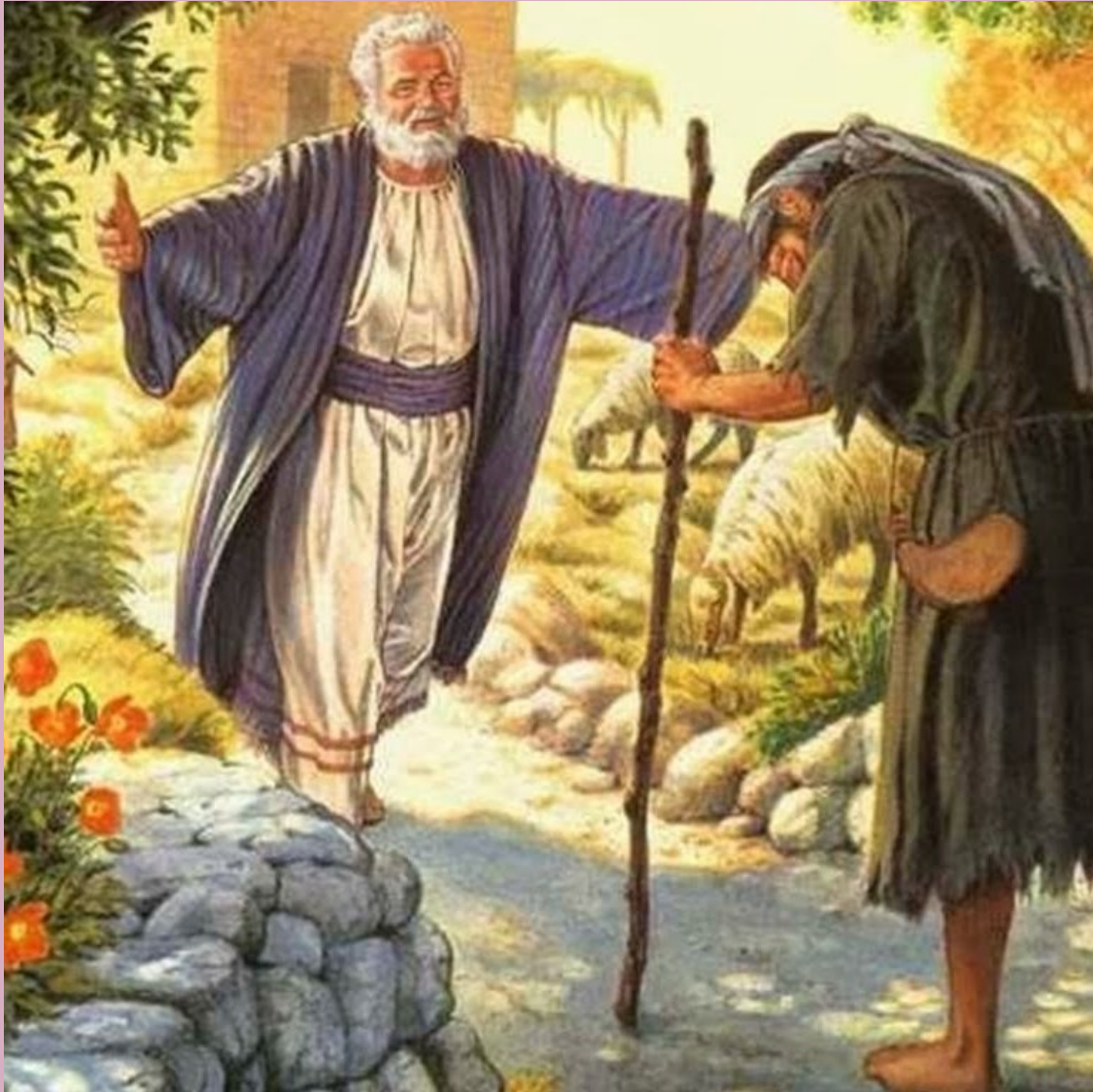


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 27, 2022



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**

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**



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



March 27, 2022
4th Sunday of Lent

God's love story reveals itself in our stories, experiences, and aspirations. We are all prodigal sons and daughters. There are many times in our lives when we would "sell our souls" in order to pursue our passions. We pursued what we wanted without regard for others or God. We have sowed our oats, thrown ourselves into careless pleasures, spent what we know we ought to have saved, turned our backs on those we love and abused gifts we have been given. We even hit bottom and realized the silliness and self-destruction of it all. We needed to come home. We knew we erred and needed a gentle presence to show us God's unconditional love. This wayward journey home changed us.

As much as we need to be welcomed, we are also the one who needs to do the welcoming and mercy giving. Those we love need our guidance, but they don't always take it. We know that what they are doing is off the mark, self-destructive and wrong. We have to let them go and let it happen, even though they might get hurt. As we wait and hope, they choose to make their way back to us. They don't need us to judge them. They have done enough of that to themselves. We immediately embrace them and are just happy they're home. God uses us to help heal them. Knowing how much we craved understanding and forgiveness ourselves, we can now freely give it away. God uses what he has taught us to teach others.

We are also the entitled ones. At least we "think" we are entitled. After all, we work hard for what we have. We cannot get our heads around the idea that someone can get something that I really deserve! If I do what I'm supposed to do, I ought to be rewarded for that, right? If I do something wrong, I ought to pay the consequences. This is justice, isn't it? This is not God's justice. God is all about love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. God's justice is love freely given without merit. We carry the stories of the prodigal son, the unconditional forgiving father, and the entitled angry brother with us. When we make friends with all three, humbly telling those stories to others makes us Christ's ambassadors.

Readings for the week of March 27, 2022

Sunday: Jos 5:9-12/Ps 34:2-7/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2-6, 11-13/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1, 12-22/Ps 34:17-23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

Sacrament of Baptism: Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation programs are hosted at Saint Luke's Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

Confirmation preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint Luke's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.6920).

Sacrament of Holy Orders: God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Scott Jabo, at 1.814.824.1181.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

Sacrament of the Sick: Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

Leave A Legacy: Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

Bulletin Information Deadline: Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

*Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity
Partners in Faith & Mission*

"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606 or Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

PROLIFE COMMUNITY

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

"PRAYER CANDLE" MAKING MINISTRY

This ministry makes prayer candles from the church's left over bee's wax. They meet on Wednesdays, from 10AM - Noon in St. Stanislaus Parish Hall. No experience necessary.

ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please Check: New Registration Change of Address Change of Telephone Number

Change of E-mail Moving out of Parish Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome

Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Mar. 28th - Private Intention
 Tues., Mar. 29th - James Bradley (Tom & Sharon Zielinski)
 Wed., Mar. 30th - Shirley, Seth, Jean, & Edward Kaliszewski (Family)
 Thurs., Mar. 31st - Scott Ciecierski (Kathy & Jack Ciecierski)
 Fri., April 1st - Frances Malinski (Bev Dombrowski)
 Sat., April 2nd, 4:00PM - Richard Niedzwiecki (Bobby Sulecki & Family)
 Sun., April 3rd, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **TOM KONKOL**, as gifted by Chris Tataro Sweeney.

IN MEMORIUM

A graveside committal service was held for Delphine Trambly this past Monday, March 21. Please keep her and her friends and family in your prayers.

THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY RAFFLE

The Women's Society is sponsoring an Easter Raffle for a chance to win one of two \$500 cash prizes that will be drawn on Sunday, April 10th. Donations for a ticket are only \$5 and can be purchased before and after Mass, or by calling the Parish Office at 814-452-6606. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

HOLY NAME SOCIETY LOTTERY RAFFLE

The Holy Name Society is, once again, sponsoring a lottery raffle for the month of April. Tickets are available in the sacristy, the Parish office (Monday-Friday, from 9AM-3PM), or from any members of the Holy Name Society. Thanks, in advance, for your support... and GOOD LUCK!

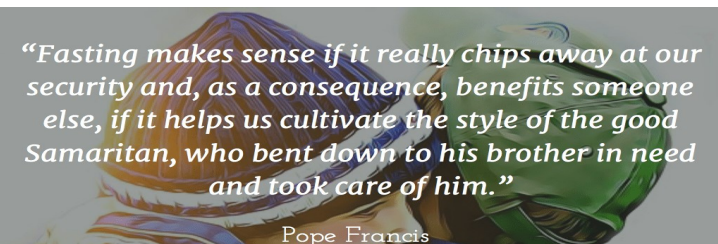
BAKE SALE

Thank you to all the men and women for making our second bake sale such a great success! We realized a profit of \$692.00!

Our next collection for baked goods will be taken up on Friday, April 1st, in advance of our next Fish & Pierogi Dinner. Our bakery has proven to be an extremely successful component to our dinner. The generosity of your time and talent is greatly appreciated.

MARRIAGE MOMENT

What does it mean to be blind? Some of us might be physically blind, but more often in marriage and life we may suffer from emotional blindness. We can't see the good in our spouse because we are consumed with proving ourselves right.



When a church is raising funds for a new building or a diocese is launching a stewardship appeal, there is usually someone — or several someone's — who serves as the face of the campaign. Maybe it's a married couple, or a family, or a group of folks who have been particularly active in the community and can speak to the worthiness of whatever endeavor is being undertaken. Oftentimes, for better or worse, we fill that role for God. We are the face on the front of His promotional brochure. If we call ourselves Christians, that means that people will meet Christ through us. That's what being an Everyday Steward is — a steward, everyday; someone who conducts his Master's business when the Master is not seen. It can be intimidating because we have so much baggage and no capabilities of our own. But then we remember that we are offered reconciliation through Christ — that "the old things have passed away, (and) new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We remember that we are the prodigal sons, and the fattened calf has been slaughtered on our behalf. But it's a role that requires commitment. The story of the prodigal son is only compelling and only means something because the son, presumably, embraced his reconciliation to his father. He didn't go on to abandon him again. So let us think to ourselves each day, "Whoever I encounter will meet Christ's ambassador. I was dead and have come to life again. How can I speak to the worthiness of that reconciliation? How can I make others desire it?"
 — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 20, 2022)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$157,928.00
Amount Received	\$1908.00	\$108,720.00
Net over/under	(\$2,248.00)	(\$49,208.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 43; 9:00AM = 56
 Envelopes: 57/168



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **TERESA HINEY** as gifted by her family and friends.



3/30 Kathryn Sebastian
3/31 Alexandra Jankowski

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Mar. 28th - Kulig, Laszczewski, and Habas Families
 Tues., Mar. 29th - All Living & Deceased Fathers
 Wed., Mar. 30th - Special Intention
 Thurs., Mar. 31st - All Living & Deceased Mothers
 Fri., April 1st - In Honor of the Sacred Heart
 Sat., April 2nd, 5:15PM - Christine Moles (Kempisty, Loeffler, and Ohmer Fam.)
 Sun., April 3rd, 10:30AM - The People of Holy Trinity Parish (Pro Populo)

For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not “measuring up” in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and rebirth. The Gospel Reading, the parable of the Prodigal Son, is filled with this theme of awakening and the extravagant, life-changing love that the Father has for each one of us. We are all familiar with this amazing story — the bratty younger son who has the audacity to ask his dad for his inheritance early, only to squander it sinfully away. It makes us bristle instinctively at his nerve when we read it. But isn’t that exactly what we do when we selfishly turn away from God (in big or small ways) in our own lives? We squander away the inheritance of grace He has given us. In desperation from the mess he had made of his life, the son finally “comes to his senses” — awakening to the truth that he is a beloved son of a loving and merciful father — and decides to return home. His contrition is faltering and imperfect and seems motivated in large part by his growling stomach. But it is enough for the loving father. In fact, as soon as the father catches sight of his son he is “filled with compassion for him” and immediately sets about preparing a feast and fine clothes for this son. What an extravagance of love! What a beautiful picture Jesus gives us of our Father’s love and mercy. Oh, how this should fill us with gratitude for such a Father! And how it should inspire us — with just the tiniest bit of spiritual “spring cleaning” we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father’s loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence. That is what lent is all about.

CONGRATULATIONS!

“Congratulations on being chosen as one of the Erie Reader’s 2021 Best of Erie Award winners [for Zabawa]. As your State Representative, I am proud to represent you... in Harrisburg. Thank you for your contributions to make Erie a vibrant city.”

- Robert Merski

“Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy”

- Pope Francis

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

We may feel like the Prodigal. The gospel wants us to focus on the father who was forgiving and understanding. We all make mistakes and need forgiveness. Who in your family needs your forgiveness and acceptance this Lent?

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR MARCH 20, 2022

Regular Offering: \$2,661.00 (24/131)

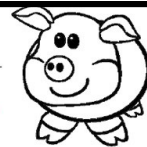
	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$105,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$85,711.00
Total Offertory:	\$1,661.00	\$92,022.00
Net (over/under):	\$296.00	\$6,311.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 34; 10:30AM = 70

The Parable of the Lost Son

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

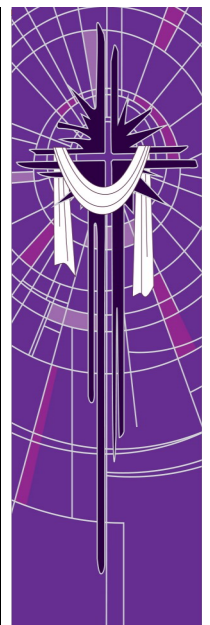
The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32 (NIV).



```

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

WEALTH	ESTATE	COUNTRY	PIGS	FOOD
COMPASSION	HIRED	FOUND	FEED	RING
CELEBRATE	STARVING	PROPERTY	FEAST	SONS
KISSED	FATHER	STOMACH	SPENT	LOST



“He was lost and has been found.”

- Luke 15:32

News for Our Partnership

FISH & PIEROGI DINNER

Please join the St. Stanislaus community on Friday, April 4th, as they host their Fish & Pierogi dinner from 4PM-7PM (or until sold out).

Thanks for supporting our Lenten dinners at both Holy Trinity and St. Stanislaus!

PENANCE SERVICE

St. Stan's will host a penance service next Sunday, April 3 at 2PM. Outside confessors will be available, as well. Let us come together as parish communities to ready ourself for our Easter season during these final days of Lent.

SSJ LENTEN COLLECTION

The Sisters of Saint Joseph minister to the youth of our area through tutoring programs and by helping them acquire and repair their bicycles. As part of our parishes' Lenten outreach, Parish Council is hosting a collection of school supplies and bicycle parts to be donated to the Sisters. Boxes will be placed in the rear of our churches to facilitate this collection. Thank you for your consideration.

PASSION TALK

Consider joining the Saint Joseph Parish community as Fr. Larry Richards presents a talk on the Passion of Jesus Christ. The talk will take place on Wednesday, April 13 at 7PM; Confession will be available afterward. The event is free and open to the public

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Consider joining us Sunday, March 27th, at 2PM for a traditional Lenten Tenebrae Service at St. Stanislaus. A Tenebrae Service is a blend of light, song, and scripture that focuses on the coming celebrations of Holy Week and the Passion of Jesus Christ.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We invite you to join us for Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, March 30rd, at St. Stanislaus at 5:30 PM. Consider incorporating this traditional Lenten devotional into your spiritual life.

RELIEF FOR UKRAINE

As announced at last weekend's Masses, Saint Stanislaus has collaborated with Representative Bob Merski to collect donations to be sent to Poland to assist them in managing the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Holy Trinity, Saint Hedwig's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Holy Trinity Club, and Gannon University, are also now part of our cooperative efforts. Donated items will be sent to the Archdiocese of Lublin. The Archdiocese is working on two fronts: one handling the refugees and one working on the front lines in Ukraine. To assist the refugees, the Archdiocese is collecting personal items such as toiletries, diapers, underwear, socks, etc. To assist in the war effort, the Archdiocese is collecting emergency items such as first aid kits, bandages, gauze, flashlights and batteries, antiseptics, etc. Food collection is limited to granola bars, energy drink powders, protein bars, etc. Foods needing preparation or non-necessary foods (e.g., soups, pastas, cookies, Hostess snacks, etc.) are not needed at the time. Financial donations will be accepted and will be either forwarded to Poland, or used to purchase needed items on your behalf, whichever the Archdiocese deems more necessary. This collection will continue until the end of March, at which time we will reassess the needs of the Archdiocese and communicate that information to you. Many thanks, in advance, for your prayerful solidarity with the people of Ukraine and for your tangible signs of Lenten Almsgiving.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES RELIEF SERVICES

As an outward sign of sharing our time, talents and treasure, Holy Trinity and St. Stanislaus Parishes will be holding collection drive this Lent.

In the last 6 months Catholic Relief Services, housed in the former school building at Saint Stanislaus, have helped to resettle 197 families. They are anticipating another 80 -100 families in the next coming months.

They are in need of the following:

- Dining tables and chairs, dressers, couches, bed frames
- Dish sets, drinking glasses, eating and cooking utensils
- Personal supplies such as sheet sets, blankets, towels

Boxes will be in the back of church beginning on the weekend of March 5-6, 2022 through March 19-20.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

3/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, & Suzanne Sundy; 3/29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak & Janis Leretsis; 3/30) Edie Luniewski; 3/31) Sr. Anita Benecki & Bobby Sulecki; 4/1) Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski & Mary Speice; 4/2) Patty Czulewicz; 4/3) Judy Tucceri & Jackie Vargo

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

3/28) Fr. Michael Ferrick; 3/29) Fr. Alex Amico; 3/30) Bishop Persico; 3/31) All in Consecrated Life; 4/1) Fr. David Whiteford; 4/2) Fr. John Jacquel; 4/3) Fr. Dennis Martin

Sunday, Mar 27, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

An investment worth making

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17- 21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
"Your brother... he was lost and has been found."

It's not uncommon to identify individuals, or groups of people, as unworthy of our time and attention. Sometimes Jesus was criticized for dining with the wrong people: prostitutes, tax collectors, and sinners. Jesus tells a story of a feast thrown for a "worthless" son to explain why he himself chooses to "waste" time on the undeserving. The lost need finding, and the dead need life restored. "Hospitality opens the gates of paradise," wrote Orthodox Elder Amphilochius of Patmos. Set another place at your table.

Monday, Mar 28, 2022

Tiny miracles

Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."

"Do you believe in miracles?" was a famous statement made by a sportscaster who was announcing an Olympic hockey game between the United States and Soviet teams in 1980 - the underdog Americans won. Catholics believe in miracles, of course. The church defines miracles as a "sign or wonder such as a healing, or control of nature, which can only be attributed to divine power." While we might not understand how or why miracles happen, we can be assured that the God of the universe is constantly involved in our little lives out of boundless love. What's a greater miracle than that?

Tuesday, Mar 29, 2022

A day for the Knights

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16

"Jesus said to him, 'Rise, take up your mat, and walk.'"

The Knights of Columbus organization for Catholic men turns 140 years old today. The organization originally got its U.S. start as a mutual aid society for poor immigrant families, particularly those that lost their main source of income whenever fathers died on the job. To this day, "whether at home or abroad, charity is our Order's first principle and the basis for all we do as brother Knights," says Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. The Knights run the National Shrine of Saint John Paul II in Washington, D.C. Visit the shrine virtually, via its 38-minute "A Gift of Love" Virtual Exhibit Tour.

Wednesday, Mar 30, 2022

Let it be a hopeful Lent

Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

"The hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life."

Our faith is one of hope. Often we concentrate on the sacrifices and commitments we make during Lent: abstaining from certain treats, attending daily Mass, giving alms generously. But we do this in the hope that Easter will come and Jesus will rise from the dead. Reflect on the spirit of hope that is at the root of your Lenten observance. Here are some words of inspiration from Pope Francis: "No matter where God has planted you, hope. Always hope. Believe in the existence of the most noble and beautiful truths and trust that God, through the Holy Spirit, is ushering everything toward the good, toward Christ's embrace."

Thursday, Mar 31, 2022

Rigor has a reason

Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

"How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God?"

We are now four weeks into Lent, at which point, disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving might not deliver much pious glow. The church developed the tradition of 40 days of Lent based on the 40 days Jesus was tempted in the desert prior to his public ministry. A six-week season of prayer, penance, and almsgiving is meant to instill in us awareness, humility, and love, but most of all, the realization of our utter dependence on God. As Saint Teresa of Ávila says, "Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices." Take a few moments to reflect on the ways God has sustained you.

Friday, Apr 01, 2022

LENTE WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Make the uncommon choice for the common good

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248). "Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, Reproaches us for transgressions of the law."

The "common good" is central to being Catholic. Defined at Vatican II, the common good is the "sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment" (Gaudium et Spes 26). It requires appreciation for the relational nature of human beings and an absolute respect for the dignity of all persons, including but never limited to our own self. It also means ruffling a feather or two as we stare rampant individualism in the face. The common good is always evolving, but our motivation in its pursuit never changes: love of neighbor as ourselves. Where will such love take you next?

Saturday, Apr 02, 2022

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF PAOLA

Small wonder

Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (249). "Never before has anyone spoken like this man."

Francis of Paola lived in a cave but he could see well beyond his confines. His vision for a community of "Minim" ("the least") inspired countless followers to join him in a life of service to the poor and forgotten. Talk about countercultural living! Such radical service requires a whole different set of priorities. For Francis it was a desire for holiness achieved through humility. Each of us can take some steps to "minimize" the excesses we might indulge in and join Francis in serving others in some small way. It's the least we can do!

