

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## MARCH 1, 2020



"Satan's Temptation of Christ," Vasily Surikov (1872)

### *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)

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](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
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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 1st, 2020**  
**1st Sunday of Lent**

Life can easily spin us out of control. While there are so many wonderful opportunities before us, we can also get easily distracted and exhausted. There is always something to do, respond to, or check. The clutter of our lives can take us off course, and the best remedy for getting back on track is the experience of the desert. Here we can face our demons square on, resist them, and get back on course. We desperately need the season of Lent. This simple time of year forces us into greater awareness and grounds us in what is good and true.

What weighs you down and keeps you trapped? Maybe you are trying to do too much and please too many people. It could be that your fragile self-image is always pushing you to prove yourself and find success. Anxiety and worry, ultimately due to a lack of faith, can quickly tempt you with despair. It could be that you are listening to too many voices and allowing all of the negativity that is present erode the genuine goodness in your heart and in all of God's creation. Or maybe you struggle too much with fear. Perhaps so much so that you are far too preoccupied with your own agenda and goals and left with little psychological or spiritual room to consider and respond to the plight of your neighbor. Do anger, bitterness, stubbornness, and hatred have homes in your heart? How about greed, gluttony, pride, apathy, or lust?

For many, their passions and what can be found on the internet are their downfall, and they are robbed of their inner life and freedom. What is it, specifically, that tempts you away from a childlike trust in God? Define this and use the next few weeks to allow God to chart you a course away from them. Silence, being alone, grace, honesty, struggle, tears, and dryness are all found in the desert. You will also find God and your true self in this holy place. Ready to go?

### **WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**

Readings for the week of March 1, 2020

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-17/Rom 5:12-19/Mt 4:1-11 [1st Sunday of Lent]  
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-15/Mt 25:31-46  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-19/Mt 6:7-15 [St. Katherine Drexel]  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-19/Lk 11:29-32 [St. Casimir]  
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-8/Mt 7:7-12 [  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26 [World Day of Prayer]  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-8/Mt 5:43-48 [Sts. Felicity & Perpetua]  
Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33;4-5, 18-22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9 [2nd 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 2nd, 8:00AM - Joseph Zawistowski (Stan & Betty Bialomizy)  
Tues., March 3rd, 8:00AM - Agnes Rzodkiewicz (Family)  
Wed., March 4th, 8:00AM - Mary & Bernard Bagnisewski (Family)  
Thurs., March 5th, 8:00AM - Al Ropelewski (Shirley & Stan Widomski)  
Fri., March 6th, 8:00AM - Doris Inter (Sophia Watral)  
Sat., March 7th, 4:00PM - Geraldine Krasinski Irwin (Family)  
Sun., March 8th, 9:30AM - For the Parishioners of Saint Stan's (Pro Populo)

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 29th  
Server: Marlene Shaba  
Lector: Katherine Krainski  
Gifts: The Macie Family  
Sunday, March 1st  
Server: David Kurutz  
Lector: John Kleiner  
Gifts: Dave Lesnieski  
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



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **RADOMSKI FAMILY** as gifted by BARB & BERNIE TUSZYNSKI.

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



**CLEANING TEAM A** will meet in the church on Tuesday, March 3rd at 9:30AM. They will get to try out our new vacuums!

## 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 will be available next week.

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.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (FEBRUARY 23, 2020)

This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need .....	\$4,156.00 .....
Amount Received .....	\$3,728.00 .....
Net over/under.....	(\$428.00) .....

Mass Attendance:  
4:00PM = 82  
9:30AM = 81



## CSA: OUR PARISH GOAL & PROJECT

Once our parish reaches our CSA assessment goal of \$31,019, any additional funds pledged remain at Saint Stan's. In consultation with Parish Council, it was decided that these funds would be used to provide necessary repairs to the school's roof. The roof is over 30 years old! While interest in growing to rent space in the school building, significant leakage prevents us from doing so. Repairing/replacing the roof would not only preserve the physical integrity of the building, but also allow us to rent out additional space in order to make the building profitable.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

**THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY** will meet on Sunday, 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: \$10,985.00  
Amount Collected: \$6,830.00

Thank you 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 7th

**Lector:** E. Beres & R. Purzycki  
**Server:** C. Beres & B. Rice  
**EM:** R. & A. Koziel

### 10:00AM - March 8th

**Lector:** M. Koszegi & S. Rimpa  
**Servers:** R. Luniewski & B. Lazar  
**EM:** E. Luniewski, L. Sebastian, & S. Carpenter

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., March 2nd, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus  
 Tues., March 3rd, 8:00AM - Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament  
 Wed., March 4th, 8:00AM - Mass at Saint Stanislaus  
 Thurs., March 5th, 8:00AM - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families  
 Fri., March 6th, 8:00AM - Carolyn & Al DiMaggio  
 Sat., March 7th, 5:00PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)  
 Sun., March 8th, 10:00AM - Deceased Members of Polish Falcons #123

The sanctuary candle burns in memory of **THE PEOPLE OF HOLY TRINITY.**



March 2nd: Ken Brasington  
 March 4th: Alexis Lazar  
 March 5th: Mead Carlson



## HOLY TRINITY USHERS

You are invited to our 70th Annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 15th. Fr. Chris Singer, Chancellor of the Diocese, will be our honored speaker.

## CSA: OUR PARISH GOAL & PROJECT

Once our parish reaches its CSA assessment goal of \$12,425, any additional pledges will enable Holy Trinity to complete projects such as replacing our six main entrance to the Social Center along with equipping one door with an exterior and interior button to open the door for handicapped persons. Our center then will be fully ADA compliant with your generosity. We will be sending out a letter, a brochure with an envelope for your gift or pledge to the 2020 CSA. Please pray how you and your family will respond as we move forward together doing the work of Christ in our diocese and at Holy Trinity.

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Martin Luther King emphasized that our differences need not divide us. Think of a way that you and your spouse are different, yet your traits complement one another. Consider thinks like "attention to detail" vs. seeing "the whole picture", quick thinker vs. thorough planner, extrovert vs. self-reflective, etc.

## The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 4:1-13 (NIV).



## WEEKLY OFFERING (FEBRUARY 23, 2020)

Regular Offertory..... \$1,623.00 (54/146 mailed)  
 Loose Cash.....\$173.00  
 Total Offertory.....\$1,796.00  
 Mass Attendance: 5:00PM = 44 / 10:00AM = 80

THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal .....\$3,000.00	\$102,000.00
Amount we need ....\$2,365.00	\$80,954.00
Amount Received ...\$1,796.00	\$81,954.00
Net over/under .....(\$596.00)	(\$21.00)

## 2020 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

**Assessment:** \$12,425.00  
**Pledges:** \$15,137.00 (We are happy to report!)  
**Paid:** \$12,632.00  
**Balance Due:** \$2,505.00  
 \* 32 Families have contributed thus far to the 2020 CSA

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

Spirit	devil	days	Jordan	stone
Holy	live	angels	authority	worship
desert	temple	command	bread	world
tempted	forty	kingdoms	Jerusalem	hungry

"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil..."

- Matthew 4:1

## 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

If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, be mindful of the potential of spreading your illness onto others attending Mass. If you are unable to attend Mass for this legitimate reason, know that there are several televised Masses:

**Channel 55 - Sundays at 6:30AM**  
**Channel 11 - Sundays at 8:00AM**  
**Channel 16 - Sundays at 8:00AM & 12:00PM**  
**Daily (Monday - Saturday) at 8:00AM, 12:00PM, & 7:00PM**

### Catholic Services Appeal

Last weekend was Commitment Sunday for the annual 2020 CSA. The theme of this year's CSA is "Forward Together... doing the work of Christ." Together, we make it possible for parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, clergy and the Catholic faithful to live and share Christ's teaching. You may wonder why you should support the CSA. The truth is, as members of the Diocese of Erie, we play an important role in the diocesan activities of Catholic education, evangelization, promoting justice and serving people in need throughout our diocese. Our diocese has work to do on behalf of the Lord and we are all asked to share our gifts to help advance the mission of the church. Your gift is so important. Thank you for giving and we would welcome a response from all our parishioners.

### THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

Wednesday, March 11th from 5:00 – 7:00PM our neighboring Churches will offer the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Lent. A list of parishes participating will be in the bulletin next weekend.

### 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.

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

### ANointing MASS

St. Stan's will host an Anointing of the Sick Mass on March 14th at 4:00PM & March 15th at 9:30AM.



### "SPRING FORWARD"

Don't forget to advance your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 8th at 2:00AM (or before you go to bed on Saturday night).



**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). Sign up sheets will be in the vestibule of each church if you plan to attend. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and desserts will be provided.

### "WE JOURNEY TOGETHER"

A spiritual booklet, "We Journey Together," is available for your Lenten prayer and reflection. They 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.

### LENTEN REGULATIONS

The Season of Lent begins on February 26th and concludes at the start of the Holy Thursday Mass on April 9th. During that time, the Church encourages the faithful to consciously observe the traditional practices of **prayer**, **fasting**, and **almsgiving**. Additionally, daily Mass is particularly encouraged. **Ash Wednesday, all Fridays, and Good Friday** are days of abstaining from meat for those 14 years old and older. **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are also days of fasting (one full meal and two small meals to maintain adequate strength according to one's needs) for those 18 to 58 years old. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are. *When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.*

### THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

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

### PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS FOR OUR PRIESTS THIS WEEK:

3/1) Fr. Zab Amar; 3/2) Fr. Brandon Kleckner; 3/3) Fr. Skip Davis; 3/4) Fr. Justin Pino; 3/5) Fr. Mark Hoffman;  
3/6 Msgr. David Rubino; 3/7) Msgr. Desmond McGee

## Sunday, Mar 01, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Count me in

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

*"How much more did the grace of God...overflow for the many."*

A fresh supply of blood keeps the body nourished, just as children add a new chapter to the story of every family. In the same way, our nation's vitality has always been renewed by the welcoming of immigrants. The church likewise depends on making the way of Jesus attractive to new members. Today we celebrate those entering our church community through the Rite of Election. As they sign their names in the Book of Election, we might ask: what are we doing to keep the Body of Christ alive and well?

## Monday, Mar 02, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Heaven all the way

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

*"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."*

Today's gospel raises the specter of "eternal punishment," better known as hell. In popular imagination, hell is a fiery place of suffering that a punishing God sends people to. Not so fast, say today's Catholic theologians, including the last three popes. God is not a torturer. Hell is not so much a physical place but a separation from God chosen by humans. "It is heaven all the way to heaven," declared Saint Catherine of Siena. To which Father Richard Rohr, O.F.M. adds, "It's hell all the way to hell." Today choose heaven.

## Tuesday, Mar 03, 2020

MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN

### Stand for equality

Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

*"Give us this day our daily bread."*

The first American-born U.S. saint, Katharine Drexel was exactly what the country needed. Born into wealth and privilege in 1858, she learned about charity from her parents and took an interest in serving Native Americans and African Americans, who she saw were unjustly excluded from the American dream. Of all the great things she did, perhaps her biggest accomplishment was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans. Look to her and help everyone get an equal chance.

## Wednesday, Mar 04, 2020

MEMORIAL OF CASIMIR

### Let's be the royal we

Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32

*"When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne."*

It's that day of the year when you can joke about the date also being a direct order—to "march forth." But under whose authority? And for what purpose? In biblical times, of course, it was at the behest of a powerful king or other sovereign. But what about us? If we were baptized as children in the Catholic rite that anoints us "priest, prophet, and king" along with Jesus, we can look to someone such as Saint Casimir. Like this beloved prince of Poland in the 1400s, we act like a sovereign whenever we use our resources for good and influence those under our direction - be they children, students, coworkers, or fellow

## Thursday, Mar 05, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Let the body guide you

Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12

*"Queen Esther, seized with mortal anguish, had recourse to the LORD. She lay prostrate upon the ground."*

Prayer takes many forms—mental, verbal, visual, and physical. We speak, sing, reflect silently, stand, kneel, clasp our hands together. One time-honored Catholic tradition that is rarely seen—except perhaps on Good Friday or at ordinations and monastic professions—is prostration, the act of lying facedown on the ground. It symbolizes profound adoration, humility, or sorrow before God, and also expresses the "earthy" connection between God, humanity, and all creation. We "shorten" this prayer form when we bow our heads. As you enter into your own prayer, consider how bowing your head or lying prostrate might assist you in connecting more fully or in a different way with God.

## Friday, Mar 06, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### Be a little more careful

Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26

*"Go first to be reconciled with your brother."*

Lent invites us to a conversion of heart; any practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving can be the means of surrendering anger and loving more deeply. How might we do that? Smile at everyone you encounter today. Pray for ourselves and the people (or leaders) with whom we struggle. Ask each morning for the grace to imagine a walk in the shoes of a difficult person. Work to remove the judgment from your heart, and find the courage to mend a broken relationship. As the poet e.e. cummings put it, "be of love (a little) / More careful / Than of everything."

## Saturday, Mar 07, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS

### Courage can be costly

Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

*"For [God] makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good."*

Questions of conscience tend to get overlooked in the daily demands of work and family. But as totalitarian regimes around the world proliferate, some may face dilemmas similar to that of Perpetua and her servant Felicity. Both martyrs chose fidelity to Christ despite—or because of—their obligations as new mothers. Franz Jagerstatter, centuries later, in fidelity to his Catholic faith and love for his three daughters, refused a loyalty oath to Hitler and was beheaded. The sun rises on evil and good. But death does not have the last word. So risk speaking the truth.



