FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (DECEMBER 22, 2019)

Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church

516 East 13th Street Erie, Pennsylvania 16503 814.452.6606 www.ststanserie.org email: ststaner@outlook.com

Fr. Jason A. 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: 5:30PM (Vigil) & 8:00AM Confessions: Saturday at 3:30PM (or by appointment)





Holy Trinity Catholic Church

2220 Reed Street Erie, Pennsylvania 16503 814.456.0671 www.holytrinityrc.org email: parishoffice@holytrinity.org

Fr. Jason A. Glover, S.T.L., Pastor Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate Mary Ann Merski, Office Manager 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: 5:30PM Confessions: Saturday at 4:30PM (or by appointment)



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity Partners in Faith & Mission





FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The birth of the Messiah gives the church great hope. Although secular celebrations of Christmas ignore the significance of the holy day, the church gives us Advent to help us keep our focus. We reorient our hearts and minds to recall, once again, the mysterious glory of the Incarnation. In these weeks of yuletide preparation, we stop to remind ourselves what it means to be Christian, in case we have begun taking it for granted. To be Christian is to believe that God is truly with us, in the most personal, intimate way imaginable; he is one of us! "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Through the Incarnation, God became human and lived among us to love us, to guide us, to heal us, and to strengthen us. It is the promise of a savior given through the early prophets, a promise that the faithful held dear as they waited. As that most beautiful of all anniversaries approaches, celebrate this season remembering the greatest gift ever given to every person--the gift of a Savior.



God of the Angels, you spoke your word to Mary and hoped she would receive you. As you call to us, help us to hear you and welcome you into the most unlikely moments that they might be places of grace. Help us to give ourselves over to you, so this Christmas season is one where your will may be done in and through us. Amen. Sunday: Monday: Tuesday: Wednesday: [Christmas]

Thursday: Friday: Saturday: Next Sunday: WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES Readings for the week of December 22, 2019

Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-6/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 [4TH Sunday of Advent] Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-14/Lk 1:57-66 [St. John of Kanty] 2 Sm 7:1-16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27-9/Lk 1:67-79 Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-25/Mt 1:1-25 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 16-17/Mt 10:17-22 [St. Stephen] 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-12/Jn 20:1-8 [St. John the Evangelist] 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-9/Mt 2:13-18 [The Holy Innocents] Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-5/Col 3:12-21/Mt 2:13-23 [Holy Family]

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 to notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs 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 worshiping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REG (please circle which parish)	SISTRATION FORM
Family Name:	-
E-mail:	
Address:	-
City/Zip:	
Phone: Cell Phone:	
Please Check: New RegistrationChange 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 co Welcome to our Parish Family!	omplete our Census Form.

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

Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., December 23rd, 8:00AM - Charlotte Cleaver (Family & Friends) Tues., December 24th, 4:00PM - Special Intention Wed., December 25th, 9:30AM - Parishioners of St. Stanislaus (Pro Populo) Thurs., December 26th, 8:00AM - Walter, Florence & Joan Rzodkiewicz (Family) Fri., December 27th, 8:00AM - Louise Miklinski (Family) Sat., December 28th, 4:00PM - Parishioners of St. Stanislaus (Pro Populo) Sun., December 29th, 9:30AM - Victoria & Joseph Baniszewski (Family)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of MR. & MRS. J. ROY ZIMMERMAN [gifted by the family].



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

At the conclusion of the 4:00PM Christmas Eve Mass, Fr. Jason invites our young people (and those young at heart) to gather at the foot of the altar for a reading of the traditional "Twas the Night Before Christmas" poem. We will send our children home with a small treat.

"DECK THE HALLS!"

We will begin decorating our beautiful church for the Christmas season following the 9:30AM Mass on this Sunday (December 22). We would appreciate any help you may have to offer. Fr. Jason will provide a special treat as we "Deck the Halls."

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS

The new schedule for our devoted church cleaners is available in the vestibule. Additional volunteers are always welcome to join one of the cleaning teams. Cleaning



takes place on Tuesday mornings. Please call Eleanor (864 -1528) or Dave (866-8604) if you are able to help.

SCRIP ORDERS

Special holiday orders will be accepted on December 28 & 29 and will be available for pick-up on January 4 & 5. Your support of this program provides our parish with a percentage return on all sales. Thank you!

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

The holiday season is a time of family gatherings, of getting together with friends and other loved ones, and often the sharing of memories. As you share with one another, particularly about past Christmases, keep Bobby Sulecki in mind. He is cataloguing peoples' memories and photographs from people who grew up at Saint Stan's or any of the other east side parishes. More information about his work can be found in the vestibule.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 21st Server: Marlene Shaba Lector: Marv Jo Sulecki Gifts: Justka Family Sunday, December 22nd Server: David Kututz Lector: Tom Widomski Gifts: Widomski Family Tuesday, December 24th Server: C. & H. Rohrbach Lector: Ed Czulewicz Wednesday, December 25th Server: Lector: Stephanie Wycech Saturday, December 28th Servers: Marlene Shava Lector: Bobby Sulecki Gifts: Macie Family Sunday, December 29th Server: Katie Brocious Lector: Paul Gambil **Gifts: Brocious Family**

The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated for HELEN WIKOLAJCZAK on December 16th. Please keep her, her family, and her loved ones in prayer.

CHURCH ENVELOPES

There remain a few boxes of church envelopes in the back of the church. We would like to clear out that section before our Christmas Masses. If you would kindly take yours home (and consider delivering one to someone who can't attend) we would greatly appreciate it!

Holy Name Raffle

Time is running out to purchase your Lottery Raffle tickets from a Holy

Name Society Member. Tickets will not be accepted after January 1st. Be sure to get yours today for only \$5!

WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 8TH, 2019)

This Week		July 1 to date								
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$95,588.00								
Amount Received .	\$2 <i>,</i> 848.00*	\$67,892.00								
Net over/under	(\$1,308.00)	(\$27,696.00)								
* includes Immaculate Conception Collection										
Mass Attendance:										
4:00PM = 84										
9:30AM = 90										

Holy Trinity Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

- 4:30PM Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th) Lector: Michelle Koszegi Server: A. & L. Moore EM: M. Moore & N. Nitczynski
- 10:00AM Christmas Day (Dec. 25th) Lector: Sue Carpenter Server: B. Lazar & R. Luniewski EM: E. Luniewski, S. Carpenter, & E. Simora
- 5:00PM December 28th Lector: John Otto Server: Christopher Beres EM: S. Carpenter & S. Trochowski
- 10:00 AM December 29th

Lector: Kathy Smith Servers: B. Lazar & R. Luniewski EM: E. Luniewski, L. Sebastian, & D. Carlson

MARRIAGE BLESSINGS

On December 28th at 2:00PM, Julie Ann Kaminski and Daniel Gregory Labrozzi will be married at Holy Trinity Church. Our congratulations to them and their families, and many happy years of wedded bliss for them!

WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 15, 2019)

Regular Offertory .	\$1,839.00	(57/146 mailed)
Loose Cash	\$96.00	
Total Offertory	\$1,935.00	
Mass Attendance:	5:00PM = 51 /	10:00AM = 108

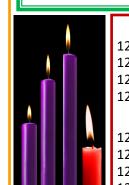
THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal \$3,000.00	\$72,000.00
Amount we need \$2,365.00	\$57,325.00
Amount Received \$1,935.00	\$55,067.00
Net over/under (\$430.00)	(\$2,258.00)

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (2019) AS OF NOVEMBER 9:

Pledges:......\$26,185.00 Paid:.....\$24,030.00 Due:.....\$2,155.00 Assessment:.....\$12,421.00 *80 Families have contributed to the CSA

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., December 23rd, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus Tues., December 24th, 4:30PM - The People of Holy Trinity (*Pro Populo*) Wed., December 25th, 10:00AM - The People of Holy Trinity (*Pro Populo*) Thurs., December 26th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus Fri., December, 27th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus Sat., December 28th, 5:00PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (*Pro Populo*) Sun., December 29th, 10:00AM - The People of Holy Trinity (*Pro Populo*)



THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

12/22 Kathy Wisniewski; 12/23 Heidi Jankowski; 12/24 Len Sebastian; 12/25 Jack Kempisty; 12/26 Patricia Straub; 12/27 Sr. Maxine Kaminski; 12/28 Dorothy & Mead Carlson

PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS THIS WEEK:

12/22 Fr. Paul Schill; 12/23 Msgr. Gerry Ritchie; 12/24 Fr. Marc Stockton; 12/25 Jesus, the High Priest 12/26 Fr. Tom Whitman; 12/27 Msgr. Robert Smith; 12/28 Msgr. Joe Riccardo

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE is lit this week in memory of **ROBERT KEMPISTY** by Lab Tech Paint Shop Employees.

The MOORE AND LAZAR FAMILIES,

representing our PCEP program, will present the Advent Candle at Mass, as well as the offertory gifts at this weekend's Masses.



12/23 - Susan Kaminski & Bill Lazar 12/27 - Bob Pelkowski 12/28 - Mia Mangini

What's in a Name?

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"She will give the name Jesu their sins." M	is, b	eca	use	he									1			HUSBAND
Based on Matt															A	CHRIST
Dased on Hatt	new		.0 2											(Rome -	JOSEPH
																SON
0				V										V		CHILD
S		M E	S	F	VG	M	IX	X	J	M	RG	EX	K M	V F		MARRY
Z		0	В	R	R	0	Î	S	м	L	S	R	E	x		IMMANUEL
С	ĸ	M	I	U	R	E	J	N	E	A	D	U	С	Y		VIRGIN
J	M	Α	М	М	А	Y	Α	0	Ρ	н	Ν	Z	S	Q		AFRAID
R	۷	R	С	F	F	Q	т	М	S	Ρ	G	U	Q	Μ		
I	Ν	Y	н	S	R	т	E	А	G	E	М	K	Е	R		MARY
Q	A	0	R	Х	Α	С	н	I	L	D	Ρ	D	F	L		BIRTH
В	Ν	I	I	L	I	Ζ	U	F	U	F	Ν	Н	Ν	Μ		DREAM
I	G	н	S	L	D	т	S	Q	Н	A	н	I	G	R		NAME
т	E	F	Т	Q	F	I	A	т	В	Z	G	С	В	E		
A	L	0	R	0	Z	Ρ	R	S	к	R	נ	V	м	נ		ANGEL
н	F	В	U	W	К	I	U	D	I	V	В	A	U	С		JESUS
Q	U	R	R	L	В	н	F	V	С	I	Ν	В	Y	Ι		

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." - Isaiah 7:14

The Rite of Installation of Pastor

Bishop Persico has informed us that he will install Fr. Jason A. Glover, S.T.L. as Pastor of Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity Parishes On Saturday, January 18th, 2020 During the 4:00PM Mass at Saint Stanislaus. A reception will follow in the Social Hall at Holy Trinity.



More details will be forthcoming. Please consider taking part in this celebration!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM - St. Stan's (Kolędy will begin at 3:15PM) 4:30PM - Holy Trinity (Kolędy will begin at 4:00PM)

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30AM - St. Stan's 10:00AM - Holy Trinity



OFFICES CLOSED

Both St. Stan's & Holy Trinity Parish Offices **will be closed** from December 23-December 27.

Emergency calls will still be responded to during this time.



Fr. Jason's Fall semester class is now over and Gannon University is on Christmas Break. He will continue to observe Monday's as his day off. This coming Spring

semester, Father will be teaching two courses at Gannon on Tuesday & Thursday afternoon from 1:30-2:50PM (Sacred Scripture) and 3:00-4:20 (Fundamental Theology). He will only be available during those time for immediate emergencies.

SCHOOL AND PARISH REUNION

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish is having a "Coming Home For Christmas" reunion for anyone ever affiliated with Holy Family, Saint Ann, or Saint Casimir Churches and/or School, as well as the Spirit of Christ School. The event will be held on December 28th from 5:00-9:00PM at Holy Family Gymnasium (1153 East 9th Street). It is a free event. Food, drink, music, and memories will be provided. Call 490-2194 for more information.

CASH BINGO

The 3rd Street Falcons will host a Cash Bingo on January 12th starting at 1:00PM; doors will open at noon. The event is sponsored by the Saint Benedict Alumni & Ministries. Each pack costs \$20; extra packs are \$5. There will be instants and a 50/50 raffle. The kitchen and bar will also be open.





The breaking of the Christmas wafer is a custom that began in Poland in the 10th century and is practiced by people of Polish ancestry around the world. It is

considered the most ancient and beloved of Polish traditions. Before partaking of the Christmas Eve meal, the family gathers around the table. The eldest member holds a large wafer and breaks off a piece to begin the ritual. The remaining wafer is passed on to another member while a prayer for loved ones is said. This continues until everyone at the table has a piece of the wafer. Finally, the family members give wishes to each other and consume a piece broken off of the wafer.

With the impending winter months upon us, we urge you to exercise due prudence in balancing your obligation to attend Mass and personal risks you may take due to inclement weather and poor road conditions. Additionally, when ill, be mindful of the potential of spreading your illness onto others attending Mass. If you are unable to attend Mass for these legitimate reasons, know that there are several televised Masses:

Channel 3 - Sunday at 10:00AM Channel 11 - Sundays at 8:00AM Channel 16 - Sundays at 8:00AM & 12:00PM Daily (Monday - Saturday) at 8:00AM, 12:00PM, & 7:00PM Or visit www.TheSundayMass.org

Sunday, Dec 22, 2019 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Finding our place in Joseph's story Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 "... the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream."

You had every intention of doing it. You'd thought it all out, weighed pros and cons, and made your decision. It was reasonable, practical. Family and friends were behind you all the way. But then something happened. A dream, a phone call, a look from a stranger on the bus—something that maybe wasn't even related to your decision, but it spoke to you. It said: Don't do that, do this instead. And all these years later, you can't even explain it to yourself. Only that you trusted your intuition, and you'd do the same thing today.

> Monday, Dec 23, 2019 MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST Rising above sin and division Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 "Come to save us, Lord our God!"

Today is the memorial of John of Kanty. A 15th-century Polish scholar and priest, he was known for his simple lifestyle and generosity to the poor. He had enemies, however, who schemed to have him demoted from professor at the University of Krakow to parish priest (a job he felt unprepared for). It took him years to win over his flock, but eventually he did, and eventually he was reinstated as a professor. Sin and division within the church caused harm to John of Kanty, yet he persisted in living a good life. Take a moment to draw hope from people you know who persist in living generously and lovingly in today's imperfect church.

Tuesday, Dec 24, 2019 ADVENT WEEKDAY

Light it up! 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke1:67-79 "The dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness."

The longest night of the year took place on the winter solstice, December 21, and just a few days later, we await the coming of the Light of the World. Tonight the anticipation reaches its peak as people gather to celebrate—in some cases with very bright festivities indeed! Take Las Parrandas de Remedios, Cuba's famous fireworks festival on Christmas Eve. *Parranda* is a street party, and travel guides will tell you this is one not to miss. Make your own fireworks of joy—in your church, home, and heart because your Savior is born.

> Wednesday, Dec 25, 2019 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Hope is born! Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 "Let all the angels of God worship him."

Saint Augustine wrote these beautiful words describing the Incarnation of Jesus: "God so loved us that for our sakes he, through whom time was made, was made in time. Older by eternity than the world itself, he became younger in age than many of his servants in the world. God, who made man, was made man. He was given existence by a mother whom he brought into existence. He was carried in hands which he formed; he was nursed at breasts which he filled. He cried like a baby in the manger in speechless infancy—this Word without which human eloquence is speechless." Let us rejoice in a God who loves to use what's small and meek to accomplish great things. Merry Christmas!

Thursday, Dec 26, 2019 FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Let the children lead the way Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 "They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."

In religious art, Saint Stephen, first martyr and one of the first seven deacons in the church, is pictured as a very young man. He must have taken to the new Christian faith in a big way, because despite his youth he was already said to be filled with the Holy Spirit and a miracle worker. Look around our world today. Once

again we find deeply committed young people, not only animating the church through events such as World Youth Day, but taking the lead on many of the most pressing issues of global concern, such as climate change. Lend an ear to what young people in your life are saying—you may find some ageless wisdom there!

Friday, Dec 27, 2019

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST **Testify with your life** 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 *"We have seen it and testify to it."*

Sometimes a platoon of veterans will get together every five years, until their numbers dwindle to a few lone survivors. Or a group of college girlfriends will have an annual reunion—until one is left with no one else to reunite with. John the evangelist, a.k.a., the beloved disciple, was said to have outlived all the other apostles. Perhaps it felt lonely—or perhaps it drove him to spend every last day recounting and recording for posterity

the incredible events that he witnessed firsthand. Keep your eyes open and pen at hand—God is at work in your own life and you are the living testament!

Saturday, Dec 28, 2019

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS Children first

1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 "A cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation: Rachel bewailing her children."

The Holy Innocents' only crime was that they were the same age as the baby Jesus. The local king, Herod, was a jealous man who had few scruples about killing people. When he heard that wise men from the east were en route to honor a newborn king, Herod was beside himself. He demanded that they tell him where he also could "honor" this baby king. When they ignored him, Herod did the unthinkable and ordered that all of Bethlehem's male babies and toddlers be put to death. Say a prayer today for the children of our world who have had their innocence robbed from them through war, grinding poverty, or abuse. Let their protection be our highest priority.