

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 14, 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)

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



November 14, 2021
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory." How does this image make you feel? For people to truly understand the significance of this message, something profound has to happen within. If we find ourselves reacting with a sense of dread or fear, we have to step back and ask why. Our answer will reveal a great deal about our relationship with God. It's hard to fall in love with a God of whom we are afraid. God does not want us to be afraid. Nor does He want us to align our wills to His in order to avoid some kind of horrendous eternal consequence.

In order for these words to carry any type of significant meaning for us, they have to resonate with and touch us on a deeper level. They have to be able to connect some dots and have meaning for us in order for this promise to change our lives. Sometimes we get preoccupied with the uncertainty of our deaths. Not knowing when or how we will eventually die can be unsettling. What happens to us when we die? Whether we die during the natural course of our lives or when Christ comes again, the experience is the same. If we believe that we are meant to live in union with God eternally and that death completes and does not diminish us, then it is worth our time and effort to wait in vigilant hope of the Lord's coming in glory. Our journey back to God is something beautiful to be desired, not dreaded or feared.

Sadly, many folks believe that life is no more than a random occurrence without any purposeful direction or meaning. Death is simply death and nothing more. For them, the Second Coming of Christ and God's eternal promise have no meaning. When we understand the truth about who we are, it changes things up. We then can see ourselves as works in progress who have the choice to either resist the inspirations of the Divine Artist or give into the wonderful creativity of His will. Life awaiting the fullness of Christ to come becomes an unfolding of Divine surprises and abundant joy. God is eternally merciful, forgiving, and welcoming. It is only when we directly reject this gift and turn our backs on Love itself that we have anything to fear.

Readings for the week of November 14, 2021

Sunday: Dn 12:1-3/Ps 16:5-11/Heb 10:11-14, 18/Mk 13:24-32 [32 Sunday]
Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150-58/Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-7/Lk 19:1-10 [Sts. Margaret & Gertrude]
Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1-8, 15/Lk 19:11-28 [St. Elizabeth]
Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44
Dedication: Acts 28:11-16, 30-31/ Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43/Mt 14:22-33
Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chron 29:10-13/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-6, 16, 19/Lk 20:27-40 [Bas. Of Peter & Paul]
Next Sunday: Dn 7:13-14/Ps 93:1-5/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33-37 [Feast of Christ the King]

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 Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606 or Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

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 Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

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 Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

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., Nov. 15th - Private Intention
 Tues., Nov. 16th - Christine Sierota (Marge Filipowski)
 Wed., Nov. 17th - Linda Gambill-Love (Paul & Renee Gambill)
 Thurs., Nov. 18th - Jolae Ropiecki (Jerome)
 Fri., Nov. 19th - Sophie Tatara (Janice & Robert McCall)
 Sat., Nov. 20th, 4:00PM - Joseph Macioch (Family)
 Sun., Nov. 21st, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)

WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The next regular meeting of the Women's Society will be held on Sunday/Today at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall. All women of the parish are warmly invited to attend.



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **PAULINE & ADAM BOZEK**, as gifted by the Family.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY "HOLIDAY CASH RAFFLE"

The Women's Society is, once again, selling raffle tickets for a chance to win either \$1,000 in cash, or \$1,000 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from any member of the Society, the Parish Office, or by calling Nancy (814-454-4046). All proceeds benefit Saint Stanislaus Parish.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY OCTOBER LOTTERY WINNERS

10/1 - Brian Morrow	10/19 - Marie Barner
10/3 - Kim Connelly	10/21 - Ed Macie
10/11 - Barb Matson	10/22 - Katie Brocius
10/12 - Gene Focman	10/23 - Foster Stevens
10/13 - Marcia Popovich	10/24 - Y. & D. Chrzanowski
10/14 - Jackie Vargo	10/26 - Joanne Kubinski
10/15 - George Chilcott	10/27 - Nancy Grotkowski
10/16 - Dan Mikovich	10/29 - Mary Brocius
10/17 - T. & S. Mazzone	10/31 - Dave Post
10/18 - John Chilcott	

A special "thank you" to everyone who participated and who make this such a fun and profitable raffle!



WEEKLY OFFERING (NOVEMBER 7, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$78,964.00
Amount Received	\$3,904.00	\$52,626.00
Net over/under	(\$252.00)	(\$26,338.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 53; 9:00AM = 53
 Envelopes: 69/168



CANDLE MAKING MINISTRY

We have been able to resupply our candlemakers. They will resume their ministry in the Parish Hall this coming Wednesday, at 10:00AM. All are welcome to join them; no experience is necessary. We will begin selling the candles in the vestibule during Advent.

CHOOSING DEAFNESS

If you're a parent, you know that hearing evaluations are usually done at a child's annual physical exam starting around age four. The little person gets hoisted up onto the exam table, fitted with a pair of special headphones, and then they need raise their hand when they hear a sound. I bet all of us parents who have sat through one of these tests with a preschooler — especially a particularly strong-willed one — have experienced a moment where we ask ourselves: I wonder if there's something wrong with her hearing. Is that why she doesn't listen to me? 'Come here, put on your shoes, pick up your toys, finish your carrots, don't touch that' — she isn't being naughty, she just can't hear it! And then that moment, for those of us whose kids passed the hearing test with flying colors, comes crashing down into a realization that, yep, they can hear just fine. They're just choosing deafness. But how can we really get mad when we remember that we do the same thing to God day in and day out? I often wonder if God, sitting in His Heaven, tires of calling to us in the same way young parents tire of calling out unheeded directions to their small children. Help that person. Hear My voice. Open your heart. Give of yourself here. Talk to Me. What is the call He wishes you to hear today? Can you hear it? Are you listening?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



**Remember, if you
 lose a sock in the
 dryer, it comes
 back as a
 Tupperware lid
 that doesn't fit any
 of your containers.**

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **SOULS IN PURGATORY.**



11/16 - Nora Sebastian
11/19 - Fr. Jason Glover

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Nov. 15th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
Tues., Nov. 16th - Nancy Slubowski (Mary Beth Fiorelli)
Wed., Nov. 17th - All Souls
Thurs., Nov. 18th - Msgr. John Daniszewski (Estate)
Fri., Nov. 19th - Anna Marie Neimeic (Family)
Sat., Nov. 20th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Sun., Nov. 21th, 10:30AM - Charles & Theresa Brasington (Family)

Today's readings are in stark contrast to the joy of the holiday season that is fast approaching, warning us instead of dark times ahead and our inevitable judgment day. The first reading from the prophet Daniel describes a time "unsurpassed in distress since nations began" and warns that "many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, and others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace." The second reading, from Hebrews, speaks of Christ who "waits until his enemies are made his footstool." However, when we firmly establish for ourselves as individuals — as a family and as a parish that we will give to God the first and best portion of our Time, Talent, and Treasure — the warnings we read in the Scriptures today should be no cause for alarm. In fact, we can view these words as encouragement — "Keep Calm and Steward On," no matter what comes our way. One of the blessings of a stewardship way of life is that in challenging times, whether in our homes or workplaces or even our beloved Church itself, we can take great comfort in knowing we have a concrete plan to keep our priorities in proper order. And, when we put God first in all aspects of our lives, we will experience the peace that He gives that surpasses all understanding.

Question: Why do some sacraments leave a character or mark on the soul? Don't all sacraments affect the soul?

Answer: All sacraments mediate grace and connect us to Christ and to the Church. Some sustain us in our faith journey, while others help us heal from the effects of sin. Each one offers a share in God's life, giving us what we need to be faithful followers of Jesus. But some sacraments change us in ways that are irreversible. The three sacraments that leave a character are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. We are literally different people because of the effect of the grace of those sacraments. We are changed at the core of our being in such a fundamental way that we can not go back to what we once were.

In Baptism, we are freed from original sin, initiated into the Body of Christ as adopted sons and daughters. In Confirmation, we are given the fullness of God's Spirit, sealed in his grace and gifted with what we need to live a Christian life. In Holy Orders, a priest is marked as an 'alter Christus,' another Christ, and is once and forever a priest who offers sacrifice, forgives sin, and acts in the person of Christ. In these three sacraments, we are conformed more closely to Christ, reflecting his love and truth.

Stop, Drop and Roll was always such a big deal as a kid... I really thought I'd be on fire more than this as an adult.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Regular Offering: \$3,271.00 (35/134)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$48,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$40,776.00
Total Offertory:	\$3,271.00	\$44,791.00
Net (over/under):	\$906.00	\$4,015.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 26; 10:30AM = 42

There's a Great Day Coming

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Mark 13:32 (NLT)



The puzzle is based on Mark 13:24-32

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

GATHER
GLORY
STARS

POWER
HOUR
SUN

MOON
SUN
ELECT

POWER
ANGELS
DAY

UNKNOWN
GLORY
CLOUDS



"Heaven and earth may pass away, but my words will not pass away."

- Mark 13:31

News for Our Partnership

**WE WISH OUR PASTOR,
FR. JASON GLOVER,
A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ON NOVEMBER 19TH!**

#iGIVECATHOLIC

Both of our parishes will, once again, be participating in the #GIVECATHOLIC fundraising campaign. The goal of #iGiveCatholic is to rally our Catholic community in support of our parishes and ministries. Secure, tax-deductible donations to eligible Catholic organizations located in participating dioceses are given at www.iGiveCatholic.org during a 24-hour period on #GivingTuesday, November 30, and during the Advanced Giving Day phase beginning at 12:00 AM on Monday, November 15 through 11:59 PM on Monday, November 29. Offline gifts of cash and checks are encouraged and given directly to our parishes during this same period.



St. Elizabeth of Hungary | Feast Day November 17
Although her life was short, St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207 – 1231) is recognized for her love of the poor and suffering, and as patroness of Catholic charities and the Secular Franciscan Order. The daughter of the King of Hungary, she chose a life of penance instead of leisure, which made an impact on the “commoners” she served. St. Elizabeth married Louis of Thuringia when she was 14. Deeply in love, they had three children. Despite their wealth, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service to the poor and sick under the spiritual direction of a Franciscan friar. After six years of marriage, her husband died in the Crusades, and St. Elizabeth was grief-stricken. Her husband’s family did not look kindly upon her and mistreated her before finally throwing her out of the palace. However, the return of her husband’s allies from the Crusades resulted in her being reinstated, since her son was legal heir to the throne. St. Elizabeth joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1228 where she cared for the poor in a hospital she founded in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. She died in 1231, but her great popularity resulted in her being named a saint only four years later.

THANKSGIVING MASS

This year’s Thanksgiving Day Mass will be celebrated 9:00AM at Holy Trinity. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to local food pantries.

Holy Trinity Annual Christmas Market

Friday, December 17th 4:00 – 7:00PM
Saturday, December 18th 9:00AM – 12:00 Noon
Holy Trinity Social Center, 23rd & Reed Street



**Orders being taken -
November 6th until December 6th**
PAYMENT IS DUE WITH ALL ORDERS

****credit cards accepted****

**Order in advance. Supplies will
be limited during the market**

Cookies*Pierogi***Nut Roll***Sweet
Bread***Oplatki and more...**

**Order forms available at
www.holytrinityrc.org**

To place an order call Edith, 456-5300



Holiday Extravaganza BINGO All CASH prizes!!!

*** Instants * 50/50 Game**

- Sunday, November 21st
- Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3rd St.
- 1:00pm, Doors Open at Noon
- \$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each add'l pk.
- Kitchen Food Available
- Holiday Auction
- Door Prizes
- Call 814-456-5300 to reserve your seat!

Walk Ins Welcome

All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity PCEP program

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

11/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark; 11/16) Corinne Dyakon, Mary Jo Sulecki, & Kay Stankiewicz; 11/17) Dave Slubowski; 11/18) Pearl Wisniewski; 11/19) Bill Dyakon & Fr. Jason Glover; 11/20) Ed Korytowski; 11/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

11/14) Fr. Bob Susa; 11/15) Fr. John Jacquell; 11/16) Bishop Persico; 11/17) All Vocations; 11/18) Fr. Stan Swacha; 11/19) Fr. Jason Glover; 11/20) Fr. Joe Dougherty

Sunday, Nov 14, 2021

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The poor have a gift for you

Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; Mark 13:24-32

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Charity presupposes a giver and a receiver, Pope Francis reminds us this fifth annual World Day of the Poor. This division poses a spiritual danger: tempting the giver to view the poor as a "category" outside our community, to which we may choose to offer our generosity. This perception gratifies the giver and demeans the receiver. Francis observes that "the poor, always and everywhere, evangelize us"—revealing the suffering Christ to us. Charity is occasional and voluntary; mutual sharing, however, is enduring. The real invitation of the poor is this: to share the burden of Christ until we can alleviate it.

Monday, Nov 15, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Head in the clouds but feet on the ground

1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43

"When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God."

Albert the Great was a Renaissance man - but he lived in the Middle Ages. He was a German theologian, but he also wrote voluminously about botany, zoology, music, astronomy, and law - to name just a few of his studies of interest. He never let his head full of knowledge go to his head, though, and one of the ways this Dominican friar and bishop stayed humble was by only traveling by foot. Are there lifestyle changes you can make or privileges you can shed to keep yourself down-to-earth?

Tuesday, Nov 16, 2021

MEMORIAL OF GERTRUDE, MYSTIC

God's love conquers all

2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10

"But he could not see him because of the crowd."

Orphaned during the Middle Ages, Gertrude the Great grew up in a Benedictine monastery and became a brilliant scholar. Like her teacher, Saint Mechtilde of Helfta, Gertrude also became well known as a mystic, experiencing - and transcribing - vivid visions of God's boundless love. Let Gertrude's encounters with Divine Love calm any worries today: "Joy and gladness be to thee from that sweetest heart, my one refuge and shelter in my exile, from that heart so full of tender care for me, whose love is so set on me that it cannot rest till it hath received me into itself for evermore."

Wednesday, Nov 17, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS

Keep the faith under pressure

2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28

"He, in his mercy, will give you back both breath and life, Because you now disregard yourselves for the sake of his law."

Faithfulness unto death is the great rallying cry of the Christian. Without this in mind, today's saint, Elizabeth of Hungary, might at first seem an odd pairing with the readings about martyrdom and divine retribution. With it, however, we see that Saint Elizabeth's firm resolve to serve the poor, despite being a princess with access to enormous privilege, is precisely the kind of behavior God wishes to see in his children. It is precisely the use of the "talents" to which Jesus referred in the parable from today's gospel. Remember, then, that whenever we die to ourselves and devote our lives to Christian charity, we and fulfill the law of God.

Thursday, Nov 18, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

Perseverance please!

1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44

"If this day you only knew what makes for peace."

Life can sometimes beat a person down, and when that happens, the beautiful tradition of praying for saints to intercede for us can provide communion and solace. Today's saint, Philippine Duchesne, was a nun who survived the upheaval of the French Revolution and combined both a strong devotion to prayer and a passion for missionary life in the American frontier, with its many hardships. Because perseverance was a major theme in her life, she is a patron saint of perseverance in adversity. Saint Philippine, pray for us!

Friday, Nov 19, 2021

Act on memory

1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48

"Dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness."

Dedications in memory of fields where lives were lost or sacred places defiled have been a mainstay since biblical times. By remembering the horror of death and destruction, we hope to redeem the site and make it holy again. But as Abraham Lincoln stated on this day in 1863 in his Gettysburg Address, honoring a Civil War battlefield: "We cannot dedicate - we cannot consecrate - we cannot hallow - this ground... the living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it." Our role, says Lincoln, is "to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced." It is for us to "highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain." Lincoln's words echo Jesus' call to his disciples to "do this in memory of me." Become the body of Christ.

Saturday, Nov 20, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

God of the living

1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40

"[God] is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

The Bible's Second Book of Maccabees, composed about a hundred years before Christ, introduced the ideas of resurrection from the dead, the intercession of the saints in heaven, and the responsibility of the living to offer prayers and sacrifices for the dead. The Sadducees of today's gospel episode rejected these ideas while Jesus obviously embraced them. Resurrection, praying for the souls in Purgatory, and the intercession of the saints all have become part of what the church believes. Every Saturday we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the greatest saint in heaven, and ask her intercession for the souls of our departed relatives and friends.

