THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 15, 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



May 15, 2022 5th Sunday of Easter

"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God." Many folks really work very hard to circumvent difficult situations. We prefer the easier way around something, rather than risk inconvenience, hurt or prolonged suffering. It's no wonder euthanasia is rapidly becoming acceptable around the world. Through purely human eyes, there is no issue bypassing the inevitable, taking control and bringing things more swiftly to a place of peace. If this is the way God sees things, then why does Jesus make such a big deal helping us understand the experience of suffering and embrace it?

Imagine if we were able to eradicate ALL hardship and suffering. Where would we be? As we look at our own journeys, many of our solid more growth producing life lessons have been born of suffering, disappointment, inconvenience, darkness, and despair. There is something sacred about all of these experiences as God uses them to create something new. Envisioning a life without hardship and suffering brings us to a vision where everything is flat-lined and dull. As much as hardship and suffering are difficult crosses to bear, not taking them up runs the risk of us becoming shallow, empty, and lifeless. Helen Keller remarks that, "a happy life consists not in the absence but in the mastery of hardships." What an incredibly wise insight! Many really successful people and saints were brought to their station in life because they suffered. Suffering teaches us about what's important and propels us to search the depths of our souls for resources and strength we never would have known before.

This is especially true when we love as Jesus asks us to love. Love, perhaps above any other experience, can cause us great hardship, pain, and suffering especially when it's authentic and unconditional. While it can thrust us into an incredible experience of God and life on one hand, it can bruise and wound us deeply on the other. Mastering the art of love is the secret to living life well, walking in the presence of God and investing in the joy of the Gospel. Love and suffering walk hand in hand. Compromising one will compromise the other. Maybe that's why Jesus spent so much time convincing us to accept both.

Readings for the week of May 15, 2022

Sundays: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-35 Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/Jn 14:27-31 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11 Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-12/Jn 15:12-17 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-5/Jn 15:18-21 Next Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-8/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29

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 worshiping 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)
amily Name:
-mail:
ddress:
ity/Zip:
hone: Cell Phone:
lease Check: New RegistrationChange 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!
H Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Mhere Everyone is Welcome

Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., May 16th - Private Intention Tues., May 17th - Richard Niedzwiecki (Larry Bargielski) Wed., May 18th - Gabriella Wlodarczyk (Family) Thurs., May 19th - Stanley Widomski (Kay Stankiewicz) Fri., May 20th - John Oldenski (Joyce Creshock) Sat., May 21st, 4:00PM - Steve Vargo (Family) Sun., May 22nd, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus

LOTTERY RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of the Holy Name Society April lottery raffle:

4/3 - Patti Bernhand
4/6 - Jeff Schweinfurth
4/7 - Chip Rohrbach
4/9 - Cooper Wallis
4/10 - Chris Pedersen
4/11 - Sophia Watral
4/12 - Tony Mazzone
4/15 - Stephanie Lis
4/16 - Roberta Chrzanowski
4/17 - Bill Rabbitt

4/20 - Bryce Borkowski
4/21 - D. & M. Kujawinski
4/23 - Julie McLaughlin
4/24 - T. Radomski & D. Ver Steeg
4/25 - Sally Bojarski
4/26 - Msgr. Urbaniak
4/27 - Val OosterKamp
4/28 - Cardine Chilcott
4/29 - Maggie Thiemann

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CONGRATULATIONS TO

... Our very own altar server, Alex Wildfire. Alex was inducted into the National Junior Honors Society at Harbor Creek Junior High School. We are proud of our accomplishments in and out of the classroom!



	This week	July I to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$187,020.00
Amount Received	\$3 <i>,</i> 089.00	\$127,432.00
Net over/under	(\$1067.00)	(\$59 <i>,</i> 588.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 50; 9:00AM = 44 Envelopes: 67/168



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **FR. FRANK PRZEPIERSKI**, as gifted by his Family.



WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Women's Society will meet today, May 15, at 1:00PM, in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

"There's something different about you." Think about the times in your life when this has been said to you. Maybe it was after someone complimented you on a job well done, and you realized that you were walking through life with a little more confidence. Maybe it was after meeting someone special, as you carried the glow of that relationship wherever you went. Chances are, if someone has noticed something different about you, it's because. inwardly, you've been changed by the loving or respectful actions of another person. Love, you see, can make us into new creations. From the love of God flows the grace to tackle any challenge, including the biggest challenge of all: loving each other well. Christ knows what a big request this is. He was human, too. He came and lived among us. He knew intimately what it was to love people in the chaos of their own flaws. He knew what he was asking of us when he said, "As I have loved you, so you should also love one another." In essence, this is the call to stewardship: loving as Christ loves, amidst the messiness of everyday reality. Loving with accountability, challenging ourselves and our brothers and sisters to be faithful even when it is hard. Loving with an unflinching sense of hospitality that welcomes even those we do not agree with or understand. Loving with gratitude, giving thanks for the great variety of ways that Christ can make himself known to us through others. It isn't easy - we all know that. But if we ask God for the grace to remain steadfast in this greatest commandment, we will be given what we need to live as new creations.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

SSJ SOUP KITCHEN

The next time we will be collecting donated goods for the SSJ Soup Kitchen (individually wrapped items like Little Debbies and Hostess) will be on the weekend of **May 14-15**. They can also be brought to the Nazareth Center between 2:00-3:00PM on **May 16th**.

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of RAYMOND LUNIEWSKI, as gifted by Ray, Edie, and Roman.



5/17 - William LaZar, Jr. Birthday 5/18 - Erin Koszegi 5/19 - Linda Kaminski & **Beverly LaZar** 5/20 - Brian Meabon

Mon., May 16th - Deacon Tom Matusiak (Ordination Anniversary) Tues., May 17th - All Souls Wed., May 18th - Living & Deceased Mothers Thurs., May 19th - Msgr. John Daniszewski (Estate) Fri., May 20th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate) Sat., May 21st, 5:15PM - The People of Holy Trinity Parish (Pro Populo) Sun., May 22nd, 10:30AM - Raymond Luniewski (Ray, Edie, & Roman)

MASS INTENTIONS

Today's readings on this fifth Sunday of Easter contain inspiring but challenging messages for us Christian stewards. The Gospel from John includes this well-known verse: "My children...I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." It sounds so simples. But simple does not necessarily mean easy. As He, Himself loved. Jesus loved (and loves) by serving us and by making a sacrifice of His very life for us. Living a life of service and self-sacrifice is not easy because it requires us to continuously fight against our selfish inclinations. But the more we empty ourselves of "self" by serving others, the more room we make in our hearts for God to pour His grace into us. Amazingly, the more we give our lives away to others, the more He fills us up with Himself who is love itself. And amid the inevitable challenging moments this way of life entails we can be assured that the Lord who loves us so much that He died for us and established the Eucharist to be our strength and nourishment, is right here with us every step of the way. As we face the hardships that come with living as Christian stewards, we can continue to rejoice in the wonder of the Resurrection this Easter season, finding great joy in following in our Lord's footsteps and in loving as He loves.

LET THE CELEBRATIONS RESUME!

Sunday, June 12th is the Feast of the Holy Trinity. Holy Trinity Parish would like host a catered brunch following the 10:30AM Mass. We will recognize our students who received First Penance or First Communion, Confirmation, and those graduating from High School or College this year (or did so during the Pandemic). Parishioners and the immediate family of the students are asked to make their reservation by calling the Parish Office (814-456-0671). RSVP need to be made as soon as possible, but before, Sunday, June 5th.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus tells us: "Love one another." Love holds a family together. It is not what a family does which makes it outstanding, rather it is what is has-- love for one another.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR MAY 8, 2022

Regular Offering: \$2,250.00 (29/131)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$126,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$100,261.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,250.00	\$105,752.00
Net (over/under):	(\$115.00)	\$5,491.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 38; 10:30AM = 56

HELP WANTED

Kathy Smith is in need of the wicker baskets that she uses for the Theme baskets for Zabawa. Her suppliers do not have them, if anyone has any if they could donate them she would appreciate it.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

Jesus Loves Us All 'By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you ove one another." John 13:35 (NIV) ased on John 13:31-35

														AN	OVE ONE NOTHER. 0HN 13:34	
D	W	Α	J	Е	W	S	С	С	Ν	Т	0	I	F	С		. tto 45
F	L	Ν	Ρ	I	Ρ	F	L	0	0	Κ	0	А	А	D		01010
X	0	Е	Y	J	Ρ	Ν	R	Х	S	J	С	L	Y	Q		D
K	Ν	М	Е	W	Н	Е	Ν	J	Y	Т	Н	Ρ	D	Е		
I	G	С	Х	Ι	Н	Α	Х	F	G	K	Ν	0	W	J		T
B	Е	М	Е	т	Ρ	J	I	В	Q	Т	В	R	В	Е		
D	R	V	0	Ρ	Α	R	С	Н	Ι	L	D	R	Е	Ν		Ĉ.
E	I	Ν	V	Ζ	0	V	С	Ν	Е	Т	Т	Е	Ν	Y		
G	Α	Ν	Т	L	н	Ι	Е	0	0	J	L	В	В	L		
В	E	Ρ	G	Ρ	0	Μ	Q	Ν	М	Ζ	Ζ	Т	D	Ι		
G	V	L	Х	Y	C	V	G	0	W	Μ	Е	Q	Е	Т		
I	V	Ν	A	J	Е	S	U	S	Ι	Μ	А	۷	۷	Т		
I	Q	С	R	Н	X	G	L	L	D	Ρ	0	Ν	Ρ	L		
S	Q	т	0	D	I	S	С	Ι	Ρ	L	Е	S	D	Е		STATISTICS IN THE
Q	Н	Ν	J	0	Е	G	Y	J	G	V	J	С	Н	F		
DISCIPLE COMMAN ANOTHER	D	LI		E		M					GLO JEW TOLI	s	Y		LOVE GIVE KNOW	

"As | have loved you, so you also should love one another."

- John 13:34

News for Our Partnership

PLEASE NOTE

The Parish Offices will be **CLOSED** from 11AM-1PM each Tuesday of this month as our secretaries will be in training with new parish software system that the Diocese is implementing.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Lucas Loeffler, who celebrated his first communion on May 1st at Blessed Sacrament, where he attends school, and to Alexis Simora who also celebrated her first communion on May 1st at St. George Church, where she attends schools. We look forward to continuing your celebrations at Holy Trinity next month!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRIESTS

...who celebrate the anniversaries of their Priestly Ordinations:

May 16, 1975 - Msgr. Dan (47 years) May 18, 1968 - Msgr. Bernie (54 years) June 7, 2002 - Fr. Jason (20 years) Pray for our priests, and for our Diocese's three deacons who will be ordained priests on Friday, May 27th at St. Patrick Church.

WHERE DO WE COME FROM?

A little girl asked her mother, "Where did people come from?" Her mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children, and that's how all mankind was made." A couple of days later she asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys, which the human race evolved from." The confused little girl returned to her mother and said, "Mommy, how is it possible that you told me that we were created by God, and Daddy said we came from monkeys?" The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."



PRE-ELECTION GATHERING

Holy Trinity Ushers will host their traditional pre-election gathering today, May 15th in our parish social hall from 4:00 until 7:00PM. The cost is \$15.00 and you must be 21 to attend. Come and meet the candidates and enjoy food and drink and interact with them before the upcoming primary on Tuesday, May 17th.

PRO-LIFE BOTTLE COLLECTION

In the vestibules of our churches are empty baby bottles. The Pro-Life community of Erie County is asking people to take a bottle home and fill it, as much as possible, with loose change. Donations are being collected in order to purchase a neo-natal mobile medical care vehicle. We will collect the bottles at (or shortly after) Father's Day weekend.

NOW HIRING

The Erie Catholic School System is seeking employees for its 10-week summer program that provides mentorship, support and outreach services to youth. Interested candidates must be 18 or older and be comfortable working with children. The position offers a fun, flexible schedule. Apply at www.eriecatholic.org/careers and submit the application.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL will host it's first ever drive-through barbeque Chicken Dinner on Sunday, May 22, from noon until 4PM. All orders must be made in advance and pre-paid. The deadline for orders is Sunday, May 15th, and the cost is \$12. Orders can be placed with the Parish Office (814.825.7313, ext. 1), or at www.olmcerie.org. Thank you, in advance, for your support of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

ERIE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM SUMMER CAMP

Students are invited to join us at this year's summer camp. They will enjoy daily activities, weekly themes, and field trips – all in a safe, caring environment. Daily breakfast and lunch are provided. Camp is offered at 4 convenient locations. Visit www.eriecatholic.org for more information.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

5/16) Corinne Dyakon, Mary Jo Sulecki, & Kay Stankiewicz; 5/17) [Open - Call Parish Office]; 5/18) Pearl Wisniewski; 5/19) Bill Dyakon & Fr. Jason Glover; 5/20) Ed Korytowski; 5/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 5/22) Kathy Wisniewsk

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

5/16) Fr. Shane Matthew; 5/17) Msgr. Joe Bobal; 5/18) Fr. Rick Tomasone; 5/19) Fr. Peter Pierjok; 5/20) Msgr. John Herbein; 5/21) Fr. Jeff Noble; 5/22) Fr. James Campbell

Sunday, May 15, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 14:21-27; Revelation 21:1-5a; John 13:31- 33a, 34-35 "It is necessary to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."

Opening a door to the poor

Valuing families is a Catholic imperative. Yet on this International Day of Families, in the United States, nearly 60,000 families with children are without shelter on a given night. De La Salle Brother Peter Maurin cofounded the Catholic Worker Movement with Dorothy Day because he couldn't, as he said, be crazy the way the world is crazy. "What we give to the poor for Christ's sake, is what we carry with us when we die," Maurin reflected. Today, on his death date, reflect on what you will carry with you at your passing.

Monday, May 16, 2022

Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26 "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit... will teach you everything." Bear witness

The Holy Spirit is called the "Advocate." An advocate is someone who defends, counsels, guides, and comforts. As Catholics, we're called to advocate for others as well. Catholic Relief Services encourages "advocating for changes in existing unjust policies and the creation of new policies that benefit the common good." Want to put your faith into action through advocacy for the poor? Visit the website of Catholic Relief Services to learn how to become a voice for those whose voices have been ignored.

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a "My peace I give to you." Erase racism

On this day in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously against racial segregation in public schools. Four years later, the U.S. Catholic bishops issued their first pastoral letter on racism, Discrimination and Christian Conscience. It wasn't the first time the bishops denounced the scourge of racial injustice - nor the last. "Racism is a sin: a sin that divides the human family, blots out the image of God among specific members of that family, and violates the fundamental human dignity of those called to be children of the same Father" they wrote in 1979. Commemorate Brown vs. the Board of Education by revisiting the pastoral letter Brothers and Sisters to Us.

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 MEMORIAL OF JOHN I, POPE, MARTYR Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8 (287). "I am the vine, you are the branches."

Rise to the challenge

Not every pope was first a bishop, much less a cardinal, as is the custom these days. Pope and martyr John I, who we memorialize today, was an archdeacon when called to the papacy in the year 523. An archdeacon acts as an intermediary between a bishop and the clergy of a diocese, often administering a portion of the diocese called an archdiaconate. The office has been described metaphorically as that of oculus episcopi, the "bishop's eye." John I must have excelled in his role to have been called to the papacy at a time of great upheaval. He responded courageously, even with his life. Be ready to be called to some surprising roles in your faith journey. Turn to John I for the inspiration to respond fully.

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11 "I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete." **Disagree agreeably**

Today's first reading recalls the first recorded argument in the church—over whether men entering the Christian church needed to be circumcised according to Jewish tradition. During our 2,000 years of wrangling, this maxim arose: "In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, and in all things charity." Christians don't even agree on who said that, but it was Pope John XXIII's guiding principal for the important discussions of Vatican II, which modernized the church. Do you bring charity to your disagreements?

Friday, May 20, 2022

Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17 "So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth." Engage with epistles, emissaries, and emails

A tweet from the pope. An email newsletter about the Synod. The internet and social media are normal sources of information and conversation these days. This is especially true given our recent experience with social distancing. In the early church, mass communication was done primarily through epistles and emissaries. Epistles were letters written by notable folks, and emissaries were people sent on behalf of a notable person or group. Both were intended to communicate to a large number of people in far-flung areas. Given this Easter season, what message would you choose to broadcast far and wide?

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21 "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." **Pray for one nation under God**

Today is Armed Forces Day, a holiday that pays tribute to men and women who serve across all six branches in the United States military. The United States is blessed with well trained and disciplined armed forces, dedicated to defend not only the people but also the principles on which the nation was founded, including the free exercise of religion. Cherish the right that is yours to worship freely, and take a moment today to give thanks for those who are sworn to protect it and all our cherished liberties.

ARMED FORCES DAY

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.