers. He has disciples. People come from near and far to be baptized by him. Pharisees and government leaders are drawn to his preaching. If John was another man, a lesser man, he would have claimed his own greatness. Instead, John the Baptist is a witness to humility.

"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God ... he is the one of whom I said, "A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me." ... the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known.'" Rather than point to himself, John points to Christ. John could have grasped at what he had accumulated. He could have seen Jesus as a Messianic competitor. Instead, John knows who he is. He knows his place as forerunner. Because John knows who Jesus is. "I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

A life of humility, a life for others, can be challenging to live. So much of our culture is built around achievement and individualism. We can justify it, too, in pursuit of "greater goods" and higher ideals. In the process, however, we might miss our own participation in the kingdom of God. John, for all of his humility, was not an afterthought. In another Gospel passage, Jesus calls him "the greatest prophet," even the greatest of men. Why? Because he fulfills the mission given to him by God: to announce the coming of the Messiah. We too are prophets and forerunners. Our witness to the Gospel is meant to point people to Jesus. Consider your own mission this week. To whom are you called to announce the good news of the Son of God?

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of January 19, 2020

Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2-10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34 [2nd Sunday]
Monday:	1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16-23/Mk 2:18-22 [Sts. Fabian & Sebastian]
Tuesday:	1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20-28/Mk 2:23-28 [St. Agnes]
Wednesday:	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1-2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-13/Mk 3:7-12 [St. Vincent]
Friday:	1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2-6, 11/Mk 3:13-19 [St. Francis de Sales]
Saturday:	Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1-2/Mk 16:15-18 [Conversion of St. Paul]
Next Sunday:	Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1-14/1Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 [3rd Sunday]

**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 John's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.454.2873).

**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, Fr. Michael Polenik, at 1.800.374.3723.

**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.

**"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.

**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.

**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., January 20th, 8:00AM - Bolla Family (Chester Osiecki)  
 Tues., January 21th, 8:00AM - Fr. Ed Matuszak & C. McFadden B. Graf)  
 Wed., January 22th, 8:00AM - Dorothy Palumbo (S. Widomski Family)  
 Thurs., January 23rd, 8:00AM - Doris Inter (Kathy and Jack Ciecierski)  
 Fri., January 24th, 8:00AM - Theresa Ignasiak (Bob & Beth Dzurko)  
 Sat., January 25th, 4:00PM - Carol Kurpiewski (Tom & Family)  
 Sun., January 26th, 9:30AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (Pro Populo)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of  
**MARCIA DRZEIWICKI** [gifted by Rich & Diane Valahovic].

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for **DR. EDWARD BAJOREK** and **STANLEY BANAK**. Please keep them and their loved ones in your prayers.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 18th  
 Server: Marlene Shaba  
 Lector: Bobby Sulecki  
 Gifts: The Lombard Family  
 Sunday, January 19th  
 Server: J. & A. Wildfire  
 Lector: Ray Przybyszewski  
 Gifts: The Barclay Family  
 Saturday, January 25th  
 Server: Chip & Haley Rohrbach  
 Lector: Katherine Krainski  
 Gifts: The Justka Family  
 Sunday, January 26th  
 Server: Shane Green  
 Lector: Diane Valahovic  
 Gifts: The Lintelman Family

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH** meeting will be held on Monday, *January 20th* at 7:00PM. It will be held at the Community Center on 14th & Wallace. All are invited to attend.

**INCOME TAX CONTRIBUTION REPORTS** are available from the Parish Office upon request. We are *truly grateful* for every parishioner's donation to the mission and ministry of Saint Stanislaus Church! If you are in a position to increase your giving, or if you have not contributed for some time, please consider doing so in order that we better meet our weekly budgetary needs.

**CLEANING TEAM B** will gather on Tuesday, January 21st at 9:30AM.

### PIEROGI MAKING

We could use all of the volunteers available to begin making pierogi for our Lenten Dinners. Please join us in the Parish Hall at 9AM on January 24th & 25th. It is always a fun time when we come together!



### WANTED

Now that the Christmas Season has come to an end, we are already planning for Christmas 2020. To that end, if your family has any unwanted or unneeded Christmas tree stands, please bring them to us.

### SUPER BOWL POOL

The Holy Name Society will hold its annual "Super Bowl Pool" on Sunday, February 2nd. If you are interested in purchasing a square for \$50, please contact Val Jaskiewicz (899-9506).

### FISH & PIEROGI DINNERS

Back by popular demand... St. Stan's will host our annual Fish & Pierogi dinners on February 28th, March 13th, and March 27th. Volunteer forms are available at the church entrances. If you are able, please complete a form and return it to the Parish Office (or place it in the collection basket) as soon as possible.



Congratulations to lottery winners **CHRIS BROCIOS** and **SUE MAZZONE** (#454)

### WEEKLY OFFERING (JANUARY 5, 2020)

	Weekly	July 1 to date
Amount we need .....	\$4,156.00	\$112,212.00
Weekend Collection ...	*\$4,776.00	\$83,513.00
Net Over/Under .....	\$620.00	(\$28,699.00)

\*Includes Solemnity of Mary collection

Mass Attendance:  
 4:00PM = 76  
 9:30AM = 94



### WEEKLY OFFERING (JANUARY 12, 2020)

	Weekly	July 1 to date
Amount we need .....	\$4,156.00	\$116,368.00
Weekend Collection ...	*\$2,400.00	\$85,913.00
Net Over/Under .....	(\$1,756.00)	(\$30,455.00)

Mass Attendance:  
 4:00PM = 85  
 9:30AM = 92



# Holy Trinity Parish Community

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

### 5:00PM - January 25th

**Lector:** T. Ignaczak & J. Otto  
**Server:** N. & M. Mangini  
**EM:** R. & A. Koziel

### 10:00AM - January 26th

**Lector:** B. Downing & S. Carpenter  
**Servers:** J. & T. Chermack  
**EM:** P. & J. Stano & S. Chermack

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., January 20th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus  
 Tues., January 21st, 8:00AM - Norb Ropelewski (Sue & Terry Verga)  
 Wed., January 22nd, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus  
 Thurs., January 23rd, 8:00AM - The Souls in Purgatory  
 Fri., January 24th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus  
 Sat., January 25th, 4:00PM - The People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)  
 Sun., January 26th, 10:00AM - Bonnie Fallon (Dave, Jane, and Helen)



The Sanctuary Candle burns in honor of **Fr. Jason Glover** and for his ministry to our parishes, and to all those priests who have served in the past.

**The Holy Trinity Ushers Society** will meet Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00PM in the Parish Gathering Space. All are welcome to join this organization and help with all the good work the society does for our parish.



1/24 - Patricia Czulewicz  
 1/26 - Barbara Agnello

## ZABAWA 2020 MEETING (DATE CHANGE)

There will be an organizational meeting for all area chairs at 9:00AM on **Saturday, January 25th**. All chairs should plan to attend this important first meeting of the year. If you would like to be involved in this coming year's Zabawa, please contact Ray Luniewski or the parish office!

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Martin Luther King emphasized that differences need not divide us. Think of a way that you and your spouse are different, yet your traits complement each other.



**Oops!** "Well, I think the time has finally come," the new priest sadly exclaimed to his fellow religious at the bishop's wake. "I was visiting the bishop in ICU as he was on his deathbed, and as he

took his last breaths in this world, he put great effort into writing me a message on a slip of paper. I could see how difficult just jotting down the message was for him, and then he signaled to me to come and take the paper from him. "I have been waiting," the priest said emotionally, "to share this message with you. I will now read his words to you, which I myself have not yet read." With that the priest ceremoniously unfolded the piece of paper he had been holding onto since the death of the bishop, and read in a loud clear voice for everyone at the wake to hear, "You are standing on my oxygen cord, MOVE!"

## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

If you aren't talking about Jesus in your family, you aren't testifying. If you are not walking your talk, your children will see your words as meaningless.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (JANUARY 12, 2020)

Regular Offertory..... \$2,302.00 (49/146 mailed)  
 Loose Cash..... \$81.00  
 Total Offertory..... \$2,283.00  
 Mass Attendance: 5:00PM = 54 / 10:00AM = 88

THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal..... \$3,000.00	\$84,000.00
Amount we need .... \$2,365.00	\$66,785.00
Amount Received ... \$2,383.00	\$68,175.00
Net over/under..... \$18.00	\$610.00

## Show and Tell

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." John 1:32,34 (NIV1984)  
 Based on John 1:29-42



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

SPIRIT	TESTIMONY	KNOW	JOHN	WORLD
DOVE	WATER	SIN	LAMB	BAPTIZE
TAKES	SENT	JESUS	LOOK	HEAVEN

"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the World."

- John 1:29

### **MEN'S & WOMEN'S FAITH CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED**

The Annual "22:32 Men's Conference: Be Strengthened and Strengthen Your Brothers!" will be held on Saturday, February 29th at Our Lady of Peace Church, Erie. The event begins at 8:00AM and concludes at 3:30PM. The cost is \$40/adult, \$25/college student, \$10/high school student, and includes a free lunch.

The Annual "1:38 Women's Conference: Bee the Attitude" will be held Saturday, March 28th at Our Lady of Peace Church, Erie. The event begins at 9:00AM and concludes at 3:30PM. The cost is \$40/adult, \$35/senior, \$25/college student, \$10 for his school student, and includes a free lunch.

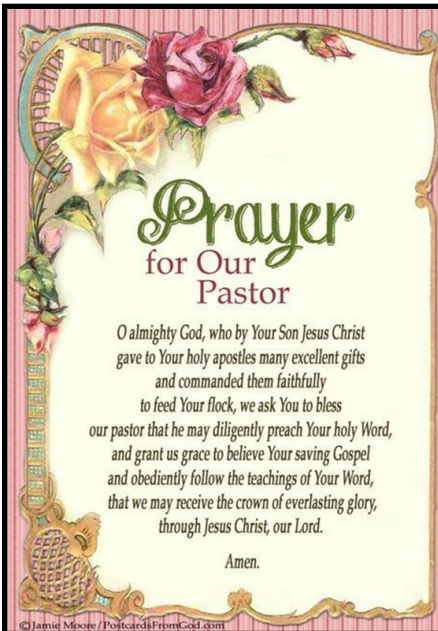
Both events feature several nationally acclaimed speakers, opportunities for confession and Eucharistic Adoration, and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Persico. These have become very popular among the faithful. Considering participating this year. More information can be found at: [www.2232Men.com](http://www.2232Men.com) or [www.138women.com](http://www.138women.com), respectively.

### **SUPPORTING THE DIVORCED**

"Surviving Divorce Ministry," a 12-week support group, begins 6:30PM on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. The group meets at Saint Mark Catholic Center. Cost is \$15 per person and includes a book/journal and all materials. Find Comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic teaching. Call the Family Life office at 824-1261 for more information and/or to register.

### **PRE-LENTEN RETREAT**

Singles and couples are invited to a Pre-Lenten Retreat on Friday, February 21st through Saturday, February 22nd at the Saint Thomas Moore House of Prayer in Cranberry, PA. Fr. Steve Schreiber will be the retreat director and will offer opportunities for community, quiet time, talks, Mass, and confession. For more information, go to: [www.eriecd.org/chastity](http://www.eriecd.org/chastity), or call Kate at 814.824.1261.



**THANK YOU** to all who attended the Installation festivities this weekend. Thanks you, also, to those who prepared food to share, and to those who were instrumental in organizing the events. What a wonderful display of unity by our two parishes, and support for Fr. Jason!

### **PRO-LIFE MARCH**

The annual Pro-Life March will take place of January 24th in Washington, DC. The "People for Life" organization is coordinating busses to depart Erie at 11:00PM on January 23rd and return around 1:30AM on January 25th. The cost \$55. For more information, call 814.882.1333.



Pray the Rosary daily for world peace.

### **JANUARY: HUMAN TRAFFICING PREVENTION MONTH**

Trafficking youth is a form of modern slavery. It includes both sex trafficking and forced labor. Any child under the age of 18 engaged in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking, even if the youth's participation is not forced or coerced. Be aware of recruiting tactics. Traffickers target victims through social media sites, telephone chat lines, afterschool programs, at shopping malls, bus depots, clubs, or through friends and acquaintances. To help protect your children, ask questions about their friends, monitor their computer use, and know where he/she hangs out. For more information on protecting our youth from human trafficking, or to report suspected trafficking visit: [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/trafficking\\_ts\\_2019.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/trafficking_ts_2019.pdf). Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what the Diocese is doing to maintain safe environments for children and youth.

### **GANNON UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

... is hosting it's annual "CARE" game, formally known as the "Pink Zone" game, on Saturday, January 25th, at 1:00PM at the Hammermill Center, located on 6th & Peach Streets. The event supports cancer survivors in our community through the Allegheny Health Network at Saint Vincent Hospital. The game also includes a gift basket raffle. For more information, call 871-5811.

### **THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS**

1/19 Bill Dyakon; 1/20 Michael Skrzypczak; 1/21 Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 1/22 Kathy Wisniewski; 1/23 Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman; 1/24 Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic; 1/25 Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman

### **PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS THIS WEEK:**

1/19 Fr. Casimir Wozniak; 1/20 Fr. Joe Staszewski; 1/21 Mrsg. Bernie Urbaniak; 1/22 Fr. Larry Richards; 1/23 Fr. Robert Horgas; 1/24 Msgr. Tom McSweeney; 1/25 Msgr. Henry Shauerman



**Sunday, Jan 19, 2020**

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Come together**

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

*"...all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Relationships go awry when people stop talking. That's as true in marriage as it is among Christians in general. Lutheran theologian George Lindbeck was a delegate observer at the Second Vatican Council. It prompted him to make a life's work of the Lutheran-Catholic conversation. He viewed doctrines as "rules of grammar" rather than unscalable walls. He saw justice, peace, and the environment best served when Christians work together. The fundamental disease of our times, Lindbeck advised, is the weakening of natural allies. As Saint Paul might say: Let's not be partisans, let's be church!

**Monday, Jan 20, 2020**

MEMORIAL OF FABIAN, POPE, MARTYR; SEBASTIAN, MARTYR

**Ultimate discipleship**

1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22

*"To the upright I will show the saving power of God."*

This day is filled with martyrs. Fabian (c. 200-250) was elected pope when a white dove landed on his head during the voting, a clear sign to the electors. Christianity was still illegal, so he died in prison 14 years later. Sebastian (c. 256-288) died in Rome sometime after he was shot full of arrows. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-68), commemorated today, was gunned down by an assassin in Memphis, Tennessee. Despite being harassed by the government, Dr. King won the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Three men who shed their blood for what they believed inspire us to be activists for what we believe.

**Tuesday, Jan 21, 2020**

MEMORIAL OF AGNES, VIRGIN, MARTYR

**Take a stand**

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28

*"The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath."*

Often throughout the church year we remember our martyrs, those women and men who were killed because of their faith in Jesus the Christ. These are sometimes difficult days to "celebrate" because on the one hand, we are grateful for and inspired by their faith. But on the other hand, the suffering they endured is horrific—torture, rape, mutilation, burning, and ultimately death. The martyrdom of Saint Agnes, for example, came because of her faith in Christ but was expressed by sexualizing and abusing her. When we celebrate our martyrs, we might also take a stand against torture and murder today. This indeed is a worthy form of reverence for the brave women and men, our martyrs and saints. What saint compels you to action on behalf of justice?

**Wednesday, Jan 22, 2020**

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

**Lend a lifesaving hand**

1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6

*"Looking around at them with anger and grieved at their hardness of heart . . ."*

The Sisters of Life are a women's religious order founded in 2004 in New York. More than 70 sisters each year provide aid and support to more than 1,000 pregnant women at their convents in Toronto and New York City. At one of their convents, women

can stay as long as six months prior to giving birth and up to a year afterward. What are you and your parish doing to support pregnant women and mothers who need help establishing their families and creating a secure future for their children?

**Thursday, Jan 23, 2020**

MEMORIAL OF MARIANNE COPE, VIRGIN

**God's aloha at work**

1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12

*"Hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers."*

Rarely is a saint's last name so apt. When more than 50 religious communities in Canada and the United States refused a request to work with lepers, Sister Marianne Cope, a Sister of St. Francis of Syracuse, responded, "I am hungry for the work." She and her sisters who served on Molokai, Hawaii were called "God's aloha," or God's love. She assured a dying Saint Damien that his work would continue, then brought beauty and artistry to challenging conditions. Encouraging laughter and gardens, she said, "We must make best use of the fleeting moments. They will not return." Do one thing to bring God's love and beauty to your living space, or someone else's, today.

**Friday, Jan 24, 2020**

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

**Include God in the conversation**

1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19

*"He named twelve as his companions whom he would send to preach the Good News."*

Francis de Sales (1567-1622) was a bishop and doctor of the church who encouraged the importance of lay spirituality. At the time, people thought that only priests and sisters were called to holiness. But Francis took the church back to its roots, encouraging laypeople to pray and find God in their daily lives. As a noted spiritual director he suggested: "Retire at various times into the solitude of your own heart, even while outwardly engaged in discussion or transactions with others, and talk to God."

**Saturday, Jan 25, 2020**

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

**Be a force for unity**

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18

*"This man is the instrument I have chosen to bring my name to the Gentiles."*

Once he was blinded by light on the road to Damascus, Paul began to see with a clarity that amazed everyone who knew of him. As he preached the Good News, Paul began to speak persuasively against requiring Gentiles to follow Jewish law, while at the same time allowing Jewish Christians to keep their lifelong ritual practices. In the midst of diversity, Paul worked to unite the followers of Jesus. It is fitting that the feast of his conversion has been chosen as the final day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Today your work is to do something to bring unity in then midst of diversity.

