

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2, 2020



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: 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
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
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 2nd, 2019 Presentation of the Lord

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” Very often, having more light is not something we desire as it forces us to confront something we really do not want to see. There can be comfort found in darkness. It has an eerie sense of security to it. We do not have to challenge ourselves or be challenged and can simply exist in some fabricated state of self-fabricated blissfulness. Jesus came to bring light, and it is a light that is resisted by many and hated by some. It is a light that causes us to see things as they really are and not as we would want or need them to be.

It is no wonder then that Simeon boldly and honestly proclaims to Mary, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” We have to take the Gospel message as it is and not just use those parts that are useful to us or more palatable. Taking Jesus at face value can and will lead to turmoil and dissension. Hearts will be pierced. Whether we like it, Jesus’ proclamation of what the world God created really ought to look like has real and absolute social implications.

It has a lot to say about how we treat our brothers and sisters: spiritually, personally, economically, and globally. It has everything to do with the poor, the immigrant, the scared, the unborn, the vulnerable, the sick, and the broken. The light opens us to a challenging, table-turning experience that may not be something we want to see but shows us where we need to be.

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of February 2, 2020

Sunday:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 [Presentation]
Monday:	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-7/Mk 5:1-20 [Sts. Blaise & Ansgar]
Tuesday:	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-30—19:3/Ps 86:1-6/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-7/Mk 6:1-6 [St. Agatha]
Thursday:	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10-12/Mk 6:7-13 [St. Paul Miki & Comp.]
Friday:	Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47-51/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9-14/Mk 6:30-34 [Sts. Jerome Emiliani & Bakhita]
Next Sunday:	Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16 [5th 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 3rd, 8:00AM - Anthony Chrzanowski (Family & Friends)
 Tues., February 4th, 8:00AM - Max & Florence Krasinski (Family)
 Wed., February 5th, 8:00AM - Theodore Fredrychowski (M/M Healey)
 Thurs., February 6th, 8:00AM - Michael Kinecki (Family)
 Fri., February 7th, 8:00AM - Helen Mikolajozak (Family)
 Sat., February 8th, 4:00PM - Eugene Tomczak (Elaine & Family)
 Sun., February 9th, 9:30AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (Pro Populo)

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 1st
 Server: Jack Ciecierski
 Lector: Mary Jo Sulecki
 Gifts: The Macie Family
 Sunday, February 2nd
 Server: Katie Brocius
 Lector: Tom Widomski
 Gifts: The Mazzone Family
 Saturday, February 8th
 Server: Marlene Shaba
 Lector: Michele Inter
 Gifts: The Pedersen Family
 Sunday, February 9th
 Server: Gabrielle Widomski
 Lector: Russell Robison
 Gifts: Holy Name Society



Our sanctuary candle burns in **THANKSGIVING** by **HELEN**

THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY will meet on Sunday, February 9th at 2:00PM in the Parish Hall. New Members are always welcome to join!

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.

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.

HELP WANTED

After so many years of helping our parish manage our finances, Katherine Krainski has asking for relief from that position. We thank her for her dedication! If anyone has some accounting background and would be willing to come in one day a month to reconcile accounts, assist with the budget, etc., please see Fr. Jason.

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.

WEEKLY OFFERING (JANUARY 26TH, 2020)

This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00
Amount Received	\$124,680.00
Net over/under.....	(\$1,317.00)
	(\$34,125.00)

Mass Attendance:
 4:00PM = 89
 9:30AM = 73



UPCOMING MEETINGS

THE LITURGY COMMITTEE will meet at 6:30PM on February 4th in the Nazareth Center.
THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY will meet at 2:00PM on February 9th in the Parish Hall.
THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY will meet at 8:15AM on February 9th in the Nazareth Center.
THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH will meet at 7:00PM on February 17th at the Community Center on 14th & Wallace.



CLEANING TEAM "A" will meet in the church this Tuesday at 9:30AM.

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 next weekend, February 1st - 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 8th

Lector: E. Beres & R. Purzycki
Server: C. Beres & B. Rice
EM: S. Trochowski & S. Carpenter

10:00AM - February 9th

Lector: E. Korytowski & K. Smith
Servers: M. & L. Brieger
EM: E. Korytowski, K. Smith,
 & E. Simora



2/1 - Valerie Seeman
 2/2 - Irene Kniewski & Patty Stano
 2/7 - Lillian Przepierski
 2/9 - Phil Slomski

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., February 3rd, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus
 Tues., February 4th, 8:00AM - Carolyn DiMattio (Family)
 Wed., February 5th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus
 Thurs., February 6th, 8:00AM - The Souls in Purgatory
 Fri., February 7th, 8:00AM - Kulig, Laszczewski, Habas Families
 Sat., February 8th, 4:00PM - Bob & Shirley Kempisty (M/M Ignaczak)
 Sun., February 9th, 10:00AM - The People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)



Our sanctuary candle burns for a SPECIAL INTENTION & FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF MONSIGNOR DAN MAGRAW

2019 CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL SUMMARY

\$26,195 was pledged as of 1/24/20; \$24,745 was received, with a balance of \$1,480 not yet paid. We fulfilled our share to the Diocese –\$12,421, with \$12,324 for our parish projects: new interior doors for Social Center (\$7,124), replace the side walk outside of them (\$4,250), and painting doors and the fence around the priest residence. Our 2020 CSA begins in mid-February. We are counting on our parishioners for an even more successful response to this upcoming appeal.

PLEASE KEEP US UPDATED

We do not know unless you inform the Parish Office if a family member is unable to attend Mass, or now resides in a nursing home, or would like to be on our visiting list. Please call the Parish Office with this information. If your children are grown and reside with you or no longer reside with you, they should not be listed as members under your name, they should register themselves as members of their Church. If you move or your phone number has changed including email, please let us know as well. Call 456-0671 with any changes or new information.

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

Simeon Recognizes Jesus

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:25-26 (NVI)

Based on Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)



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

SPIRIT	RIGHTEOUS	PRAISED	COURTS	TEMPLE
CHILD	DEVOUT	LIGHT	JOSEPH	JESUS
PARENTS	SALVATION	ISRAEL	REVEALED	PIGEONS
SIMEON	PROMISED	DOVES	SACRIFICE	MARY

WEEKLY OFFERING (JANUARY 26, 2020)

Regular Offertory..... \$2,633.00 (62/146 mailed)
 Loose Cash.....\$125.00
 Total Offertory.....\$2,758.00
 Mass Attendance: 5:00PM = 48 / 10:00AM = 109

<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>JULY 1 TO DATE</u>
Dream Goal	\$3,000.00
Amount we need	\$90,000.00
Amount Received ...	\$2,365.00
Net over/under	\$71,515.00
	\$2,758.00
	\$72,260.00
	\$393.00
	\$745.00

"My eyes have seen your salvation..."

- Luke 2:30

News for Our Partnership

SUPPORTING THE DIVORCED

"Surviving Divorce Ministry," a 12-week support group, begins 6:30PM on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. The group meets at Saint Mark Catholic Center. Cost is \$15 per person and includes a book/journal and all materials. Find Comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic teaching. Call the Family Life office at 824-1261 for more information and/or to register.

"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.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS will be offered this weekend to those celebrating in the month of February!



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.

RECIPE BOOK??

I very much enjoy cooking; it's one of my hobbies. Both Holy Trinity & St. Stan's are known around the community for the delicious meals that both places serve at their respective functions.

I would welcome the opportunity to put together a "Recipe Book" to be sold at our functions as a fundraiser. I understand it has been quite some years since the last recipe book was published. If you would like to contribute some of your favorites, you can e-mail your recipe to either parish, bring them to the Parish Offices, or simply drop them in the collection basket. Please be as detailed as possible and provide you name in case I have questions.

It may take some time before they can all be compiled and published, but it is worth preserving some of these fabulous culinary customs and traditions!

- Fr. Jason

BENETWOOD APARTMENTS AND THE BENEDICTINES

Benetwood Apartments, managed by the Sisters of Saint Benedict (Erie), is a residential complex for persons of low income who are elderly or have mobility issues. They are accepting new applications. They can be contacted at 899-0088.

SCAM! ALERT!

In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information – including a request for gift cards of any type – exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.

FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

One in three high school students experience either physical or sexual violence that is perpetuated by someone they are dating. One in 10 high school students has been hit, slapped, or physically harmed by a boyfriend or girlfriend. Teen dating violence can be prevented by empowering teens to lead healthy lives and healthy relationships. Healthy relationships consists of trust, honesty, respect, equality and compromise.

Visit: <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection> to see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

2/1 Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski, & Mary Speice; 2/2 Patty Czulewicz & John Oldenski; 2/3 Judy Tucceri & Jackie Vargo
2/4 Ed Czulewicz, Evelyn & Ed Selleny; 2/5 Mary Ann Merski & Michelle Inter; 2/6 Msgr. Dan Magraw & Joan Oldenski;
2/7 Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky

PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS THIS WEEK:

2/1 Fr. David Renne; 2/2 Msgr. Henry Schauerman; 2/ 3 Fr. Rick Tomasone; 2/4 Fr. Peter Pierjok; 2/5 Fr. Rocco Tito;
2/6 Fr. John Murphy; 2/7 Fr. Marc Stockton; 2/8 Fr. Glenn Whitman

Sunday, Feb 02, 2020

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Family histories

Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many."

Life can change in a heartbeat. A newborn is presented for an inconspicuous customary blessing. Then destiny grips his family with a startling prophetic utterance. The holy purpose of families stirs to life in our commemoration of this story, as we ponder the mission of our own families. How do we share our gifts and hospitality? How do we exemplify the love that binds us? Today the U.S. Catholic community especially observes a National Day of Prayer for the African American Family, with its unique challenges and special witness within our national story. Listen: The prophets are still whispering.

Monday, Feb 03, 2020

MEMORIAL OF BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR

Be a healing presence

2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20

"They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

During this time of year, lots of us worry about coughs and colds. Well, we Catholics have a saint for that: Saint Blaise, the patron of throat ailments. Many churches offer special blessings of the throat on this day. Blaise was a healer of bodily and spiritual ailments. When he retreated to a cave to pray, people continued to seek him to be made well. He even healed sick animals who came to him. Are you the kind of person others turn to for caring? How can you help make others whole?

Tuesday, Feb 04, 2020

Illness escapes easy answers

2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3; Mark 5:21-43

"He said to her, 'Talitha koum,' which means, 'Little girl... arise!'"

Today's gospel has dramatic stories of healing: Jairus' daughter is at death's door until Jesus works a miracle. And a woman with a hemorrhage finds respite through Christ. Despite the many times Jesus cured the sick, our faith doesn't simply teach "illness bad, Jesus good." It has a nuanced view of bad health. Illness is "among the gravest problems confronted in human life," states the Catechism; it can lead to "anguish and self-absorption." But illness can also be a path toward maturity, compassion, and gratitude, the Catechism continues. Take a moment today to meditate on how illness - your own and others - impacts your faith.

Wednesday, Feb 05, 2020

MEMORIAL OF AGATHA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Noble is as noble does

2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6

"Many who heard him were astonished."

What is it about Saint Agatha, born in Sicily in 235, that she is one of only seven women named in the Canon of the Mass? Could it be her work as a deaconess? Was it the brutal torture she endured at the hand of Roman prefect Quintian? Was it her miraculous intervention to save a city from destruction by a volcano? The answer is likely in this exchange from *The Acts of the Martyrdom of Saint Agatha*: "What is your condition?" asks Quintian. Agatha responds, "Not only was I born free, but of noble family."

Quintian: "If you claim to be free and noble, why do you show yourself to live and dress like a slave?" "Because I am a servant of Christ," Agatha says. Remember the freedom that comes with a commitment to love.

Thursday, Feb 06, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PAUL MIKI, PRIEST, MARTYR, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Learn forgiveness from a role model

1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13

"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick."

We associate the city of Nagasaki, Japan with August 9, 1945 when the United States dropped the second (and last) atomic bomb used in World War II. But nearly 350 years earlier, in 1597, Paul Miki and 25 other Catholics, lay and clergy, children and adults, were martyred for their faith on a hill, now called Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki. Miki used his last moments of life to forgive his executioners: "After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors," he is reported to have said. "I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain." Seek a moment today, and every day, to practice forgiveness in your own life.

Friday, Feb 07, 2020

Street-level charity

Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29

"[Herod] was perplexed, yet he liked to listen to [John the Baptist]."

While Jeanne Marie Rendu is hardly a household name, most people know of the squalid conditions in 19th-century France described in Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* that compelled Jeanne Marie to act. Taking the religious name Rosalie when she entered the Daughters of Charity, she served the poor in disease-infested, overcrowded Paris and also guided leaders, thinkers, and social activists in her home, including Frederic Ozanam, with whom she later co-founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She paid attention to the suffering around her and continually asked for God's intervention. "Never have I prayed so well as in the streets," she said. Her advice to her sisters more than 150 years ago still applies today as we encounter the poor among us: "Remember, Our Lord hides behind those rags."

Saturday, Feb 08, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Finding grace to overcome

1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34

"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."

A child of loving Sudanese parents who was kidnapped by Arab slave traders when she was 7, Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947) knew the trauma of loss of family, compounded by 12 years of slavery where she was bought and sold like a commodity. When a master took her to Italy and temporarily left her with the Canossian Daughters of Charity, Josephine found a home that—with the sisters' assistance—she never had to leave. She joined the community and for 42 years served as a cook and doorkeeper known for her gentle and charismatic presence. This amazing woman, whose body bore slavery's scars of 114 lashes, found it possible to proclaim, "The Lord has loved me so much: We must love everyone . . . we must be compassionate!" Practice compassion as best you can today.

