

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 9, 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

Temporary 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

Temporary Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:

Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM

*** Daily Eucharistic Liturgy remains temporarily Non-Public**



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



May 9, 2021
6th Sunday of Easter

"Remain in my love," and, "I call you friends," are powerful words that are found in John's Gospel. They are words that can easily become trite and quickly glossed over without fully pondering their profound beauty. They can radically change our lives and our relationships. They can open up new doors of adventure and hold countless possibilities for meaning. The essence of love and friendship are things that can easily be taken for granted. They have always been there and are a significant part of our lives. Many would say that they could not live without love and friendship, and they put a great deal of care into preserving, deepening and sustaining them. Love and friendship share a mutual relationship with each other that deserves more reflection.

Where does love come from? We can consider relationships that have not succeeded and conclude that they were somehow due to our "failures in love." In doing so, we assume that human beings are the ones responsible for love, its success and also its failure. While our weakness, emotional composition and sinfulness can easily impact our ability to love, its origin is not human. God is love. When we love, it is God who loves in and through us. It is because of this divine closeness that Jesus is able to call us friends! Realizing and contemplating this awesome reality becomes a game changer across the board. It gives us reason to clear the table of anything that can adversely affect the way we love so that we can open the door for its author to shine forth.

Coming upon this truth is what leads folks like St. Francis of Assisi to leave that which is comfortable and worldly and live a radical life. They relate with the love of God that radiates in and through all living things and appreciate their sacredness. Understanding this profound truth will also help us find peaceful solutions to world's problems, restore relationships with our sisters and brothers, bring the grace of loving stewardship to creation and heal many wounds. Once we begin to see how wonderfully holy all of life really is, we discover joy. It also enjoys the company of two other friends who are eager to become our friends as well: faith and hope. These are just as important to have and to share.

Readings for the week of May 9, 2021

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1-4/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17 [6th Sunday]
Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1-9/Jn 15:26—16:4 [St. Damien de Veuster]
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-8/Jn 16:5-11
Wed: Acts 17:15-18:1/Ps 148:1, 2-14/Jn 16:12-15 [Sts. Nereus, Achilleus, & Pancras]
Thursday: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-9/Eph 1:17-23 /k 16:15-20 [Ascension of the Lord]
Friday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-8/Jn 15:9-17 [St. Matthias]
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-10/Jn 16:23-28 [St. Isidore]
Sunday: Acts 1:15-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11-19 [7th Sun.]

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, 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.

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., May 10th - Private Intention
 Tues., May 11th - Lottie & Ernie Daleski (Betty Stolarski & Family)
 Wed., May 12th - Paula Grelewicz (Family)
 Thurs., May 13th - Jack Konkol (Thomas Konkol)
 Fri., May 14th - Living & Deceased Members of the Speice Family
 Sat., May 15th, 4:00PM - Chester & Regina Loncki (Sulecki)
 Sun., May 16th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns for **A SPECIAL INTENTION.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

HALEY ROHRBACH for earning the distinction of "Second Honors" at Villa Maria Academy this past academic quarter. We are proud of your accomplishment. Keep up the good work!

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION MASS SCHEDULE

While the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in effect, our parishes will still celebrate the Feast of the Ascension on Thursday, May 13th. The Mass schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, May 12th Vigil Mass at 5:30PM at Holy Trinity
 Thursday,, May 13th at 8:00AM at St. Stanislaus

SUNDAY LECTOR SCHEDULES are available in the sacristy if your are still in need of one. Also, if you are interested in lecturing, particularly on Saturday evenings, please let Fr. Jason know.

WHY ARE WE LOOKING AT THE SKY?

Men of Galilee — why are you looking at the sky? It seems like a pretty foolish question for the angels to be asking the disciples. Their best friend just flew away in a cloud. I think in that situation, my first reaction would probably be to stop and stare, too. But let's not forget, the disciples had a lot of work to do. A world full of souls to evangelize. I've always been a little amused at the thought of the angels shooing them down from Mount Olivet. Get to work! The kingdom isn't going to build itself! In our own faith lives, we often find ourselves looking at the sky, don't we? We're the faithful, after all. We have seen Christ. We have accepted him. We have given ourselves to him. What more do we need to do? Perhaps we excessively dwell on the past, or anxiously anticipate the future. Perhaps we can't move on from a mistake we have made, or we are shying away from a challenge in front of us. We all have our own cloud that has bewitched us. But let's remember, our faith compels action. Once again, the kingdom isn't going to build itself. Why are you looking at the sky? The work is here. The hour is at hand. A good steward is to be mindful of the gift of time. What's the mountain you need to climb down? What is the task God is handing you? For what purpose has God placed you here, at this very moment in history?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Our readings today call us to love as Christ loves. In our Gospel, Jesus says, "Love one another as I have loved you." The ways Jesus has loved us and continues to love us are endless. We are called to imitate this love. And He tells us the greatest way to do this when He said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." It is difficult to live that out in our humanity. Yet, it is made much easier when we faithfully love Christ. The fact of the matter is, as our love for Christ increases, so too does our capacity to love others. There are countless moments when we can do just that — for instance, waking up Saturday morning to attend daily Mass instead of sleeping in, or talking to God in the car on the way to work instead of listening to music. These are simple ways to express our love for the Lord by laying down our lives for Him. The more we find ways to love the Lord, the more we will find it easier to put aside our selfishness and serve others. Christ's command to love others may seem daunting. Yet, Christ would never ask something of us that we cannot live out. All we need to do is take baby steps. Ask yourself, "How can I better love Jesus right now?" for it is in loving Christ that we will better love others, and it is in loving others that we love Christ Himself.



Me in heaven.

God: you're about to get your wings.

Me: garlic Parmesan or honey bbq?

God: get out



WEEKLY OFFERING (MAY 2, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$178,708.00
Amount Received	\$2,852.00	\$125,223.00
Net over/under	(\$1,304.00)	(\$53,485.00)

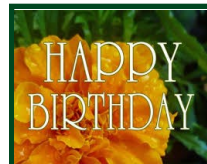
Mass Attendance:
 4:00PM = 44; 9:00AM = 52
 Envelopes: 58/168



Holy Trinity Parish Community



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor & memory of **ALL MOTHERS.**



5/10 - Marc Moore;
5/13 - Susan Nitkiewicz;
5/15 - Nancy Benczkowski

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., May 10th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
Tues., May 11th - The Souls in Purgatory
Wed., May 12th - In Honor & Memory of All Mothers
Thurs., May 13th - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Fri., May 14th - Msgr. John Daniszewski (Estate)
Sat., May 15th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Sun., May 16th, 10:30AM - Msgr. Dan & Deacon Tom on their Anniversaries

Love one another. The greatest commandment, the simplest commandment — and if you've ever loved anyone, you know it's also the hardest. I'm man enough to admit it. I've seen one or two of those cheesy Hallmark movies that are especially popular around the holidays. Boy meets Girl. Boy and Girl encounter a catastrophic roadblock to their relationship — they're coaches of rival high school volleyball teams, or he runs a dog kennel and she works at a feline rescue, so it could never, ever work out, right? But sprinkle a little movie magic over the whole situation and Boy and Girl find what Hallmark tells us is true love. I could make a list of all the things that are inaccurate about these movies, and something I would put right near the top — maybe even above the sometimes-unbelievable storylines — is the idea that love is a feeling. See, I'm not sure if it's accurate to call these movies love stories. Attraction stories, sure. But if you've ever forgiven someone who's hurt you, nursed a dying parent, gotten up for an infant's night feeding or let your kid have the last piece of cake, you know that real love is a verb. It's something you do. And it is almost always a choice. Love one another. How often do we hear this? How often do we think about what it really means? How often do we take a moment to consider the action Jesus is asking us to take and the choice he is asking us to make?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WEEKEND LECTORS

If you are a lector, or you are interested in serving our community as a lector, please see Father Dan. If you are still reluctant to resume this ministry at this time, simply call the Parish Office when you are ready to be placed back on the schedule.

ZABAWA 2021 PREPARATIONS

We are in the process of collecting items or cash donations for our "Theme Gift Basket Raffle" that takes place during Zabawa. You can bring any donations to the church or to the Parish Office. Thanks, in advance, for your generosity!

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

JOSHUA CHERMACK for earning the distinction of "Second Honors" at Cathedral Prep this past academic quarter. Congratulations, also, to **NORA SEBASTIAN** and for earning the same distinction from Villa Maria Academy. Finally, we congratulate Nina Mangini for earning "First Honors," as well as Mia Mangini and Mia Lubak for earning Second Honors, from Mercyhurst. We are proud of your accomplishment. Keep up the good work!

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR MAY 2, 2021

Regular Offering: \$2,370.00 (36/135)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$129,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$104,184.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,370.00	\$90,784.00
Net (over/under):	\$5.00	(\$13,400.00)

Attendance: 5:15PM = 37; 10:30AM = 39

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

COMMAND	MASTER	LIFE	DOWN	SERVANT
JOY	REMAIN	GREATER	LAY	FRIENDS
LOVE	OBEY	CHOOSE	FRUIT	FATHER

"This is my commandment: Love one another."

- John 15:12

News for Our Partnership

Dear Parishioners,


During this month, I am going to try and determine where our parishes stand relative to Covid vaccinations. My intention is three-fold. First, as the Bishop's Committee on further reopening of parishes begins their work, I would like to have reliable information to provide them, if needed. Second, it would be helpful in deciding which ministries we may be able to resume (e.g., Young at Heart, Eucharistic Ministry, etc.), and which new ministries we may be able to start (e.g., candle making club, adult faith formation, etc.). Third, for those still reluctant to come to church, having some statistical data may put them more at ease and assist them in deciding when to re-join our community.

Your willingness to assist me in this effort is **COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY**. If you have been fully vaccinated (i.e., two doses, if required, and a two week waiting period), simply sign the form in the back of the church. Also, you can call the Parish Office. As the month unfolds, I will begin compiling the data so that informed decisions can be made as we try to move forward with various parish ministries and activities.

Again, your participation is completely voluntary. The only information that I will disclose will be numerical (e.g., percentage of our members who have been vaccinated).

Thanks, in advance, to those who choose to cooperate so that we can bring greater normalcy back to parish life.

- Fr. Jason



Mother's Day Prayer!

Loving God, we ask you to bless all Mothers today. May they feel the joys of motherhood everyday. In all their struggle giving us a livelihood, may your love and compassion be with them for good. May every mother feel today, the pride and beauty of the family they bear. Through all pain and sorrow Lord deliver them- In your strength and grace may they always stay. Amen!

HAPPY MOTHER' DAY!

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION MASS SCHEDULE

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Holy Rosary School Alumni?

THE MERCY CENTER IS LOOKING FOR GRADUATES OF HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL. THIS FORMER SCHOOL IS IN THE PROCESS OF RENOVATIONS TO HOUSE HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN FLEEING ADDICTION AND HOMELESSNESS. WE WOULD LOVE TO INVITE YOU TO THE CELEBRATION!

Contact:

Breanna Watts,
Director of
Advancement
bwatts@mcwerie.org
(814) 455-4577

CONGRATULATIONS

Prayerful congratulations to Msgr. Dan and Deacon Tom, who celebrate the anniversary of their respective ordinations on May 16th! Thank you for your years of service to your people, your commitment to the Church, and your fidelity to Christ. May God continue to abundantly bless you!

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

5/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker; 5/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski;
5/12) Edie Luniewski & Debbie Oldenski; 5/13) Deacon Tom Matusiak & Shirley Widomski;
5/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krainski; 5/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark;
5/16) Corinne Dyakon, May Jo Sulecki, & Kay Stankiewicz

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

5/10) Fr. Jim McCormick; 5/11) Msgr. Joe Bobal; 5/12) Fr. Greg Passauer; 5/13) Fr. Glenn Whitman;
5/14) Fr. Rick Tomasone; 5/15) Fr. Larry Richards; 5/16) Fr. John Chaplin

BINGO

Holy Trinity Parish (PCEP)

* Instants * 50/50 * Raffles

- Sunday, May 23rd
- Polish Falcons Club, 431 E. 3rd St.
- 1:00pm, Doors Open at 12 noon
- Call 456-5300 to reserve your seat, walk ins Welcome!



Sunday, May 09, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

See through God's eye

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever... acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

God does not see as we see, the prophet Isaiah reminds us. To harness the divine perspective, native peoples of western Mexico wove yarn on crossed sticks to represent the eye of God, which sees in four directions and in all elemental mediums: earth, wind, fire, and water. A God's eye became the portal through which God views the supplicant, or through which those who pray might share the divine vision. Practice seeing others as our compassionate God sees them.

Monday, May 10, 2021

MEMORIAL OF DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, PRIEST

Pray for those who heal

Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4

"[Y]ou also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning."

The story of Saint Damien de Veuster, a Belgian priest who missioned to quarantined lepers in Hawaii and died of the disease, is extraordinary—although often echoed these days as legions of medical professionals all over the world put themselves in harm's way to treat the sick and dying of COVID. Father Damian is a "martyr of charity," and we've been blessed with multitudes of fearless, generous heroes like him who've expended themselves physically and emotionally to get us through this pandemic. Give thanks to God for our modern martyrs of charity and ask for Father Damian's intercession to keep them safe and send them spiritual strength.

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Cultivate an appreciation of rural traditions

Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11

"His household rejoiced at having come to faith in God."

Though they've disappeared from most modern calendars, two older Catholic observances converge today. One is the petitioning of the "Ice Saints"—Boniface of Tarsus, Pancras, and Servatius—so named because their feasts fall during what were believed in some northern nations to be the last days of spring when a cold snap might damage spring plantings. The other observance, beginning on the Tuesday before Ascension Thursday, is known as the Minor Rogation Days. These two, along with the Catholic observance of Ember Days, are religious celebrations more commonly tied to the rhythms of rural life. They include the blessing of fields for a good harvest and prayers for good weather. Learn more at CatholicRuralLife.org.

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

MEMORIAL OF NEREUS & ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS; PANCRAS, MARTYR

Religious freedom is a timeless concern

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15

"[W]hen he comes, the Spirit of truth...will guide you to all truth."

Nereus and Achilleus were Roman soldiers who had participated in carrying out persecutions of Christians. In a "miracle of faith," they were converted and died their own martyred deaths in the late first century. Pancras was a 14-year-old martyr of the same era who was beheaded because he publicly affirmed his faith in Jesus Christ. Give thanks for the ability to freely worship and pray for those around the world who do not enjoy such freedom.

Thursday, May 13, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Rise to the occasion

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-13; Mark 16:15-20

"So then the Lord Jesus... was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God."

Today's Feast of the Ascension gives wide recognition to a rather complex idea—that Christ both ascended to heaven and remains with us. In fact, we get a taste of heaven when we unify ourselves with Jesus in spirit and action. Saint Augustine taught "although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace." From attending Mass to aiding the needy, on this feast day we can all take a step toward unity with Christ.

Friday, May 14, 2021

FEAST OF MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

Abstinence makes the faith grow stronger

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

"This I command you: love one another."

Although self-denial is celebrated in all major religions as a virtue, the value isn't so much in the practice as in the motivation. For Christians the virtuous motivation for abstinence of food, drink, or particular desires comes from love. We deny ourselves for God's sake and for the sake of others. Saint Matthias, patron of alcoholics, encouraged abstinence as a way to grow closer to God. He kept his focus on his vocation to spread the gospel and let little distract him from his purpose. What can you do today to keep your focus on love?

Saturday, May 15, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Honor the forces of reconciliation

Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28

"For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God."

Pope Saint John XXIII taught that wars are never justified. Pope Saint John Paul II wrote to President George W. Bush that the Iraq War was unjust. Pope Benedict XVI questioned whether any war could be called just. Pope Francis, speaking in Hiroshima during his 2019 visit, repeated the positions of the previous popes. Christians face a dilemma, wanting world peace but also needing some protection from those who don't think the same way. The church recognizes a need for the military. But the task of the military should be to maintain peace and set the conditions for reconciliation. On this Armed Forces Day, pray for all our military service members. They have a difficult job.

**Prayer for the Solemnity of
the Ascension of the Lord**

Giver of Life,
help us to see your life
at work in our lives.
Keep us from clinging
to what is today,
that we might receive
the gifts of life
that await us tomorrow.
Amen.

