

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 9, 2022



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**

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



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



January 9, 2022 The Baptism of the Lord

“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.”
— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

Readings for the week of January 09, 2022

Sunday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 29:1-10/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 [Baptism of the Lord]
Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-19/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1-8/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2-10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45 [St. Hillary]
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22/Ps 89:16-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1/Ps 21:2-7/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11 [2nd 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 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 Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606 or Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

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 Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

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 Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

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., Jan. 10th - Private Intention
 Tues., Jan. 11th - Vincent & Sophie Bieniasz (Family)
 Wed., Jan. 12th - Linda Gidos (Helen Zimmerman)
 Thurs., Jan. 13th - Richard Niedzwiecki (Peter & Judie Pentz)
 Fri., Jan. 14th - Viola Lintelman (Shirley Widomski)
 Sat., Jan. 15th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)
 Sun., Jan. 16th, 4:00PM - Ed Czulewicz (Janet & Rick York)

IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated recently for CLARA LATA, ROBERT SMITH, and TOM KONKOL. Please remember them and their families and loved ones in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord..."



Our sanctuary candle burns in honor of **SKYLA PATORA**, as gifted by Janet & Jim Piotrowski.

I HOPE I AM LIKE HIM

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ. "He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him." Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it. Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah. But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God. Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 26, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$108,056.00
Amount Received	\$5,391.00	\$74,261.00
Net over/under	\$1,235.00	(\$33,795.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = N/A; 9:00AM = 60
 Envelopes: 118/168

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed AFFIRMATION and so do our children.

WEEKLY OFFERING (JANUARY 2, 2022)

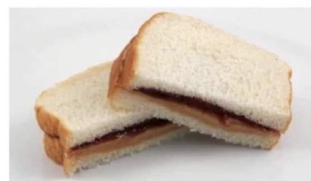
	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$112,212.00
Amount Received	\$2,352.00	\$76,613.00
Net over/under	(\$1,804.00)	(\$35,599.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 9; 9:00AM = 78
 Envelopes: 52/168



watches the food network once

"I made a puréed nut spread w/ a grape relish reduction paired w/ brioche bun"



As the year comes to an end, I urge you to take care of yourself and avoid accidents because spare parts for old models like you are no longer in stock.

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **DEACON TOM MATUSIAK**, as gifted by Jack & Sandy Kempisty.



1/15 – Dorothy Carlson & Robert Koziel
1/16 – Peter Smith & Joshua & Tyler Chermack

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Jan. 10th - Gregg Dyakon (Bill & Corinne Dyakon)
Tues., Jan. 11th - Private Intention
Wed., Jan. 12th - Living and Deceased Fathers & Mothers
Thurs., Jan. 13th - John Figurski (John Folga Family)
Fri., Jan. 14th - Special Intention (Bonnie Homicz)
Sat., Jan. 15th, 5:15PM - Christine Kempisty Moles (Mary Ann)
Sun., Jan. 16th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED

We are in need of a volunteer to assist in coordinating the parish's Prayerline. If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at 814.456.0671

USHERS' MEETING

The Ushers' Society will be meeting on Tuesday, January 25th, at 7:00PM, in the Social Center Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

As we celebrate this feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we can study His actions at the Jordan River as a powerful example of servant leadership. We see in Jesus a type of leadership that is characterized by humility and leading by example. Certainly, the sinless Savior did not need a baptism of repentance! But Jesus humbly made Himself one with his people to draw us to Him and create a relationship with us so that we would be open to His teachings and influence. As a servant leader, we also see that Jesus leads by example. He doesn't just tell the people they need to be baptized. He shows them how and does it Himself to teach them. To lead like Jesus, we, too, must "walk the walk" and not just "talk the talk." If we want those who we lead to be generous and hard-working, then we must show them how to do this by demonstrating generosity and hard work ourselves. Immediately after His baptism, we learn of the powerful affirmation of the Father who opens the heavens, sends the Holy Spirit upon Jesus in bodily form, and says audibly, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased." Let us be filled with gratitude for our amazing God and be reminded that when we are grateful followers of Jesus and servant-leaders in imitation of Him, the Father will be well-pleased with us, too.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 26, 2021

Regular Offering: \$2,855.00 (35/131)
Christmas Offering: \$2,858.00

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$69,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$57,331.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,855.00	\$61,809.00
Net (over/under):	\$490.00	\$4,478.00

Attendance

Christmas Eve: 185
Christmas Day: 85
Sunday, 10:30AM = 78

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JANUARY 2, 2022

Regular Offering: \$3,587.00 (26/131)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$72,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$59,696.00
Total Offertory:	\$3,587.00	\$65,396.00
Net (over/under):	\$1,222.00	\$5,700.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 21; 10:30AM = 45

Jesus, the One and Only

And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased." Luke 3:22b (NIV)

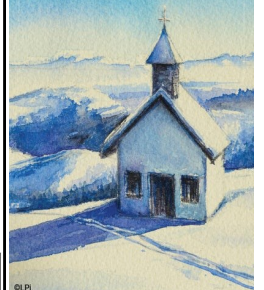
Based on Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



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

PEOPLE POWERFUL CHRIST	BAPTIZE JOHN WATER	DOVE OPENED HOLY	PRAYING SPIRIT HEAVEN	FIRE VOICE JESUS
------------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------

Hello Winter



"You are my beloved son; with you I am well-pleased."

- Luke 3:22

News for Our Partnership

WELCOME

We want to extend a very special welcome to the Traditional Latin Apostolate of St. Stanislaus, who will be celebrating their first Mass at St. Hedwig's! Members of St. Stanislaus Parish Council will be on hand at St. Hedwig's to welcome them to our community.

WOMEN'S & MEN'S ANNUAL CONFERENCES

The annual Diocesan Men's Conference will be held on February 12th. The Women's Conference will be held on March 12th. Both conferences will be held in-person at Saint Jude Church. However, due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, the conference will be made available to select parishes (yet to be determined) so that people may gather in smaller groups. The Zoom link will also be provided to interested individuals who would prefer to stay at home. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

CHILD PROTECTION: ONLINE GAMING

72% of teens, both male and female (ages 13-17) play video games. More than half of those teens said they have made new friends online. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children analysis of Cyber Tip-line reports has found that gaming platforms are more often used in the online enticement of young boys than any other group of children. It is important for parents to talk to their child about safety in online gaming. Some important questions to ask are: Have you ever been cyberbullied while gaming? Do you know what information is OK to share about yourself while gaming? Has anyone talked about sex while you were gaming or asked you to send pictures of yourself? If your child answers yes, report the matter to law enforcement. Visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/ for additional resources.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to AVA LUBAK and MIA MANGINI of Holy Trinity, both of whom earned "Second Honors" during their first term at Mercyhurst High School. We are very proud of you, ladies. Keep up the good work!

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

1/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker; 1/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski; 1/12) Edie Luniewski & Debbie Oldenski; 1/13) Shirley Widomski; 1/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krainski; 1/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark; 1/16) Corinne Dyakon, Mary Jo Sulecki, & Kay Stankiewicz

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

1/10) Fr. Tom Tyler; 1/11) Bishop Persico; 1/12) Those in Consecrated Life; 1/13) Fr. David Perry; 1/14) Fr. Tom Fialkowski; 1/15) Fr. Mike Polinek; 1/16) Bishop Trautman



New Year Extravaganza BINGO All CASH prizes!!!

*** Instants * 50/50 Game**

- Sunday, January 23, 2022
- Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3rd St.
- 1:00pm, Doors Open at Noon
- \$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each add'l pk.
- Kitchen Food Available
- Holiday Auction
- Door Prizes
- Call 814-456-5300 to reserve your seat!

Walk Ins Welcome

**All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity PCEP program
FUTURE DATES: March 13th & May 1**

Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.

Sunday, Jan 09, 2022

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Acts 10:34-38 ; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Tell it like it is The hidden days are over. When the Spirit descends on Jesus and the heavenly voice proclaims him beloved, Jesus is effectively outed as the Divine Son. Did Jesus know this was the hour when his private life would come to an end? When any dreams he may have had for a quiet domestic existence were surrendered for good? The underlying truth is that on the day of our Baptism, we each surrender the notion of a private world that's all about us. As Pope Francis puts it, "Immersing us in Christ, Baptism also makes us members of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world." Be the beloved. Share the love.

Monday, Jan 10, 2022

1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Give every child a chance According to the National Center for Child Poverty, about 15 million children in the United States—21 percent of all children— live in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. The Christ Child Society seeks to address the critical needs of these children. U.S.-born Servant of God Mary Virginia Merrick, who died on this day in 1955, founded the Christ Child Society in 1887 at the age of 20—despite being paralyzed from a childhood injury. Today, its 6,000 members volunteer nearly 400,000 hours and serve more than 75,000 children and their families annually. You may find a chapter—or start one—at nationalchristchild.org.

Tuesday, Jan 11, 2022

1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28

"On the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught."

Pray the way to a more perfect union Dom Lambert Beauduin, a Belgian Benedictine monk, died this day in 1960—but not without influencing the way we pray at Mass. As a liturgical scholar, Beauduin championed—years before Vatican II—the idea of worshipers actively participating in the Mass rather than sitting in pews to pray their private devotions. He promoted the idea of congregants literally "being on the same page," able to follow along with the Latin by using worship aides to translate the words of priests and prayers. "Beauduin had an insatiable thirst for unity," notes a biographer. Pray for greater unity in our church today.

Wednesday, Jan 12, 2022

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39

"Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

Here I am, Lord Jesus saw his healing ministry of the sick and spiritually oppressed as a call from God. It is the same call each of us receives, not only to serve God and his people but to serve ourselves—to be our best selves, which will bring us the greatest joy. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, known as an apostle of love, explains the profound grace that comes with responding to God's call in his "Jesus, the very thought of thee" hymn: ". . . how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!/ But what to those who find? Ah, this No tongue nor pen can show;/ The love of Jesus, what it is None but His loved ones know."

Thursday, Jan 13, 2022

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

"A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, 'If you wish, you can make me clean.' "

In defense of the faith Saint Hilary (d. 468) was a bishop during a time of great contention in the early church. He was popularly selected to lead, and he undertook scholarship that continues to be recognized today. His informal title, "Hammer of the Arians," has a violent ring to it, but in fact, he defended the Trinity against the Arian heresy through his writing, even though his opponents used the more forcible method of exile. Living a truly Christian life—loving those who oppose you, forgiving wrongs, turning the other cheek—has often been ridiculed by those who prefer the use of force. You can "defend" the faith by the way you choose to live.

Friday, Jan 14, 2022

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12

"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'"

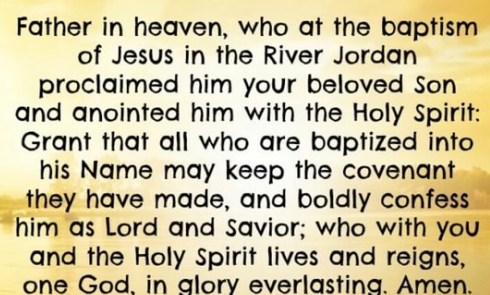
I feel your pain Healing gospel-style involves assessing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the ill person. As Pope Francis says, Jesus asks us: "To stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them." This holistic approach is slowly being embraced by Western physicians. Today's healthcare providers are encouraged to use such tools as the FICA method to assess a patient's faith; its importance in their decision-making; their connection to a community of like-minded believers; and the recommended action related to the spiritual assessment. We're all commissioned to be healers to some extent; the next time someone comes to you in pain, remember this compassionate approach.

Saturday, Jan 15, 2022

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17

"Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The stone rejected In our continued observance of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year, we are reminded by Pope Francis to consider the complexities of people's lives when we're tempted to judge their family or marital situation. "It can no longer simply be said," writes the pope, "that all those living in any 'irregular situation' are living in a state of mortal sin." Non-traditional families need to be offered "understanding, comfort, and acceptance." We need to stop applying moral laws as if they were, in the pope's words, "stones to throw at a person's life." Consider today the grace of God's mercy, compassion, and forgiveness operating in your own life.



Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.