

# FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3, 2020



## *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: Tuesday - Friday at 8:00AM  
**Temporary Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**  
Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM

\* Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public

## *Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671

[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
email: [parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org](mailto:parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org)

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Mary Ann Merski, Secretary  
Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:00AM  
**Temporary Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**  
Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM

\* Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public



# Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

## Partners in Faith & Mission



### January 3, 2021 The Epiphany of the Lord

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.” The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God’s tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God’s salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God’s healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-13/Eph 3:2-6/Mt 2:1-12 [Epiphany]  
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7-12/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 [Elizabeth Ann Seton]  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-8/Mk 6:34-44 [St. John Newman]  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10-13/Mk 6:45-52 [St. Andre Bessette]  
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14-17/Lk 4:14-22 [St. Raymond of Penafort]  
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-9/Jn 3:22-30  
Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 [Baptism of the Lord]

**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.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

**"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY**

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Linda at 814.864.8476.

**THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"**

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Ray Luniewski at 882-1032.

**PROLIFE COMMUNITY**

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

**ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM**

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check:  New Registration  Change of Address  Change of Telephone Number

Change of E-mail  Moving out of Parish  Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.  
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

*A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome*

# Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Jan. 4th - Special Intention  
 Tues., Jan. 5th - Patricia Richards (Philip Richards)  
 Wed., Jan. 6th - Jean Wiertel (Katherine Krainski)  
 Thurs., Jan. 7th - Joseph Macioch (Family)  
 Fri., Jan. 8th - Stanley Widomski (Parish Care & Concern Committee)  
 Sat., Jan. 9th, 4:00PM –For the People of St. Stanislaus (Pro Populo)  
 Sun., Jan. 10th, 9:00AM - Members of Immaculate Conception (P. & R.Gambill)

## CORRECTION

In the “newsletter” I sent a few weeks ago, I made a typo to our Parish Office address. Our address remains: **516 East 13th Street**. I apologize for any confusion.  
 - Fr. Jason

20+C+M+B+21



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **RICHARD & THERESA JENKS** as gifted by Marcia.

## FEBRUARY LOTTERY RAFFLE

Our Holy Name Society will be sponsoring a “February Lottery Raffle.” Tickets are available from any Holy Name member, or at the Parish Office. Thank you for supporting the Society and, in turn, for the Society enabling us to accomplish so many projects on our campus!

## EPIPHANY REFLECTION

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The Gospel account of the three magi traveling to meet Baby Jesus is one that we know well. Yet, when we pause to reflect on this moment when these men met Christ for the first time, we recognize that there is much to be said for us still today. When the magi entered the house, it says, “they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.” Clearly these men knew that they were in the presence of their King. They also came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, which symbolize Christ’s kingship, divinity and humanity. Christ is still manifesting Himself to us today. We enter God’s house weekly, and we are in His presence. When we meet Him, do we offer Him our gifts — our time, talent and treasure? As Christian stewards, we are called to respond with love, reverence and gratitude. Let us prepare our hearts to receive Christ’s many manifestations in our lives. We just need a grateful disposition to receive them.

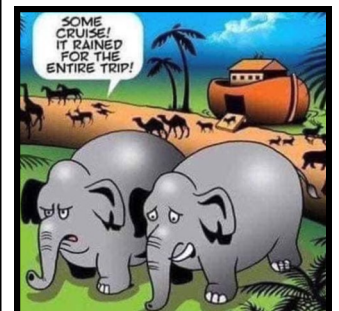
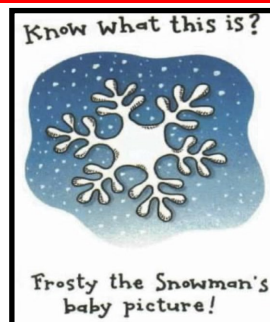
## COVID RELIEF FUND & PLOWING TRUCK

Thanks to your tremendous generosity, we have paid off our portion of the cost for the sanitizing supplies which we use to clean the church after every public celebration. We have plenty of supplies to last us for some time to come! We can bring this solicitation to an end...

If you are looking for other ways to directly assist the parish, we will accept solicitations toward our new/used plowing truck. While the parish can make its monthly payments, any additional funds received will help us pay off our loan more quickly. Every little bit helps!

## A MESSAGE FROM SR. PHYLLIS HILBERT

“Praise be the women of St. Stan’s who have for years baked desserts for SSJNN Monday night dinner. To say they have faithfully provided thousands of delicious home-made delights is no exaggeration. You are our Santa all year. We are so grateful.”  
 - Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network



## WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 20, 2020)

	<i>This Week</i>	<i>July 1 - YTD</i>
Amount we need:	\$4,156.00	\$103,900.00
Amount Received:	\$3,366.00	\$66,573.00
Net over/under:	(\$790.00)	(\$37,890.00)

## CSA UPDATE

90 Pledges: \$38,670.00  
 Paid to Date: \$37,890.00  
 Mass Attendance: 43 at 4:00PM  
 32 at 9:00AM



## AN EPIPHANY PRAYER

Lord Jesus  
 may your light  
 shine our way,  
 as once it guided  
 the steps of the magi:  
 that we too may be led  
 into your presence  
 and worship you,  
 the Child of Mary,  
 the Word of the Father,  
 the King of nations,  
 the Saviour of mankind;  
 to whom be glory for ever.

Amen

## Lessons from 2020

THE WORLD CAN CHANGE QUICKLY.  
 FRIENDS MATTER GREATLY.  
 ALONE AND LONELY ARE DIFFERENT.  
 HOPE MATTERS.  
 LEARN FROM THE PAST.  
 THE SMALL MOMENTS ARE BEAUTIFUL.  
 KINDNESS IS A GREAT GIFT.  
 OPTIMISM IS PRICELESS.  
 BE GRATEFUL FOR FAMILY.  
 HEROES TRULY EXIST.  
 GIVE BACK GENEROUSLY.  
 NEVER STOP TRYING.  
 REACH OUT TO THOSE YOU LOVE.  
 LIVE WITH BRAVERY.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



1/6 – Casimir Dombrowski  
 1/8 – Alexis Simora  
 1/8 – Dale Winarski



## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Jan. 4th - Living & Deceased Mothers  
 Tues., Jan. 5th - Living & Deceased Fathers  
 Wed., Jan. 6th - The Souls in Purgatory  
 Thurs., Jan. 7th - Kulig, Laszczewski & Habas Families (Estate)  
 Fri., Jan. 8th– Nancy Slubowski (Marybeth Fiorelli)  
 Sat., Jan. 10th, 5:15PM - John Figurski (Rachel Anderson)  
 Sun., Jan. 11th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **EDWARD MALINOWSKI** as gifted by Terry Lackovic.

## WISE MEN SEE GOD IN THE SIMPLE THINGS

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace." There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which. After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey. But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe. The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

## THE THREE WISE WOMEN OF CHRISTMAS

It's an old joke – Question: What would have happened if it had been three Wise Women instead of three Wise Men? Answer: They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought more practical gifts.

## The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).

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Y W A Y L X P H C H H M Q D H
K N N T Y I G R Q V O E G M B
W I U A W C N N I R U W R Y R
O V N R T E A C H E R S R O G
R W Q G X T R V E K S A O M D
S O M C H R I S T N M T E K E
H R O V B G H V L M S H S O H
I S T Y L O O U G I E E H C Q
P H H U A D U O B L E B R Y J
E I E Y Z V S E H N M A G I D
D P R O N Y E T V A E G H L Q
G B O R N H E E A S T R I B T
T P B K F B G A V E R H W C E
P M W I C I N E J Y C S T A R
M M B Q D D L V M V T X L X Y
    
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PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 20, 2020

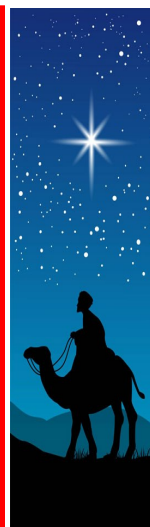
Regular Offering: \$2,045.00 (38/146)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$75,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$59,125.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,045.00	\$50,007.00
Net (over/under):	(\$320.00)	(\$9,118.00)

Attendance: 5:15PM = 39; 10:30AM = 36

### CSA UPDATE

Assessment: \$12,425.00  
 Pledges: \$25,277.00  
 Paid: \$24,537.00  
 Families Contributing: 70



*"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage..."*

- Matthew 2:2

## News for Our Partnership

### CELEBRATING TWO AMERICAN SAINTS



**January 4th: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, S.C.,** Founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph & Considered founder of the Catholic School system in the United States

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the charming "belle of the ball" as a young woman in New York City, linked to all the first families. At the age of 19, she fell in love and married the wealthy, handsome William Magee Seton. The two had a very happy marriage, raising five children. Ten years after they were married, William's business and health both failed, and Elizabeth was left a poor widow with five children to raise alone. Her love for the Eucharist led her to convert to Catholicism and founded the first order of religious women in America, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, a religious community based on the Rule of St. Vincent De Paul. She was able to still raise her children, as well as live the life of a sister and found several schools. She became the co-founder of the first free Catholic School in America.



**January 5th: St. John Neumann, C.Ss.R.,** Missionary and 4th bishop of Philadelphia

Founded the first diocesan Catholic school system in the United States. St. John Neumann learned pretty quickly what it meant to follow God's will with your whole heart and soul. He was certain that he was called to be a priest, but when the time came for ordination, the bishop fell ill and the ordination was cancelled. It was never rescheduled, because there was an over-abundance of priests in Europe. Knowing he was meant to be a priest, John traveled all the way from Bohemia to New York City to be ordained. He was one of only 36 priests, serving 200,000 Catholics: his 'parish' stretched from Lake Ontario throughout Pennsylvania. He became the founder of the first diocesan Catholic School system, going from only two schools to one hundred schools in his diocese.

#### THANK YOU!

We would like to thank you for your extraordinary generosity this Christmas Season! Your many cards, gifts, and remembrances are deeply appreciated and valued. Though it may take a bit of time to extend our personal words of gratitude, be assured that you are remembered in our prayers. Also, thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure *throughout the entire year!*

- Fr. Jason & Fr. Dan

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR BLESSING THE HOME

*Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel (top of the frame) of your front door as follows: **20 + C + M + B + 21** while saying:*

"The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human over two thousand years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen."

*Then offer the following prayer:*

"Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen."

**NOBODY claim 2021 as their year. We're gonna be good, walk in real quiet, and don't touch anything.**



#### THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

1/3) Judy Tucceri & Jackie Vargo; 1/4) Ed Czulewicz, & Evelyn & Ed Selleny; 1/5) Mary Ann Merski & Michelle Inter; 1/6) Msgr. Dan Magraw & Joan Oldenski; 1/7) Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky; 1/8) Steve Rimpa, & Stephanie & Bill Wycech; 1/9) Marcia Nitzczynski & Rose Marie Radomski; 1/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker

#### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

1/3) Fr. Tom Suppa; 1/4) Fr. Jerry Simmons; 1/5) Fr. Mike Polinek; 1/6) Fr. John Santor; 1/7) Fr. Mark O'Hern; 1/8) Fr. Bob Humenay; 1/9) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak; 1/10) Msgr. Gerald Koos

**Sunday, Jan 03, 2021**

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**Bless this new year of grace**

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

*"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

After enduring the manifold burdens of this past year, few of us will need persuading that the annual Epiphany Blessing of the Home is a ritual worth investing in. Gather your housemates if living with others. Download a home blessing ritual or create one yourself, using symbols especially meaningful to your participants. Which household items became especially significant during the pandemic and call for a special blessing? A cloth mask, a bar of soap, and Netflix may be featured as items of peculiar yet holy purpose in this year's rites everywhere.

**Monday, Jan 04, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

**Preserve the legacy**

1 John 3:22 - 4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

*"He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom."*

Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first U.S.-born saint, started the country's first Catholic girls' school in Maryland, where she also founded the first American women's religious community, the Sisters of Charity. All those "firsts" multiplied into an incredible legacy of parochial education and religious life benefiting women that ripples to today. At Seton's beatification, Pope John XXIII said, "she sowed a seed in America which by Divine Grace grew into a tree." Perhaps you yourself are a beneficiary of her legacy.

**Tuesday, Jan 05, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

**Parishes for the people**

1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44

*"They were like sheep without a shepherd..."*

What would U.S. parishes look like without John Neumann, the first naturalized U.S. citizen and bishop who was canonized? As a seminarian in his native Bohemia, John cherished Saint Paul's missionary epistles from the Bible and longed to serve the United States as a missionary. His wish was granted. After John's 1835 ordination he began to set up parishes and a network of parochial schools in New York. He served Germans and Native Americans and also learned Gaelic and Italian to better serve parishioners in Baltimore and Philadelphia. He introduced the Forty Hours devotion and set up parish missions for Lent. Ask John to pray for your parish today.

**Wednesday, Jan 06, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

**Open the door to new life**

1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

*"If God so loved us, we also must love one another."*

So many have said that 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, marked by a pandemic that has taken lives and so much more, and a national election that challenged the U.S. belief in a united nation with liberty and justice for all. Though a new year is only the turn of a calendar page, it allows and encourages new life, new perspective, new hope, and new energy. Let the life of the gentle and humble Saint André Bessette—who spent many years as a doorman for his monastic community—be our inspiration. May compassion and love of neighbor guide us into this new year.

**Thursday, Jan 07, 2021**

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

**And now for an announcement . . .**

1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22

*"Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

Even in an age when people are bombarded with messages, announcements can have particular cachet. They appear over and over in the gospels, from angels announcing Christ's birth to Jesus' announcement in today's gospel that he came to fulfill the words of Isaiah. The church continues to make plenty of announcements, from the calendar items announced at Mass to "announcements" in the form of pastoral letters and encyclicals about how to live contemporary Christian life. You probably announced your faith in a formal way at your Confirmation. How can you "announce" Christ today through your words and actions?

**Friday, Jan 08, 2021**

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

**Out of stillness, creation**

1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16

*"But he would withdraw to deserted places to pray."*

As the Christmas season draws to a close, some treasure its highlights, others dread the January "blahs," and all of us could do well to follow Jesus' model in the gospel. After he cures a leper, the crowds and the demands on him increase. Many of us would plough into the need, then the adulation. Instead, he withdraws and retreats. This wintry season offers a time to withdraw and reflect. Think, for example, of the solitude necessary to create the kind of sacred art that Giotto was known for. He died on this day in 1337, so perhaps you can bring him to mind as you channel your own inner artist in the winter stillness. Create something new today!

**Saturday, Jan 09, 2021**

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

**Make space for Christ**

1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

*"He must increase; I must decrease."*

This is the final day of the Christmas season. But it's always Christmas, every day of the year. Christ comes in our humanity, born into our human flesh. We are always united with Christ in a communion of divinity and humanity, realized in Jesus, shared with us. We celebrate that communion in the central act of our worship: We eat and drink the Real Presence of Christ in us. But like John the Baptist proclaims in today's gospel, that presence of Christ must increase in us as our own egos decrease. This is the way to fulfillment. Let Christ lead you today.



**NEW YEAR PRAYER:**

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty.  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

