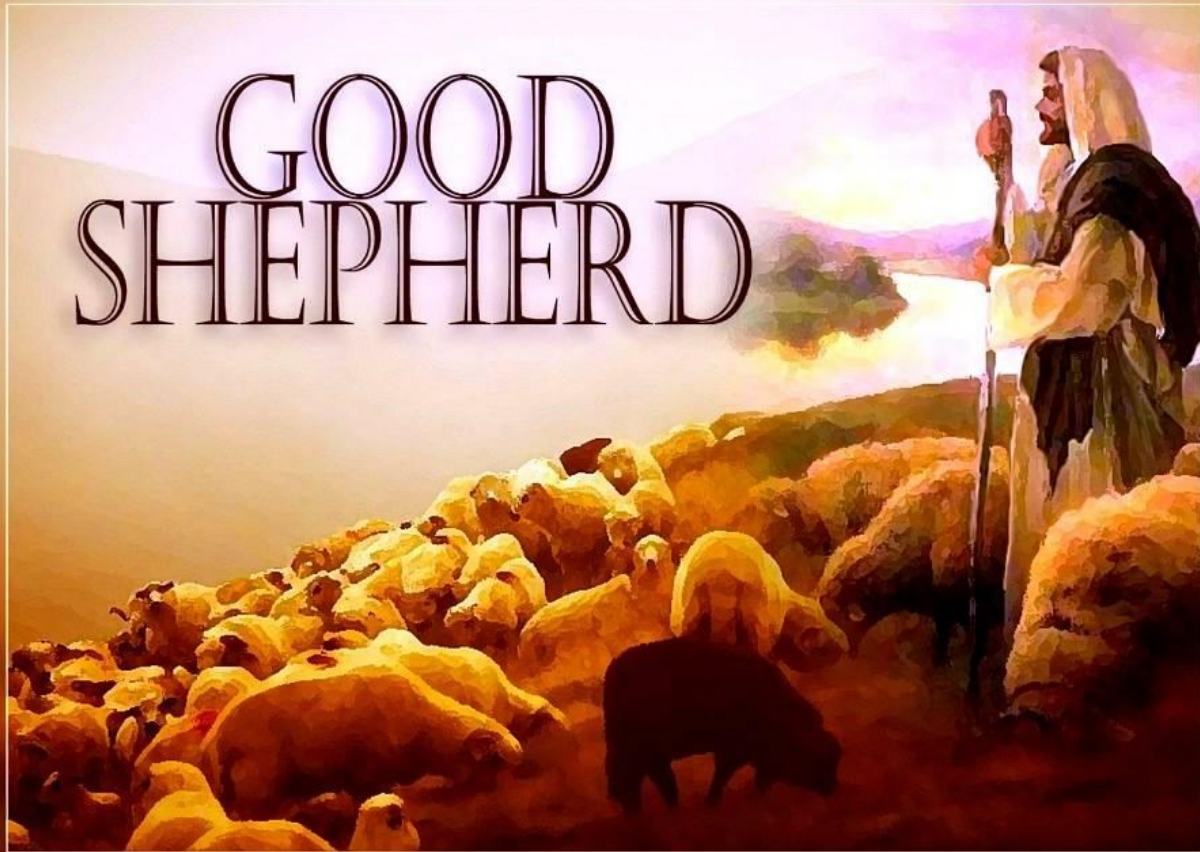


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 30, 2023



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)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM

*** Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

*** Reconciliation is celebrated until 15 minutes before Mass
(If the priest is not in the confessional, inform a greeter)**

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)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM

*** Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

*** Reconciliation is celebrated until 15 minutes before Mass
(If the priest is not in the confessional, inform a greeter)**



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



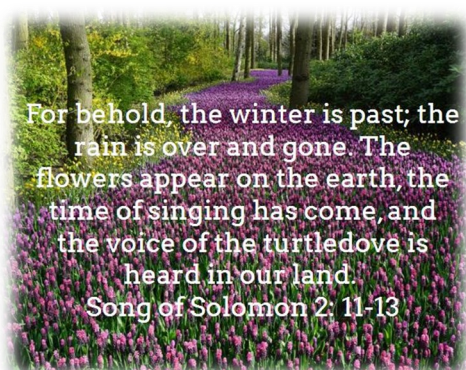
April 30, 2023
4th Sunday of Easter

I recently rescued a dog. She's a terrier and rather adorable. And she's crazy about me. She could spend all day with me. But I'm a pastor at a parish and sometimes I leave her at the front desk of the church office. She constantly amazes me by her ability to distinguish between my voice and that of everyone else. If I say one word, even if I'm hidden around a corner, she'll sprint toward me and jump up into my arms.

This week the readings focus our attention to the voice of the risen Jesus Christ. Comparing his disciples to sheep and himself to a shepherd, he says, "They recognize his voice." He speaks to us and wants us to respond. When we hear his voice, we follow. Throughout this coming week, we will experience many interior promptings to receive God's love, and to love Him in return. That's his voice. Follow it into the safe and tender arms of Christ.

By contrast, some voices we will hear do not convey God's concern and love for us, but rather produce fear, despair, and other harmful mischief. Jesus calls these voices those of robbers. Does an idea or thought make it harder for you to love God? If so, run away. Let it go. It is most likely not the voice of the Risen Lord. Keep waiting for him to speak. You will recognize his voice. Then run to him as fast as you can.

— Father John Muir



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
Song of Solomon 2: 11-13

Readings for the week of April 30, 2023

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 36-41/Ps 23:1-6/1 Pt 2:20-25/Jn 10:1-10
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1-7/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-5/Jn 14:6-14
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-27/Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-11/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

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 Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452.3395) from St. Stanislaus, or Kathy (392-8974) at Holy Trinity.

PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, music minister, or usher/greeter, 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 Sue (450-2987).

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 (882-1032).

PROLIFE COMMUNITY

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

“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., May 1st - Private Intention
 Tues., May 2nd - Adam & Mary Chrostowski (Alice, Donna, & Connie)
 Wed., May 3rd - George & Josephine Mielnik (Richard & Pat Mielnik)
 Thurs., May 4th - Patricia & Henry Schneider (Diane & Rich)
 Fri., May 5th - Fr. Frank Przepierski (Family)
 Sat., May 6th, 4:00PM - Tom Konkol (Debbie Oldenski)
 Sun., May 7th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burn in memory of **ROSE NIEDZWICKI**, as gifted by Diane & Rich Valahovic.



When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free. The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar. Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Elaine Tomczak on Saturday, April 22. Please keep Elaine and her family and friends in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."

THE CHOSEN

Thanks to the support of our Women's Society, our parish will be purchasing a video projector and large screen so that we can host a viewing of *The Chosen* television series.

According to Angel Studios (the producer of the series), "*The Chosen*, the first multi-season show about Jesus's life, hopes to take you deeper into gospel stories by retelling and expounding on the character and intentions of Jesus and those who knew Him."

Stay tuned for more information...

SPRING FLING WINNERS

After an incredibly successful "Spring Fling," we would like to announce and congratulate the following winners:

- \$1,200 - Alice & Paul Modzelewski
- \$300 - Jacque & Ed Macie
- \$100 - Ron Richardson
- \$100 - Mary Beth Baran
- \$100 - Becky Sienkiewicz

A special thanks to everyone who supported the event and, also, for all of our remarkable volunteers who worked to make the evening so enjoyable!

GARAGE SALE

Tentative plans are in the works to host another major garage sale this summer on the Parish Hall parking lot and in the Parish Hall. More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, as you engage in your Spring cleaning, keep this in mind and set aside items you would like to donate to this cause.

SOUND SYTEM

We will be bringing in a sound engineer to do a complete sound analysis of our church building, provide a recommendation to better meet our needs, and offer a bid to install a new sound system. We will keep you updated about this project. Our goal is to have it completed by the end of summer.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR APRIL 23RD

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$178,708.00
Amount Received	\$2,161.00	\$108,412.00
Net over/under	(\$1,995.00)	(\$70,296.00)

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



WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Women's Society will take place on Sunday, May 21st at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend!

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **LILLIAN PRZEPIERSKI** as gifted by Dave & Jane Theimann.



5/4) Philip Trochowski
5/6) James Bojarski
5/7) Carly LaZar

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., May 1st - All Souls
Tues., May 2nd - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
Wed., May 3rd - For All Deceased Mothers
Thurs., May 4th - Richard Madura (Mom)
Fri., May 5th - Special Intention
Sat., May 6th, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Sun., May 7th, 10:30AM - Charles & Theresa Brasington (Family)

Today's readings on this fourth Sunday of Easter offer us a glimpse into the heart of our loving Savior. He is the Good Shepherd and we can confidently place our trust in Him as we live the stewardship way of life. This endearing image of Jesus as our shepherd, and His personal love for each one of us, is described in our Gospel passage from John, through the words of Jesus Himself. Here we read Jesus' description of Himself as the "Good Shepherd." He says of Himself, "The sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice." This aspect of our Lord's tender and personal love for each one of us is a compelling reason to embrace the stewardship way of life — in the offering of our time, talent, and treasure to Him, we can express our gratitude to Him for the incomprehensible love He has for us. Embracing this way of life certainly requires trust on our part. But Christ has proven Himself worthy of our trust. He "bore our sins in His body." He calls Himself our shepherd and He offers Himself as the guardian of our souls. He has withheld nothing of Himself and His goodness from us. He would never ask anything of us that would bring us harm. He tells us "I came so that [you] might have life and have it more abundantly." This Easter season, let us resolve to entrust ourselves and our lives gratefully to Him.

PARISH GROUNDS

It has proven very difficult the past couple of summers to contract a lawn service company to assist us with the upkeep of our grounds. Most of them simply cannot find enough employees. Fortunately, Fr. Jason was able to find a Gannon student who was looking for part-time summer employment. His name is Aiden Hicks. He hails from Toronto, Canada, where he worked at a golf course. He is staying in Erie for the summer to fulfill an unpaid internship (hence his need for part-time work). Aiden is a very talented hockey player and, although a bit shy, he possesses the most pleasant demeanor. He will start after the school year concludes the week after next.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus tells us, HE IS THE WAY and warns anyone who offers "another way" to happiness is "a thief and a bandit." Strong words! Don't listen to the sales pitch of society for happiness. Look to loved ones where God is present and "calls you by name and leads you to abundant life."



WEEKLY OFFERING FOR APRIL 23RD, 2023

Regular Offering: \$1,676.00 (40/130)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$161,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$98,400.00
Total Offertory:	\$1,676.00	\$99,813.00
Net (over/under):	(\$724.00)	\$1,413.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 45; 10:30AM = 67

The Shepherd and His Sheep

His sheep follow him because they know his voice.
John 10:4b (NIV)
The puzzle is based on John 10:1-10 (NIV).

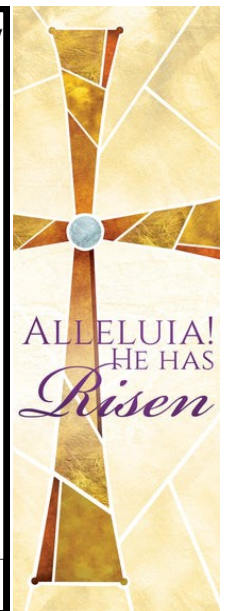


John 10:1-10

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F C N L V E S A N F T C W M H
U J Q I M D Z H N A D R S A L
R O I Y S Z W G E K M N U F U
G U D D G F S A G P T E T N
H L A L T D O M T C H D K B H
N E R R P H T L D C R E A E R
L A J O E V I B L E H I R S G
I Z V S N E X E G O H M U D R
D U G V H P T N F V A G E A F O
X E V A S E A T K O I F J N B
S O S C T R E L G I D X U B B
N T N T T E W P H C O O O A E
G Z E S R V W B Q E A G E Y R
O S E A E O J S Y T G O W P Z
S C J R L Y Y H B X L L T L L
    
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LEADS	ROBBER	PEN	WATCHMAN	TRUTH
FOLLOW	DESTROY	THIEF	STRANGER	GATE
VOICE	STEAL	SHEPHERD	NAME	SHEEP



"I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

- John 10:10

News for Our Partnership



B I N G O



HOLY TRINITY BINGO All CASH prizes!!!

* **Instants and 50/50 Raffle**

- **Sunday, May 7th 1:00pm**, (Doors Open at Noon)
- Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3rd St.
- \$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each additional package
- Kitchen Food Available
- Call 814-456-5300 to reserve your seat!
Walk Ins Welcome

Future Dates: August 13 (Zabawa 30th Anniversary Kickoff)
September 10th, October 10th, December 10 (Holiday Bingo)

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!

This coming Tuesday, Fr. Jason will administer his final examination to his students at Gannon and, thus, finish another semester of teaching. Thank you for supporting his passion for teaching and his love of sharing our faith with his students! He will resume teaching in the Fall Semester.

SEEKING CHRIST IN ONE ANOTHER

The funeral luncheon, the Irish wake, the vigil at an ailing loved one's bedside: in times of crisis, people gather. In moments of sadness, fear, and confusion, we gravitate toward one another. For some reason, the feelings are so much more bearable when we are not alone. I'm sure that the disciples and their companions, gathered in the upper room after the Lord's Ascension, did all of the things we typically do at these functions. I'm sure they hugged and talked and shared food, processing together the remarkable events they had witnessed. But we don't hear about any of that. We hear only that they prayed — fervently, and together. Saint John Paul II famously said that "it is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you." And I think that, whenever we gather, in good times or in bad, we think we are seeking companionship — but we are actually seeking God. As I think back on the last few crisis-gatherings my family has had, I try to remember when we have stopped everything to pray together. I can think of a few times, but to be honest, they are too few. We are usually occupied with more practical tasks: planning the funeral, talking to the doctor, making the decisions, ordering the food. Just trying to survive through it. But this is the busywork of sorrow, and it is a waste of our time. We would do better to follow the example of the disciples and remember that, in these dire moments, God is waiting for us. "Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks."

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

"God of the invitation, you knock upon the door of everyone's heart. We seek the courage to open that door, for we know the responsibility of saying yes. We humbly ask you for your wisdom to serve your church with compassion and acceptance. We believe that when we say yes, you will provide the grace for the work ahead. Give grace to those men and women who have dedicated their lives to constant service to your church. Also give grace to those couples and single men and women who work for the church in their secular lives. We ask all this through Christ our Lord and brother, who live and reign with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen. 'How long has Jesus been knocking at the door of your heart, waiting to enter?'"
—St. John Baptist de la Salle

RECIPE BOOK

If you recall, prior to the pandemic, we were collecting recipes to organize and publish a recipe book. Unfortunately, then the pandemic hit, that project was stalled. We now have a small committee together to resume that work. If you have recipes that you are willing to share, please place them in the collection basket, drop them off at the parish office, or give them to Michelle Wiley or Fr. Jason. We hope to have the book published by the fall. Thank you!

CARNATION PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

We were informed earlier this month that the People for Life of Erie, PA, has decided to discontinue their annual "Mother's Day Carnation Sale." If you care to make a donation to their cause, cash or checks can be mailed to: People for Life, 1625 West 26th St., Erie, PA 16512.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

5/1) Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski, & Mary Speice; 5/2) [Open]; 5/3) Jeannie McGinley, Judy Tucceri, & Jackie Vargo;
5/4) Patty & Ed Czulewicz, & Marie Przepierski; 5/5) Mary Ann Merski & Michelle Inter;
5/6) Msgr. Dan Magraw; 5/7) Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky;

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

5/1) Fr. Mark Nowak; 5/2) Fr. Andrew Boyd; 5/3) Fr. Tom Suppa; 5/4) Fr. Bill Sutherland;
5/5) Fr. Jeff Lucas; 5/6) Fr. Bill Barron; 5/7) Fr. Scott Detisch

Sunday, Apr 30, 2023

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10
"Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

What are we to do?

Discernment of our direction is not just a task for young adults. Throughout our lives, we're challenged to consider the course we're following and the consequences of our choices. The apostle Peter called his generation corrupt; in fact, it's a fair assessment of every generation that seeks personal profit at the expense of the common good. Our mutual vocation is to respond to God's call in every hour, with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Pray that you know the role you're called to play and have the courage and passion to live it out.

Monday, May 01, 2023

MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH THE WORKER

Acts 11:1-18; John 10:11-18 (279) or Genesis 1:26—2:3
"A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

In praise of those who do good work

Religious Brothers Day is celebrated annually on May 1, which is also the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. The common theme is that they honor the often low-profile work of keeping church, family, and society running. The men and women who take up these tasks deserve more than one day of thanks. Maybe you're blessed to be one of them, who humbly serves and sacrifices and asks for little in return. On this day, and every day, let our gratitude be shown and felt for all the workers who dedicate their lives to making our lives better.

Tuesday, May 02, 2023

MEMORIAL OF ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30
"The Father and I are one."

Everything everywhere all the time

Thank Saint Athanasius upon reciting the word "consubstantial"—which used to be "one in being with the Father"—the next time you say the Nicene Creed. Athanasius, as deacon, did the theological homework for his bishop, Saint Alexander I, at the Council of Nicea. Prior to the council, the central idea of Arianism had been slowly gaining traction among church leaders: that Jesus wasn't God. As Athanasius insisted of Jesus and the Incarnation, "there is no part of creation deprived of his presence; together with his Father, he fills everything, everywhere, at all times."

Wednesday, May 03, 2023

FEAST OF PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14
"[Jesus] appeared to James, then to all the Apostles."

What remains is the legacy

Today the church celebrates the feast of two of the 12 apostles, Philip and James, a peculiar pair of martyrs not otherwise associated with one another in Christian history or tradition. James (also called James the Less) is regarded as the first Bishop of Jerusalem, while Philip was said to have preached in Greece, Turkey, and Syria. The pairing of their feast days is related to their shared reliquary in the Church of the Twelve Apostles, following a secret move from the Roman Catacombs. Thereafter lost to history for some time, their relics were rediscovered in the church crypt in the 19th century. On this holy feast, let's all remember the sacrifices of the church's first teachers and model their lives of holiness and faith.

Thursday, May 04, 2023

Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20

"Fellow children of Israel and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors."

We are a people with a history

When asked to speak at a gathering of the Jewish community in the early days of the church, Paul gives a history lesson. He recounts the liberating activity of God throughout Jewish history and ties God's activity directly to the arrival of Jesus the Messiah and the opening of salvation to all humanity. Our God is the God of history, and our human stories—personal and collective—are part of a much larger historical project of salvation. Play your part in the drama.

Friday, May 05, 2023

Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

"These are now his witnesses before the people. We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you."

Witness this

Saints and martyrs are the shining lights when it comes to witnessing to Jesus the Christ, often giving their whole lives and their very lives to communicate God's great love. We too are called to be witnesses. "But I'm no saint!" one might protest. "I can't witness like that." You don't have to be! Pope Francis reminds us that "God guides history through the humble courage of those who pray, love, and forgive. There are so many hidden saints, saints who are next-door, hidden witnesses of life, who with little acts of love change history." Next time in prayer, ask God how you've been a hidden witness of God's great love.

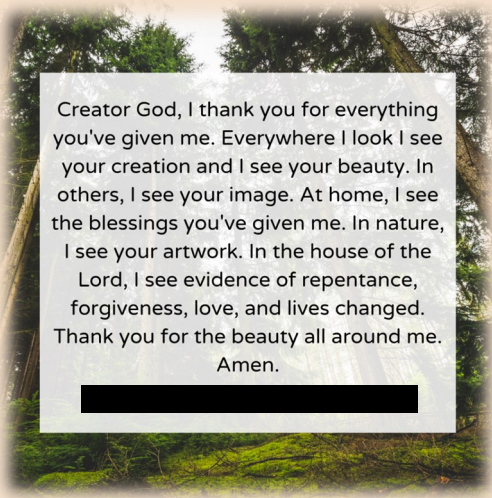
Saturday, May 06, 2023

Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14

"All who were destined for eternal life came to believe."

Choose your destination

Can someone really be destined, or "predestined," for eternal life? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, our destiny as beings created by God is eternal life. But because we are free, we can choose to opt out of that destiny. Just like the people invited to the wedding feast in the Lord's parable, we can decide not to come or simply fail to show up. Just so, when we choose to live in hate rather than love, in violence rather than peace, in punishment rather than forgiveness, we're choosing another destiny. The choice is ours to make.



Creator God, I thank you for everything you've given me. Everywhere I look I see your creation and I see your beauty. In others, I see your image. At home, I see the blessings you've given me. In nature, I see your artwork. In the house of the Lord, I see evidence of repentance, forgiveness, love, and lives changed. Thank you for the beauty all around me.
Amen.