

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## February 7, 2021



### *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*



February 7, 2021  
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

### Readings for the week of February 7, 2021

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-6/1 Cor 9:16-23/Mk 1:29-39 [4th Sunday]  
Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2-6, 10-12, 24 and 35/Mk 6:53-56 [St. Jerome Emilani]  
Tuesday: Gn 1:20-2:4a/Ps 8:4-9/Mk 7:1-13  
Wednesday: Gn 2:4-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2, 27-30/Mk 7:14-23 [St. Scholastica]  
Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/Mk 7:24-30 [Our Lady of Lourdes]  
Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-7/Mk 7:31-37  
Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10  
Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-11/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45 [5th Sunday]

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

**Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation** programs are hosted at Saint Luke's Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

**Confirmation** preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint 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, 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., Feb. 8th - Private Intention  
 Tues., Feb. 9th - Stanley Widomski (Kristin Strivinsky & Family)  
 Wed., Feb. 10th - Joseph Macioch (Family)  
 Thurs., Feb. 11th - Richard Dombrowski (The Mikielski Family)  
 Fri., Feb. 12th - Ed Czulewicz (Frank & Theresa Bolmanski)  
 Sat., Feb. 13th, 4:00PM - Stanley Markiewicz, Jr. (Family)  
 Sun., Feb. 14th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)

## mark your **Calendar**

We intend to host our annual "Fish & Pierogi Dinners" (most likely, for take-out only) on the following dates in Lent:

February 19th  
 March 5th  
 March 19th



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of  
**STANLEY WIDOMSKI** as gifted by Diane & Rich Valahovic.

## YEAR 2020 WAS BETTER THAN YOU THINK

- The ozone hole over Antarctica closed
- Germany is changing 62 military bases into nature reserves
- Whales came back to the Atlantic ocean after more than 100 years
- Great Britain reported the smallest number of people that became infected with HIV in history
- China, as the biggest air polluter in the world, committed to achieving zero emissions by 2060
- The number of victims of terrorism decreased for the 5th year in a row
- In 2020 people saved 48 animal species from extinction
- Scientists discovered 20 new animal and plant species. They also rediscovered some they thought were extinct
- Kazakhstan became the 88th nation that committed to abolish the death penalty
- Elephant population in Kenya doubled
- Saudi Arabia and Palestine banned child marriages
- Demand for oil decreased for the first time in history and Denmark even promised to end its mining
- Scotland will provide menstrual aids to all women for free
- In Africa, polio has been completely eradicated. They owe it to the vaccine
- Vaccine against Covid-19 became the fastest developed vaccine in history

## DAILY MASSES

Although our weekend Masses have been public since mid-July, we never resumed a daily public Mass, primarily because our "regulars" were still reluctant to come to church. However, moving forward, if the daily Mass intention is for a loved one and you would like to attend, please call the Parish Office a day in advance and Father will be sure to open the church is opened for you.

## SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

Baked Goods are needed for the SSJ Soup Kitchen for **FEBRUARY 15th**. They are asking for individually wrapped treats like "Hostess Twinkies" or "Little Debbie's" snack cakes. All donated goods can be dropped off at the church vestibule Sunday, February 14th, between 9:00AM-Noon, or brought to the Nazareth Center on Monday, February 15, between 2:00-3:00PM.

Our readings today remind us that Christ came to serve. Jesus' entire life was focused on others. He came to fulfill His Father's mission — the salvation of mankind. He labored for this mission by becoming the humblest of servants. In today's Gospel, Simon says to Jesus, "Everyone is looking for you." Jesus did not seek after the praise. Rather, He responded by saying, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also." Jesus was already looking to whom He could serve next. As Christian stewards, we are also called to be humble servants who labor for our Father's mission. We should strive to imitate the Perfect Steward, Who was constantly aware of the needs of those around Him and put His gifts to good use. For us, this begins right here in our homes, parish and community. We are called to live each moment in awareness of our Father's mission and in gratitude for all He has given us. Jesus tells us that the way to be attentive is through prayer. Before Jesus made the decision to go to the nearby villages to preach, He first went off to pray. It is through prayer that Jesus could hear what His Father was asking of Him. We, too, are called to spend time in daily prayer — we will then become aware of the opportunities to serve the Lord. Let us commit to finding some quiet time this week to pray. Let us ask the Lord — how can I serve You better throughout my days? And let us pray, "Make me humble, Lord."

## WEEKLY OFFERING (JANUARY 31, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$124,680.00
Amount Received	\$2,056.00	\$84,040.00
Net over/under	\$2,100.00	(\$40,640.00)

Mass Attendance:  
 4:00PM = 34  
 9:30AM = 38



# Holy Trinity Parish Community



2/9 – Philip Slomski  
2/13 – Brent Chermack

March again in one month! I'm still processing last March... 😞



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **NANCY SLUBOWSKI** as gifted by her FAMILY.

Nothing in Nature lives for itself  
Rivers don't drink their own water  
Trees don't eat their own fruit  
The Sun doesn't shine for itself  
Flowers don't spread fragrance for themselves  
Living for others is the rule of nature



## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JANUARY 31, 2020

Regular Offering: \$2,317.00 (32/140)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$93,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$73,487.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,317.00	\$61,801.00
Net (over/under):	(\$22.00)	(\$11,686.00)

Attendance: 5:15PM = 23; 10:30AM = 42

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Feb. 8th - Aggie Krawiec (Irene Krol)  
Tues., Feb. 9th - Kulig, Laszczewski, Habas Families (Estate)  
Wed., Feb. 10th - The Souls in Purgatory (Patty, Ed, & Anna)  
Thurs., Feb. 11th - Loretta Lipinski (Irene Krol)  
Fri., Feb. 12th - Anna Kaminski (Family)  
Sat., Feb. 13th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (*Pro Populo*)  
Sun., Feb. 14th, 10:30AM - Msgr. Severin Niedbalski



Msgr. Severin Niedbalski was born in Szaraniec, Poland on December 6, 1865. He was ordained in the United States and first served as Pastor at Panna Maria Church in Texas, the oldest Polish church in the United States. Due to the tragic death of Reverend Matysiak (the first Pastor of Holy Trinity for only one year), Msgr. Niedbalski became the second and longest serving Pastor of Holy Trinity for 44 years, passing away 73 years ago this week, on February 12, 1948 at the age of 82.  
[Photo and Summary contributed by Bobbi Sulecki]

## Show Others You Care

The whole town gathered at the door to watch. So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases.  
Mark 1:33-34a (NIV)

Based on Mark 1:29-39



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

FEVER	SIMON	HAND	DOOR	ANDREW
SUNSET	VILLAGES	PREACH	BED	DEMONS
JOHN	SYNAGOGUE	PEOPLE	JESUS	HELPED
HEALED	TOWN	EVENING	JAMES	SICK

*"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed."*

- Mark 1:25



# News for Our Partnership

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

### Lenten Orders

January 23<sup>rd</sup> until February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
**PAYMENT DUE WITH ORDER**

### PIEROGI

\$18.00/Dozen OR \$9.50/Half Dozen

### POTATO PANCAKE BATTER

\$5.00/Pint

\$8.00/Quart

\$15.00/2 Quarts

CALL orders in to (814) 456-5300 (Edith) Credit Cards Accepted  
MAIL orders to: Holy Trinity Parish 2220 Reed Street Erie, PA 16503

### Order pick up dates:

Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup>  
(4:00p.m. until 7:00p.m.)

OR

Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
(Between 10:00-11:00am)

HOLY TRINITY SOCIAL CENTER  
23<sup>rd</sup> and Reed Streets

Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity Partnered Parishes

## LENTEN DINNERS

\*TAKE-OUT ONLY\*



4:00 - 7:00 PM (or until sold out)

- ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th at HOLY TRINITY
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th at SAINT STANISLAUS
- FRIDAY, MARCH 5th at SAINT STANISLAUS
- FRIDAY, MARCH 12th at HOLY TRINITY
- FRIDAY, MARCH 19th at SAINT STANISLAUS

Saint Stanislaus 513 East 13th Street Fish & Pierogi \$10.00 for adults \$5.00 for children 6-12 Free for children under 5 (Take-Out Only)	Holy Trinity 2220 Reed Street Baked Fish, Pierogi, & Potato Pancakes \$12.00 Platter \$10.00 Dinner \$5.00 for children under 12 Free for children under 5
--	--



## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

9:00AM - Holy Trinity

4:00PM - St. Stanislaus

\* Ashes will be distributed at both Masses. Reminder: Due to Covid concerns, ashes will be sprinkled on the crown of the recipient's head (not imprinted on the forehead by the presider's thumb).

## REVISIONS TO OUR LITURGICAL WORSHIP

While encouraging progress if being made against the Covid pandemic with the increased administration of the vaccine, it remains a dangerous health concern. Unlike last year, *we will* be able to *publicly* celebrate the Lent and Easter seasons! At the same time, on January 12th, the Vatican's Congregation on Divine Worship issued guidelines that will make our celebrations quite different than we are used to. Bishop Persico has passed these revisions on to us and I would like to share them with you, in advance, so that you are not taken by surprise.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Borrowing a practice used throughout much of the world, ashes will be *sprinkled on the crown of one's head* rather than "smeared" on one's forehead.

**PALM SUNDAY:** Palms will not be given out prior to Mass. Rather, you will be invited to take one following Mass and after first sanitizing your hands.

I will provide reminders of these revisions in future bulletins as each significant celebration draws nearer.

- Fr. Jason

Adam: What is a million years like to you? God: Like one second. Adam: What is a million dollars like to you? God: Like one penny. Adam: Can I have a penny? God: Sure, just a second.

"A little bit of mercy make the world less cold and more just." - Pope Francis

**If you're having sex before marriage, go to church anyway. If you are a drug addict trying to beat addiction, go to church anyway. If you were out drunk all night the night before, go to church anyway. If you aren't sure what gender you prefer, go to church anyway. If you can't quit that disgusting habit, go to church anyway. Church is a hospital for the broken, lost, empty, confused, desperate, and rejected. Every sinner has a future, and every Saint has a past. How do we break the chains of addiction and bondage? By prayer, prayer for you and prayer with you! There isn't a single person in the 4 walls of the church that doesn't have something they hate or regret about their past. We've all made mistakes, and will continue to, BUT His Grace is enough!! There's things that I'd never want to admit outloud about myself, but God knows. And He loves me none the less. So whatever you've done, whatever you're doing, whatever you will do....go to church anyway, it might just change your life!!**

**Home schooling going well two students suspended for fighting one teacher fired for drinking on the job**

*Let all that you do be done in LOVE*

## THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

2/7) Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky; 2/8) Steve Rimpa, Stephanie & Bill Wycech; 2/9) Marcia Nitczynski & Rose Marie Radomski; 2/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker; 2/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski; 2/12) Edie Luniewski & Debbie Oldenski; 2/13) Deacon Tom Matusiak & Shirley Widomski; 2/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krainski

## PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

2/7) Msgr. Joe Riccardo; 2/8) Fr. Johnathan Schmolt; 2/9) Msgr. Henry Shauerman; 2/10) Bishop Donald Trautman; 2/11) Fr. Rick Tomasone; 2/12) Msgr. Bob Smith; 2/13) Fr. Rocco Tito; 2/14) Fr. John Murphy

### Sunday, Feb 07, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Game on

Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

*"Simon's mother-in-law lay sick...*

*[Jesus] grasped her hand, and helped her up."*

The odds for Super Bowl Sunday 2021 were available last February. Tickets for the game have been on sale for as long. But things don't always happen the way we plan them. Last year, when the Chiefs were pitted against the 49ers, no one imagined how the world would change between one Super Bowl and the next. Still, Jesus comes into our midst wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, and grasps us by the hand. We can't be sure of the game plan for the future. But we can trust that Jesus will be there for us.

### Monday, Feb 08, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JEROME EMILIANI, PRIEST

#### Share the love to feel the love

Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56

*"They laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak."*

Who hasn't felt all alone before? Perhaps let down or left by a loved one. Perhaps in such dire straits that you thought even God abandoned you. Jerome Emiliani is the saint for those low points. He found God in ultimate isolation—prison. Once free, he became a priest and devoted himself to the abandoned of 16th-century Venice—especially orphans and prostitutes. When you feel stricken with an orphan spirit, remember that you are a beloved child of a loving Creator who will never let you go. Show

### Tuesday, Feb 09, 2021

#### Be the change

Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Mark 7:1-13

*"The Pharisees and scribes questioned him,  
'Why do your disciples not follow the tradition?'"*

Gregory XV became pope by "popular acclaim" on this day in 1621—interesting, because he changed the tradition soon after. Instead, Gregory made the case for the first secret ballot when electing a pope. He also did other remarkable things, considering his papacy lasted barely two years. He established the first missionary organization of the Vatican, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. And he canonized these beloved saints: Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, and Francis Xavier. Is there a change you've been meaning to make in your own practice of the faith? Begin today.

### Wednesday, Feb 10, 2021

MEMORIAL OF SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN

#### God's assistance rains down

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7:14-23

*"When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth."*

Saint Scholastica's is the sister of Benedict. She entered religious life and lived in a women's monastery a few miles from her brother's in Monte Cassino. Perhaps the most enduring story about Scholastica is one that pits her will against her brother's when she begs him to extend their yearly visit and spend the night in prayer and conversation. Benedict resists. Determined, Scholastica asks God for assistance, and a torrential rainstorm ensues that settles the matter in her favor—Benedict will spend the night. Never doubt that you are worthy to ask for God's help.

### Thursday, Feb 11, 2021

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

#### Turn to Mary

Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 7:24-30

*"Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him.  
She came and fell at his feet."*

Much of Jesus' ministry had to do with some form of healing, and today's memorial, Our Lady of Lourdes, recognizes Mary's 18 reported appearances in Lourdes, France, a place of pilgrimage known for healing powers. Millions of people a year travel to Lourdes in search of healing; many report spiritual peace and transformation, and a handful even report experiencing cures without medical explanation. Today is also World Day of the Sick. It's an ideal day to ask Mary to intercede on behalf of healing that we need—or that our friends and loved ones desire.

### Friday, Feb 12, 2021

#### Say their name

Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37

*"They were... astonished and they said, 'He has done all things well.'"*

This day, falling between World Day of the Sick and Valentine's Day, brings thoughts of how many are left alone after COVID deaths. Advertisers are pushing candy, cards, and flowery bouquets, but the countercultural church also counsels that we pay kind attention to those who are grieving. Practical actions are often most helpful: not only shoveling a driveway or baking some bread, but also reaching out and just listening to whatever is on the grieving person's heart. Sometimes all a grieving person wants is to name the beloved and talk about them again. Being a good listener is a welcome gift.

### Saturday, Feb 13, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

#### Saturdays belong to Mary

Genesis 3:9-24; Mark 8:1-10

*"My heart is moved with pity for the crowd."*

For more than a thousand years, the Catholic Church has dedicated most Saturdays to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The reason for choosing Saturday above all other days has been lost to antiquity. But according to tradition, Saturday has been set aside to celebrate the maternal example of Mary and witness to her dedicated discipleship as a woman of God and a follower of Jesus. The weekly memorial serves as a reminder that she is continuously present and operative in the life of the church. Reflect on how the Blessed Virgin Mary has been present and active in your life.

### FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

June 19, 1865 - "Juneteenth" is the celebration of the last of the slaves to be emancipated in the United States.

On Juneteenth, we pray for the end  
of racism, racial inequalities and  
hatred in our nation, for an end to all  
forms of slavery and human  
trafficking in the world.

Living in God's grace and  
forgiveness, may we confess and  
confront our own prejudices and  
fears, serving as catalysts for change,  
reconciliation and healing.  
Amen.

