

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

## April 18, 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 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

**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*



**April 18, 2021**  
**3rd Sunday of Easter**

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their "aha" moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively, and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.

We need our "aha" moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our "aha" moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters, we can hear God say, "peace be with you." The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.

#### **Readings for the week of April 18, 2021**

Sunday: Acts 3:13-19/Ps 4:2-9/1 Jn 2:1-5/Lk 24:35-48 [3rd Sunday of Easter]  
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-30/Jn 6:22-29  
Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1/Ps 31:3-8, 17, 21/Jn 6:30-35  
Wednesday: Acts 8:1-8/Ps 66:1-7/Jn 6:35-40 [St. Anselm]  
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-20/Jn 6:44-51  
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1-2/Jn 6:52-59 [Sts. George & Adalbert]  
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-17/Jn 6:60-69 [St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen]  
Next Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-29/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18 [4th Easter]

**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., Apr. 19th - Private Intention  
 Tues., Apr. 20th - Fr. Frank Przepierski (Marie)  
 Wed., Apr. 21st - Martha Malinowski (Irene Mielnik)  
 Thurs., Apr. 22nd - Irene Lubiejewski (Family)  
 Fri., Apr. 23rd - Walter, Florence, Richard, & Joan Rzedkiewicz (Family)  
 Sat., Apr. 24th, 4:00PM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)  
 Sun., Apr. 25th, 9:00AM - Charles Britton (Family)



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



## CONGRATULATIONS...

To **CHRISTINE ZAPALSKI** who was the winner of the Ladies Society "Easter Cash/Lottery Raffle." Christine chose the \$1,000 cash option.

Special thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and to the members of the Ladies Society who sold and/or purchased tickets. The raffle was a *huge* success! The society raised over \$2,500 for our parish!

You know what are some of my favorite moments in Scripture? The little "Easter eggs" of Jesus' humanity, things like Jesus falling asleep, Jesus drawing in the sand, Jesus playing with kids. And how about Jesus rising from the dead, appearing to his disciples and saying, "So, have you got anything to eat?" It's right for us to always keep in mind that Jesus is God. But we also have to remember that he was man. He got hungry. He cried when he felt sad and laughed when he felt happy. He got tired. He got bored. Because he was God, none of those feelings ever led him into sin, like they do us. He never spent a car ride trying to pass the hours by seeing how annoyed he could make his older sister. He never smacked Peter over the head for saying something really stupid. But he did unleash some Biblically righteous anger on those traders in the temple, didn't he? And he wasn't shy about calling Peter "a Satan" when his friend tempted him to take the easy way out. It's the tightrope walk we all try to balance every day, honoring our human emotions while still answering God's call to be better. Being perfect isn't the domain of the Christian — that's the domain of Christ only. Trying and failing, then trying again (and failing again) and again and again? That's the domain of the Christian.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Kathy Tommasini (left) & Kay Villa (right)



Len Sebastian (left) & Anthony Colvin (right)

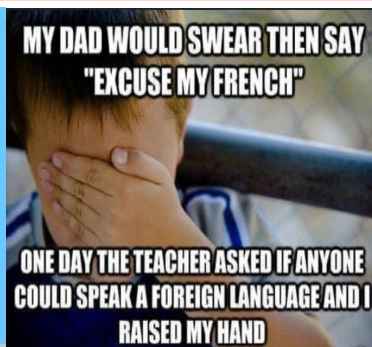
At our Easter Vigil, celebrated on April 3rd, 2021, our parish community welcomed Kathy Tommasini and Anthony Colvin into the Catholic Church! They received their First Holy Communion and were Confirmed during the course of the Liturgy. We also blessed (convalidated) Kathy & Dave Tommasini marriage Saturday afternoon.

**CONGRATULATIONS** and **WELCOME** to our Parish Family!

**Sleeping next to someone you love**

**makes you fall asleep faster, reduces depression, and helps you live longer.**

**UNTIL THEY START TO SNORE**



## WEEKLY OFFERING (APRIL 11, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$166,240.00
Amount Received	\$4,214.00	\$118,208.00
Net over/under	\$58.00	(\$48,032.00)

Mass Attendance:  
 4:00PM = 35; 9:00AM = 51  
 Envelopes: 61/168



## SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

Baked Goods are needed for the SSJ Soup Kitchen for **MARCH 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, April 18th, between 9:00AM-Noon, or brought to the Nazareth Center on Monday, April 19, between 2:00-3:00PM.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **SISTER MARY URSLINE HILINSKI** as gifted by the Parish Family of Holy Trinity.

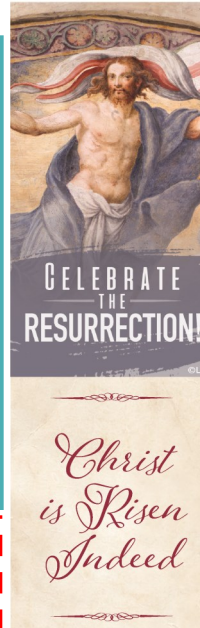


4/21 - Steve Rimpia

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Apr. 19th - Msgr. John Daniszewski (Estate)  
 Tues., Apr. 20th - Kulig, Habas, & Laszczewski Families (Estate)  
 Wed., Apr. 21st - Souls in Purgatory  
 Thurs., Apr. 22nd - Don Benczkowski (Marie & Brian Gieza)  
 Fri., Apr. 23rd - Jane Downing, Anniversary (Friends)  
 Sat., Apr. 24th, 5:15PM - Anne Marie Neimeic (Skip & Theresa Ignaczak)  
 Sun., Apr. 25th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

The Committee met on Saturday, March 13th to formulate a plan that would meet today the requirements of the State and Local and County regulations to keep our volunteers and those who come to celebrate with us healthy and happy. Hopefully with more people getting vaccinations more people will have immunity. We will keep you informed by our weekly bulletin and our Parish website. We count on our parishioners and friends to support our efforts with ZABAWA 2021. We plan to have a program booklet with business sponsors and patrons ads. We will have our Famous Theme Baskets and gift raffle along with usual fare of Polish Foods and Refreshments and those delicious Baked Goods.



\* Eat whatever you like because -  
 The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54  
 The inventor of gymnastics died at 57  
 The world bodybuilding champion died at 41  
 The best footballer in the world, Maradona, died at 60  
 And then -  
 The KFC inventor died at 94  
 The inventor of Nutella died at 88  
 The cigarette maker Winston died at 102  
 The inventor of opium died at 116 in an earthquake  
 The inventor of Hennessy died at 98  
 How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?  
 The rabbit is always jumping but it lives for around 2 years and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives over 200 years.  
 So, rest, chill, eat, drink and enjoy life.

## ZABAWA 2021 SAVE THE DATES

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 27TH (5:00PM-10:00PM)**  
 Featuring: Polka Country Musicians

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 28TH (Noon - 10:00PM)**  
 Featuring: The Marvels,  
 Concertina All Stars, &  
 The Maestro Men

**5:00PM Polka Mass Celebrated by Bishop Persico**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH (11:00AM - 4:00PM)**  
 Featuring: Dyna Brass  
 10:00AM - Mass

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR APRIL 11, 2021

Regular Offering: \$2,154.00 (34/140)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$123,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$97,089.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,154.00	\$85,213.00
Net (over/under):	<b>(\$211.00)</b>	<b>(\$11,876.00)</b>

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

## The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)  
 The puzzle is based on John 10:11-18



```

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

LISTEN	SHEEP	LOVES	WOLF	FLOCK
ATTACKS	CARES	PEN	GOOD	RUNS
SCATTERS	VOICE	SHEPHERD	LIFE	KNOW

*"... Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread."*

- Luke 24:26

## *News for Our Partnership*

### **Bishop Persico establishes committee to explore the full return to public worship**

Even as administrators and pastors in the Diocese of Erie follow the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control to maintain significant protocols, the Most Rev. Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, is looking to the future. In recent weeks, he has asked Deacon Steve Washek, executive director of the Office of Faith Formation, to oversee a committee of staff and pastors tasked with considering how parishes can best welcome parishioners back to Sunday Mass.

No date has been set to lift the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass put in place more than a year ago. That is likely to be months away. But the committee is looking well beyond the logistics of that day. Although parishes have been sustained by the sacramental life they maintained, parish communities are longing for the day that they can safely worship together. Committee members plan to lay a solid foundation that will focus on helping parishes extend a warm and pastoral welcome; help people find hope and healing after endless months of separation, loss and longing; celebrate and renew life as a parish community; and explore the opportunities for growth and transformation that will come from this unexpected moment.

Certainly, many have been attending Mass since the return to public worship after a two-and-a-half-month hiatus the bishops of Pennsylvania put in place in mid-March of 2020. A significant number of Catholics, however, have opted to remain away from crowds, choosing instead to participate in Mass via livestream. As people move through the weeks-long process of being vaccinated, and as the summer months make it possible to keep windows and doors open, it's likely the numbers of those attending Mass in person will gradually grow.

### **GOOD SHEPHERD COLLECTION**

This weekend's special collection will assist those dedicated priests who are elderly, seriously ill or incapacitated, and in need of supplementary assistance for expenses such as non-insured medical costs, nursing home and long-term care assistance. As the number of retired priests increases in the upcoming years the Priest Retirement Plan will need to be adequately funded to meet their future needs. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of priests who have served faithfully and serve now as a "thank you" for their many years of faithful service. Help provide them the same love and generosity they provided for us for generations.

### **A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

For most people, the most influential shepherd in their lives is a parent. Every parent is called to be a "good shepherd" to "freely lay down their life" for their children, to "love" and "know" their children and to "lead" them so "they know your voice."

### **DEBT RECOVERY**

Have a little extra money from a stimulus check you may not have needed? Consider making a one-time "enhanced giving" offering to help our parishes recover some of our debt brought on by the Covid pandemic.

### **EARTH DAY**

This year, we celebrate Earth Day on Thursday, April 22. The connection that we have to nature, plants, and the land is integral to our health and all that we are. Earth Day reminds us to take care of our planet—whether it's cleaning up litter, planting more trees, recycling and repurposing. Earth Day 2021 will mark the 51st anniversary of this holiday. This year's theme is "Restore Our Earth."

### **CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFE ENVIRONMENTS**

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Mandated Reporters in the Diocese of Erie are people who hold positions of trust in our schools, parishes, agencies and institutions and are mandated by Pennsylvania law and the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children to report suspected abuse of a minor. All employees and volunteers working/serving for the Diocese of Erie, in our parishes, schools or agencies are considered mandated reporters both legally and morally obligated to report any reasonable suspected child abuse to ChildLine, the local police, or other appropriate agency.

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

4/19) Bill Dyakon & Fr. Jason; 4/20) Ed Korytowski; 4/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 4/22) Kathy Wisniewski;  
4/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman; 4/24) Len Sabastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic;  
4/25) Jack Kepisty & Helen Zimmerman

### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

4/19) Fr. Dennis Martin; 4/20) Fr. David Whiteford; 4/21) Fr. Ed Walk; 4/22) Fr. Bob Susa; 4/23) Fr. Sam Bungo;  
4/24) Msgr. Tom McSweeney; 4/25) For Consecrated Life

**Sunday, Apr 18, 2021**

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Each one teach one**

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48  
"You are witnesses of these things."

Each of us walks through miracles eventually. Maybe we know it at the time and praise God heartily. Or perhaps we only look back later, realize the road's on fire behind us, and shiver. Sooner or later, we all experience the mystery of grace that carries us over obstacles, through dangers, and ferries us to safety. We are witnesses of these things. And even if we're reluctant to "talk religion" to friends, coworkers, and strangers, we'll inhabit hours when it's time to tell what we know about Divine Providence. Be attentive for when your testimony is required.

**Monday, Apr 19, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Seek a way to serve**

Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29  
"What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Saint Timon, whose feast is today, is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (6:5) as one of seven deacons chosen by the apostles to assist in ministering to the community of believers in Jerusalem. As the apostles concentrated on preaching, the deacons assisted in providing for the material needs of the community. This focus on both word and deed, or evangelization and service, continues to be the hallmark of Christian discipleship. What will you do to continue the work of love that begins and ends with God?

**Tuesday, Apr 20, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Seek the light in learning**

Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35  
"The bread of God is that  
which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

On this day in 1303, Sapienza University of Rome was instituted by Pope Boniface VIII. Sapienza is considered the first pontifical university—an institution approved by the Vatican and committed to teaching theology, philosophy, and canon law. Today, all pontifical universities are governed by the document Veritatis Gaudium, a 2017 update written by Pope Francis. It begins: "The joy of truth expresses the restlessness of the human heart until it encounters and dwells within God's Light, and shares that Light with all people." How will you share God's light today?

**Wednesday, Apr 21, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF ANSELM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

**Love the questions**

Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40  
"Everyone who... believes in him (the Son) may have eternal life."

How would you define the term theology? Saint Anselm (1033-1109) said it another way: "Theology is faith seeking understanding." Every time you try to understand how God allows suffering, or wonder how it is that God loves every human being, or try to understand if God truly hears your prayers, you are doing the work of theology. As a French Benedictine monk and later archbishop of Canterbury, Anselm was a wise and learned teacher who challenged the secular power of kings. Your life may not seem extraordinary, but the pursuit of knowledge about God belongs to you as well. Don't be afraid of the questions. Ask for grace to allow the questions to help your faith grow.

**Thursday, Apr 22, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Prepare your heart for encounter**

Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51  
"The bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

Today's first reading about Philip explaining scripture to a receptive Ethiopian is a beautiful example of something that Pope Francis often emphasizes: the need for openness when we encounter another, especially someone different from us. In homilies, speeches, and documents, the Holy Father tells us we are called to encounter Jesus, to allow ourselves to be changed and shaped by that encounter, and to bring the same attitude to our dealings with people. Pray for the grace of openness toward the people you encounter today.

**Friday, Apr 23, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Be the change**

Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59  
"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Prior to his conversion, Saint Paul, who earlier in life was known by his Hebrew name Saul, was most definitely no saint. He not only disliked those who followed Jesus, he attacked them. So what happened? He encountered Jesus the Christ. Jesus did not put Paul through what fiction refers to as a "mind wipe," or erasure of former personality and memory. Jesus called Paul to stop and see clearly the truth of his mindset and actions. And then Paul put in the work. This is something we all have to do—put in the work—especially when our dislike of those who are different leads to harm.

**Saturday, Apr 24, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Stay the course**

Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69  
"Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer walked with him."

Followers of Jesus have been disputing the meaning of the eucharistic meal and Jesus' instructions to "eat my flesh and drink my blood" ever since the words were first uttered. Many could not look beyond a literal interpretation of the words to see the powerful symbolism of the image of the paschal lamb offered for the sins of the community at Passover. So they simply walked away. Now that the sacrifice has been accomplished and Easter season is well underway, will you turn away as well, or are you with those who stayed with Jesus because, like Peter, you have come to believe that he has the words of eternal life?

Jesus, you meet us at the tomb and scatter our fear and gloom.  
Come to us, in our walk of life, as you did to the disciples  
on the road to Emmaus. Be our companion and our guide.  
Help us to be companions to those who are living in isolation.  
Strengthen our communities until the time that  
we can gather together again.  
In your holy name we pray.  
*Amen.*



