

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 1, 2021



Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church

516 East 13th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.452.6606

www.ststanserie.org
email: ststaner@outlook.com

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday - Friday at 8:00AM

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:

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

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

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

2220 Reed Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.456.0671

www.holytrinityrc.org
email: parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate
Mary Ann Merski, Secretary
Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:00AM

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:

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

Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



August 1, 2021

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You cannot see the forest for the trees” is a widely known saying that can bring wisdom to our understanding of our journey. Often, our sight becomes limited to what is immediately before us. We lose touch with lessons and experiences from the past and promises and hope for the future. If we don’t move beyond the external and superficial stuff to what really is of essence, we risk becoming very unsettled, disorientated, angry, and unhappy. We fail to see the bigger picture of hope and promise that lies ahead and the Divine Presence that has sustained and carried us before.

We like it when the “now” time of our lives satisfy us. Even the people who witnessed Jesus feed the five thousand got confused and distracted. It felt good when thousands of people were able to eat. They wanted to know what they could do to get this to happen again! But Jesus quickly reminds them that this is not the point of this sign. We need to learn the difference between being and doing, drawing more strength from who we are and who God is rather than what is happening around us and the choices we can make. Jesus is the true bread that came down from heaven. Jesus is the very incarnate presence of God. This is not easy to understand and feel. We have to practice being in the presence of ourselves, others, creation, and God. We are brought to a holy place when we encounter the sacredness of being. This is real prayer.

It is when we cease trusting that we start to become afraid, uncertain, apprehensive, and doubtful, and overly self-concerned. God, who is alpha is also omega, the beginning and the end, and has everything in between in his care as well. A woman once remarked that her most powerful God moment happened when she and her husband cuddled with their new baby for a time. Without exchanging words and using only the affection communicated through sight and touch, they rested in being with each other. This brought them to the sacred, where they realized that a greater Being was with them. It was real. They knew that they were part of something bigger, intimate, and profound. When we rest in the Living Source of life, we will find that our souls are no longer hungry or thirsty.

Readings for the week of August 1, 2021

Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-25, 54/Eph 4:17-24/Jn 6:24-35

Monday: Nm 11:4-15/Ps 81:12-17/Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-7, 12-13/Mt 14:22-36

Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-35/Ps 106:6-7, 13-14, 21-23/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Mt 16:13-23

Friday: Dn 7:9-14/Ps 97:1-9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10

Saturday: Dn 6:4-13/Ps 18: 28, 3-4, 47, 51/Mk 17:14-20

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-9/Eph 4:30-5:2/Jn 6:41-51

Sacrament of Baptism: Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation programs are hosted at Saint Luke’s Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

Confirmation preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint Luke’s Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.6920).

Sacrament of Holy Orders: God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Scott Jabo, at 1.814.824.1181.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

Sacrament of the Sick: Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

Leave A Legacy: Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

Bulletin Information Deadline: Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

*Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity
Partners in Faith & Mission*

“PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN” MINISTRY

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Rose Marie at 814.923.4438.

“PRAYERLINE” MINISTRY

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452-3395) from Saint Stanislaus, or Kathy Benes (898-1091) or Kathy Smith (392-8974) from Holy Trinity.

PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

“PRAYER SHAWL” MINISTRY

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Linda at 814.864.8476.

THE “ZABAWA COMMITTEE”

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Ray Luniewski at 882-1032.

PROLIFE COMMUNITY

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

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. 2nd - Private Intention
 Tues., Aug. 3rd - William Post (Peggy Bebko & Family)
 Wed., Aug. 4th - Deacon Bob Walker (Deacon Dennis & Lynn Kudlak)
 Thurs., Aug. 5th - Joseph Macioch (Family)
 Fri., Aug. 6th - Ron Wasielewski (Bobby Sulecki)
 Sat., Aug. 7th, 4:00PM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)
 Sun., Aug. 8th, 9:00AM - Mary Ann Kleiner (Mary Ann Holl)

CANDLE MAKING MINISTRY

Our candle making ministry is off to a good start! We had a nice group gather this past Wednesday. We will meet again this coming Wednesday at 10:00AM in the Parish Hall. If you missed out on last week's introduction, and are still interested in this ministry, please join us this Wednesday. The process of making candles is easy and we can bring you up to speed quickly.



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

ERIE GIVES 2021

The 2021 Erie Gives Day is slated for August 10th. The Holy Name Society, on behalf of our parish, has registered Saint Stanislaus as a recipient of charitable donations. Any donations received will be matched on a pro-rated basis.

Online giving extends from 8AM-8PM on August 10th and can be made at <https://www.eriegives.org/organizations/st-stanislaus>. The minimum donation is \$25, along with a nominal credit card fee. Donations to Saint Stanislaus can also be mailed to Erie Community Foundation (459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507), but they must be accompanied by a "Check Donation Form," which can be found at www.eriegives/about. Checks will be accepted August 9th and 10th.

Recently, the Holy Name Society was undertaken several projects around our campus: cementing our parking lot entrance, upgrading our security system, re-stringing our flag pole, painting, and more. Any support for their ongoing efforts would be greatly appreciated. Consider donating on August 10th!

"A TASTE OF POLAND"

A mailing went out this past week regarding our annual "A Taste of Poland" (a.k.a. "Parish Day"). Included were a pack of tickets to purchase or sell. If you did not receive a mailing, please call the Parish Office and we will be sure to send one to you.

WEEKLY OFFERING (JULY 25, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$16,624.00
Amount Received	\$2,158.00	\$11,458.00
Net over/under	(\$1,998.00)	(\$5,165.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 63; 9:00AM = 57
 Envelopes: 61/168



Looking back over my journey of parenthood, I know there were days when I traveled the extra mile for my children. I made their toast the way they like it, let them play in the park an extra ten minutes, or let them go to the movies with their friends and I finished up the chores on my own. And then, it happened: the attitude. The request for the smallest thing from one of them is met with disdain or bewilderment. Sometimes you can be made breathless with the ingratitude of another person who takes so much and with so little shame, only to scoff at the idea that they, too, give even the smallest amount. But if we're being honest with ourselves, we will admit that we do the exact same thing to God. Haven't we all been the Israelites in the desert at one point or another? God has parted our Red Sea in some way. He's led us out of some great trial, given us some great blessings. But then we run into a little resistance somewhere along the way and we throw up our hands. How could you do this to us, Lord? How could you ask this of us? No, I can't go any further. No, I won't do any more. Persisting in the blindness to the many ways God continues to protect us is nothing short of a temper tantrum. It robs our Everyday Stewardship of its graciousness, of our ability to accept with joy the trials of life because we are also constantly aware of its blessings.

— Tracy Earl Welliver



GOD GAVE
 US MOUTHS
 THAT CLOSE
 AND EARS
 THAT DON'T.
 THAT MUST
 TELL US
 SOMETHING.

BY NANCY ASPELIFE

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in for **CHARLES & THERESA BRASINGTON** as gifted by Linda and Ken.



August 1 - Lilliana Moore
 August 4 - Anna Czulewicz
 August 5 - Brooklyn LaZar
 August 7 - Marcus Brieger
 August 8 - Ava Lubak
 Trisha Rimpa
 Patricia Slomski

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Aug. 2nd - Betsy Soboleski (Darleen & Dave Wilkinson)
 Tues., Aug. 3rd - Kulig, Laszczewski, and Habas Families (Estate)
 Wed., Aug. 4th - For All Fathers, Living and Deceased
 Thurs., Aug. 5th - Kathleen Suizzo (Ed, Patty, & Anna)
 Fri., Aug. 6th - Nancy Slubowski (Family)
 Sat., Aug. 7th, 5:15PM - John Figurski (Family)
 Sun., Aug. 8th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

18 Days until ZABAWA 2021

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT ZABAWA

Looking for a great opportunity to help out over the summer and be involved in one of the Erie Diocese's most well attended events? Then Holy Trinity's Zabawa is the place for you! Ten to 12 energetic volunteers (teenagers and up) are needed for each shift to serve food. Shifts are Aug. 27 from 4:30 to 9 p.m.; Aug. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and 5:30 to 9 p.m.; and Aug. 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sign up for as many hours as you'd like by contacting Sarah Chermack at schermack@eriefamilylaw.com. Note that this is an ideal way for high school students to get service hours.

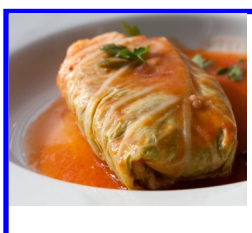
FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (AUGUST 6th)

The Feast of the Transfiguration, Christian commemoration of the occasion upon which Jesus Christ took three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on a mountain, where Moses and Elijah appeared and Jesus was transfigured, his face and clothes becoming dazzlingly bright (Mark 9:2-13; Matthew 17:1-13; Luke 9:28-36). What was the transfiguration a sign of? The transfiguration is a sign that Jesus was to fulfill the Law and the prophets. It also assured James, Peter, and John the Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.



PACZKI MAKING SESSION

Saturday August 14th 9am-?
 No experience necessary.
 Any help will be appreciated!

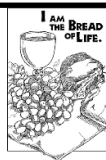


GOLABKI MAKING SESSIONS!

Wednesday, August 4th, noon-9pm
 Thursday, August 5th, 9am-9pm
 Friday, August 6th, 9am-9pm
 No experience necessary.
 Any help is appreciated!

Looking for a Sign

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35 (NIV)
 Based on John 6:24-35 (NIV)



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

LIFE	HEAVEN	LOAVES	TRUTH	FATHER
ETERNAL	TRUE	MANNA	DESERT	MOSES
SIGNS	FILL	THIRSTY	LAKE	BREAD
RABBI	BELIEVE	LIFE	HUNGRY	FOOD



WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JULY 25, 2021

Regular Offering: \$1,430.00 (30/134)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$12,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$9,460.00
Total Offertory:	\$1,430.00	\$9,982.00
Net (over/under):	(\$935.00)	(\$522.00)

Attendance: 5:15PM = 28; 10:30AM = 46

"I am the bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger..."

- John 6:35

News for Our Partnership



ZABAWA KICK OFF BINGO!!

Sunday, August 15th
Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3rd St.
1:00pm, Doors Open at Noon

All CASH PRIZES!!!

*Instants *50/50 Game

- *\$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each add'l pk.
- *Pierogi, Polish Sausage along with other kitchen food available.
- *Door Prizes & Giveaways
- *Basket Raffle
- *Zabawa food/beverage tickets available for purchase, beat the crowd!!

CALL 814-456-5300 TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity PCEP program.

VACATION

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

At long last, Germany is finally letting me into their country! If you recall, it was over a year ago now that I was supposed to go to Germany and preside over my buddy's father's funeral, but Covid would not allow it. Germany finally re-opened their borders to vaccinated Americans about a month ago. Consequently, I made arrangements to fly over, celebrate a memorial Mass, and spend some time with my friend and his family.

I will be flying out on August 6th and returning on August 21st. I am grateful to Father Dan for agreeing to cover any funerals or emergency calls. I am also grateful to Father Ed Lohse and Father Jason Mitchell for covering some of our weekend Masses. Finally, I am grateful to so many of you who have encouraged me to take this vacation, my first in nearly three years.

While I am very excited for my trip, I know that I will be thinking of all of you while I am away. I will be taking my Mass intentions with me and will keep all of you in my prayers. Please pray for my safe travels and a relaxing time away. I will look forward to seeing all of you upon my return.

- Fr. Jason

WELCOME BACK!

For many months, our households, families and communities were unable to embrace one of the most beautiful joys of our humanity: Gathering around the table to share stories and a meal. Similarly, our parishes have longed to gather around the table of the Eucharist to share our great story: The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At Mass each Sunday, we remember the faithfulness of God throughout all of salvation history and see how that same great love remains present, here and now. We are physically present with Jesus and with each other. We also long to "re-member" our parishes, because Our Sunday Story isn't complete if even one member of our family is missing from the table. Isolation and social distancing have awakened our deep need for connection with each other and with the physical presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. As a community of faith, participating in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is our central activity. Recall with us the sacredness of the sabbath, of a family meal and of sharing treasured stories. Then, come, share in Our Sunday Story. We have prepared a place for you!

Prayer as we Re-member Our Sunday Story

God our Loving Father,
we ask for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit.
May your Spirit call us back to
Re-member our Sunday Story—
the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
which draws us together
and brings us to the Eucharist.

May your Spirit unite us more closely to Christ,
in whose Body and Blood
we have communion with you, with each other,
and with those in need.
As Jesus brought joy into the faith-filled household
of Mary and Joseph,
we ask that Christ's presence come alive
in our homes and parish communities,
renewing joy and hope in the world.

We pray through your Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
Amen.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

8/1) Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski, & Mary Speice; 8/2) Patty Czulewicz; 8/3) Judy Tucceri & Jackie Vargo;
8/4) Ed Czulewicz, Evelyn & Ed Selleny; 8/5) Mary Ann Merski & Michelle Inter; 8/6) Msgr Dan Magraw & Joan Oldenski;
8/7) Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

8/1) Fr. Jim Gutting; 8/2) Msgr. Henry Krebs; 8/3) Fr. Alex Amico; 8/4) Fr. John Malthaner; 8/5) Fr. Brian Vossler; 8/6) Fr. Bill Barron; 8/7) Fr. Skip Davis

Sunday, Aug 01, 2021

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In it to win it?

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35

"You are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled."

Quid pro quo sounds like a pretty good deal. "This for that": the time-honored barter in which we swap resources or labor for room and board, if not a bit more. Consumer culture initiates all of us into the pursuit of the best trade. No surprise that early followers of Jesus imagined they were swapping their attention to his teaching for free food and even better opportunities down the road. Jesus seeks friends who share his vision, not churchgoers hoping for a celestial deal. When it comes to the religion quest, what's in it for you?

Monday, Aug 02, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PETER JULIAN EYMARD, PRIEST

The communion of saints awaits you

Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21

"Hesaid the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples."

Saint Peter Julian Eymard was a 19th-century French priest with a devotion to the Eucharist. He founded two religious institutes with a focus on Eucharistic Adoration: the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament for men and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament for women. The former prepared children for their First Communion and reached out to lapsed Catholics to bring them back to receiving Communion. He famously said, "You take Communion to become holy, not because you already are." Perhaps you spent some time away from the Eucharist because of the pandemic. No matter how long you are apart, Christ eagerly awaits your return.

Tuesday, Aug 03, 2021

We're in the same boat

Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14

"Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus."

The "Barque (boat) of Saint Peter" is one of the oldest symbols of the Catholic Church. Early church fathers, like Tertullian and Clement of Alexandria, compared the church to a sailing vessel. Saint Boniface wrote: "The church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship, but to keep her on her course." As Peter learned, the trick is to place our trust in Jesus. Pray for Pope Francis— successor to Peter—that he can guide the church through today's troubled waters.

Wednesday, Aug 04, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JOHN VIANNEY, PRIEST

Ministry for the ministers

Numbers 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28

"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

The unique lives of Catholic priests and religious sometimes give rise to stressful times and difficult transitions that need the help of a healing hand. The Saint John Vianney Center in Downingtown, Pennsylvania serves Catholic clergy and religious struggling with behavioral and emotional issues, addictive and compulsive disorders, weight management, and other challenging issues that arise during their vocational journeys. The JVC employs modern therapeutic support along with traditional prayer, spiritual practices, and the intercession of today's saint to restore these dedicated men and women to active and fruitful ministry.

Thursday, Aug 05, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF MARY MAJOR

Legend-worthy Madonna

Numbers 20:1-13; Matthew 16:13-23

"Then, raising his hand, Moses struck the rock twice with his staff, and water gushed out in abundance for the people and their livestock to drink."

Legend has it that a freak snowstorm in August was a sign that urged a Christian couple to build an enormous Roman church dedicated to the Virgin: the Basilica of Mary Major, founded in the 400s. Yet this story is like many others that church historians call "legends." Our legends are not to be disdained; they usually uphold truths as interesting as the facts. In this case, the larger truth is that Mary is a key member of the communion of saints who helps us on our path to God. During this month when Mary is particularly venerated, ask for her intercession.

Friday, Aug 06, 2021

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Shhh . . .

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Mark 9:2-10

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

"Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply," says leadership guru Stephen Covey. When we fail to listen, we miss the messages necessary for growth in ourselves and others. Listening builds a well of wisdom that helps the listener and the speaker get to know themselves better. "Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality," says Henri Nouwen, and Pope Francis calls listening a form of "self sacrifice" as we put another person above ourselves and "share questions and doubts." God commanded Jesus' disciples to listen to him. We are called to do the same.

Saturday, Aug 07, 2021

MEMORIAL OF SIXTUS II, POPE, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

The courage to teach

Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20

"[I]f you have faith the size of a mustard seed...

Nothing will be impossible for you."

Today's teachers have a tough job (which the pandemic only made more difficult). But imagine risking your life to teach about your faith. That's how it was "back in the day." In the year 258, Roman soldiers burst into the room where Sixtus was teaching, dragged him from the chair, and beheaded him in the street. Six deacons joined him in martyrdom that day. Many bishops, priests, and deacons were murdered during that persecution by the Roman Emperor Valerian. Next time you're in the pew, find Sixtus in Eucharistic Prayer I, the first one printed in your missalette. He's in the list that includes "Linus, Cletus, Clement," and other notables of the early church. When you get to the name Sixtus II, pause and remember his courageous sacrifice to pass on the faith.

