

# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

## April 11, 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 11, 2021

### 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

### Readings for the week of April 11, 2021

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3 [2nd Easter]  
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-9/Jn 3:1-8  
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1-5/Jn 3:7b-15 [Stm Martin I]  
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-9/Jn 3:16-21  
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20/Jn 3:31-36  
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15  
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21  
Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2-9/1 Jn 2:1-5/Lk 24:35-48 [3rd 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. 12th - Private Intention  
Tues., Apr. 13th - Mem. of Immaculate Conception (Paul & Renee Gambill)  
Wed., Apr. 14th - Mary C. Marschak (Judy Miculandra)  
Thurs., Apr. 15th - Mary Ann Hedderick (Rose Chludzinski)  
Fri., Apr. 16th - Prosowski Family (Family)  
Sat., Apr. 17th, 4:00PM - Stanley Markiewicz, Jr. (Family)  
Sun., Apr. 18th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **JOSEPH MACIOCH** as gifted by Marie.



## EYE HAS NOT SEEN

They say seeing is believing. But if you have ever ordered a pair of pants online, you know that's not always the case. Whatever the photos promise us, what looked like a perfectly nice shade of navy blue on our computer screens comes in the mail as an unusual shade of blue green that only appears in the giant box of Crayola crayons. The Apostle Thomas, who could not bring himself to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing him, is such an utterly relatable figure in the Gospels. Thomas is still reeling from a loss — not only of his good friend but his Lord, who was taken prisoner and crucified before his eyes. Thomas is guarding himself. He's not believing the hype. He's going to be the only judge of what is real and what is fiction. Would any of us be any different? We've all had those thoughts. Can we believe it all — Jesus, salvation history, the Eucharist — when we have not seen it with our own two eyes? That's when we need to remember that those two eyes were absolutely positive they had ordered a pair of navy blue pants. It's easy for us to sit back stroking our chins in judgment at Thomas, "you didn't believe the testimony of your friends!" But do we accept the testimony of our friends? The saints, the popes, the Church fathers themselves? Sometimes the things that are most worthy of believing can't be seen with the naked eye.

## THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A SECOND.

Jesus knew. He goes into that room with His disciples. He knows He is going to be betrayed. He knows it is Judas who will turn against him. He knows that He has been sold out for a handful of silver. Stabbed in the back by one He has poured His life into.

Yet, in that room, hours before the death of Jesus, Judas ate too. Jesus fed Judas too. Jesus prayed for Judas too. Jesus washed Judas' feet too. I struggle to fathom that kind of love. A love that would feed the mouth that deceived you. A love that would wash the treasonous feet of the traitor. A love that could forgive even the vilest of betrayals. I honestly struggle to comprehend it. And then, suddenly, I realize that I'm Judas. And in that moment, I'm so thankful & altogether overwhelmed that Judas ate too.

## "IS THERE A HAPPY ENDING?"

When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, "Is there a happy ending?" I can't say I blame them. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it's not going to go badly — or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It's a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast-forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily-ever-after. Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It's the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It's the day that puts everything right. But if we learned anything from this week — from the Passion and death of the Lord — it's that we can't press fast-forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear — it's crucial, isn't it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter doesn't happen without Good Friday. So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn't all that matters.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



## WEEKLY OFFERING (APRIL 4, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$162,084.00
Amount Received	\$3,921.00	\$113,994.00
Net over/under	(\$235.00)	(\$48,090.00)

Mass Attendance:  
4:00PM = 78; 9:30AM = 87  
Envelopes: 65/168



# Holy Trinity Parish Community



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **LORETTA LIPINSKI** as gifted by Jack & Sandy Kempisty



4/12 - Abigail Chermack  
4/15 - Sharon Baranski & Nina Mangini  
4/16 - Emilia Moore

On this second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We celebrate this feast today since God's mercy was shared with us through the resurrection of Jesus. To put it simply, today, we are celebrating Jesus' merciful love for us and how we can partake in it. No matter where we are on our journey as a disciple of Christ, we are all in need of God's merciful love. There are countless times throughout our day when we miss the mark. For instance, we might fail to respond in kind to our spouse or kids, fall into gossip in our workday, or even forget to think positively of others. These shortcomings call us to humble ourselves and receive the unwavering mercy of God. Jesus is Mercy itself. He was born into time to save us from sin. And to ensure His Mercy was always available to us, He gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In our Gospel, Jesus encounters the apostles after the resurrection and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Jesus gave us the gift of this sacrament because He wants to help us reach eternal life. He knows we cannot do it without His merciful love, and a resolve to do better and to follow Him more faithfully. Today, may we recall the precious gift God has given to us through His Son — Mercy itself. May we never forget that, with a contrite heart and a resolution to do better, God is always willing to forgive.

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR APRIL 4, 2021

Regular Offering: \$3,220.00 (37/140)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$120,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$94,724.00
Total Offertory:	\$3,220.00	\$83,059.00
Net (over/under):	\$855.00	(\$11,665.00)

Attendance: 5:15PM = (no Mass); 10:30AM = 119

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Apr. 12th - The Souls in Purgatory (Shirley & Nancy Schultz)  
Tues., Apr. 13th - Intention of Dr. Simora Carrubba (Ann Czulewicz)  
Wed., Apr. 14th - Florence Kaminski  
Thurs., Apr. 15th - Marilyn Maciulewicz (Lillian Maciulewicz)  
Fri., Apr. 16th - Priests & Sisters who served our Parish & School  
Sat., Apr. 17th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)  
Sun., Apr. 18th, 10:30AM - Frances Matusiak (Deacon Tom)

## ZABAWA 2021 (AUGUST 27, 28, 29)

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.

## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus teaches, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believe." Accepting someone as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich relationship. Real mercy begins here.



*Christ is Risen Indeed*

## Believe It or Not!

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25  
Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



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

JESUS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	RECORDED
MIRACLES	SIGNS	SHOWED	BELIEVED
DOORS	LIFE	HANDS	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	THOMAS	SIDE	LOCKED

*"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*

- John 20:29

## *News for Our Partnership*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 2007, the Diocese of Erie established the Good Shepherd Collection so that parishioners can show their appreciation and love for their priests – those already retired and those who will follow them in the years to come.

In our parishes countless lives have changed because of these good and holy priests. They were with us every step of the way, celebrating baptisms, witnessing marriage vows and presiding at the funerals of loved ones. Now it is our turn to help those priests who have ministered to our spiritual needs. As the number of retired priests increases, so does the challenge and responsibility to care for them. Although they may be “retired,” many remain active, providing sacramental ministry in parishes.

The response to the annual Good Shepherd Collection has been one of overwhelming generosity by you, the people of the Diocese! It tells me that you love these priests who have devoted their entire priesthood to God and to you. The Good Shepherd Collection provides for them in their retirement years.

The income generated from this annual collection assists with needed funds toward their care and health related expenses and revenue for the Retirement Pension Plan for them and the priests who serve you now. Contributions for the “Good Shepherd Collection” can be made the weekend of April 24-25 at your parish, or online anytime at: [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org). Every contribution is greatly appreciated and will make a difference in the lives of our priests. This collection should not be confused with the Retirement Fund for Religious, which is taken in December for sisters, brothers and priests belonging to religious orders. That collection does not benefit our diocesan priests.

Please pray for all the priests of our Diocese on Good Shepherd Sunday. May we be blessed with more seminarians willing to respond to the call of the Lord to priesthood. Our priests join me in thanking you for your kindness and generosity, especially toward our retired priests through this annual Good Shepherd Collection. May the joy of the Risen Christ fill your hearts and homes this Easter Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL

Bishop of Erie

### **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.

### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH: BE VIGILANT**

It is important that we are vigilant concerning the behaviors of those who interact with children. We must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Being aware of what’s happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them - at every opportunity.

### **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**

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

4/12) Edie Luniewski & Debbie Oldensk; 4/13) Deacon Tom Matusiak & Shirley Widomski;

4/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krainski; 4/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark;

4/16) Corinne Dyakon, May Jo Sulecki, & Kay Stankiewicz; 4/17) Dave Slubowski; 4/18) Pearl Wisniewski

### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

4/12) Fr. Vinve Cieslewicz; 4/13) Bishop Persico; 4/14) All Vocations; 4/15) Msgr. Bob Malene; 4/16) Fr. David Foradori;

4/17) Fr. Wally Packard; 4/18) Fr. Andrew Boyd



**Sunday, Apr 11, 2021**

SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**Hold onto the holy memories**

Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

"...but they had everything in common."

It's unlikely that those who survive the pandemic will look back on these days with much nostalgia. Sickness and loss, fear and division, stress and isolation: The consequences will be with us for a generation. Yet emerging from the tragedy were also instances of humanity, decency, and heroism that echoed the time of the first apostles. This Divine Mercy Sunday, give thanks for those who have helped you through this and every crisis.

**Monday, Apr 12, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Stand with those who stood for you**

Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8

"...unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

Though you may not remember it, your Baptism was an extremely important day in your life—the beginning of your life in Christ. Your godparents represented you that day, speaking on your behalf if you were a baby. Perhaps later you became a godparent to others. Whether you're still close or have drifted apart over time, reach out to your godparents or godchildren and reminisce about that day. Talk about the role you have played in each other's spiritual life and pray together for deepening conversion. Promise to keep on praying for each other in our ever-growing identity as children of God.

**Tuesday, Apr 13, 2021**

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN I, POPE, MARTYR

**The dilemma of indifference**

Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind."

The Eastern Church began exploring monotheletism, the notion that Jesus had only a divine will, despite being both human and divine, in the 600s. Pope Martin I issued a reprimand, opposing this heresy. This angered the Eastern emperor, who had the sickly Martin dragged to Constantinople for trial. The pontiff was beaten, starved, and exiled, leading to his death. But Martin also blamed a Western Church that never came to his rescue. "I am surprised at the indifference," he wrote, of "those who belong to the church of Saint Peter." Ask for Martin's intercession today, for all who suffer indifference.

**Wednesday, Apr 14, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Let your life be your witness**

Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21

"The men whom you put in prison are in the temple area and are teaching the people."

How do you live your faith? Some days may be harder than others, but rarely, if ever nowadays, will the effort to be a faithful follower of Jesus land someone in jail or cost them their life. Yet that was the fate of the early disciples who insisted on proclaiming the stories of Jesus' life, death, and rising. There are 20th-century martyrs as well, but faith calls all of us to kindness to all people, fairness in the face of injustice, trust in God's promised Spirit, and a constant willingness to see the face of God in our neighbors. Do people recognize you as a follower of Jesus by the way you live?

**Thursday, Apr 15, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Be up to the tax at hand**

Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36

"The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him."

Taxes are due today, an obligation that few people savor and yet all of us rely on. Catholics can feel proud to promote the common good by paying taxes for schools, roads, parks, healthcare, and other social benefits. In their pastoral letter, Economic Justice for All, the U.S. bishops go even further, saying: "The tax system should be continually evaluated in terms of its impact on the poor." If you feel disheartened by the paperwork or the cost of taxes, take heart that despite any flaws in the system, taxes help build the commonwealth.

**Friday, Apr 16, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**A God of his word**

Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15

"This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."

Poor communication is the main reason relationships fail. If it isn't clear what is being promised, then it is easy to become disillusioned when expectations aren't met. People who lose faith in God often point to God's untrustworthiness: They asked for something and didn't receive it. Hence, they conclude that God is not to be trusted. But remember the promise of God is love. Look around; wherever you see love—even a love lost—you see God's promise fulfilled. As Saint Augustine put it: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others." Help embody God's love today.

**Saturday, Apr 17, 2021**

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Call a deacon**

Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21

"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table."

The word "deacon" is derived from the Greek word *diákonos*, meaning "one who serves at table," found in today's first reading. The office of deacon endured for several centuries after its origin in Acts. But eventually the diaconate was reduced to a temporary stage of ordination to the priesthood. After Vatican II the permanent diaconate was revived. Today many men, most married although some single, enter the diaconate through the sacrament of Holy Orders. They serve their parishes and assist their pastors in many ways both social and liturgical. Perhaps you know someone who would make a good deacon. Give him a call.

*Divine Mercy*

O soul, **whoever you may be** in this world, even if your sins were black as night, **do not fear God**, weak child that you are, for **great is the power of God's mercy.**"

Diary of St. Faustina, 165a



