

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 2, 2022



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



January 2, 2022 The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

Readings for the week of January 2, 2022

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 [Holy Name of Jesus]
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44 [St. Elizabeth Ann Seton]
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10-13/Mk 6:45-52 [St. John Newman]
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14-17/Lk 4:14-22 [St. Andre Bessette]
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16 [St. Raymond of Penafort]
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-9/Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 29:1-10/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-22 [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 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., Jan. 3rd - Private Intention
 Tues., Jan. 4th - Vernon & Ellen Gambill (Paul & Renee Gambill)
 Wed., Jan. 5th - Keith Coleman (Cindy & Tim Baginski)
 Thurs., Jan. 6th - Bernice Sadler (Shirly Widomski)
 Fri., Jan. 7th - Howard Meyers (Kathy & Jack Ciecierski)
 Sat., Jan. 8th, 9:00AM - Casimir & Paul Lukowich (Family)
 Sun., Jan. 9th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)

OUR LATIN APOSTOLATE

The Traditional Latin Apostolate of Saint Stanislaus at Saint Hedwig's will celebrate their first Mass next Sunday, January 9th. Representatives of Saint Stanislaus will be present to greet and welcome them to Saint Hedwig's and to our community. Please pray for the success of our new partnership!



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **JOHN OLDENSKI** as gifted by Sophia Watral.



The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805. After several years struggling as a

single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."

THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life." If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life. One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?" That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it. The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary. In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others. Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 12, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$99,744.00
Amount Received	\$3,843.00	\$66,158.00
Net over/under	(\$313.00)	(\$33,586.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 38; 9:00AM = 52
 Envelopes: 70/168

WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 19, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$103,900.00
Amount Received	\$2,712.00	\$68,870.00
Net over/under	(\$1,444.00)	(\$35,030.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 60; 9:00AM = 66
 Envelopes: 68/168



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by "another way." What in your family needs to be done "another way?" Do you need "another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn't working. Take a tip from some wise men, there's always "another way."

I wanted to go jogging this morning but Proverbs 28:1 says "the wicked run when no one is chasing them" so there goes that.

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **DECEASED PARISHIONERS OF HOLY TRINITY.**



1/6 – Casimir (Ted) Dombrowski
1/8 – Alexis Simora & Dale Winarski

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Jan. 3rd - Loretta Lipinski (Judith Wagner)
Tues., Jan. 4th - Anna Marie Neimeic (Dee Madura)
Wed., Jan. 5th - Living & Deceased Fathers
Thurs., Jan. 6th - Edward Majewski (Skip & Theresa Ignaczak)
Fri., Jan. 7th - Terry Hiney (Audrey & Jake Bakuhn)
Sat., Jan. 8th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Sun., Jan. 9th, 10:30AM - Lillian Maciulewicz (Family)

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).

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

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD



Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. For centuries we as Catholics celebrated this Feast on Jan. 6, but the decision was made a number of years ago (at least in the United States) to celebrate the Epiphany on the Sunday which falls between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8. "Epiphany" means "manifestation." It is on this day that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is revealed as the light of all nations. Officially Christmas is not over. In fact, the recommendation of the Church is that on this day those who display a crèche, a nativity or manger scene, should replace the shepherd and sheep with the Magi and their likely animals on which they traveled as well as their gifts. However, that is all secondary to the real meaning of this day. At Christmas the Messiah Jesus was revealed to the shepherds, who were Jewish. But on this day the Lord is revealed to all nations and to the Gentiles (represented by the Magi). We are all familiar with the star the Magi followed, but we need to understand all that is happening and what it means. This all represents the Light of Christ, a Light which today we honor and commemorate. We are called to be the Light of Christ right now to those around us and those with whom we come in contact. That way we can be the disciples Christ wants us to be. The poet William Cullen Bryant captures the significance of the star the Magi followed very well when he wrote, "O Father, may that Holy Star, Grow every year more bright, And send its glorious beams afar, To fill the world with light."

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 12, 2021

Regular Offering: \$3,133.00 (35/131)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$63,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$52,601.00
Total Offertory:	\$3,133.00	\$57,458.00
Net (over/under):	\$768.00	\$4,857.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 25; 10:30AM = 62

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 19, 2021

Regular Offering: \$1,496.00 (35/134)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$66,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$54,966.00
Total Offertory:	\$1,496.00	\$58,954.00
Net (over/under):	(\$869.00)	\$3,988.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 46; 10:30AM = 60

"I made a puréed nut spread w/ a grape relish reduction paired w/ brioche bun"



Mother Nature just be throwing out temperatures like Power Ball numbers 66, 40, 29, 58, 24 and 13.



"They prostrated themselves and did him homage..."

- Mark 2:10

News for Our Partnership

20 HAPPY NEW YEAR 22

MANY THANKS

Fr. Jason and Msgr. Dan want to express their profound gratitude for all of your Christmas remembrances. Your generosity is overwhelming. While it may take some time to express our gratitude in a more personal manner, please know of our appreciation. Many prayers and blessings upon all of our parishioners and families this holiday season!

GETTING USED TO 2022

It takes a while to get use to writing the New Year on our checks. Someone suggested writing the year - "2022" - on your next ten checks to help you remember and get you started in the New Year. Banks will not accept checks still dated "2021."

MUCH APPRECIATION

... to all of those who put in so much time and effort to decorate our churches. Both were absolutely stunning. Additional thanks to our music ministers for enhancing our holiday celebrations. Finally, to all of our parishioners who filled our churches with a spirit of hope and joy, wonder and festivity.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Parishioners can now sign up to receive an electronic edition of our weekly diocesan newsletter. Simply go to <https://www.eriecd.org/news/enewsletter.html> and subscribe by entering your email.

CURSILLO

The Erie Cursillo Movement is currently planning and accepting candidate applications for a Men's Cursillo from February 11 to 13, 2022 and a Woman's Cursillo from April 29 to May 1, 2022. Applications can be found on the Cursillo Website at www.ericursillo.org, calling the Cursillo office at 814-824-1119, or by asking someone you may know who has completed a Cursillo weekend who would be willing to serve as your sponsor.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

1/2) Patty Czulewicz; 1/3) Judy Tucceri & Jackie Vargo; 1/4) Ed Czulewicz, & Eely & 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 Nitzynski & Rose Marie Radomski

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

1/2) Msgr. Bob Smith; 1/3) Msgr. Charlie Kaza; 1/4) Fr. Tom Suppa; 1/5) Fr. Michael Kesicki; 1/6) Fr. Bill Laska; 1/7) Fr. Chris Hamlett; 1/8) Msgr. Bruce Allison; 1/9) Fr. Matt Ruyechan



New Year Extravaganza BINGO All CASH prizes!!!

*** Instants * 50/50 Game**

- Sunday, January 23, 2022
- 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
FUTURE DATES: March 13th & May 1**

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year."

HAPPY 2022

Sunday, Jan 02, 2022

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The sanctity of home

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

"The star they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was."

"Home is where the heart is" is an ancient proverb. Many folks find their deepest level of satisfaction and fulfillment in family life. But home is also where the hearth is: the place to which we come in from the cold to restore ourselves, where we put up our feet, sigh, and relax. Our homes are sacred to us; why not commend them to God? On Epiphany, we're invited to gather with our loved ones to bless the door, walls, and table of our dwelling. Compose your own blessing together or visit the USCCB's Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany for the rite of home blessing.

Monday, Jan 03, 2022

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Initial reflections

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

"And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him."

Do you have anything monogrammed with your initials, perhaps towels or clothing? It marks your belongings as yours. Jesus has a monogram too: "IHS," which stands for the first three letters of the Greek spelling of the name of Jesus. There is power in the very name of Jesus and so Catholics venerate it. Perhaps you've seen this monogram on altars or vestments. You can bear his monogram too—by calling on his name and showing to the world that you belong to him.

Tuesday, Jan 04, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

Fed by the bread of life

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

"He said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people."

Raised Episcopalian, Elizabeth Ann Seton knew about Jesus multiplying loaves. On Sundays, she was a devout communicant at historic Trinity Church on Wall Street. But it wasn't until Elizabeth went to Italy with her children and husband in 1803, attending Mass with Catholic friends, that she was drawn to the Real Presence in the Eucharist. "How happy would we be, if we believed what these dear souls believe," she wrote, "that they possess God in the sacrament, and that He remains in their churches and is carried to them when they are sick!" In honor of Mother Seton, the first U.S-born saint, resolve to receive Communion more often this year.

Wednesday, Jan 05, 2022

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

Get to know your neighbors

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

"If we love one another, God remains in us, and [God's] love is brought to perfection in us."

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint John Neuman, the first Redemptorist priest ordained in the United States and the first male U.S. citizen named a saint. Neumann, who emigrated to the United States from Bohemia as a young man desirous of being a missionary, is revered for his tireless work among immigrants in the Northeast.

He had a talent for understanding people and knowing what would bring them peace and comfort. Seek to emulate this holy man, who one of his fellow bishops observed, "had a solution for every question posed," and an "unruffled composure, which betokened deep humility and perfect self-control. I always regarded him as a saint."

Thursday, Jan 06, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

The comeback kid of Québec

1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

Saint André Bessette's remarkable life began when he was born into poverty in 1845. Orphaned by age 12, considered a failure in school, he practiced unskilled trades until his pastor encouraged him to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross. The congregation reluctantly admitted him, concerned about his frail health. Brother André defied expectations, living to age 91 and becoming famous

throughout Québec for the many healings people experienced after visiting him in his role as a humble doorkeeper. Why not ask Brother André for his intercession, be it for mental, spiritual, relational, or physical healing?

Friday, Jan 07, 2022

MEMORIAL OF RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PRIEST

Make straight your path

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

"God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

Through its long history, the church has been careful to make a distinction between the canons, or rules, of the church and the laws of the state. The canons, from the Greek kanon for "straight," were meant to guide Catholics toward the mission of the church - to keep them on the straight and narrow of faith, so to speak. There are 1,752 canons, many that pertain to all of us. For example, Canon 210: "All the Christian faithful must direct their efforts to lead a holy life and to promote the growth of the church and its continual sanctification, according to their own condition."

In honor of the patron saint of canon lawyers, Saint Raymond of Peñafort, do your best to follow the rules of the church and give witness to God's saving love.

Saturday, Jan 08, 2022

SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Increasing Christ

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

"He must increase; I must decrease."

Tomorrow, the Baptism of the Lord, marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. The days, dates, and seasons of the church's liturgical calendar focus the whole People of God on the same celebrations. During Advent we prepare. In Christmas we welcome. Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. Easter is new life. In Ordinary Time we celebrate the ongoing effects of God's grace. So when "Silent Night" or "We Three Kings" is sung throughout the world, the air fills with the grace generated by God in our hearts. Sing a Christmas hymn today and know that the stars are singing with you.

20 + C + M + B + 22