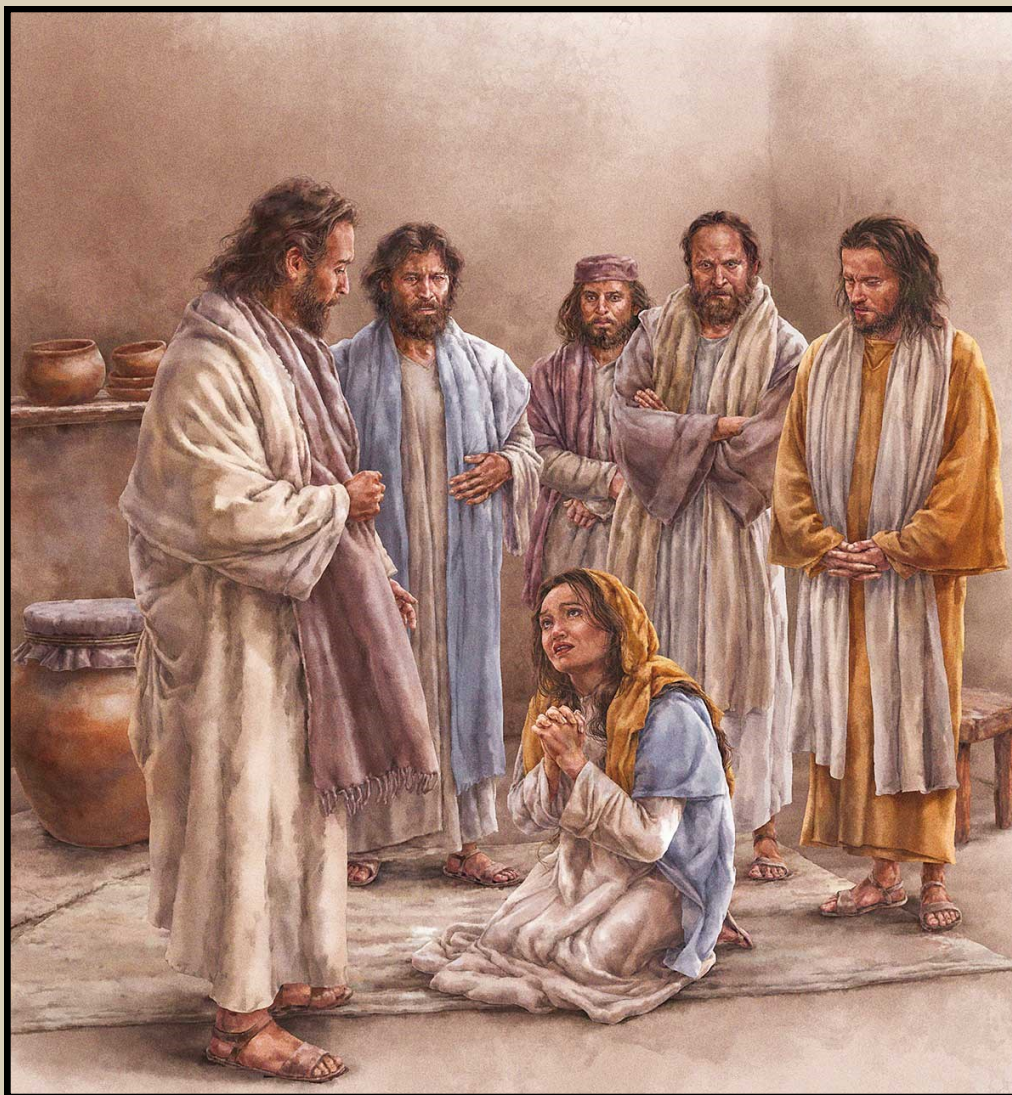


# TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## August 20, 2023



### *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)

#### **Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**

**Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM**

**\* Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

**\* Reconciliation is celebrated until 15 minutes before Mass  
(If the priest is not in the confessional, inform a greeter)**

### *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)

#### **Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**

**Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM**

**\* Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

**\* Reconciliation is celebrated until 15 minutes before Mass  
(If the priest is not in the confessional, inform a greeter)**



## *Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity*

### *Partners in Faith & Mission*



**August 20, 2023**  
**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The suffering of a child symbolizes uniquely terrible evil as well as despair about the future. This week's Gospel gives a "limit" case in which Jesus encounters this evil in the form of a mother with a suffering daughter. What he does is stunning and massively helpful for us if we bravely ponder the details.

The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and begs his mercy. "My daughter is tormented by a demon," she declares to him. Shockingly, he responds first with silence, then with a dismissive comment, and only then finally accedes to her third request. Is this simply a lesson in perseverance in our petitions to God, who is like a genie in a bottle? Does that justify the humiliation and pain this woman suffers? Is the Lord cruel?

I don't think so. Notice how the encounter ends. She compares herself to a dog at the table of a master. Jesus responds by praising her great faith and fulfills her deep desire. Somehow this non-Israelite woman intuitively that this harrowing situation is not dumb suffering. She senses that the door of God's family is, in Jesus, being opened to her and her loved ones. She trusts she is at the Lord's table, and her desires will be fulfilled and that all her sufferings — and her daughter's, too — will lead a great banquet. In our sufferings this week, the Lord wants us to treat him less like a genie in a bottle and more like the Master who has taken us — lost little dogs that we are — into his home forever. Trust that and keep praying in the face of evil.

— Father John Muir

**The Church should  
be a community  
where messed-up  
people are  
welcome, outcasts  
are loved,  
underdogs find a  
champion, the  
hopeless find hope,  
and the friendless  
find a friend.**

#### **Readings for the week of August 20, 2023**

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28  
Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-40, 43-44/Mt 19:16-22  
Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24/Ps 85:9-14/Mt 19:23-30  
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-7/Mt 20:1-16  
Thursday: Rv 21:9-14/Ps 145:10-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51  
Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22/Ps 146:5-10/Mt 22:34-40  
Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1-5/Mt 23:1-12  
Next Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

**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 Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452.3395) from St. Stanislaus, or Kathy (392-8974) at 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, music minister, or usher/greeter, 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 Sue (450-2987).

### **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 (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., Aug. 21st - Private Intention  
 Tues., Aug. 22nd - Ray Przybyszewski (Katherine Krainski)  
 Wed., Aug. 23rd - Frank Plizga (Family)  
 Thurs., Aug. 24th - Rose "Babe" Niedzwiecki (Mikeska Family)  
 Fri., Aug. 25th - Linda (Gambill) Love (Paul & Renee Gambill)  
 Sat., Aug. 26th, 4:00PM - Doris Inter (Ina Ring & Family)  
 Sun., Aug. 27th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burn for an  
**INCREASE OF VOCATIONS TO THE  
 PRIESTHOOD & RELIGIOUS LIFE**, as  
 gifted by Mr. & Mrs. J. Horvath.



## SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

The SSJ Soup Kitchen will be open on January 16th. We will be collecting donated goods for the SSJ Soup Kitchen (individually wrapped items like Little Debbie's and Hostess) on the weekend of **August 19 & 20**. They can also be brought to the Nazareth Center between 2:00-3:00PM on August 21st.

## CARE & CONCERN COMMITTEE 50/50 RAFFLE

Our Parish Care & Concern Committee will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets on the weekends of August 12-13 and August 19-20. Proceeds of the raffle are used to purchase birthday cards, "get well" cards, holiday cards, and the like. The drawing will be held on August 20th.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our July Lottery winners:

Luke Philips	Bernie Tuszyński
Nancy Grotkowski	Terry Dickson
Eric Rose	Robert Schnider
Kay Stankiewicz	Bill Stouffer
Paul & Alice Modzelewski	Foster Stevens
Tony Mazzone	Paul Smith
Norb Dunn	Brenda Vargo
Dave Lesnieski	Paul Urbaniak
Roberta Chrzanowski	Stephen Valahovic
Marie Barner	Dave Beier
Paul Smith	Brian Heway
Roberta Schnider	Patti Berwhand
Dave Post	

Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser! October raffle tickets are now available from Holy Name members.

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR AUGUST 13TH

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$29,092.00
Amount Received	\$2,346.00	\$16,401.00
Net over/under	(\$1,810.00)	(\$12,691.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 76; 9:00AM = 58  
 Envelopes: 62/168



## CHANGING THE NARROW GATE

From doctors to counselors, anthropologists to schoolteachers, it seems like everyone has their own parenting style to peddle, guaranteeing it will result in a happy and well-adjusted kid. You've got "gentle parenting," predicated on respect for the child's feelings and needs. You've got "attachment parenting," based on the belief that kids need time to adjust to being outside of the womb. You've got "free-range parenting," where self-sufficiency reigns supreme. But of all the parenting approaches I've come across, I've never encountered a philosophy that rejects discipline altogether. There are lots of conflicting opinions on how best to administer that discipline, but I've never heard any parent or parenting "expert" worth their salt say that a mother or father should completely ignore misbehavior that threatens the well-being of the child himself. Discipline is in our human DNA. Consider for a moment what the world would look like if it came to be filled with people who had never been taught to reflect on their life challenges. People who bristled at the suggestion of personal growth. And yet we become this way with God. Even the most "devout" among us shy away from occasions of divine constructive criticism. We avoid confession and forego daily examinations of conscience. We keep things superficial in our prayer life, avoiding depth of heart and real intimacy with God, afraid of what He will speak to us. But when we do this, we rob ourselves of an opportunity to rely on God's fatherly strength, to rest in His mercy, to fill ourselves up with His goodness. We're putting up our hands, saying: "No thanks, Father, I'm good. You can keep your discipline. You can keep your grace." When we do this, we are making a beeline for the "narrow gate," sure of our own strength and ability to pass through it. All I can say is this, proceed at your own peril. Are you so sure of yourself?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## MARRIAGE MOMENT

"Observe what is right, do what is just." (Isaiah 56:1) Of course, easy to say, difficult to live out. Commit as a couple to doing at least one work of justice (service) this week.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in honor of **ZABAWA VOLUNTEERS**, as gifted by Ray, Edie, & Roman Luniewski.



8/24) Thaddeus Dudzinski  
& Len Sebastian  
8/25) Guiseppe Mangini  
& Joan Rowland  
8/28) Don Neimeic

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Aug. 21st - Kulig, Lasczczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)  
Tues., Aug. 22nd - Msgr. Richard Stack (Anniversary)  
Wed., Aug. 23rd - All Deceased Mothers  
Thurs., Aug. 24th - All Deceased Fathers  
Fri., Aug. 25th - Special Intention  
Sat., Aug. 26th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)  
Sun., Aug. 27th, 10:30AM - All Living & Deceased Parishioners

The Challenge of Stewardship Every day we are called by Christ to respond in some way. The more practice we have at giving of ourselves freely and living in His presence, the easier it is to discern that call. Once we hear the call, the choice is ours: will we respond with yes or no? We could say that we are not required to say yes because God has given us free will. However, our response speaks much to where we are in our maturity of faith. When we were children, the word "no" used to be one of our favorites. If we continue to say that as we get older, well, that says something about where we are in our walk with the Lord. If we truly are disciples of Jesus Christ and are serious about growing in our faith, we will say "yes." We are not required to say yes, but we say yes because that is who we have become. This is the challenge of a stewardship way of life. Have we matured enough to say yes when God calls, regardless of how much our answer may cost us? What matters more to us: what it will cost us or our relationship with Jesus? Some days we will easily be able to say yes. The grace and love he gives us will be plenty to see us through whatever situation in which we find ourselves. However, we are imperfect beings and there will be days when we are more into ourselves than him. It is on those days that we find ourselves at a true crossroads of a challenge. The choice is always ours. Hopefully, our faith will be strong enough. His call is never for his own sake. He calls us because the world he created and the Church he instituted need us. They wait just as he does for our response.

- Tracy Earl Welliver

## PRAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR 30TH ZABAWA

Following the 10:30 AM Mass today, there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on our Altar until 2:30PM, at which time there will be closing prayers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Please sign up for one-half hour or longer. There should always be at least two adorers present in Church throughout the times of Adoration.

There is more to parenting than providing food, clothing, and shelter. Focus on high integrity. Think of a way you can be an example of integrity during this week.

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR AUGUST 13th, 2023

Regular Offering: \$3,360.00 (32/120 envelopes)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$28,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$16,800.00
Total Offertory:	\$3,360.00	\$19,402.00
Net (over/under):	\$960.00	\$2,602.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 34; 10:30AM = 68

## 5 Days until ZABAWA 2023

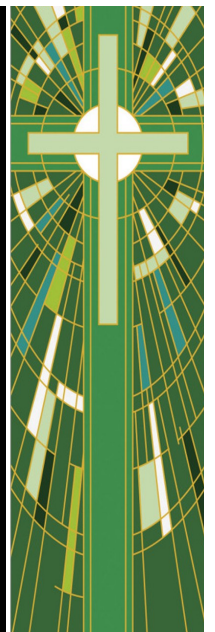
### Crumbs from the Table

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Matthew 15:28 (NIV)  
Based on Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)



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

HEALED	DAUGHTER	SHEEP	FALL	MERCY
GREAT	CRYING	DOGS	LOST	JESUS
DEMON	HELP	TABLE	ISRAEL	WOMAN
EAT	FAITH	CRUMBS	SUFFERING	KNELT



"For the gifts and call of God are irrevocable."

- Romans 11:29

## *News for Our Partnership*

### **BACK TO SCHOOL**

Gannon University classes resume on Wednesday, August 23rd. Fr. Jason's schedule this semester has him teaching on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Consequently, he will not be in the office of Tuesday and Thursday after 11:30AM. Thank you for your understanding.

### **ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL MONASTICISM**

The Sisters of Saint Benedict invite the public to a talk delivered by Mother Blandyna Michniewicz, Abbess of a Benedictine Monastery in Warsaw, Poland. Mother Blandyna will share first-hand accounts of 20 monasteries in Poland providing relief and outreach to refugees of the war in Ukraine. The talk will take place at Mount Saint Benedict (6101 East Lake Road) on Thursday, August 31st, at 7PM. The event is free and open to the public. Contact [director@aim-usa.org](mailto:director@aim-usa.org) for more information

### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Holy Trinity's Zabawa Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with their festival on August 25-27. If you have time and would like to help, contact Sara Chermack (814-825-7313).

### **GARAGE SALE**

Saint Stanislaus will host a garage sale on:  
Friday, September 8th, from 9AM-4PM  
Saturday, September 9th, from 9AM-1PM  
The sale will take place in the Parish Hall parking lot, the rectory garages, and in the Parish Hall. We will also be serving hot dogs! Come and find a treasure, or grab a quick lunch, or both!

### **WHAT IS THE RCIA?**

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process of initiation into the Catholic Community of Faith.

It enables the study of the Gospels, Catholic Christian teaching, the acceptance of Christian values and morality, the development and deepening of a life of prayer and action with the support and involvement of the local Christian community. Who is RCIA for?

- Non-Catholics who want to find out more about the Catholic Faith
- Those who want to join the Catholic Church through Baptism, or Profession of Faith
- Those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, Confirmation, or First Eucharist.

If you are interested please contact the parish office or talk with one of the priests in the upcoming weeks.

### **IN THE NEWS**

Recently, John Last of WICU/WSEE program "The Last Word," filmed a golabki-making session at Holy Trinity to highlight how local organizations prepare for the festivals that take place in Erie throughout the summer. The episode will air on Monday, August 21st, during the 6PM newscast on channel 12 and 35, and again on Tuesday, August 22nd at Noon on channel 35 and 12:30PM on channel 12. Tune in to see our wonderful volunteers in action!

So tomorrow is Monday again. I can't keep living like this

*What is the meaning of the letters that professed religious have after their names?*

The Catholic Church includes hundreds of religious communities. The priests, religious brothers, religious sisters, and nuns of these communities (which are often referred to as "religious orders") are committed to particular spiritual traditions and often to a particular charism (such as teaching, healthcare, social work, or pastoral care). To help identify a person as a member of a particular religious community, the custom developed of including post-nominal letters that provide a sort of shorthand for the name of the community that the priest, brother, sister or nun is part of. So, for example OSB after a person's name would indicate that they are a member of the Order of St. Benedict (the Benedictines), just as SJ would indicate that a priest or brother is a member of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) or RSM would show that a woman is a Sister of Mercy.

SURE, SOMETIMES I  
QUESTION MY PARENTING.  
BUT TO BE HONEST, SOMETIMES  
I QUESTION MY CHILD'S  
CHILDING.

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

8/22) Suzanne Sundy & Kathy Wisniewski; 8/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman; 8/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic; 8/25) Kathy Ciecierski, Jack Kempisty, & Helen Zimmerman; 8/26) Patricia Straub & John Kleiner; 8/27) Regina Jaworski; 8/28) [Open]

### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

8/21) Fr. Obinna Ezeihuoma; 8/22) Fr. Ray Hahn; 8/23) Fr. Mark O'Hern; 8/24) Fr. Bill Barron; 8/25) Msgr. Casimir Bogniak; 8/26) Fr. Bill O'Brien; 8/27) Msgr. Joe Riccardo; 8/28) Fr. Phil Oriole

### Sunday, Aug 20, 2023

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

"For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

#### That all may be one

The spirit of division is about being right. The spirit of unity is about embracing Christ. In which direction are we heading? Ecumenism seems an almost quaint idea in the 21st-century church. Other issues seem to have become more critical for many than getting Christians on the same page. Yet a divided church is a scandal to a world that questions our sincerity if we can't even agree on Jesus. Dialogue with others without the need to criticize beliefs or change minds. Create opportunities to pray, study, work, and mission together with local Christians. They will know we are Christians by our love.

### Monday, Aug 21, 2023

MEMORIAL OF PIUS X, POPE

Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22

"... give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven."

#### Look beyond the wardrobe

The saying "Clothes make the man" was certainly not true for Pope Pius X. He was born poor, teased at school for his tattered clothes, and sometimes carried his shoes to make them last longer. When he became pope in 1903, remaining as humble as his origins, he said the only thing that had changed about him was the color of his cassock from black to white—a fact he sometimes forgot since he had to be reminded not to wipe his pen on his clothes anymore. Let Pius X remind you to stay true to your authentic self by keeping your life simple.

### Tuesday, Aug 22, 2023

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Judges 6:11-24a; Matthew 19:23-30

"For men this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

#### Eight days a week

The Queenship of Mary concludes eight full days since celebrating her Assumption. In liturgical language, these eight days form an octave. Most simply, an octave extends the celebration of a church feast from a single day into eight. Historically, Christianity inherited the practice from Judaism, which, for instance, celebrates eight days of Hanukkah and circumcision eight days after a boy's birth. If a week is seven days, then the eighth day begins a new week - the eighth day signaling the start of something new or renewal, just as Baptism makes a person new or "born again." Honor Mary anew by praying the Salve Regina today.

### Wednesday, Aug 23, 2023

MEMORIAL OF ROSE OF LIMA, TERTIARY

Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16

"Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

#### Go deep

Today is the feast of Rose of Lima, patron of Latin America. You can visit her tomb in the historic center of Lima, Peru, a place teeming with activity. Enter the Dominican monastery where she is buried and leave behind the noise and heat of the street. Descend a narrow passage; bow your head to clear the low ceiling. You'll emerge into a cool, hushed room with her tomb at the far end. It is a holy place—a place you'd never know if you didn't go deep. How do you get to the deep sacred space within your daily life?

### Thursday, Aug 24, 2023

FEAST OF BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51

"Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, 'Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him.' "

#### Pure faith

Tradition has it that Bartholomew was tortured to death for the faith. Scholars believe that he is mentioned in scripture by both his name and by the name Nathaniel. Nathaniel was famously complimented by Jesus for being a true Israelite, with no duplicity. Purity of heart, in fact, is how most holy disciples attain holiness. Through profound connection to God, they avoid guile, duplicity, and other sins that are so easy to fall into when God slides into the background. Saint Bartholomew, help us maintain a clean heart.

### Friday, Aug 25, 2023

Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40

"Ruth said, 'Do not ask me to abandon or forsake you!' "

#### Women will not remain silent!

Do you know all 333 women of the Bible? There are at least that many, writes Catholic commentator Alice Camille, and each is worth getting to know. Visible presence of women in leadership roles has long suffered from hierarchical structures rooted in patriarchal values. The establishment of the biblical canon reflects this as well with women's voices and stories rarely included except in support roles. Stories such as that of Ruth and Naomi that survived the canonical cutting-room floor are a beacon of light and remind us that despite overwhelming suppression of women's voices, they could not be silenced. How are you called to give voice or to amplify suppressed voices today?

### Saturday, Aug 26, 2023

Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12

"The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.... but do not follow their example.

For they preach but they do not practice."

#### A ruling from the bench

Jesus speaks of the scribes and Pharisees sitting on the "chair of Moses." Archeologists have uncovered stone chairs in prominent places in ancient synagogues where such leaders presumably sat as they pronounced on all things related to Jewish Law and Tradition. When it came to fulfilling the spirit of the Law rather than just the letter, Jesus called out the hypocrisy of those who did not practice what they preach. In any field—politics, business, religion—leaders need to be judged not by the eloquence of their words but by the integrity of their actions. That goes for all of us, wherever we take our seat!

*Dear God,*

*As we send our children back to school, we pray for Your protection and guidance. Keep them safe from harm, both physically and emotionally. Help them to find friends who will support and encourage them. Give them wisdom as they face challenging situations. And help them to always remember that You are with them, no matter what.*