

# SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## FEBRUARY 16, 2020



"The Pharisees Question Jesus," James Tissot (1894)

### *Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church*

516 East 13th Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.452.6606

[www.ststanserie.org](http://www.ststanserie.org)  
email: [ststaner@outlook.com](mailto:ststaner@outlook.com)

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

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

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Monday - Friday at 8:00AM  
Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy: Saturday at 4:00PM  
Sunday at 9:30AM

Holy Days of Obligation: 8:00AM

### *Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671

[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
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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 5:00PM;  
Sunday at 10:00AM

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil at 5:30PM



# Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

## Partners in Faith & Mission



### February 16th, 2020 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

People are not property. We cannot exchange them at will or simply use them for our own designs and purposes. What does the word “commitment” mean to you? We can begin to understand its meaning by looking at some synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, and bond. Commitment is primarily about relationship, and Jesus is all about relationships. How our lives affect others, how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we resolve conflict, and how we view the vows of marriage. Jesus’ teachings on obeying the commandments, murder, reconciliation, marriage, divorce, and adultery all stem from the sacredness of commitment. All of this has a God connection.

We can easily see one another as interchangeable and dispensable. We treat so much of our lives this way. What works today may not be what I want tomorrow. We search and search for the right thing only to find our hearts still restless in the end. Is real happiness achievable this side of the grave? Sometimes we expect too much out of others and want our relationships to fill a hole that we must figure out how to fill ourselves. Any seasoned married couple will tell you that their love for one another changes as time passes. Even though the understanding of romance changes as life changes, the dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, and fidelity all remain and even deepen.

Some relationships can be hurtful, and God does not want us to live with abuse or pain. Also, how a relationship develops is sometimes out of our control, and we become the victim of someone else’s decision. But we can’t be self-focused in our relationships and see them exclusively as self-fulfilling ends. We are companions on life’s journey with varying depths of relationships being enjoyed by all who are with us along the way. We have the freedom to choose. God asks us to do so wisely, with right judgment and thinking.

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of February 16, 2020

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 [6th Sunday]  
 Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67-77/Mk 8:11-13 [Founders of the Servite Order]  
 Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-19/Mk 8:14-21  
 Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27/Ps 15:2-5/Mk 8:22-26  
 Thursday: Jas 2:1-9/Ps 34:2-7/Mk 8:27-33  
 Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-6/Mk 8:34—9:1 [St. Peter Damian]  
 Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19 [Chair of Peter]  
 Next Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-13/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48 [7th Sunday]

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

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

**Confirmation** preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint John’s Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.454.2873).

**Sacrament of Holy Orders:** God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Fr. Michael Polenik, at 1.800.374.3723.

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

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

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

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

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

**"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY**

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

**"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY**

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

**PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)**

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

**"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.

**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.

**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., February 17th, 8:00AM - Proowski Family  
 Tues., February 18th, 8:00AM - Alexander Mikrut (Mr. & Mrs. Malaszak)  
 Wed., February 19th, 8:00AM - Linda Love (Paul & Renee Gambill)  
 Thurs., February 20th, 8:00AM - Theresa Ignasiak (Elizabeth Yount)  
 Fri., February 21st, 8:00AM - Della & Thomas Valahovic (Family)  
 Sat., February 22nd, 4:00PM - Richard Daub (Family)  
 Sun., February 23rd, 9:30AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (Pro Populo)

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 15th  
 Server: Chip & Haley Rohrbach  
 Lector: Ed Czulewicz  
 Gifts: The Lombard Family  
 Sunday, February 16th  
 Server: Shane Green  
 Lector: Paul Gambill  
 Gifts: M. & M. Popovich  
 Saturday, February 22nd  
 Server: Jack Ciecierski  
 Lector: Stephanie Wycech  
 Gifts: The Justka Family  
 Sunday, February 23rd  
 Server: J. & A. Wildfire  
 Lector: Irene Smerick  
 Gifts: The Leretsis Family



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **THERESA IGNASIAK** as gifted by the family.

## WHAT TO DO WITH LAST YEAR'S PALMS?

Baskets will be placed at the entrance of the church for you to bring in your old palms. They will be burned and their ashes used for Ash Wednesday.

## FISH & PIEROGI DINNERS

Back by popular demand... St. Stan's will host our annual Fish & Pierogi dinners on February 28th, March 13th, and March 27th. Volunteer forms are available at the church entrances. If you are able, please complete a form and return it to the Parish Office (or place it in the collection basket) as soon as possible.

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH** will meet at 7:00PM on February 17th at the Community Center on 14th & Wallace.

## CSA: OUR PARISH GOAL & PROJECT

Once our parish reaches our CSA assessment goal of \$31,019, any additional funds pledged remain at Saint Stan's. In consultation with Parish Council, it was decided that these funds would be used to provide necessary repairs to the school's roof. The roof is over 30 years old! While interest in growing to rent space in the school building, significant leakage prevents us from doing so. Repairing/replacing the roof would not only preserve the physical integrity of the building, but also allow us to rent out additional space in order to make the building profitable.

**WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO RECONSTITUTE** the Immaculate Conception choir, a vestige that was lost in their merger with St. Stan's. It is an opportunity to diversify our music ministry to be more inclusive. The first practice will be at 6:30PM on February 19th, at the direction of Bill Rabbitt. All are welcome to join! The choir is planning to debut 2 music selections at Mass on March 1st.

**CLEANING TEAM B** will gather at 9:30AM on Tuesday, February 18th.

**HELP WANTED!** We will be in need of additional help for our Fish & Pierogi dinners on the Thursdays at 10:00AM before each dinner. Help will be needed for food preparation and table settings/silverware. Please join in the fun and offer your service for the success of our dinners!

**BETH DALTON & CAROLINE CHILCOTT** were February 1st Lottery Winners (#540)

## WEEKLY OFFERING (FEBRUARY 9, 2020)

This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need .....	\$4,156.00 ..... 132,992.00
Amount Received .....	\$1,735.00 ..... \$95,793.00
Net over/under.....	(\$2,421.00) ..... (\$37,199.00)

Mass Attendance:  
 4:00PM = 70  
 9:30AM = 58



## LENTEN & EASTER MARKETS

Our Partner Parish, Holy Trinity, will be holding their annual Lenten and Easter Markets again this year.

**LENTEN MARKET:** Order forms for the Lenten Market will be available through February 23rd. Order pick-up will be on February 26th, following Ash Wednesday Mass, and February 29th, from 10:00-11:00AM.

**EASTER MARKET:** Order forms will be available throughout Lent. The Market will be held on April 3rd and April 4th. More information will be available in future bulletins.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

### 5:00PM - February 22nd

**Lector:** R. Koziel & J. Otto  
**Server:** N. & M. Mangini  
**EM:** R. & A. Koziel

### 10:00AM - February 23rd

**Lector:** M. Koszegi & S. Rimpa  
**Servers:** B. Lazar & R. Luniewski  
**EM:** E. Luniewski, L. Sebastian,  
 & E. Simora

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., February 17th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus  
 Tues., February 18th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus  
 Wed., February 19th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus  
 Thurs., February 20th, 8:00AM - Msgr. John Daniszewski  
 Fri., February 21st, 8:00AM - For the Souls in Purgatory  
 Sat., February 22nd, 4:00PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)  
 Sun., February 23rd, 10:00AM - Roma Carlos (Lucia DePalma)

The sanctuary candle burns in memory of **THE PEOPLE OF HOLY TRINITY.**

## CSA: OUR PARISH GOAL & PROJECT

Once our parish reaches its CSA assessment goal of \$12,425, any additional pledges will enable Holy Trinity to complete projects such as replacing our six main entrance to the Social Center along with equipping one door with an exterior and interior button to open the door for handicapped persons. Our center then will be fully ADA compliant with your generosity. We will be sending out a letter, a brochure with an envelope for your gift or pledge to the 2020 CSA. Please pray how you and your family will respond as we move forward together doing the work of Christ in our diocese and at Holy Trinity.

## NEEDED ITEMS

There will be a container in the back of the church for any unwanted or donated rags, wash cloths, and towels that you may have. They can be put to good use to wash and dry dishes and wipe off tables during the many events that are held in the Social Center



February 18th - Kathy Wisniewski  
 February 19th - Sara Korytowski



A man suffered a serious heart attack and had an open-heart bypass surgery. He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at a Catholic Hospital. As he was recovering, a nun asked him questions regarding how he was going to pay for his treatment. She asked if he had health insurance. He replied, in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked if he had money in the bank. He replied, "No money in the bank." The nun asked, "Do you have a relative who could help you?" He said, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun." The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God." The patient replied, "Send the bill to my Brother-in-law."

## Forgiving and Forgiven

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."  
 Matthew 5:23-24

Based on Matthew 5:21-24



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

ALTAR	ANGRY	PEOPLE	REMEMBER	MURDER
OFFERING	FIRST	FOOL	JUDGEMENT	GIFT
BROTHER	HELL	DANGER	RECONCILED	FIRE

## WEEKLY OFFERING (FEBRUARY 9, 2020)

Regular Offertory..... \$2,448.00 (50/146 mailed)  
 Loose Cash.....\$72.00  
 Total Offertory.....\$2,520  
 Mass Attendance: 5:00PM = 49 / 10:00AM = 86

THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal .....	\$3,000.00
Amount we need ....	\$2,365.00
Amount Received ...	\$2,520.00
Net over/under .....	\$155.00

"Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom"

- Matthew 5:19

## News for Our Partnership

### "WE JOURNEY TOGETHER"

A spiritual booklet, "We Journey Together," is available for your Lenten prayer and reflection. The are located at the entrances to the church. We ask for a nominal donation to defray the cost of the booklet. Please place your donation in the envelope provided and place it in the collection basket.

### THE SEASON OF LENT

The Season of Lent will soon be upon us. We will mark its beginning on Ash Wednesday with Masses celebrated at St. Stan's 8:00AM & 4:00PM. Holy Trinity will have a Mass at 5:30PM. St. Stan's will also host an Anointing of the Sick Mass on March 15th at 9:30AM. More details will be published in future bulletins.

THE KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF SAINT PATRICK invite you to their annual Induction Dinner at 6:00PM on March 7th at the Yehl Ballroom at Gannon University. Traditional Irish fare will be served and entertainment will be provided by Irish dancers. Tickets are \$25. Reservations are needed by March 1st. Call Colleen at 455-8571

### CSA: PROMOTION WEEKEND

The 2020 Catholic Services Appeal will be held next weekend in our parishes. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the Diocese to join together in doing the work of Christ. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the Diocese is the work of the Church. The Church serves each of us and our support is essential in continuing God's work in our area. Every CSA donation also brings us closer to being able to complete our own parish projects, which are described in our respective parish page in this bulletin. No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can.

### HEALTHY AND HOLY

Now at the height of flu season, and with increased concerns over the coronavirus, we ask everyone to exercise an abundance of caution. If you feel an illness coming on, please refrain from partaking in the Blood of Christ. Likewise, if you are experiencing symptoms of an illness, your obligation to attend Mass is lifted.

Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity Partnered Parishes

## LENTEN DINNERS



4:00 - 7:00 PM (or until sold out)

- ➔ **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th at HOLY TRINITY**
- ➔ **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- ➔ **FRIDAY, MARCH 13th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- ➔ **FRIDAY, MARCH 20th at HOLY TRINITY**
- ➔ **FRIDAY, MARCH 27th at SAINT STANISLAUS**

Saint Stanislaus  
513 East 13th Street

Fish & Pierogi

\$10.00 for adults

\$5.00 for children 6-12

Free for children under 5  
(Take Out available for \$10.25)

Holy Trinity  
2220 Reed Street

Baked Fish, Pierogi, & Potato Pancakes

\$12.00 Platter

\$10.00 Dinner

\$5.00 for children under 12  
Free for children under 5



**THE "YOUNG AT HEART"** for our 55 plus members will come together for an initial meeting on Monday, March 2nd at Holy Trinity Social Hall at noon (doors will open at 11:30am). People who are interested in being a part of this new venture are invited to attend and share their dreams and hopes for the group. Sign up sheet will be in the vestibule of each church if you plan to attend. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and desserts will be provided. We hope the group will provide a social opportunity for our seniors and it will offer a lot of fun things they can enjoy.

### BAG MAT MINISTRY

The "Bag Mat" ministry will meet on February 23rd in Sacred Heart's Church Auditorium following their 10:00AM mass. Anyone interested in serving as a "flattener, stacker, cutter, looper, baller or crocheted" is welcome to participate. If you have spare plastic bags that you would like to donate, please bring them to church and receptacles will be at the entrances to collect them. They are also accepting donations of toiletries, socks, and warm weather apparel.

### THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

2/16 - Corinne Dyakon & Mary Jo Sulecki; 2/17 - Dave Slubowski; 2/18 - Pearl Wisniewski; 2/19 - Bill Dyakon;  
2/20 - Michael Skrzypczak; 2/21 - Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 2/22 - Kathy Wisniewski

### PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS THIS WEEK:

2/16 - Fr. John Santor; 2/17 - Fr. Paul Schill; 2/18 - Msgr. Richard Stack; 2/19 - Fr. Johnathan Schmolt; 2/20 - Fr. George Strohmeier; 2/21 - Fr. Tom Trocchio; 2/22 - Fr. Jerry Priscaro

**Sunday, Feb 16, 2020**

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Embrace a larger ethic**

Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

*"We speak a wisdom to those who are mature,  
not a wisdom of this age."*

The Ten Commandments make for a simple lesson plan when teaching children how to behave. By contrast, the Sermon on the Mount isn't for Sunday-school kids. Jesus lays down grown-up challenges with breathtaking clarity. In a similar way, modern church teaching can take our breath away with its demands, as in this statement from *Brothers and Sisters to Us*: "Today's racism flourishes in the triumph of private concern over public responsibility, individual success over social commitment, and personal fulfillment over authentic compassion." Can we let go of the me-first culture and more truly become the Body of Christ?

**Monday, Feb 17, 2020**

MEMORIAL OF THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER

**Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us**

James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13

*"He sighed from the depth of his spirit."*

The Servites helped popularize a special form of Rosary prayer that's dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. Called simply the "Rosary of the Seven Sorrows" - and not to be confused with the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary - this form of devotional prayer recalls seven instances when Mary suffered. Mary's "Seven Sorrows" are: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the Child Jesus in the temple, Mary's meeting of Jesus during the Way of the Cross, the Crucifixion, the taking down of Jesus' body from the cross, and the burial of Jesus. The devotion became widespread during the Black Plague of the 1300s; more recently, it's associated with an apparition of Mary to one of the victims of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. It's a reminder that Our Mother is with us always, even and especially during tragedy.

**Tuesday, Feb 18, 2020**

**Higher ground**

James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21

*"Watch out, guard against the leaven of the Pharisees  
and the leaven of Herod."*

Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist. In the words of Saint John Damascene: "The bread and wine are not a foreshadowing of the body and blood of Christ - by no means! - but the actual deified body of the Lord." Catholicism teaches that Christ is literally and wholly present - body, blood, soul, and divinity - in what you receive and adore, through a process called transubstantiation that occurs by the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of the priest during Mass. The Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life," the church says - let it take you higher!

**Wednesday, Feb 19, 2020**

**Be a doer**

James 1:19-27; Mark 8:22-26

*"...care for orphans and widows in their affliction."*

"Religion" has a bad name these days. Among other things, hypocrites, extremists, and institutional sin have caused many to reject organized religion - what Christians would simply call "the church." Even so, secular people everywhere admire members and leaders of organized religion when their lives reflect radical love. That may be why two movies have already been made of the life of Fred Rogers, the kindly Presbyterian minister who produced *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. By extending unconditional love in word and deed, Rogers was what James in today's first reading called a "doer." Be the doer of an act of Christian charity and bring authenticity to your religion.

**Thursday, Feb 20, 2020**

**Threading the needle**

James 2:1-9; Mark 8:27-33

*"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith."*

Can you be rich and be Christian? The author of the Letter of James speaks challenging words about wealth and poverty, and in this he is not alone. The biblical witness is filled with warnings about the dangers of great wealth. The rich man went away sad, not ready to part with his wealth for the sake of the Kingdom. On the other hand, both Job and Abraham were wealthy men who loved God more than their wealth. It is a question of priorities. If you have been blessed with wealth, consider it a loan from God. Your task is to accomplish as much good for as many as possible with that wealth.

**Friday, Feb 21, 2020**

**The cost of commitment**

James 2:14-24, 26; Mark 8:34 - 9:1

*"What could one give in exchange for his life?"*

The recently canonized John Henry Newman was born on this date in 1801. Criticized by both liberals and conservatives, he disliked hierarchical triumphalism, but found bedrock truth in Catholicism. In fact, he gave up social support in the Church of England to convert. Because he upheld the laity's role, the primacy of conscience, and the intellectual life, he's called a forefather of Vatican II. Today is also the feast of Robert Southwell, a Jesuit and poet who ministered secretly in England when it was forbidden, under the reign of Queen Elizabeth I - and died in 1595 for his faith. Read a bit about both of their lives to learn what integrity means.

**Saturday, Feb 22, 2020**

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

**The successors of Peter**

1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

*"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."*

This isn't the feast day of a piece of furniture. "Chair" holds the meaning of a person presiding over a meeting or a group. In this case, "chair" refers to the office of Saint Peter, who presided over what would become the early church. It's interesting to note that technically speaking, popes do not succeed each other, e.g., Francis did not succeed Benedict. Rather all popes are the successors of Saint Peter. He is not only the proto-pope, he is the eternal pope who presides over the church through the popes of history. Pray for our pope. The whole world is his parish.

