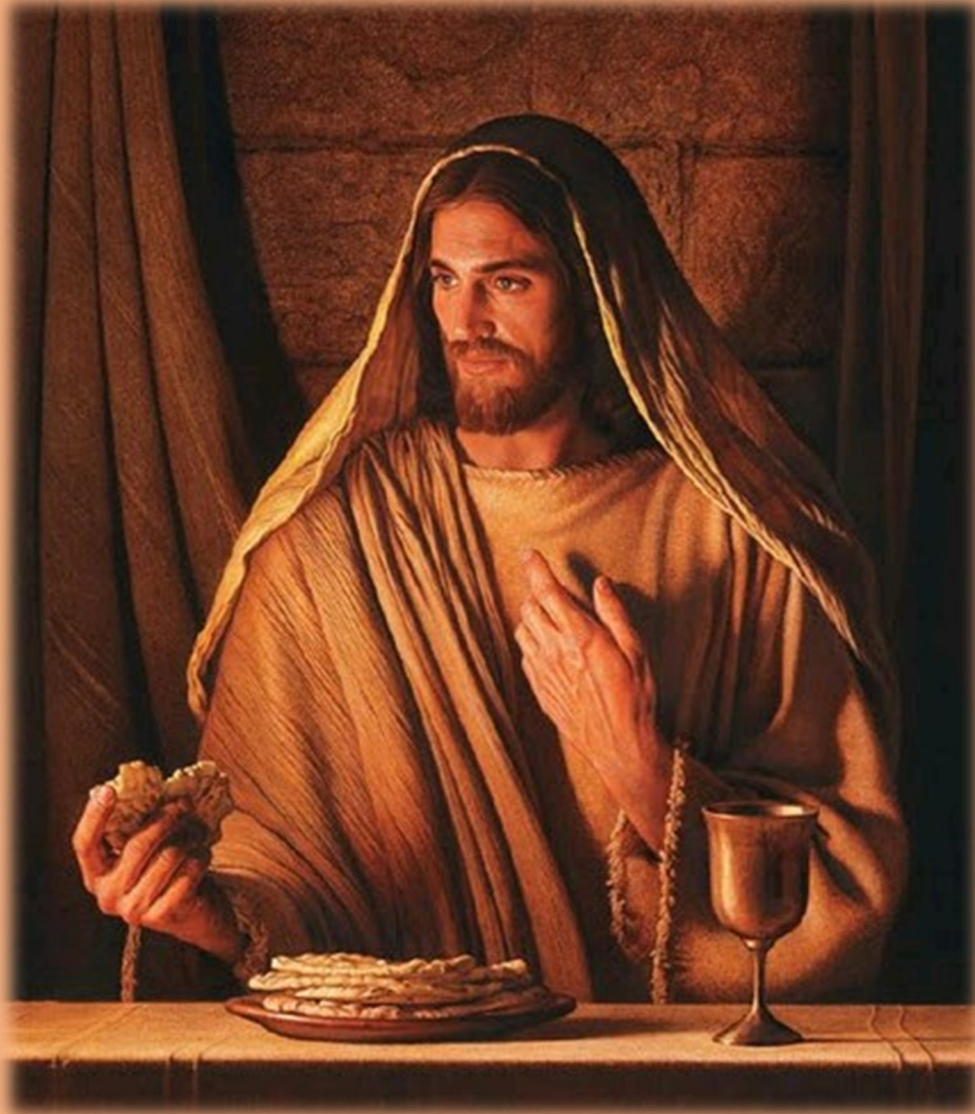


NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 8, 2021



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 8, 2021

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The lens through which we view life makes a difference. It also determines who we choose to learn from and what we allow to shape our thoughts and feelings. For many, life is simply what it appears to be. There is no apparent rhyme or reason to things and things can be dissected and understood only in terms of what they empirically present. To the person using this lens, a tree is a tree and a flower is a flower. Their composition and existence can be understood only to the extent that current human knowledge allows. This lens has an essentially unknown beginning and definite end. Once those are accepted, the middle becomes some kind of pursuit of happiness, with values and principles being things that are self-created and found acceptable.

But there is a Divine lens that also exists and deserves mention. It is found when one stumbles upon faith and begins to see things differently. This lens is of God and reveals a Divine Energy and Life that flows through and in all things. Faith then shows us that all that lives come from this one Source of Love. This is the only true lens that can give human beings the purpose and meaning they desperately need. From this perspective, all of life is much more than what is immediately apparent! It now tells and reveals a story about God generous, creative, and unconditional love! The unfolding of the human story is the unfolding of God's story. We are indeed special.

The lens of our faith asks us to learn from Jesus Christ. Jesus, as the real Bread of Life, shows us our eternal destiny and completes and frames our lives. It is only in allowing ourselves to be taught by Jesus, that faith, hope, and love take on much greater importance. All the relationships in our lives are now structured and ordered using God's primary commandment of love. Jesus, then, is not just some man who lived at some point in history. Jesus is the incarnate Son of God who shows us the way, the truth, and the life. Using this lens changes things up a great deal. Looking at the creation that surrounds you and the special unique people you love, what is God trying to teach you about His love for you and the eternal life He wants you to have?

Readings for the week of August 8, 2021

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-9/Eph 4:30-5:2/Jn 6:41-51 [19th Sunday]
 Monday: Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-20/Mt 17:22-27 [St. Theresa Benedicta]
 Tuesday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-9/Jn 12:24-26 [St. Lawrence]
 Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-5, 8, 16-17/Mt 18:15-20 [St. Clare]
 Thursday: Jos 3:7-17/Ps 114:1-6/Mt 18:21-19:1 [St. Jane Frances de Chantal]
 Friday: Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-24/Mt 19:3-12 [St. Pontain]
 Saturday: Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-11/Mt 19:13-15 [St. Maximilian Kolbe]
 Next Sunday: Rv 11:19; 12:1-10/Ps 45:10-16/1Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56 [Assumption]

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. 9th - Private Intention
 Tues., Aug. 10th - Irene Lubiejewski (Family)
 Wed., Aug. 11th - Sophia & Francis Stankavich (Marie)
 Thurs., Aug. 12th - Ed Czulewicz (Patty Scutella)
 Fri., Aug. 13th - Ewiak Family (Mary Lou Speice)
 Sat., Aug. 14th, 4:00PM - Pat Tomczak (The Oldenski Family)
 Sun., Aug. 15th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns for a **SPECIAL INTENTION** as gifted by his Janet & Jim Piotrowski.



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 has 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!

CARE & CONCERN RAFFLE

Our parish Care & Concern ministry will be selling 50-50 raffle tickets after Masses on August 14th & 15th and August 21st and 22nd. Proceeds of the raffle help to offset the cost of cards, postage, and other secretarial supplies needed for this ministry.

What's Your Hearth Cake?

"Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." I've been to a lot of meetings in my years of work in the Church, and you can take my word for it: the ones with snacks just seem to go better.

I don't know what it is exactly. Maybe it's just that people are in a more agreeable mood if you show up with donuts. Or maybe it's about the very real sense of community and camaraderie that is created at a table where people are engaging in that most human of tasks — eating — beside one another. I think a big part of it comes down to the simple fact that we're all just nicer people when we're fed.

This rings true spiritually, too. We simply must remain fed if we, in turn, are to feed others. Think of a time when you have neglected your relationship with God — when you haven't fed yourself with whatever it is that you need to remain committed to the journey of a Christian life. Is it Mass attendance? Is it prayer or Scripture reading? Is it time with your small group, or conversation with a trusted friend who knows your soul? What sustains your ability to be a good disciple, a good steward? What inspires you to give more freely, to love more abundantly?

Whatever it is, that's your hearth cake. That's your jug of water. Don't neglect it. The Angel of the Lord is nudging you in your sleep: "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

Baked Goods are needed for the SSJ Soup Kitchen for Monday, August 16th. 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, August 15th, between 9:00AM-Noon, or brought to the Nazareth Center on Monday, August 16th, between 2:00-3:00PM. *No deserts will be needed in September.*

WEEKLY OFFERING (AUGUST 1, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$20,780.00
Amount Received	\$3,436.00	\$14,894.00
Net over/under	(\$720.00)	(\$5,886.00)

Mass Attendance:
 4:00PM = N/A; 9:00AM = 62
 Envelopes: 71/168



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

"Stop murmuring" Jesus told the disciples in today's gospel. Complaining is a dead-end; constant complaining is nagging. We might feel better but others feel bitter. Silence or grumbling will not resolve the problem. Address differences honestly and respectfully. Don't make them personal attacks.

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in for **DON BENCZKOWSKI** as gifted by Joyce Bujnoski.



August 15 - Joseph Nitczynski

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Aug. 9th - Anna Marie Neimeic (Family)
 Tues., Aug. 10th - Kulig, Laszczewski, and Habas Families (Estate)
 Wed., Aug. 11th - For All Fathers, Living and Deceased
 Thurs., Aug. 12th - Robert Ruedy (Patty, Ed, & Anna Czlewicz)
 Fri., Aug. 13th - Edward Majewski (Jack & Sandy Kempisty)
 Sat., Aug. 14th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
 Sun., Aug. 15th, 10:30AM - Nellie, Harry, & Michelle Ganza (Ken & Linda)

**11 Days until
ZABAWA 2021**



Saturday, August 21st, 9:00AM - ?
SET UP FOR ZABAWA!

PARISH DAY OF PRAYER

On Sunday, August 22, Holy Trinity will host a "Day of Prayer" for our parish and for the success of Zabawa 2021. With all the hectic preparations for our festival, this is an excellent opportunity to slow down and remind us what Zabawa is all about: sharing our heritage, our culture, and our faith. More details will follow.



A drunk stumbles along a baptismal service on Sunday afternoon down by the river. He proceeds to walk down into the water and stand next to the Preacher. The minister turns and notices the old drunk and says, "Mister, Are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk looks back and says, "Yes, Preacher. I sure am." The minister then dunks the fellow under the water and pulls him right back up. "Have you found Jesus?" the preacher asked. "No, I didn't!" said the drunk. The preacher then dunks him under for quite a bit longer, brings him up and says, "Now, brother, have you found Jesus?" "No, I did not Reverend." The preacher in disgust holds the man under for at least 30 seconds this time brings him out of the water and says in a harsh tone, "My God, have you found Jesus yet?" The old drunk wipes his eyes and says to the preacher..."Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

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.

PACZKI MAKING SESSION

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

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR AUGUST 1, 2021

Regular Offering: \$3,579.00 (31/134)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$15,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$11,825.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,040.00	\$12,022.00
Net (over/under):	(\$325.00)	\$197.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 32; 10:30AM = 47

The Living Bread

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:51 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on John 6:41-51



*"I am
the living
bread."*

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E I H Q F G R W J D L O C H A
V V T O H D I E T I I P U M J
E V J J C E T O F E Q G A U N
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FOREVER LIFE EVERLASTING	ATE FLESH HEAVEN	WORLD DESERT TRUTH	DIED LIVING BELIEVE	BREAD JESUS MANNA
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sweet
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time

"The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world..."

News for Our Partnership

Dear Monsignor, Father or Deacon,

As you know, I am reinstating the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and holy days beginning on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

I have been hearing from a number of parishioners who are particularly concerned about the dispensation being lifted just as cases of the Delta variant are beginning to surge. By way of clarification, I want to bring the following paragraph from the statement of the bishops of Pennsylvania (attached), to your attention:

“This obligation, as is always the case, does not apply to those who are seriously ill, have a serious health risk, as well as those who have serious anxiety of being a part of large groups at this time. Likewise, the obligation does not apply to those who care for those who cannot attend Mass in person (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2181).

Those who are legitimately excused from Mass on Sundays and Holy Days are encouraged to spend time in prayer, meditating on the Death and Resurrection of the Lord, reading the Sacred Scriptures, and uniting themselves to Christ in his worship of the Father of us all. Those who are legitimately excused are also encouraged to view a broadcast of the Mass which is intended for those who cannot participate in person.

Please ensure that your parishioners are well-versed on this aspect of the dispensation.

- Bishop Lawrence Persico, J.C.L.

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

695 Smithson Ave., Erie, PA 16511

Wednesday, August 11: 2:00pm-7:00pm

Thursday-Friday, August 12-13: 8:30am-4:00pm

Saturday, August 14: 8:30am-1:00pm

After the wedding, the little ringbearer asked his father, “How many brides can the groom marry?” “One,” his father said. “Why do you ask?” Because the priest said he could marry sixteen,” the boy said, puzzled. “How’d you come up with that?” his father asked. “Easy,” the little boy said. “All you have to do is add it up, like the priest said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer.”

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.



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!

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

8/8) Steve Rimpa, Stephanie & Bill Wycech; 8/ 9) Marcia Nitzczynski, Rose Marie Radomski; 8/10) Tony Jankowski, Eleanor Walker; 8/1) Sandy Kempisty, Ray Przybyszewski; 8/12) Edie Luniewski, Debbie Oldenski; 8/13) Deacon Tom Matusiak, Shirley Widomski; 8/14) Julie Slomski, Katherine Krainski; 8/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, Carol Clark

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

8/8) Msgr. David Rubino; 8/9) Bishop Persico; 8/10) Fr. Ray Haun; 8/11) Fr. Justin Pino; 8/12) Fr. Brandon Kleckner; 8/13) Fr. Michael Kesicki; 8/14) Bishop Trautman; 8/15) Fr. Sam Bungo

Sunday, Aug 08, 2021

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Let living water flow

1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:30—5:2; John 6:41- 51

"Elijah looked and there... was a hearth cake and a jug of water."

Jesus said, "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink" will be rewarded (Matt. 10:42). How much more so if we champion clean water rights for all. Have you ever tried to run a bath, only to have sludge emerge from the pipes? Have you gotten sick from drinking from a contaminated spring, or developed a rash from washing in your own sink? Folks around the world and in parts of our own country have had this experience often. Take time to learn what you can do locally and globally to ensure access to what Pope Francis calls a "basic and universal human right"—safe drinking water.

Monday, Aug 09, 2021

MEMORIAL OF TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Pick up a page-turner of faith

Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Matthew 17:22-27

"And they were overwhelmed with grief."

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross was born Edith Stein in 1891 and was killed at Auschwitz in 1942. She was a German Jewish philosopher who had been an atheist, although she had admired Christians she knew. She shocked everyone by becoming Catholic and, 11 years later, a Carmelite nun. Her conversion was prompted by an all-night reading of the autobiography of Saint Teresa of Ávila, a 16th-century Carmelite also of Jewish origins. Pick up a copy of the autobiographies of both these riveting saints—and see how they contribute to your own ongoing conversion.

Tuesday, Aug 10, 2021

FEAST OF LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR

Find your way to serve

2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26

"Where I am, there also will my servant be."

Lawrence was one of seven deacons martyred in Rome under Emperor Valerian in 258. The word deacon—from the Greek word for service—describes the work of these early ministers: beginning with the first seven deacons mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, appointed to serve the everyday needs of the flock while the apostles busied themselves with evangelization. Today's Catholic deacons are ordained; permanent deacons can preach at Mass and preside over weddings, Baptisms, and funerals—while transitional deacons later become priests. Learn more at nadd.org.

Wednesday, Aug 11, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CLARE, VIRGIN

Hope lights the way

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20

"His eyes were undimmed and his vigor unabated."

Saint Clare is part of a long line of women and men who gave up everything for the sake of following Christ, and. These brave souls persevered, driven by a passion to bring God's Good News to the world. "Like a shooting star against the dark sky of injustice and ignorance, founders of religious communities lit up the landscape with a burst of hope," says Precious Blood Father Joe Nassal. Saint Gaspar like Saint Clare hoped to free people from the chains of societal conformity. Clare chose to do it within the confines of a cloister; Gaspar, as an itinerant preacher. Both were being true to themselves and the gospel. Follow your own path toward hope.

Thursday, Aug 12, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL, RELIGIOUS

Love lifted her higher

Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Matthew 18:21—19:1

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

Jane Frances de Chantal, a French widow who founded the Visitation Nuns in 1610, was a well-off, educated woman with administrative talent and deep faith who was widowed at age 28. Obligated to live with a cruel father-in-law, she coped by pouring herself into charity work and spiritual development, eventually teaming up with Saint Francis de Sales to found a religious community. Have you ever coped with difficulties by trying to become a better person? What trial in your life could nudge you toward greater goodness?

Friday, Aug 13, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PONTIAN, POPE, AND HIPPOLYTUS, PRIEST, MARTYRS

What unites is greater than what divides

Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12

"I gave you.... cities that you had not built, to dwell in."

Pope Pontian and Hippolytus were both imprisoned in Sardinia during Roman persecutions. Before their deaths in 235, Pontian and Hippolytus reconciled, because for a time the two were archenemies. Indeed, Hippolytus had been elected antipope by his followers who were in stark opposition to Pontian's tolerant stance on reconciling returning Christians to the church. In the end, Pontian and Hippolytus realized that their shared love of Christ far surpassed any differences. Finding one common element with an enemy is the first step toward reconciliation. Perhaps we can start with our shared humanity and work our way from there.

Saturday, Aug 14, 2021

MEMORIAL OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST, MARTYR

Give a piece of your heart

Joshua 24:14-29; Matthew 19:13-15

"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Maximilian Kolbe shook up the rules for saint-making. At Kolbe's 1982 canonization, Pope John Paul II named him a "martyr of charity." No longer could one become a martyr only by being killed because of "hatred for the faith." Now one killed because of charitable work, as Maximilian was, could also be a martyr. This opened the door to sainthood for others who were murdered for their good work, like Notre Dame Sister Dorothy Stang of Brazil, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ sisters of Liberia, or the Maryknoll sisters of El Salvador. We are all called in some way to be martyrs, even if we give away only a part of our lives. Give away a piece of your life today.

"That night, I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."

- St. Maximilian Kolbe

