

# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 19, 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

**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](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

**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



September 19, 2021

### 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is something about being first. Whether it be first in line, first to be picked for the team, or the first one to finish their work. Our egos love being first. It somehow sets us apart from everyone else, gives us a sense of pride and positions us to feel better than others. When we are first, we can glory in our efforts, skills, and achievements. Isn't that what really matters? After all, we are taught from a very young age to be proficient, stay on top, be the best at what we do, and win the praise and esteem of others. This is the stuff that makes us successful and provides us with a comfortable, satisfying life.

Jesus wants none of it. All of the details we anguish over mean little to the kingdom of God. You want to be first? Then, be a servant and welcome a child. All of this is the opposite of our often vehement pursuits. If we are serious about following Jesus and living the Gospel, then we must put the needs of others before our own. If we continue to listen only to the noise of the world, we are going to continue to believe the illusions we inherit. Those illusions come in many forms, but all have things in common: me before you, being on top and not the bottom, us versus them, personal security over universal harmony and peace. When are we going to learn that always striving to be the best and first is an empty pursuit in our struggle for happiness? While satisfying our ego with this momentary boost of esteem may feel good for a moment, is it what we really desire?

If we can break from the world's noise and create a space of sacred silence in our lives, we can begin to listen and see that we are being called in another direction. What we really desire is not the bolstering of our egos but the innocence we lost somewhere along the way. When we can be playful, joyful, and even somewhat carefree, life is good. We want our relationships to work, a place to call home, and to live peaceful lives with our sisters and brothers. Only a servant can do this. The servant's prayer seeks to detach from self-concern in order to be used by God. Rather than worrying about being first and coming out on top, we can be inspired, guided, empowered, and led to do good works. Stop worrying about being first and put greater energy into feeling joy.

### Readings for the week of September 19, 2021

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-6/Jas 3:16-4:3/Mk 9:30-37 (25th Sunday)  
Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1-6/Lk 8:16-18 (Sts. Andrew Kim and companions)  
Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13 (St. Matthew)  
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2-8/Lk 9:1-6  
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1-9/Lk 9:7-9 (St. Pius of Pietrelcina)  
Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1-4/Lk 9:18-22  
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15/Jer 31:10-13/Lk 9:43b-45  
Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8-14/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43-48 (26th 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, 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 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.

**“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., Sept. 20th - Private Intention  
 Tues., Sept. 21st - Edward Czulewicz (Ken & Gert Massing)  
 Wed., Sept. 22nd - Joseph Macioch (Family)  
 Thurs., Sept. 23rd - Ronald Wiczorek & Henry Dudkiewicz (Jim Macie)  
 Fri., Sept. 24th - Dec. of Immaculate Conception (Paul & Renee Gambill)  
 Sat., Sept. 25th, 4:00PM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)  
 Sun., Sept. 26th, 9:00AM - Clarence Mikolajczak (Family)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **CHESTER & GERTRUDE PRZEPIORSKI** as gifted by the Family.

## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I - Matthew Puda & Erika Woll

## IN MEMORIUM

Christian Burial was given to STEVEN WITKOWSKI on Monday, September 13th. Please pray for Steven and his loved ones. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord..."

## DONATIONS NEEDED

The Ladies Society is asking for donations of NEW ITEMS to make up gift baskets for our raffle. These donations can come in the form of gift cards, monetary donations, and/or bake sale items. Please call Diane (814.825.5748) regarding gifts needed, donations, or questions. Thank you for helping make our "A Taste of Poland/Parish Day" a success through your generosity!

Our readings today bring to light the daily struggle between good and evil and how we can combat this struggle through gratitude. In our Gospel, we see an example of how surrendering to our passions negatively affects us. Jesus' disciples began to argue amongst themselves as to who was the greatest in the group. If we look at our own lives, we might find many instances where we fall into the same tendencies — we constantly compare ourselves to others, out of pride we feel the need to point out another's faults or choose to fight back in an argument. When Jesus hears what the apostles are discussing, He has them focus on a child. If we reflect on the moment someone receives a child, oftentimes their hearts are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude for this gift. There is no jealousy or anger, just thanksgiving, and appreciation. The apostles are busy bickering about who was the best. Their vision was clouded, and they could not even stop and be grateful for the gift to be so close to our Savior and that they were chosen to be His closest followers. When we are caught in the raging war of jealousy, fighting, and pride, and begin to become enslaved to our passions we are ultimately being ungrateful for what we have been given. We overlook the blessing God has given us and the gifts and talents He has entrusted to us. Today, let us recall that we have an infinitely loving God who cares deeply for us. Consider all that He has blessed you with, and how you can use those blessings for His glory.

## OCTOBER LOTTERY RAFFLE

Our Holy Name Society is currently selling lottery raffle tickets for the month of October. See any member of the Society, or stop in the Parish Office, to purchase your chance to win!

# A TASTE OF

Frozen pierogi for sale!  
Baked goods for sale!



Instant!  
Theme baskets auction!

**Saint Stanislaus Church, Erie, PA**  
**Sunday, October 10, 2021**

**11:30AM - 5:00PM**

Polish Platter Dinners ~ Dine-In or Take-Out  
 Kielbasa, Golabki, Pierogi, Sweet & Sour Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes  
**Adults: \$11   6-12 year old: \$5   Under 5: FREE**  
\* Handicapped Accessible

\*\*\*\*\*  
**RAFFLE**  
 1st Prize: \$1,250   2nd Prize: \$500   3rd Prize: \$250



Proceeds to benefit Saint Stanislaus Parish

## WEEKLY OFFERING (SEPTEMBER 12, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$45,716.00
Amount Received	\$2,736.00	\$30,885.00
Net over/under	(\$1,420.00)	(\$14,831.00)

Mass Attendance:  
 4:00PM = 59; 9:00AM = 75  
 Envelopes: 73/168



**Potatoes make french fries, chips, and vodka. It's like the other vegetables aren't even trying.**



# Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **SAL VALLONE**, as gifted by Jane & Dave Thiemann.



Sept. 20 – Theresa Ignaczak  
 Sept. 21 – Stanley Dubowski  
 Sept. 23 – Jane Thiemann  
 Sept. 24 – Dave Czerwinski  
 Sept. 25 – Jack Kempisty

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Sept, 20th - Aggie Krawiec (Friends)  
 Tues., Sept. 21st - Dorothy Driscoll (Family)  
 Wed., Sept. 22nd - For All Mothers, Living and Deceased  
 Thurs., Sept. 23rd. - Sal Vallone (Jane & Dave Thiemann)  
 Fri., Sept. 24th - The Souls in Purgatory  
 Sat., Sept. 25th, 5:15PM - Kathy Byers (Family)  
 Sun., Sept. 26th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

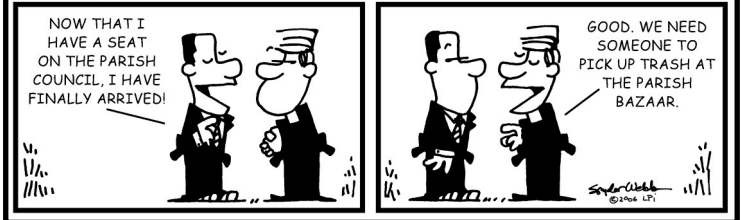
“Where do the conflicts among you come from?” (James 4:1) - Jealousy, fatigue, fear, misunderstanding... There are many sources but more important is to search for reconciliation, mercy. We all have our faults. Is there anything I need to ask forgiveness for from my beloved this week?

## THE VIEW FROM THE BACK OF THE LINE

Have you known that person? The one who leaves every person they encounter feeling a little more blessed for having met them? They're the friend you can count on when nothing is going well. They're the one who's always "doing" for others. They're never gossiping or sniping or complaining. We wonder how they do it, how they have it in them. We're a little envious, even if we don't let ourselves acknowledge it. That, folks, is what the view is like from the front of the line, gazing at those suckers in the way back and wondering why they're smiling so much. We've all been at the front of a line and felt no shame about it. We show up early, we put in the time and the legwork, and we "earn" whatever it is we came for — sports tickets, the latest Apple product, whatever. That's how it works here on Earth, where the fastest win the race, the fittest survive and the first shall be first, always. It's exactly why stewardship is such a tall order. Stewardship calls us to play by the rules of another kingdom — one where the richest have the least amount in their bank accounts and the happiest don't seem to have anything to show for it, at least materially. If you have a person in your life who always seems happy "doing" for others, it's because by a boatload of God's grace, they play by the rules of the other place. Watch and take notes — and don't be afraid to join them at the back of the line.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NIV)  
 The puzzle is based on Mark 9:30-37



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

WELCOMES	SERVANT	FIRST	GREATEST	JESUS
LITTLE	ARMS	CHILD	ARGUING	LAST
WHOEVER	ROAD	TWELVE	QUIET	HOUSE

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Regular Offering: \$2,261.00 (32/134)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$30,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$24,217.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,261.00	\$26,466.00
Net (over/under):	<b>(\$104.00)</b>	\$2,249.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 32; 10:30AM = 55

*"If anyone wants to be first, he shall be the last of all and servant of all"*

- Mark 9:35

## News for Our Partnership

### **BISHOP PERSICO'S PASTORAL LETTER (con't.)**

Bishop Persico's pastoral letter invites us to deepen our commitment "It is time for us to come together again as disciples of Christ and to "re-member" our Sunday story," Bishop Lawrence Persico says in his new pastoral letter written in time of pandemic. "By this I do not mean only a recalling of the teachings and legacy of Jesus Christ that deepen our faith; I also mean that we need to come together again as the Body of Christ...and to become in Christ the faith-filled disciples that we are called to be." The letter, along with questions for reflection and discussion, can be found in its entirety on the Remembering ~ Our Sunday Story webpage at [www.Eriercd.org/sundaystory.html](http://www.Eriercd.org/sundaystory.html).

### **ST. BENEDICT ALUMNAE BINGO**

October 3rd & November 14th  
Polish Falcons (431 East 3rd Street)  
Reservations only (call Valerie 814 566 3624)  
Doors open noon; Bingo at 1 pm  
Open kitchen; Cash BINGO; 50/50; Tips; \$100 lottery tree  
Benefits the Sisters ministries

### **A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL!**

Thanks to all who came out for our annual Parish Picnic, and to all who brought a dish to share! We had a wonderful time being together again. Special thanks to Michelle Inter, who coordinated the efforts, and John Villa who manned the grill, and to the many who helped to set up and tear down for the event. We look forward to the next opportunity to come together as a community of faith and as a parish family.

### **A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

Disagreements are common in families. But what would you say if Jesus posed the same question "What are you arguing about?" Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another, or to really solve a problem? Today Jesus tells us and his disciples to give it up. We are meant to serve each other, not control.

### **PRAYER REQUEST**

Monsignor Dan will be making his annual retreat at Good Shepherd Church, West Middlesex, PA (with 40 of our Diocesan priests) from Monday, September 20th until Friday, September 24th. For emergencies, call Father Jason at St. Stan's. Monsignor will offer the scheduled Mass intentions at retreat. Please keep him and the other priests in your prayers this week.

### **THANK YOU!!**

Our bulletin is printed for the parish each week free of charge through the generosity of our sponsors found on the back page. We wish to thank our advertisers listed on the back page for supporting our parish. We urge parishioners to take a minute, not only to read the ads, but to support these local businesses.

### **Attention all Notre Dame fans!**

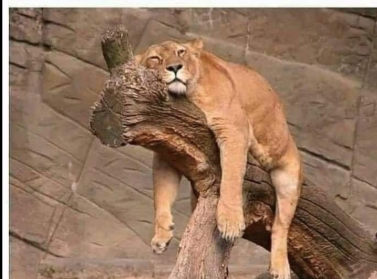
Win \$2,000 and tickets for two to see the Fighting Irish play Navy on November 6 in a drawing sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. The drawing will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> during the Mercy Day celebration. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 444 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, or by calling Sister Bernadette Bell RSM at 814-824-2516. Tickets may also be purchased online at: <https://45751.thankyou4caring.org/football>.

I went to the beekeeper to get 12 bees. He counted and gave me 13. "Sir, you gave me an extra."  
"That's a freebie."



Motivational Speaker: "You can do anything, you just have to wake up the lion inside of you."

The Lion inside me:



Exercise gives you energy but you need energy to exercise.



Sounds like a pyramid scheme to me.

### **THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS**

9/19) Bill Dyakon & Fr. Jason Glover; 9/20) Ed Korytowski; 9/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik;  
9/22) Kathy Wisniewski; 9/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman;  
9/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski & Diane Valahovic; 9/25) Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman

### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

9/19) Fr. Glenn Whitman; 9/20) Fr. Rick Tomasone; 9/21) Fr. Stan Swacha; 9/22) Fr. David Foradori; 9/23) Fr. Chris Singer; 9/24) Fr. Monty Sayers; 9/25) Fr. Joe Dougherty



## Sunday, Sep 19, 2021

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Let the Good News resound

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me."

Religion is often reduced to its most visible aspect: Sunday worship. But the church's ministry includes service, evangelization, healing, and teaching. On Catechetical Sunday we celebrate our mutual call to educate and instruct. "Catechize" means to echo or resound. Saint Paul once modeled for the Corinthians this task of "re-sounding" the Good News when he wrote: "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." Does your Catholic faith steer you when making decisions and weighing values? Does it bring consolation? Does it challenge you to sacrifice? Echo these riches to those you love.

## Monday, Sep 20, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ANDREW KIM AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

### Sound the depths of your faith

Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18

"No one lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed."

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, the first native-born Korean priest and patron saint of Korea. He was one of an estimated 10,000 who were martyred for their Christian faith in Korea in the 19th century. The theme of the bicentenary celebration is "Are you Catholic?" because Andrew's "yes" to that question during interrogation cost him his life. The bishop of the Korean city of Daejeon said the theme "calls us to reflect seriously on our identity and our consistency as Catholics." Take this opportunity to consider what your Catholic identity means to you.

## Tuesday, Sep 21, 2021

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

### Let peace begin with me

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13

"I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

The United Nations designates today as the International Day of Peace. It's also the feast of Saint Matthew—the evangelist whose list of Beatitudes includes the words "blessed are the peacemakers." According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the "Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching." They "shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life" and are the "paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations." Matthew must have experienced such tribulations when he, as a hated tax collector, joined the other apostles. Be a peacemaker today, especially among people you're nearest to.

## Wednesday, Sep 22, 2021

### Share the wealth

Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6

"He sent them to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

Power sharing and collaborative ministry are thorny questions within church circles and many faith communities. Jesus can be our model and our guide, in this as in all questions. When he sent the apostles out he did so in pairs and "gave them power and authority." Add it up and it equals shared, collaborative ministry. Those who are sure of their own authority are able to share it freely and without fear. More ministries and leadership positions will open up in the church when those with power learn to trust the faith community the way Jesus did.

## Thursday, Sep 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST

### Be an everyday mystic

Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9

"Who then is this about whom I hear such things?"

In a secular world that prizes material possessions, the mystical aspect of the church can captivate. Saint Padre Pio (1887-1968) certainly drew attention for his mystical attributes. A relatively obscure Italian Capuchin priest, he gained fame for reportedly displaying the wounds of Christ, called stigmata, and for his insightful (some called it psychic) abilities as a confessor. He spent up to 10 hours a day with people who sought guidance and forgiveness in Confession. Only a few of us become mystics, but all can seek holiness and insight. Today meditate and act on the path to holiness that God has placed before you.

## Friday, Sep 24, 2021

### Grounded in a sense of belonging

Haggai 2:1-9; Luke 9:18-22

"In this place I will give you peace."

In our Western mindset, we often think of land as "property," owned and available for human use. But if we hope to stem climate change, we need to realize it's really the other way around. The land doesn't belong to us; we belong to the land. Writes Pope Francis in his encyclical on caring for creation, *Laudato Si'*: "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone." How will you commit to the care of this land that sustains us in so many ways?

## Saturday, Sep 25, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

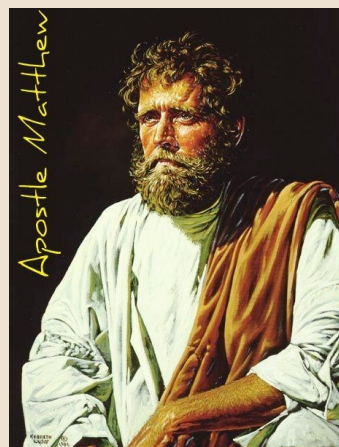
### Ripe with possibilities

Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9:43b-45

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD."

Jesus was born to Mary "in the fullness of time," as one scripture passage puts it. This rich metaphor of time ripening rings true to human experience. Think of the blessings in your own life, and how they have developed often from small beginnings or mere glimmers of hope: deep and lasting relationships, hard-earned insights, lifelong achievements and legacies. Good things take time, patience, perseverance, courage, and perhaps most of all, trust. Think of Mary's journey of trust in response to God's call, and make it your own. And may the blessings in your own life ripen in the fullness of time!



### PRAYER TO St. Matthew the Apostle

God of mercy  
You chose a tax collector,  
Saint Matthew, to share  
the dignity of the Apostles.  
By his example and prayers  
help us to follow Christ  
and remain faithful in  
Your service.  
We ask this through Our  
Lord Jesus Christ, Your  
Son, who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, forever and  
Ever.

