

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 8, 2020



"The Transfiguration of Christ," David Howard Johnson (2014)

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



March 8th, 2020
2nd Sunday of Lent

Psychology has taught us a great deal about family dynamics and how we have come to be the person we find ourselves to be. We are comprised of such a mixed bag of blessings and obstacles with their graced moments and sinful ones. Think back on the journey of your life and how the many different and varied choices that you made influenced the direction your life. If you didn't go on that first date with your spouse, who would be beside you today? If you chose to be in one place rather than another, what would have happened to the course your life has taken? We are on such a wonderful, exciting journey. What is most incredible and awesome is that we are not alone! God is with us. He inspires, heals, opens doors, and calls us every moment of our lives. The very life we have is due only to Him.

We can all sit down and list adjectives describing who we are. One may find him or herself more artistic than another or quicker with wit. We have unique gifts and talents and have the great gift of free will, which we treasure. Our histories come with more baggage for some and less hurdles for others, but we all have to find our way through the path we are on. However, have you ever given much thought to who you really are? That question has more merit than may at first appear.

We know ourselves as we live out our earthly journey. But do we know our heavenly self? What we know here is only one small part of who God has made us to be. The disciples really thought they knew Jesus until they went up the mountain. We also may think we know our true selves, too. We know that in eternal life we shall not only see God, but become like Him. Who will you be? What surprise do you think God has for you?

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of March 1, 2020

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9 [2nd Sunday of Lent]
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8-13/Lk 6:36-38 [St. Francis of Rome]
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-23/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-6/Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-28a/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 [3rd Sunday of Lent]

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., March 9th, 8:00AM - Josephine & George Mielnik (Irene Mielnik)
Tues., March 10th, 8:00AM - Dianne Bernard (Care & Concern Committee)
Wed., March 11th, 8:00AM - Stanley Banak (Mr. & Mrs. Garrett Antalek)
Thurs., March 12th, 8:00AM - Raymond Pruzenski (Sophia Watral)
Fri., March 13th, 8:00AM - Theresa Ignasiak (Kleiner Family)
Sat., March 14th, 4:00PM - Jerry Stankiewicz (Kay & Family)
Sun., March 15th, 9:30AM - For the People of Saint Stan's (Pro Populo)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **JOHN & HELEN CIECIERSKI** as gifted by Jack & Kathy.

Please remember **PATTY JENKS** who passed away last week. May she rest in the peace of Christ, our Risen Savior.



LOTTERY NOTICE

The Holy Name Society tickets for the "1st Day of the Month" lottery will no longer be available. Many thanks to those who supported this fundraising endeavor over the years. The Holy Name Society has decided, instead, to continue the "31 Day Lottery," as they did in January. The next lottery will take place in May. Tickets are now available for \$5. See a member of the Holy Name Society to purchase yours, or pick one up at the Parish Office.

LENTEN & EASTER MARKETS

Our Partner Parish, Holy Trinity, will be holding their annual Easter Market again this year. Order forms will be available throughout Lent. The Market will be held on April 3rd and April 4th.

FISH & PIEROGI DINNERS

Our next Fish & Pierogi dinners will be on March 13th & March 27th. Thank you to all who helping make our first dinner a raging success! Though busy, everyone had a wonderful time. Special thanks to the brothers of Delta Sigma Phi at Gannon University for their help. Worker forms for our next dinner are now available.

WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 1, 2020)

This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00
Amount Received	\$3,213.00
Net over/under.....	(\$943.00)

Mass Attendance:
4:00PM = 72
9:30AM = 77



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 7th
Server: Chip & Haley Rohrbach
Lector: Bobby Sulecki
Gifts: K. Ciecierski & E. Rohrbach
Sunday, March 8th
Server: Katie Brocious
Lector: Dan Pomorski
Gifts: Holy Name Society
Saturday, March 14th
Server: Jack Ciecierski
Lector: Mary Jo Sulecki
Gifts: The Pedersen Family
Sunday, March 15th
Server: Gabrille Widomski
Lector: Diane Valahovic
Gifts: The Widomski Family

THE SSJ SOUP KITCHEN will be in need of desserts for Monday, March 16th. Please bring your donations on next weekend, or to the Nazareth Center on Monday between 2:00-3:00PM.

CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK (March 8-14, 2020)

This week we remember and honor religious sisters who have faithfully and selflessly served the Church. At Saint Stanislaus, we pay particular tribute to the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Felician Sisters, Sisters of Saint Benedict, Bernardine Sisters, Sisters of the Holy Ghost, Redemptorist Sisters.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY will meet on today, March 8th at 2:00PM in the Social Hall. New members are always welcome to join.

THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY will meet on today, March 8th at 8:15AM in the Nazareth Center. New members are always welcome to join.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH meeting will be held on Monday, March 16th at 7:00PM at the Community Center on 14th & Wallace. All are welcome to attend.

CSA COMMITMENT SUNDAY UPDATE

Parish Assessment: \$31,019.00
Pledges to Date: \$16,250.00
Amount Collected: \$9,275.00

Thank you to 48 of our families for your commitment! Together, let us reach our goal so we can move forward on our improvement projects. If you haven't yet pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so.

Holy Trinity Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

5:00PM - March 14th

Lector: J. Kempisty & S. Carpenter
Server: N. & M. Mangini
EM: S. Carpenter & S. Trochowski

10:00AM - March 15th

Lector: E. Korytowski
Servers: M. & M. Brieger
EM: E. Korytowski, D. Carlson, & E. Simora

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., March 9th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus
 Tues., March 10th, 8:00AM - Souls in Purgatory
 Wed., March 11th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus
 Thurs., March 12th, 8:00AM - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families
 Fri., March 13th, 8:00AM - Henry Bujalski
 Sat., March 14th, 4:00PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
 Sun., March 15th, 10:00AM - Members of the Holy Trinity Usher Society



The sanctuary candle burns in memory of **THE LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE POLISH FALCONS NEST 123.**

CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK (March 8-14, 2020)

This week we remember and honor religious sisters who have faithfully and selflessly served the Church. At Holy Trinity, we pay particular tribute to:

Sr. Evangelist Kowalewski, S.S.J.
 Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki, O.S.B.
 Sr. Mary Jane Vergotz, O.S.B.



70th ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Next Sunday, March 15th at our 10:00AM Mass we will celebrate with our Holy Trinity Usher Society their Annual Family Communion Breakfast immediately following the Mass in our Social Center.

Reservations are not required – it will be a wonderful Buffet style Breakfast. A free will offering will be taken. Our guest speaker will be Father Christopher Singer, JCL., Chancellor of the Diocese and the Bishop's Master of Ceremonies, and Spiritual Director of St. Mark Seminary, where he resides. Holy Trinity Parishioners, family and friends are welcome to attend.



March 11 - Julie Labrozzi & Sandy Kempisty
 March 12 - Kathyleen Benes
 March 13 - Ed Korytowski, Kerry Sebastian & Ronald Slupski
 March 14 - Loretta Lipinski

WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 1, 2020)

Regular Offertory..... \$2,466.00 (47/146 mailed)
 Loose Cash.....\$76.00
 Total Offertory.....\$2,542.00
 Mass Attendance: 5:00PM = 48 / 10:00AM = 72

THIS WEEK JULY 1 TO DATE

Dream Goal	\$3,000.00	\$105,000.00
Amount we need	\$2,365.00	\$83,340.00
Amount Received ...	\$2,542.00	\$84,496.00
Net over/under	\$177.00	\$1,156.00

2020 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Assessment: \$12,425.00
Pledges: \$16,087.00 (We are happy to report!)
Paid: \$13,382.00
Balance Due: \$2,705.00
 * 36 Families have contributed thus far to the 2020 CSA

The Transfiguration

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 17:1-9



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

SIX
LOVE
JAMES

PETER
MOSES
DAYS

CLOTHES
GOOD
APPEARED

VOICE
WHITE
MOUNTAIN

JOHN
ELIJAH
HIGH

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

- Matthew 17:5

News for Our Partnership

OUR REMAINING FISH AND PIEROGI DINNERS will be held on the following dates:

- * March 13th at Saint Stan's
- * March 20th at Holy Trinity
- * March 27th at Saint Stan's



We know from the scriptures that Jesus spent the greatest amount of his time healing both spiritually and physically. Since we spend most of our time on those things which are most important to us, then healing

must have been a very important value to Jesus. We are a community that lives the values of Jesus Christ. This value of Jesus that deals with physical healing is called the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. As a community, we celebrate this Sacrament this Lent at **St. Stanislaus Masses on the weekend of March 21st and 22nd**. Who may celebrate this Sacrament? Those who are suffering any serious physical or mental illness, those who are suffering any chronic illness, those who are about to undergo surgery, and the elderly who cannot get around as well as before.



Wednesday, March 11th from 5:00 – 7:00PM, several neighboring Churches will offer the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Lent:

Blessed Sacrament, Holy Cross, Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Peace, Sacred Heart, St. Ann, St. Boniface, St. George, St. James, St. Jude the Apostle, St. Luke, and St. Peter Cathedral.

Celebrate Christ's forgiveness during this season of Grace!

SAVE THE DATE

Saint Casimir's Parish will host their annual Gorzkie Zale, along with benediction, on **Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00PM**. All are cordially welcome to attend.

ANOIDTING MASS

St. Stan's will host an Anointing of the Sick Mass on March 21st at 4:00PM & March 22nd at 9:30AM.

CASH BINGO

The Third Street Falcons will host a Cash Bingo on March 22nd. Doors open at noon; Bingo starts at 1:00PM. Cost is \$20/pack; \$5/extra pack. Instants and 50/50 will also be available. Kitchen and Bar will also be open.

PROJECT MARY

We are asking everyone to join in Project Mary by praying one "Hail Mary" for Mary to intercede in our world as she sees fit. Our Blessed Mother is there for all of us and knows best where the prayers need to be directed.

THE JOINT PARISH COUNCIL will meet at St. Stan's Parish Hall on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30PM.

BAG MAT MINISTRY

The "Bag Mat" ministry will meet on March 21st in Sacred Heart's Church Auditorium from 11:00AM - 2:00PM. Anyone interested in serving as a "flattener, stacker, cutter, looper, baller or crocheted" is welcome to participate. If you have spare plastic bags that you would like to donate, please bring them to church and receptacles will be at the entrances to collect them. They are also accepting donations of toiletries, socks, and warm weather apparel.

IMPORTANT LITURGICAL NOTICE

Last week, we received a directive from Bishop Persico regarding the coronavirus. Until further notice, the Bishop has recommended that we not shake hands at the beginning of our celebration, or at the "Sign of Peace." Those directions will be omitted from our celebration. Additionally, he has recommended the suspension of the offering of the Blood of Christ for the time being. **PLEASE NOTE:** Anyone who is experiencing the symptoms of illness is to refrain from attending Mass and, in such cases, the obligation to do so is removed. Please be prudent and act in the best interest of the health of others.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

3/9) Marcia Nitczynski & Rose Marie Radomski; 3/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker; 3/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski; 3/12) Edie Luniewski & Debbie Oldenski; 3/13) Deacon Tom Matusiak, Shirley & Stan Widomski; 3/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krainski; 3/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark.

PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS THIS WEEK:

3/8) Msgr. Richard Siefer; 3/9) Fr. Phil Oriole; 3/10) Fr. Bob Manning; 3/11) Fr. Scott Detisch; 3/12) Fr. Bill O'Brien; 3/13) Fr. Michael Ferrick; 3/14) Bishop Donald W. Trautman

Sunday, Mar 08, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Cherish the vision

Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9

"His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."

Dreams are fragile things. They arrive in the darkness and are dispersed with the dawn unless we commit them to memory. As Jesus is transfigured, his disciples catch a glimpse of God's dream for us: Where Love is honored and glorified. Consider the theme of today's International Women's Day, "An equal world is an enabled world." That is a dream come true.

Monday, Mar 09, 2020

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS

How to get what you need

Deuteronomy 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38

"Good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap."

As the classic Rolling Stones' song goes, "You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes you just might find you get what you need." Is that ever true—especially when it comes to the way God takes care of us. In the case of Frances of Rome, she wanted to be a nun, but she ended up married for 40 years. It wasn't until she was widowed that she finally was able to join an order. But in the long meantime, she is reported to have said, "I am ready to do what the Lord wants," and she did, by finding ways to serve the sick while also taking care of her family. By doing God's bidding instead of her own, she ended up with everything she needed and more. So could you.

Tuesday, Mar 10, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Godsent

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12

"You have but one master, the Christ."

Harriet Tubman, slave-turned-abolitionist, died on this day in 1913 in a home she founded for the elderly poor. Nicknamed "Moses" for leading slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad just like the Israelites were led out of captivity, she let faith be her guide. "She talked with God, and he talked with her every day of her life," wrote fellow abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison about Tubman. "She felt no more fear of being arrested by her former master" for she "ventured only where God sent her." Where is God sending you? Stay true to that course.

Wednesday, Mar 11, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Count yourself in

Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 "As

Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the Twelve disciples aside."

While numerology is largely dismissed as pseudoscience, there is no denying that certain numbers had special significance in biblical literature. The number 12 figures prominently. The 12 tribes of Israel descended from the 12 sons of the patriarch Jacob (later named Israel). New Jerusalem is imagined with 12 gates guarded by 12 angels. Jesus first spoke in the gospels at age 12. Is it coincidence that he selected 12 disciples at the outset of his ministry? The number 12 represented inclusion and completeness. So, when you read a gospel account of "the Twelve," remember that you are included in God's story and play a role in completing it.

Thursday, Mar 12, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

In spite of everything

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31

"If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead."

After hiding from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic for two years, Anne Frank's family was discovered and sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where she and her sister died in 1945. Anne was just 15. Yet, the clear, insightful voice of a young Jewish girl has outlasted all the bombast of Hitler's empire. In the film *Jojo Rabbit*, a mother and child see bodies hanging in the square of their village, which has been overtaken by Nazis. When the little boy asks, "What did they do?" the mother replies, "They did what they could." Anne Frank also did what she could by writing in her diary while in captivity. What can you do to stem the tide of evil and anti-Semitism?

Friday, Mar 13, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Look who is walking beside you

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

The Way of the Cross reminds us that we share this walk with many others who suffer and need solace. Consider these words by Pope Francis in reference to human trafficking: "Help us to share the sufferings of all those treated as refuse. It is all too easy to condemn people and difficult situations that offend our false sense of decency. It is less easy to accept our responsibilities as individuals, as governments, and as Christian communities." Allow your Lenten practice to open your eyes to your complicity in sin and your capacity for compassion if you continue to follow the way of Jesus.

Saturday, Mar 14, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

No strings attached

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

"Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain."

Most of us are not quite as generous as we might think we are. How often do you give to those who do not so much as offer a thank-you or a smile in return? If you do it once, would you do it again? Are you generous with neighbors or relations who consistently ignore your wishes and feelings? Truth be told, most of us are good to those who are good to us. But Jesus welcomed everyone to join him at the table and freely offered them healing, forgiveness, even friendship—no strings attached. Jesus encourages us to stretch in that direction.



