

# TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## September 6th, 2020



*"Where two or three are gathered together in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them."*

*Matthew 18:20*

### *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: Monday - Friday at 8:00AM  
**Temporary Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy: Sunday at 9:00AM**

Holy Days of Obligation: 8:00AM

**\* Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public**

### *Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671

[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
email: [parishoffice@holyltrinityrc.org](mailto:parishoffice@holyltrinityrc.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: Sunday at 10:30AM**

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil at 5:30PM

**\* Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public**



# *Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity*

## *Partners in Faith & Mission*



**September 6, 2020**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

It's all about reconciliation and conversion, not punishment. Relationships are not static adventures but wonderful gifts that continue to develop, grow, change, and mature. We are meant to be social beings, so isolating ourselves from others is rarely helpful. But, because human beings are on the one hand tremendously gifted, talented, and blessed creations, they are on the other also flawed, broken, and sinful. We all need to humbly admit that we are works in progress and not only capable of enriching each other's lives but causing deep hurts and wounds as well. Hence, we always need to be reconciled.

Because reconciliation and conversion are always part of the mix of life, honesty is crucial. Without honesty, we can easily find ourselves living a lie and causing more harm than good. Being able to freely share our feelings, especially those involving pain and hurt, is a charism necessary to pursue and an art to learn. When we are wronged or wrong someone else, we do not enjoy the confrontation that can and needs to come. We are taught to keep our feelings to ourselves, especially when they are negative, and we tend to avoid difficult conversations. Hence, we never really learn how to confront another, successfully resolve conflict, find reconciliation, and welcome conversion. When we hurt or wrong someone, it does not mean that we are a bad or sinful person who deserves only punishment and excommunication. Quite the opposite! We are simply a human person who can make poor choices and sin and can be forgiven. We can restore and deepen the relationship that has been affected and find our way home again.

Jesus clearly wants to avoid shame because it has no purpose in achieving reconciliation and conversion. All broken relationships deserve a chance at reconciliation. Every person has room for growth and a need for conversion. We have to learn to be okay with honesty and not be afraid to hear and process what someone needs to say, even if it is difficult for us to hear. Severing a relationship, both personally or with the church community as a whole, ought to definitely be a last resort and only pursued when all else has failed.

### **WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20 [23rd Sunday]  
Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-12/Lk 6:6-11 [Labor Day]  
Tuesday: Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6/Mt 1:18-23 [Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary]  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-17/Lk 6:20-26 [St. Peter Claver]  
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38  
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27/Ps 84:12/Lk 6:39-42  
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-18/Lk 6:43-49 [The Holy Name of Mary]  
Next Sunday: Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35 [24th 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 John's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.454.2873).

**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., Sept. 7th - Carole Copeland (Jay & Carrie Cassa)  
 Tues., Sept. 8th - Theresa Ignasiak (Dave & Beverly Esser)  
 Wed., Sept. 9th - Louise Grolemond (Chip & Elaine Rohrbach)  
 Thurs., Sept. 10th - Ron Wiczorek & Henry Dudkiewicz (Jim Macie)  
 Fri., Sept. 11th - Ray Pruzenski (Friends)  
 Sat., Sept. 12th - For the People of St. Stanislaus (Pro Populo)  
 Sun., Sept. 13, 9:00AM - Virginia Czulewicz (Ed & Family)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **GERALD KIRK** as gifted by Art & Nancy Kujawinski.

Egg salad is still chicken salad when you think about it.

## RESUMING SATURDAY EVENING MASS

We will resume the celebration of our 4:00PM Saturday evening Mass at Saint Stanislaus on **Saturday, September 12th!** Thank you for your patience as the planning and logistics of reincorporating this Mass back into public worship came together. While we recognize that the pandemic is still among us and we continue to be vigilant by wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, perhaps this is but another small, baby step forward to a return to some normalcy.

## SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

Baked Goods are needed for the SSJ Soup Kitchen **September 21st**. As they are serving "take-out" only, 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, September 20th between 9:00AM-Noon, or brought to the Nazareth Center on Monday, September 21st between 2:00-3:00PM.

## CSA 2020: UPDATE

Parish Assessment: \$31,019.00  
 Pledges: \$33,925.00  
 Paid To Date: \$30,115.00

**Thank you** for the 89 families who have committed! Any additional CSA money remains in our parish. So, if you haven't yet pledged, please continue to prayerfully consider doing so.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (AUGUST 30, 2020)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$37,404.00
Amount Received	\$2,789.00	\$23,450.00
Net over/under	<b>(\$1,367.00)</b>	<b>(\$13,954.00)</b>

Mass Attendance: 64 (Covid Mass)



## PIEROGI MAKING



Volunteers are needed to make pierogies for our upcoming "Polish Food Extravaganza." If you feel comfortable and are free to lend a helping hand, we will gather in the Social Hall at 9:00AM on both Thursday, September 17th, and Friday, September 18th. All are welcome, even if you have never made pierogies. We appreciate all of the help in making our "Polish Food Extravaganza" a success.



Polish Style Taco with pierogi taco shell, stuffed with sauerkraut and kielbasa, topped with onions and bacon.



## REMEMBERING 9/11/01

September 11th, 2001, is a day that will forever stick in the minds of most Americans, but for many young people 9/11 is no longer a current event but a historical one. How do we teach this event that has forever altered so many aspects of American life from our military conflicts to persistent Islamophobia to government surveillance? At present, 9/11 sits on the edge of history and current event with most students being born after but with many families still being affected. 2020 marks the 19th anniversary of 9/11. In New York, ongoing focus remains on the new One World Trade Center in downtown Manhattan, the tallest building in the Western hemisphere at 1,776 feet. The single skyscraper replaces the iconic Twin Towers, destroyed on September 11, 2001 -- marking the first ever attack on US soil. Solemn ceremonies and events are planned every year to mark the day.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



9/6 - Richard Korytowski  
& Msgr. Dan Magraw  
9/7 - Cameron Zbrzezni  
9/8 - Michele Koszegi  
9/8 - Connor Simora  
9/11 - Rob Purzycki

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Sept. 7th— Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families  
Tues., Sept. 8th - John Figurski (John Raclawski)  
Wed., Sept. 9th - Souls in Purgatory  
Thurs., Sept. 10th - All Living & Deceased Mothers  
Fri., Sept. 11th - Bob & Shirley Kempisty (Jack & Sandy Kempisty)  
Sat., Sept. 12th - Ed Czulewicz (Jane, Dave, & Helen)  
Sun., Sept. 13th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **ED CZULEWICZ** as gifted by Jane, David, & Helen.

## Comments made in the year 1957

- "I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20."
- "I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying 'damn' in 'Gone With The Wind,' it seems every new movie has either 'hell' or 'damn' in it."
- "Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$5000 will only buy a used one."
- "If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous."
- "Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"
- "If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."
- "Kids today are impossible. Those ducktail haircuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls."
- "If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it."
- "I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."
- "Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the president."
- "I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now."
- "It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work."
- "Marriage doesn't mean a thing any more; those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat."
- "I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business."
- "Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to congress."
- "The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."
- "There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel."

## THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

It's perfectly understandable that some Catholics were perplexed by the closing of churches in a time of crisis. Why, when the need for religion's consolations was most acute, were the sacraments kept from us? Oh, but they've always been right here; just not the way we're accustomed to receiving them. I'm not talking about Mass on TV or YouTube, as helpful as those are for many. I'm talking about the sacramental encounters beyond the big Seven, the daily sacraments that the official Seven are intended to magnify for us.

Specifically, in this season of physical distancing, we can still do this: Bless with water. Admit our faults and seek forgiveness. Confirm each other's faith. Make commitments to spouse and family. Care for the sick. Share life-giving food and drink. These gracious activities are not lost during weeks when assemblies can't gather and priests can't physically stand in front of us and lead.

The world remains in need of sanctification, by means of our prayers and petitions. The Body of Christ is still blessed, broken, and shared in the many creative, tender, surprising ways we receive each other when the usual ways are impossible.

—Alice Camille, "Vision"

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR AUGUST 30, 2020

Regular Offering: \$2,435.00 (30/145)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$27,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$21,285.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,435.00	\$18,156.00
Net (over/under):	\$70.00	(\$3,129.00)

## CSA UPDATE

Assessment: \$12,425.00  
Pledges: \$24,682.00  
Paid: \$23,052.00  
Families Contributing: 69



"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

- Matthew 18:20



## *News for Our Partnership*

### **DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

Everyone is invited to participate in the 8th annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. The event will take place at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Saturday, September 12th at 1:00PM. The gathering will begin near the infant section.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Warmest September 6th birthday wishes to our Senior Associate, Msgr. Dan Magraw, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of turning 21! Many blessings and good health!

### **45th Annual ERIE CROP Walk**

"To feed the hungry" is a work of mercy. Millions of people are hungry throughout our world, our country, our city. YOU CAN HELP ease this hunger, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. Participate in the 45th Annual ERIE CROP Walk on Sunday, September 27. Many food pantries and soup kitchens receive grants to aid their work, among them Emmaus Soup Kitchen, St. Patrick's Food Pantry and the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network. For information or to contribute, please call Barbara Roseborough at 814/882-5972. Walk. Give. Change the world!

### **FREE ONLINE RETREAT OFFERED**

Due to the extraordinary times we're living through, this retreat on gratitude is being offered as a virtual event. It's about poets and lepers and mystics and other essential workers in the story of faith. The five 45-minute pre-recorded series includes reflections on:

- Poetry 101
- Gratitude 101
- Poetry Is an Inside Job
- Gratitude When Life Hurts
- Solitude and Gratitude

If you are interested in participating in this FREE online retreat, please contact the Oratory Center for Spirituality at [oratorycenter@gmail.com](mailto:oratorycenter@gmail.com). Once you are registered you will receive information on how to access the five-part retreat to do at your pace and on your schedule.

### **COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND**

Special thanks to all who have been contributing to our Covid-19 Response fund, which is being used for the purchase of sanitizers, dispensers, and PPE for those volunteering to clean our facilities after each Mass. Whenever you are able, please consider contributing to this fund so we can keep our facilities as safe and virus-free as possible.

Today's readings are all about relationships. Among the many lessons we have learned from the global pandemic is the deep importance of the relationships and communities in our lives. Our families, neighbors, friends and parish family need us, and we need them to be our best selves.

St. Paul gives us simple instruction in our second reading from Romans to guide us in our dealings with others, reminding us what Christ Himself taught: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love is the overarching principal that guides us to be good stewards of our relationships.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus further refines this instruction on good stewardship of our relationships, even when they involve conflict. He says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother."

Jesus teaches us to confront the offending person directly and discretely — with the goal of restoring the relationship if possible. This is how we steward our relationships even through rocky waters. Jesus also speaks to us of the power and beauty of community life. "If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Christian stewards, God has designed us in such a way that we must help each other on the journey towards heaven. Let us take care to steward our relationships well.

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

9/6) Msgr. Dan Magraw & Joan Oldenski; 9/7) Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky; 9/8) Steve Rimpa, Stephanie & Bill Wycech; 9/9) Marcia Nitczynski & Rose Marie Radomski; 9/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker; 9/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski; 9/12) Edie Luniewski & Debbie Oldenski

### **PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

9/6) Msgr. Henry Krebs; 9/7) Msgr. Dick Siefer; 9/8) Fr. Bill Barron; 9/9) Fr. Ray Hahn; 9/10) Msgr. Dan Magraw; 9/11) Fr. John Malthaner; 9/12) Fr. Alex Amico

## Sunday, Sep 06, 2020

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Strive for rugged interdependence

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

Individualism—rugged or otherwise—has its perks. But what's more rugged and infinitely more fruitful is the spirit of communal interdependence. Jesus tells us not merely that there's safety in numbers, but that Christianity itself is in the balance. A loner Christian simply can't be found. Even a hermit lives in communion with the greater church. Our gathering hymn at the start of each Mass tells us why we come together, whether in person or online: because Jesus is present in the love that passes between us. Practice your Christianity in all of your daily contacts.

## Monday, Sep 07, 2020

### Stand for work

1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11

*"Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil?"*

This year's Labor Day is a difficult one for our country, with so many workers unemployed, underemployed, or employed in high-risk settings as a result of the pandemic. In these tough times, let's remember the church's teachings on the dignity of work and workers. The U.S. bishops have stated, "All people have the right to economic initiative, to productive work, to just wages and benefits, to decent working conditions, as well as to organize and join unions or other associations." Stand up for workers' rights today and every day.

## Tuesday, Sep 08, 2020

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Find hope in Mary

Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

*"Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ."*

One of the most beautiful prayers of the Catholic Church, "The Litany of Loreto" dates back to the 1500s and uses poetic language to proclaim the many titles and symbols of Mary. One of those symbols—Mary as Morning Star—describes Our Lady's relationship to Jesus and her role in salvation history. Just as Earth's morning star, Venus, emits the day's first light ahead of the dawning of the sun, so too does the birth of Mary provide a glimmer of hope ahead of the birth of her son. Turn to Mary today with anything you might feel hopeless about.

## Wednesday, Sep 09, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PETER CLAVER, PRIEST

### Care about body and soul

1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26

*"Blessed are you when people hate you and insult you."*

Saint Peter Claver (1581-1654) was a Spanish Jesuit missionary to the Americas who preached the Good News by first caring for the physical needs of the people. When slave ships docked in the port city of Cartagena, Colombia, Claver came with food and medicines to care for the African people who survived the journey, because he believed that, "We must speak to them with our hands before we speak to them with our lips." In four decades in Colombia, he baptized more than 300,000 people, proof perhaps that compassion borne of faith is the best means of evangelization. May compassion for everyone be the means of our own sainthood.

## Thursday, Sep 10, 2020

### Bible banter

1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13; Luke 6:27-38

*"Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you."*

While we may quote the Bible now and then, Catholics in general are less likely to quote scripture than many Protestants, not because we don't value scripture but because Catholics rely on tradition and teaching *alongside* scripture. Individual Bible quotes tend to be emphasized less. Most believers will spend a lifetime coming to understand and embrace their faith deeply. Next time you read the Bible, see it as one more step on the journey to God.

## Friday, Sep 11, 2020

### What would Jesus do?

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27; Luke 6:39-42

*"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"*

Religion has too often been weaponized. Criticism and even attacks on others are justified in the name of "God." Many a "holy" war has been fought with little understanding of a God who can be expressed as compassion, mercy, and love in many and varied ways across religious traditions. As Christians, we are called to measure our words and actions by the gospel of Jesus the Christ. This standard should guide our choices, whether confronting injustice, voting for political leadership, or encountering a stranger. As we pause to remember the victims of 9/11 and other terrorist acts today, let's pledge to resist all efforts to weaponize religion. How can love incarnate your entire being?

## Saturday, Sep 12, 2020

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY

### Your litany of personal saints

1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Luke 6:43-49

*"No good tree bears bad fruit... for each tree is known by its own fruit."*

Tony in *West Side Story* wasn't the first to sing the name of his beloved, and the word "Maria" barely contains his wonder. One of the first words heard by newborns is their name, reverently whispered by parents. What name best will fit this little person? Throughout scripture, names carry significance: from John the Baptist to Cephas/Peter to Jesus at the burial site calling Mary Magdalene after his Resurrection. So is it any surprise that those who revere the Virgin Mary have cherished her name for centuries? Take a moment to create a list of names, your personal litany of people who have nourished or inspired you. Then pray it in thanksgiving for them.

