

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## January 31, 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*



**January 31, 2021**  
**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

#### **Readings for the week of January 31, 2021**

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-9/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28 [4th Sunday]  
Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20-24/Mk 5:1-20  
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 [Presentation of the Lord]  
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-18/Mk 6:1-6 [Sts. Blaise & Ansgar]  
Thursday: Heb 12:18-24/Ps 48:2-10/Mk 6:7-13  
Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1-9/Mk 6:14-29 [St. Agatha]  
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-6/Mk 6:30-34 [St. Paul Miki & Companions]  
Next Sunday: Jb 7:1-7/Ps 147:1-6/1 Cor 9:16-23/Mk 1:29-39 [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. 1st - Private Intention  
 Tues., Feb. 2nd - Arthur John Matczak (D.J. McCune)  
 Wed., Feb. 3rd - Leo & Jean Wiertel (Family)  
 Thurs., Feb. 4th - Zawistowski Family (Estate of Sylvia Kazmierski)  
 Fri., Feb. 5th - Stella Dombrowski (Rich & Diane Valahovic)  
 Sat., Feb. 6th, 4:00PM - Eugene Tomczak (Elaine & Family)  
 Sun., Feb. 7th, 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 **ED PRZEPIERSKI** as gifted by Marie.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, January 23, for **Mary Rose Tabaka**, a member of the former St. Mary's Church. She was 100 years old. Please remember her and her loved ones in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."

## 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.

## *The last weekend*

### 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!

Our readings today remind us of God's authority. As we reflect on our Gospel, we recognize that God possesses all authority and that we want to give Him all authority. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue on the sabbath. All were fixed on His words and astonished at what He had to say. Suddenly everyone's attention shifted to a man with an unclean spirit who began to question Jesus and His authority. Jesus responded, "Quiet, come out of him!" and removed the evil spirit from the man. All were amazed at the healing of this man. Life can sometimes look like the synagogue in Capernaum. We are living as disciples of Christ when we suddenly recognize evil around us — through events in our lives, temptations we are enduring, or by falling into sin. It can distract us, consume our attention, or even cause us to despair. In these moments of trial, we must remember the Healer in our Gospel today. Recall His words, "Quiet, come out of Him!" Jesus has the power and authority over evil, for He has conquered sin and death. He also has the power and authority over us. And when we invite Him to have that authority, He will heal us and help us persevere. Today, we are reminded that God is in control and that we want Him to be in control. He is the loving Healer that will work miracles in our lives if we give Him the authority to do so.



## WEEKLY OFFERING (JANUARY 24, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$120,524.00
Amount Received	\$2,278.00	\$81,984.00
Net over/under	(\$1,878.00)	(\$38,540.00)

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



## FINAL 2020 CSA REPORT

The final report of our smashingly successful 2020 CSA was submitted to the Diocese this past Wednesday. I proudly submitted the following:

90 Pledges: \$39,020.00  
 Pledges Collected: \$38,780.00  
 Assessment Paid: \$31,019.00  
 St. Stan's Profit: \$7,761.00

My sincere gratitude to all who participated and helped us exceed our goal for the first time ever!

- Fr. Jason

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



1/31 – Dee Korytowski;  
2/1 – Valerie Seeman;  
2/2 – Irene Kniowski &  
Patricia Stano;  
2/7 - Lillian Przepierski



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **JOHN FIGURSKI** as gifted by Pearl & Kathy Wisniewski.

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule for lectors who are comfortable returning to their ministry. If you are not on this schedule and would like to be, please call the Parish Office. Thank you for your ministry!

2/6 (5:15) - Jack Kempisty  
2/7 (10:30) - Ed Korytowski  
2/13 (5:15) - John Otto  
2/14 (10:30) - Steve Rimpa  
2/20 (5:15) - Jack Kempisty  
2/21 (10:30) - Ed Korytowski  
2/27 (5:15) - John Otto  
2/28 (10:30) - Steve Rimpa

## FINAL 2020 CSA REPORT

The final report of our successful 2020 CSA was submitted to the Diocese this past Wednesday. I am happy to report the following:

Assessment: \$12,425.00  
Pledges: \$25,227.00  
Paid: \$24,687.00  
Holy Trinity's Profit: \$12,262.00  
Families Contributing: 70

Sincere **thanks** to everyone who made this such a wonderfully successful CSA!

- Fr. Jason

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JANUARY 24, 2020

Regular Offering: \$2,178.00 (27/147)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$90,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$71,122.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,193.00	\$59,458.00
Net (over/under):	(\$172.00)	(\$11,664.00)

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Feb. 1st - John Figurski (Dave & Nancy Skopow)  
Tues., Feb. 2nd - John Raclawski (Friend)  
Wed., Feb. 3rd - The Souls in Purgatory (Skip & Theresa Ignaczak)  
Thurs., Feb. 4th - Msgr. John Daniszewski (Estate)  
Fri., Feb. 5th - All Living & Deceased Fathers of Holy Trinity  
Sat., Feb. 6th, 5:15PM - Edward Czulewicz (Patty, Ed, & Anna)  
Sun., Feb. 7th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (*Pro Populo*)

## DISTRACTED PRAYER?

I get annoyed with myself when I am distracted while I pray. Is it a sin? How can I be more attentive? The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us "no!" This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life—dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play! There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just "re-collect" ourselves. If some worry or concern just won't leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won't come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.

## Who's In Control?

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." Mark 1:27  
Based on Mark 1:21-28



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

REGION	SPREAD	JESUS	PEOPLE	NEWS
SHRIEK	SYNAGOGUE	SHOOK	DESTROY	AMAZED
QUIET	HOLY	GALILEE	ORDERS	SABBATH
AUTHORITY	OBEY	EVIL	TEACH	SPIRIT

*"Come after me and I will make you fishers of men."*

- Mark 1:17

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> at HOLY TRINITY
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup> at SAINT STANISLAUS
- FRIDAY, MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> at SAINT STANISLAUS
- FRIDAY, MARCH 12<sup>th</sup> at HOLY TRINITY
- FRIDAY, MARCH 19<sup>th</sup> 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
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### SINCE SOME HAVE ASKED...

"Amazon Smile" is a website operated by Amazon that let's you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping as is found on "amazon.com." The difference is that when you shop on Amazon Smile, the "Amazon Smile Foundation" will donate a percentage of the purchase price directly to our respective parishes. To start, simply follow the link:

**Saint Stan's:** <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0967487>

**Holy Trinity:** <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1091810>

I don't do a lot of Amazon shopping, but I have already generated nearly \$4.00! It's easy! Give it a try! - Fr. J.

### 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.

**THE FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE:** The blessing of throats will be given once over the entire congregation. Any special requests for an individual blessing will be done at a six foot distance and *without* the use of candles.

**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.

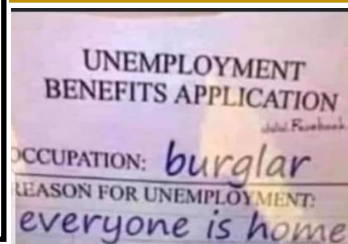
- Fr. Jason

### COVID REMINDER

I have been exceptionally pleased in our parishes ability to remain opened to public celebrations. That we haven't had any "incidents" of concern speaks highly of our commitment to maintaining a safe environment. Special thanks are in order for all of our volunteers who sanitize our churches after each public celebration!

Some concerns have been expressed, however, about maintaining six feet of social distance while processing forward in the communion line to receive the Eucharist. Please try to be more aware of the person in front of you and stay six feet behind them when coming forward for communion. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

- Fr. Jason



Germany is now advising people to stock up on cheese and sausages. This is called the Wurst Käse scenario.

### THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

- 2/1) Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski & Mary Speice; 2/2) Patty Czulewicz & John Oldenski;
- 2/ 3) Judy Tucceri & Jackie Vargo; 2/4) Ed Czulewicz, & Evelyn & Ed Selleny;
- 2/5) Mary Ann Merski & Michelle Inter; 2/6) Msgr. Dan Magraw & Joan Oldenski

### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

- 2/1) 1 Fr. David Renne; 2/2) Fr. Glenn Whitman; 2/3) Fr. George Strohmeier; 2/4) Msgr. John Swoger;
- 2/5) Fr. Paul Schill; 2/6) Rev. John E. Santor; 2/7) Msgr. Joseph Riccardo



### Sunday, Jan 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Strengthen the partnership

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28  
*"What is this? A new teaching with authority."*

The relationship between parishes and schools is long and intimate—important to note at the start of Catholic Schools Week. After the first Catholic diocese was established in the United States in Baltimore, pastors lobbied at once for schools and religious to staff them. Frontier pastors vowed to build the school first and the church later. They understood that without proper religious education, the parish venture would certainly fail. Today, celebrate this essential partnership with a holy hour, candlelight prayer vigil, or special project in the parish for young people and their supporters.

### Monday, Feb 01, 2021

#### Example is the best education

Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20

*"[A]nnounce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you."*

Each day of Catholic Schools Week is the celebration of a component of Catholic education. Today we look at the experience of community. Through the relationships and interactions of service activities in the community and class trips to other environs, students get to practice the values they learn in their Catholic education and experience what it feels like to be making the world a better place. Plus they get a chance to observe others in community service and come to appreciate how they can continue caring for others their entire lives. Today, be an example of service to others.

### Tuesday, Feb 02, 2021

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

#### Teach a faith that grows on you

Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

*"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."*

Mary and Joseph bring their beloved firstborn to the temple at the appointed time, so Jesus can enter into the covenant with Yahweh that Jews have revered since Abraham. Not unlike infant Baptism today, it was—among other things—a powerful ritual of belonging that put the child on the right path to growing in faith. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week—with the focus today being squarely on "the student"—may we never forget or neglect the promise of every young soul, so receptive to our efforts to plant the seeds of faith.

### Wednesday, Feb 03, 2021

#### One nation, under God

Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6

*"Many who heard him were astonished. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him?'"*

Catholic schools have made a unique contribution to the nation, and today we can recognize and celebrate that contribution. At their very best, Catholic schools train students to grow both as members of the Catholic church and as productive citizens of the nation. By "rendering to Caesar and to God," Catholic schools in the United States have managed to achieve that rare combination in world history, the development of a relatively harmonious church-state relationship that has endured for centuries. See the NCEA website for suggestions on how to celebrate the nation during Catholic Schools Week.

### Thursday, Feb 04, 2021

#### Line things up

Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13

*"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two."*

Catholic schools prepare students to discover their vocation, so they can grow to use their gifts in service of church and world. Over the years, our notion of "vocation" has broadened significantly. A word that once designated those who take religious vows or are ordained into ministry is now used more broadly. No one defined vocation better than essayist and theologian Carl Frederick Buechner: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Are the two aligned in your life? And if not, how can you bring them into alignment?

### Friday, Feb 05, 2021

#### Thank those who opened your mind

Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29

*"The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid."*

Where would any of us be without our teachers? They did everything from helping us with our "three R's" to opening our minds to new ways of seeing the world. The really great teachers taught us how to learn for ourselves and thus set us up for a lifetime of discovery and fulfillment. When was the last time you thanked a teacher? Today is the day Catholic Schools Week pays special attention to the faculty, staff, and volunteers that make it possible for these great schools to function. See the NCEA website for suggestions on how to give thanks and recognition.

### Saturday, Feb 06, 2021

#### Make faith a family affair

Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34

*"The Apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught."*

We close Catholic Schools Week by recognizing the central role in Catholic education played by the family. The Second Vatican Council called the family "the domestic church" because it is in the home that faith is first formed and nurtured. Whether you live alone or with others, your home can be a sacred space of prayer and spirituality. Creating sacred space in your home includes prayer and scripture readings at meal times and before bed; praying the Rosary; placing a crucifix in a prominent place; and family traditions based on the liturgical seasons. Look for ways to recognize the family's role in Catholic education and also ways to make your home a domestic church. Have at it!

