

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 27, 2023



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)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM

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

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

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

2220 Reed Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.456.0671

www.holytrinityrc.org
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)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM

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Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



August 27, 2023
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isn't it a bit weird that Catholics call the Pope "papa," father? This Sunday provides us with essential Scriptural background on the papacy, the petrine office. Jesus gives Peter the "keys to the kingdom of heaven," after witnessing to the special grace Peter has to know Jesus' true identity. Many have pointed out that the "keys" refer back to the figure of Eliakim, King David's prime minister. True enough. But notice this is not mere authority or power. It's a family relationship. The Lord says to Eliakim, "He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem" (Isaiah 22:21). David's prime minister was a spiritual father to the family of Israel. Peter, and his successors, will be spiritual fathers in the family of the Church.

This means we have a serious obligation to not only recognize the Pope's authority, but also to love him with the affection of children for their papa. We should never speak about him with disrespect or rancor. We should listen to him with trusting hearts, and ignore the slander thrown at him in various media. When we show the world we are loving and obedient to our Holy Papa, perhaps they'll see more clearly that the Church is indeed God's beloved family.

— Father John Muir

PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for the gift of learning! I want to grow closer to you in everything I do at school. In math and science, help me to see your beautiful plan in the world. Help me to discover new stories and values as I read and write. In arts and music, help me to be creative. In sports, help me to treat my teammates and my opponents fairly. Help me to learn new skills in technology. Jesus, you are the perfect teacher. Help me to listen with open ears, an open heart, and an open mind to all my teachers at school. Help me to treat my classmates with care, kindness, and respect. Thank you, Jesus, for school!

Readings for the week of August 27, 2023

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-6/Mk 6:17-29

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-12/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5, 12-14, 17/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 10-12/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-9/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission

"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452.3395) from St. Stanislaus, or Kathy (392-8974) at Holy Trinity.

PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

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

"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Sue (450-2987).

THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"

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

PROLIFE COMMUNITY

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

"PRAYER CANDLE" MAKING MINISTRY

This ministry makes prayer candles from the church's left over bee's wax. They meet on Wednesdays, from 10AM - Noon in St. Stanislaus Parish Hall. No experience necessary.

ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please Check: ☐ New Registration ☐ Change of Address ☐ Change of Telephone Number

☐ Change of E-mail ☐ Moving out of Parish ☐ Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome

Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Aug. 28th - Private Intention
Tues., Aug. 29th - Stanley Widomski (Shirley & Family)
Wed., Aug. 30th - Carl, Frances, & Charles Trochowski (Family)
Thurs., Aug. 31st - Joan Oldenski (Tome & Eileen Widomski)
Fri., Sept. 1st - Walter & Bernice Uminski (Alice, Donna, & Connie)
Sat., Sept. 2nd, 4:00PM - Vargo Family (Family)
Sun., Sept. 3rd, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **VICTORIA & JOSEPH BANISZEWSKI**, as gifted by the Family.



WHEN GOD SPEAKS LIKE A POLISH GRANDMOTHER

A friend of mine had a Polish grandmother who was famous for giving her children some blunt advice every time they left the house: "Eyes straight ahead. Mind your own business." Every mother knows her children best, and this mother knew hers liked to argue and sometimes liked to show off. She knew that could lead to trouble. She could not anticipate every scenario they would encounter each time they departed from her. All she could do was distill what she knew about life, safety, and manners into a few simple words, and hand them over to her children like a set of car keys or a hastily scribbled map. In this way, a woman who rarely said "I love you" expressed her devotion. And long after she was dead and buried, her aging sons and daughters repeated these words to themselves, like a child wrapping himself in a warm blanket. Jesus does much the same for us, in many portions of the Gospels. "Ask the master to send out laborers for his harvest...Carry no money...Eat what is set before you...Know that the Kingdom of God is at hand...Rejoice because your names are written in Heaven." He knows us best — knows our strengths, but even more importantly, he knows our weaknesses. He doesn't always have the space to address each of these explicitly in the pages of Scripture, but what he can do is distill the truth of effective evangelization into a few simple words, and hand them over to us as food for our journey of discipleship. In this way, a God who addresses the entire world and every soul who ever lived also speaks intimately to each one of us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Nancy Widomski, the winner of our 50/50 Raffle! Proceeds of the raffle will benefit the important work of our Care & Concern Committee. Thank you to all who supported this effort!

ALL THE BEST

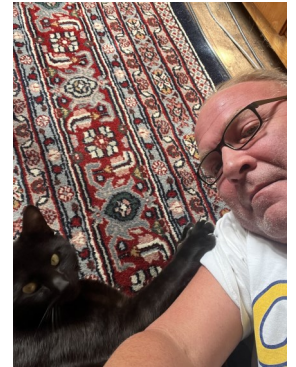
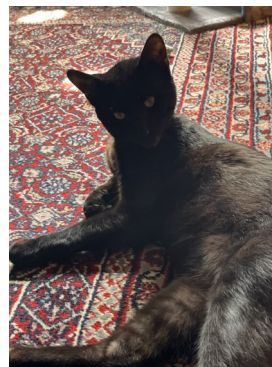
The Parish Community of Saint Stanislaus wishes all the best to the Holy Trinity Community this Zabawa Weekend. We hope and pray that the weekend proves to be a success!

PASTORAL PLANNING

This coming Tuesday, August 29th, Bishop Persico will present the preliminary proposal for Erie County's pastoral plan. Our parish leadership will be in attendance. Following the presentation, our Parish Council will meet to discuss what impact the proposal will have on our parish. Then, we will schedule a Town Hall meeting to inform our parishioners of the plan, its impact, and our understanding moving forward. Please stay tuned...

FROM THE RECTORY

Fr. Jason welcomed a new resident into the rectory last week. Meet "Ninja."



SUMMER 2023

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR AUGUST 20TH

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$33,248.00
Amount Received	\$2,146.00	\$18,547.00
Net over/under	(\$2,010.00)	(\$14,701.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 80; 9:00AM = 58
Envelopes: 47/168



MARRIAGE MOMENT

At the beginning of August, I wrote that August has 2 full moons, symbolizing completion, fertility, abundance, and transformation. Good, BUT — it can also be a time of friction, polarity, and more-intense emotional energy. Reflect on how your life together has reflected both this past month.

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **JOSEPH CHERMACK**, as gifted by Dave & Jane Thieman.



8/28) Don Neimeic

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Aug. 28th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
 Tues., Aug. 29th - Special Intention
 Wed., Aug. 30th - All Deceased Mothers
 Thurs., Aug. 31st - All Deceased Fathers
 Fri., Sept. 1st - Travelers over Labor Day Weekend
 Sat., Sept. 2nd, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
 Sun., Sept. 3rd, 10:30AM - Joseph Chermack (Dave & Jane Thieman)

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, leads us to take a serious look at whether our lives give God the glory He deserves. He leads up to it gently enough: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they offer varying responses. Then, Jesus gets personal with them. "But who do you say that I am?" Peter gets the answer right: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus is getting personal with us today. He poses the same question to each one of us who call ourselves His stewards and modern-day disciples. Surely, we would not hesitate to answer just as Peter did, that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God. But do our lives truly reflect this answer? If we really believe that Christ is the Son of God, sent to save us from our sins and lead us to Heaven, then we must say so, not just with words but with our actions. Do my ambitions and priorities in life say that Christ is my Savior and I am His disciple? Does my budget, my family life, my entertainment say so? The gifts and blessings that God has given us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — are meant to be used in a manner that says "Christ is my Savior and I am His disciple." The most eloquent praise we can offer Him is a life lived in grateful response to His unfathomable love. This is the beauty and power of a stewardship way of life.

SPECIAL WELCOME

We offer a warm and special welcome to all of have come to celebrate our 30th Zabawa Weekend! We are so happy to have you here and to share our hospitality! Please feel free and welcome to join our community to offer thanks and praise to God every weekend.

We also thank Bishop Persico for celebrating our Zabawa Mass on Saturday evening. You honor us with your presence.

FROM HOLY TRINITY PARISH COUNCIL

Holy Trinity's Parish Council will meet on Thursday, August 31st at 4:00PM in the Parish Office to reflect on the preliminary pastoral plan presented for Erie County on August 29th. They will discuss how the Plan will impact our parish, and our strategy as to how they will present the Plan to parishioners. They will hold a Town Hall meeting in our Social Center on Sunday, September 10th, following the 10:30AM Mass. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Like Jesus in today's gospel, we are seen by others in different ways. But those who know us best are usually our own family. Who do they say you are?

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR AUGUST 20th, 2023

Regular Offering: \$1,710.00 (31/120 envelopes)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$32,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$19,200.00
Total Offertory:	\$1,710.00	\$21,112.00
Net (over/under):	(\$690.00)	\$1,912.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 28; 10:30AM = 59

Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



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

CHRIST BLESSED LIVING JOHN	EARTH KINGDOM ROCK HEAVEN	SON CHURCH FATHER PETER	PROPHETS GATES HADES KEYS	PEOPLE BAPTIST ELIJAH JEREMIAH
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"For the gifts and call of God are irrevocable."

- Romans 11:29

News for Our Partnership

BACK TO SCHOOL

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

ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL MONASTICISM

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

GARAGE SALE

Saint Stanislaus will host a garage sale on:

Friday, September 8th, from 9AM-4PM

Saturday, September 9th, from 9AM-1PM

The sale will take place in the Parish Hall parking lot, the rectory garages, and in the Parish Hall. We will also be serving hot dogs! Come and find a treasure, or grab a quick lunch, or both!

WHAT IS THE RCIA?

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

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

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

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

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

I once knew a very devout woman whose adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

His godmother wanted more for him. She planned to speak with him about his life, hoping to encourage him to return to the practice of the faith. She knew that, when she brought this up, he would reply that it wasn't important to attend Mass or to receive the Eucharist, that was all just "extra."

She told me that she was going to begin their conversation by asking him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15 — the critical question in all our lives.

Her godson knew the answer. She was confident, unshakably, that he did. He may have forgotten it or ignored it. He may have tried to convince himself he wasn't entirely sure. He may have refused to give an answer. But he knew it. He knew the answer.

There is a reason that, after Peter's response, Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

"Who do you say that I am?" Let our whole lives be our answer.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Lord God, most holy, we approach you in gratitude for your holy ordained priesthood. You have called these men to be set apart and to shepherd your people, as you shepherd your entire church. We pray for them in their daily work. Grant to them an increase in spiritual gifts and grace, so they may be prepared for the tasks at hand. Lead them not into temptation and protect them from the grasp of the evil one. It is through the sacraments they confer that we encounter the divine in a real and profound way. May your church never lose sight of these, your special sons, and may we, the body of Christ, never fail to cherish the gift of their lives, which they have freely given to you and your holy church.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

8/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson; 8/29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak & Janis Leretsis; 8/30) [Open]; 8/31) Bobby Sulecki;
9/1) Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski, & Mary Speice; 9/2) Kay Stankiewicz;
9/3) Jeannie McGinley, Judy Tucceri, & Jackie Vargo

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

8/28) Fr. Phil Oriole; 8/29) Fr. David Renne; 8/30) All in Consecrated Life; 8/31) Fr. John Miller; 9/1) Msgr. Dan Magraw;
9/2) Fr. Jason Glover; 9/3) Bishop Persico

Sunday, Aug 27, 2023

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven."

The value in variety

A founder of the NAACP, W.E.B. Du Bois knew the cure for racism wasn't simply telling the truth. It was inducing people to act on it. The first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1895, Du Bois dreamed broadly of a world of "valuable variety ... in height and weight, color and skin, hair and nose and lip.... Each effort to stop this freedom of being," he argued, "is a blow at democracy—that real democracy which is reservoir and opportunity.... There can be no perfect democracy curtailed by color, race, or poverty." Let us act on this truth.

Monday, Aug 28, 2023

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.

You lock the Kingdom of heaven before men."

The great romance

Saint Augustine is known as a great thinker—arguably the most significant Christian theologian after Saint Paul. But his writing is as much heart as head. He is also known for leaving behind a life of hedonism. But he remained a passionate man—only, after his conversion, passion for God alone. "Late have I loved you, O Beauty, ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you!" he lamented. It's never too late to be swept away by what Augustine has to say: "To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."

Tuesday, Aug 29, 2023

MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Mark 6:17-29

"We drew courage through our God to speak to you the Gospel of God."

Prepare the way

Painting after painting shows John the Baptist pointing to Jesus. John knows it's not about him: "He who is coming after me is mightier than I" (Matthew 3:11) and "I am not the Christ, but I have been sent ahead of Him.... He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 2:28-30). Christian tradition also calls him John the Precursor and John the Forerunner, prepping us for the Messiah by being something of a prototype. Like Jesus, he's conceived miraculously. Both preach repentance, have disciples, and suffer in death. But as Saint Peter Julian Eymard knew, "The true secret of love consists in this—we must forget self like Saint John the Baptist and exalt and glorify the Lord."

Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:27-32

"... walk in a manner worthy of ... God."

Make a better choice

A mother of 11 foster children always had a gaggle of kids buzzing around her. They were happy and well cared for. When there was even a hint of one crossing the line from lively to obnoxious, she simply said, "Make a better choice." Amazingly, they did. Those are powerful words. How can you make a better choice today? What will help you walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into his Kingdom and glory? This advice from Saint Francis de Sales might prove useful: "Never miss an opportunity to do good."

Thursday, Aug 31, 2023

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51

"Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

Education for the whole person

As a school year begins anew, it's worth taking a moment to appreciate the proud tradition of Catholic education. In the United States, Catholic religious orders have built an extensive network of primary, secondary, and college-level institutions whose shared mission has been education of the whole person: spiritual, intellectual, and human development. Millions have been positively impacted by these schools, including many poor people who have improved their quality of life. Offer a prayer of thanks for the educators and others who pour their energies into this holy and wholistic education.

Friday, Sep 01, 2023

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13

"Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not a human being but God, who also gives the Holy Spirit to you."

Celebrate the season of creation

In Catholic culture we use the phrase "care of creation" in our work to protect the Earth and develop sustainable ways to live. This phrase is deliberate because it underscores the inherent connection between God and all that is. Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'*, "The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ." On this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, let us renew our commitment to care for one another, land and sea, all creatures great and small, as together we move into the fullness of God to which all are called.

Saturday, Sep 02, 2023

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30

"Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?"

Talent contest

The parable of the Talents is about much more than money. It speaks of the gifts that God has given to each of us and how we choose to "invest" those gifts in the community. Are we seeking only the most limited return, for ourselves? Or are we sharing our gifts, doing our part to help build up the community? The questions are more than hypothetical, for one day, at an unexpected hour, we will be called to account. Invest wisely for a generous return!

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.