

# FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING NOVEMBER 21, 2021



## *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)

**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](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
email: [parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org](mailto: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



November 21, 2021

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

We often come to life expecting all of the pieces of the puzzle to nicely fit together. We want and expect harmony, order, and fairness, the achievement of rewards for good behavior, good health, and happiness. This is especially true if we are people of faith who believe in a God who sees things on our terms and works in favor of our life agenda. What happens to our faith when we find ourselves sitting in a mess?

Does it help to know that God understands and that hardship, failure, disappointment, injustice, confusion, and all of life's ugliness do not make faith irrelevant or irrational? God is wonderfully and surprising creative! He turns the tables on not only our understanding of life, but of what it means to be a king. God sends us a king who is not exempt from life's ills but embraces them. The king that God gives to us knows what it means to be poor, suffer insults, be ridiculed, face rejection, endure suffering, be betrayed, and face a most unjust and horrific death. This is our king. Jesus is not a king of prestige or grandeur but a king who brings light to darkness, hope to despair, sinners to mercy, and new life out of death. Christ dances before us pleading with us to hold on, cling to love, avoid being negative, stop feeling cheated, and be strong in faith! There may be hardship and disappointment now but there are more surprises to come.

Once we understand this truth, we will also understand that we are on a most incredible and awesome universal journey to Christ and becoming one in Christ. We all carry within us the image of God, the image of our suffering king. The One who lives in us also lives in all of our brothers and sisters. Failing to see this universal Divine Presence in all is one of the greatest mistakes we can make, for we also fail to see God, our king, as well. There are many things that can bring hardship to life. If we keep our head about us and do not lose hope, we can persevere and strive for the greatest degree of justice possible. Even though there are ample things that can challenge our faith, we also know that our deepest joy comes from union with God and our brothers and sisters. One day, the fullness of that joy will be ours to have when we are all eternally one with Christ our King forever.

### Readings for the week of November 21, 2021

Sunday: Dn 7:13-14/Ps 93:1-5/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33-37 [Christ the King]

Monday: Dn 1:1-20/Dn 3:52-56/Lk 21:1-4 [St. Cecilia]

Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57-61/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62-67/Lk 21:12-19 [St. Andrew Dung-Lac]

Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68-74/Lk 21:20-28 [Thanksgiving Day]

Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75-81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82-87/Lk 21:34-36

Next Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Ps 25:4-14/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 [1 Advent]

**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., Nov. 22nd - Private Intention  
 Tues., Nov. 23rd - Gabriella Wlodarczyk (Family)  
 Wed., Nov. 24th - Stanley Widomski (Robert & Stephanie Koshinskie)  
 Thurs., Nov. 25th - Helen Mikolajczak (Family)  
 Fri., Nov. 26th - Sophie Tatara (St. Stan's Women's Society)  
 Sat., Nov. 27th, 4:00PM - Jean Wiertel (Family)  
 Sun., Nov. 28th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)

## "HOLIDAY CASH RAFFLE"

The Women's Society is, once again, selling raffle tickets for a chance to win either \$1,000 in cash, or \$1,000 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from any member of the Society, the Parish Office, or by calling Nancy (814-454-4046). All proceeds benefit Saint Stanislaus Parish.



Our sanctuary candle burns in for **A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING INTENTION**, as gifted by Helen Z.

**OUR PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM NOVEMBER 24-28 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.**

## WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

... will be held on Sunday, December 12th, at the 3rd Street Falcon's Club from Noon until 3:00PM. Dinner will be served at 12:30PM and will consist of either 1/2 baked chicken or breaded pork chop. The cost is \$15 per person; guests are welcome to attend. To make a reservation, please call Sharon at 814-790-1226 or Diane at 814-825-5748. Reservations must be made by December 8th.

## JANUARY LOTTERY RAFFLE

The Holy Name Society is, once again, selling raffle tickets based off the evening lottery drawing during the month of January. See any member of the Society for tickets for your chance to win. Tickets can also be purchased in the Sacristy or in the Parish Office. They make great Christmas gifts! Thanks for your support. Proceeds of the raffle have benefited our parish in many ways.

## ADVENT MEDITATION BOOKS

Advent reflection books, "Awaken to New Light," are available next to the bulletin bins for a nominal cost of \$1.25. Please use the envelope provided and place it in the collection basket. Many blessings for a graced Advent season.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (NOVEMBER 14, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$83,120.00
Amount Received	\$1,985.00	\$54,611.00
Net over/under	(\$2,171.00)	(\$28,509.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 46; 9:00AM = 44  
 Envelopes: 71/168



## LONG LIVE THE KING

Did you know that you can become royalty, for the right price? It's true — for the low, low cost of \$50, you, too, can purchase a 12-square-inch souvenir plot of Scottish land and call yourself "Laird So-and-so." Now, this lordship or ladyship doesn't come with the ability to boss anyone around, but maybe your friends will be impressed enough to bend the knee. My point is, we've all got our own little fiefdoms — folks or communities for which we have a feeling of responsibility. Maybe we're not their "king," but most of us have those we think of as "our people." Now, in this world, people lay themselves down for their kings. History is riddled with the bodies of men, young and old — and plenty of women and children, too — who were casualties of wars waged by men in power, men who never had to shed their own blood. But in the next world, the King dies for his people. This is leadership par excellence — the leadership of someone whose love is greater than his ambition. We are all leaders of a sort. On the parish level, you have the obvious roles — serving on pastoral council, spearheading the capital campaign, leading the Altar Guild. But you also have the quiet ones who lead from the wings — the janitor who can always be relied upon to do his job, or the volunteer librarian who puts in extra hours on the weekends. There is a saying — find your people. I say, find your people, and find a way to lay yourself down for them, in imitation of the greatest King that ever was.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## SAINT STANISLAUS PARISH COUNCIL

The Saint Stanislaus portion of our Parish Council will meet this Tuesday at 10:00AM in the Nazareth Center. Feel free to speak to any Member if you have questions, concerns, or ideas you would like the committee to address.

## FINANCE COUNCIL

Our Parish Finance Council (which consists of John Villa, Chris Brocius, Tony Mazzone, Paul Gambill, and Fr. Jason) will meet this Tuesday at 6:00PM. Feel free to speak to any Member if you have questions, concerns, or ideas you would like the committee to address.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **NELLIE, HARRY, AND MICHELLE GANZA**, as gifted by Linda and Ken.



11/24 Daniel Brieger  
11/27 Theresa Tomczak & Keith Zambrzycki

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Nov. 22nd - Nancy Slubowski, Anniversary (Friends from Holy Trinity)  
Tues., Nov. 23rd - Robert Dorau, Anniversary (Friends from Holy Trinity)  
Wed., Nov. 24th - All Souls  
Thurs., Nov. 25th - In Thanksgiving for our Parishioners  
Fri., Nov. 26th - Don Benczkowski (Marie Leszek)  
Sat., Nov. 27th, 5:15PM - Dr. William & Julia Mieszczak (Regina Jaworski)  
Sun., Nov. 28th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

## HOLY TRINITY USHERS MEETING...

will be held on Tuesday, November 23rd, at 7:00PM in the Gathering Place. Men and Women are welcome to serve in this Ministry for our parish.

OUR PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM  
NOVEMBER 24-28 FOR THANKSGIVING.

## CHRISTMAS CRECHE

We are delighted to announce that we have recently had our Christmas nativity figures restored by Dr. Michael DeSanctis (retired professor of art at Gannon University), thanks to many generous donations in memory of Kathyleen Benes. Given her proclivity in decorating the Church, especially for Christmas, it seemed an appropriate use of donations given to her memory. We are excited for you to see the restored figurines this Christmas season!

Today's feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, at a time when the world was experiencing a rise of secularism, materialism and individualism, and an increasing denial of Christ's existence and authority. The hope was that the establishment of this feast would accomplish three goals: that nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, that leaders and nations would see that they are required to give respect to Christ, the King of kings, and that the faithful would be strengthened and encouraged by the reminder that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills, and bodies. This feast is needed more than ever, especially as Christian stewards. It reminds us of three vital truths. First, even when it seems the world is spinning out of control, we need not fear because we have a King of kings who is very much in charge and who is loving, merciful and just. Second, if Christ is king of all, then He is also king of me, personally. I am not "lord" of my time, talents, and treasure. He is. I am a servant of the King and a steward of His gifts to me. Third, as His disciple, I am called to imitate my King. The Scriptures tell us Jesus went about doing good and He says of Himself, "I came not to be served but to serve." How can I live in any other way than as a humble servant like my King?

## ADVENT MEDITATION BOOKS

Advent reflection books, "Awaken to New Light" are available next to the bulletin bins for a nominal cost of \$1.25. Please use the envelope provided and place it in the collection basket. Many blessings for a graced Advent season.

## Born to Be King

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." John 18:37 (NIV)  
Based on John 18:33-37



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

IDEA	PLACE	RIGHT	WORLD	SERVANTS
TESTIFY	KINGDOM	TRUTH	ARREST	LISTENS
FACT	PEOPLE	REASON	BORN	FIGHT
SAYING	PALACE	PRIEST	KING	EVERYONE

# KING



# of KINGS

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Regular Offering: \$2,801.00 (30/132)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$51,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$43,141.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,801.00	\$47,592.00
Net (over/under):	\$436.00	\$4,451.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 30; 10:30AM = 36

*"Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."*

- John 18:37

## News for Our Partnership



### Holiday Extravaganza BINGO All CASH prizes!!!

\* Instants \* 50/50 Game

- Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>
- Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### THANKSGIVING MASS

This year's Thanksgiving Day Mass will be celebrated 9:00AM at Holy Trinity. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to local food pantries.

### Holy Trinity Annual Christmas Market

Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 4:00 – 7:00PM  
Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM – 12:00 Noon  
Holy Trinity Social Center, 23<sup>rd</sup> & Reed Street



Orders being taken -  
November 6<sup>th</sup> until December 6<sup>th</sup>

**PAYMENT IS DUE WITH ALL ORDERS**

**\*\*credit cards accepted\*\***

***Order in advance. Supplies will  
be limited during the market***

**Cookies\*\*\*Pierogi\*\*\*Nut Roll\*\*\*Sweet  
Bread\*\*\*Oplatki and more...**

Order forms available at

[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)

To place an order call Edith, 456-5300



### #iGIVECATHOLIC

Both of our parishes will, once again, be participating in the #GIVECATHOLIC fundraising campaign. The goal of #iGiveCatholic is to rally our Catholic community in support of our parishes and ministries. Secure, tax-deductible donations to eligible Catholic organizations located in participating dioceses are given at [www.iGiveCatholic.org](http://www.iGiveCatholic.org) during a 24-hour period on #GivingTuesday, November 30, and during the Advanced Giving Day phase beginning at 12:00 AM on Monday, November 15 through 11:59 PM on Monday, November 29. Offline gifts of cash and checks are encouraged and given directly to our parishes during this same period.

### SURVEY REMINDER

Just a kind reminder to please return the surveys that were included in last week's bulleting by placing them in the collection baskets by next weekend. Additional surveys are available next to the bulletin bins. We are asking each person on each household to complete a survey. Thank you, in advance, for your participation.

### LITURGICAL CHANGES ARE COMING

Bishop Persico recently decreed some changes in the way liturgy is celebrated in the Diocese of Erie. "Bishop Persico has determined now is an appropriate time for all of us to return to the practice that most dioceses in the United States employ. After the Lamb of God, the people will kneel. Once the people return after receiving Holy Communion, they may kneel or be seated. This restored practice is intended to help to unify posture throughout the Diocese of Erie, place us in greater harmony with the Church throughout the United States, lessen confusion, and assist those parishioners who are unable to stand for long periods of time. In situations where the people are unable to kneel, they may sit instead." This change is to be implemented on the First Sunday of Advent, which is November 28th.

### USHERS

We will resume the ministry of our ushers on the First Sunday of Advent, which is November 28th. Many thanks to our ushers in their patience as we continue to "re-open" in this Covid world.

### THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

11/22) Kathy Wisniewski; 11/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman; 11/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski & Diane Valahovic; 11/25) Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman; 11/26) Patricia Straub & John Kleiner; 11/27) Sr. Maxine Kaminski & Regina Jaworski; 11/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, & Suzanne Sundy; 11/29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak & Janis Leretsis

### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

11/21) Fr. John Walsh; 11/22) Fr. David Foradori; 11/23) Fr. Walter Packard; 11/24) Msgr. Tom McSweeney; 11/25) Msgr. John Sanner; 11/26) Fr. Leo Gallina; 11/27) Bishop Trautman

## Sunday, Nov 21, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

### A game of 20 questions

Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33-37

"Pilate said to Jesus, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'"

Actually, only 11 questions are exchanged in the fateful interview between Pilate and Jesus. Pilate asks 10, the most famous being, "What is truth?" Equally significant, however, is Pilate's other inquiry, "Are you the King of the Jews?" To which Jesus replies with his own bold interrogation: "Are you saying this on your own or have others told you about me?" It remains a significant inquiry. On this day when the church honors Jesus as King of the Universe, we might ponder the question ourselves: Does Jesus rule our hearts? Or is his authority just something we hear tell about?

## Monday, Nov 22, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, MARTYR

### Sing out your life

Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4

"I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest."

Saint Cecilia is the patron of music and musicians—because as she was wed against her wishes to a nobleman of no particular faith, she sang in her heart to God. (Her husband ended up becoming Christian and both were martyred by the Romans.) Her patronage of music has created an immense legacy as musical institutions all over the world are named after her. All because of a sweet, simple, silent song of fidelity to the Lord. You may not be blessed with musical talent, but God loves to hear your heart-song nonetheless.

## Tuesday, Nov 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF COLUMBAN, ABBOT

### Take the gospel everywhere

Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11

"The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed."

After years of studying scripture in an Irish monastery, Saint Columban sought permission at age 40 to depart for Europe with a boatload of companions. Their mission: to preach the gospel everywhere they went, proclaiming Christ after barbarian invasions collapsed the Western Roman Empire. Pray some of Columban's eloquent words to begin your day: "Lord, may everything we do this day begin with your blessing and continue with your help. May everything we say this day begin with your love and continue with your grace. May everything we plan this day begin with your inspiration and continue with your peace."

## Wednesday, Nov 24, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ANDREW DŨNG-LAC, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

### Make me an instrument of your peace

Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19

"I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute."

The Catholic church has a long and complex history in Vietnam. Over the centuries, church-state intrigue and foreign colonial interests competed with genuine pastoral work. The martyrs remembered today suffered during a particularly difficult period when Catholic families were broken apart and some were branded on the forehead with the words for "false religion." Church-state relations have gradually improved in recent decades as wounds from the past heal. May we all learn the lessons history offers, so that our witness may be a reconciling one.

## Thursday, Nov 25, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, MARTYR; THANKSGIVING DAY

### Attitude of gratitude

Daniel 6:12-28; Luke 21:20-28

"When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."

Truth will out. As we give thanks this day for blessings in our lives, let's treasure the gift of faith, of truth. Little is known of the life of Catherine of Alexandria, whose memorial is today—perhaps not surprising given she was born quite early in Christian history, around 287. Nonetheless, the legends surrounding this early saint demonstrate her persistence in sharing the truth of her faith in Christ. Roman authorities expended great energy in killing those she converted and finally in killing her, but her truth, the Christian gospel, still shines brightly. Let's give thanks for it.

## Friday, Nov 26, 2021

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

### The source of our "inspo"

Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33

"Know that the Kingdom of God is near."

The Bible has been and continues to be a treasure of inspiration (or "inspo" to the younger set), guiding us through the difficult, ordinary, and joyful moments of everyday life. Instead of tweets, there are verses; instead of hashtags, there are the great biblical themes of creation, love, mercy, and faithfulness. #awesome Even better than tweets and hashtags, however, is the fact that inspo for

Christians is not just a feel-good motivation; it is also a real-time experience of God. God inspires—"in-spirits"—us. God breathes God's very spirit with us. What does or could this inspo mean for you today?

## Saturday, Nov 27, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Every day a new challenge

Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy... Be vigilant at all times.'"

Seems lately that every day is D-Day: division, disease, disaster. The news can be overwhelming, and the temptation, which Jesus warned against, is to pull the covers over our heads and sleepwalk through life. Call on the courageous example of Mary, who faced challenges few of us can imagine as she carried out her mission and trusted the Word living within her. We share in that mission to bring God into the world. Trust and stay strong in the storm!

### Help Me Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those who have no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,  
And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.  
Amen.