

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 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



February 27, 2022
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

What we say and how we say it reveals the true intentions of our hearts. The content and manner of our speech is a window into the recesses of our souls. Our consciences, attitudes, sentiments, weaknesses, and motives are displayed. As much as we think we can hide the truth of our lives from others, we cannot. Who we really are is not only expressed on our lips but is written on our faces. Jesus says precisely this, "For every tree is known by its own fruit." What does the fruit of our lives say about us?

Because we like to play the game of hide and seek with ourselves, in pretending that we are hiding we deflect attention others may give to us by becoming more critical of others. After all, the more time one can spend analyzing others' behavior the less time one has to look at his or herself. Often, the behaviors we abhor most in others are the very ones we are guilty of ourselves. We just don't know it yet. The more we put ourselves in the role of a judge, the more satisfaction and control we seem to achieve. Yet, what about ourselves? In focusing our attention on the beams in others' eyes, the aridity and barrenness of our lives goes unchecked. St. Ambrose reminds us that "no one heals himself by wounding another." Bringing our brothers and sisters down by being overly critical, serves no positive purpose.

But the one who knows how easy it is to fall into sin and weakness and how quickly errors in judgment can be made, knows the depth of true compassion, mercy, and kindness. Having recognized our own poor choices, misguided opinions, negative emotions, and ability to do horrendous things, we can be more sympathetic and understanding of where others may be. We are designed to be mentors and guides to one another. In walking the journey together, we can help each other become the best we can be. Humility is the order of the day and the primary virtue that prevents us from being hypocrites.

Readings for the week of February 27, 2022

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-16/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45
Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Ps 111:1-2, 5-10/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1-4/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6, 12-17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-15/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

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., Feb. 28th - Private Intention
 Tues., Mar. 1st - Linda Gambill Love (Paul & Renee Gambill)
 Wed., Mar. 2nd - For the People of St. Stanislaus
 Thurs., Mar. 3rd - Josephine & George Mielnik (Irene Mielnik)
 Fri., Mar. 4th - John Zielinski (Judy & Peter Pentz)
 Sat., Mar. 5th, 4:00PM - Richard Niedzwiecki (Mom & Family)
 Sun., Mar. 6th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **VICTORIA & JOSEPH BANISZEWSKI**, as gifted by Diane & Rich.



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!

LECTOR SCHEDULES AND WORKBOOKS

Lector schedules for Sundays through June 19th are available in the sacristy. If you would like to serve our parish as a lector, particularly on Saturday evenings, please let Fr. Jason know. Also, if you are a lector and have not yet received a workbook, those too are available in the sacristy.

BAKERS NEEDED

Once again, this year, we will be selling baked goods at our Fish & Pierogi Dinners. Please consider donating some baked goods. Donations can be dropped off on the Friday of the dinners, before 4PM. This is one of the biggest "money makers" of our Fish & Pierogi dinners, so all donations are much appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign-up sheets are available in the back of the church for anyone interested in volunteering their time to assist with serving our Lenten Fish & Pierogi dinners. Our first dinner will be hosted on Friday, March 4th from 4-7PM (or until we sell out). We truly appreciate all that our volunteers do for us!

PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Grocery delivery apps are all the rage these days, and I can't deny the convenience of tapping your finger a few times and seeing your week's shopping dropped on the doorstep. But there is one aspect of this trend that seems to make a lot of shoppers nervous — fruits and vegetables. A lot of us have strong opinions on our fresh produce and aren't ready to delegate this highly subjective selection process to a total stranger. My father was a produce manager and I remember as a child learning about the complexities of choosing correctly. Getting a bad bag of under ripe tomatoes after shopping on an app could easily sour one on the whole idea. Forrest Gump said life is like a box of chocolates. I say, we're all like grab-bags of produce dumped on someone's doorstep — but if we're Christians who live our faith publicly, we're stamped with the name of God. If your thumb is green enough, you know that you can tell a lot about a gardener from the produce he grows. We who are planted in the house of the Lord — what do we reveal about our Gardener? What do our actions show of His teachings? What do our words reflect of His voice? What does our strength reveal of the soil from which we sprang and the life-giving waters that nourished us? When we open ourselves up to those we encounter, let's make a special effort to show the care we have had — lest our peers come away from the experience thinking God doesn't know how to garden, when in reality, it's us who don't always know how to grow.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



WEEKLY OFFERING (FEBRUARY 20, 2022)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$141,304.00
Amount Received	\$1,456.00	\$93,715.00
Net over/under	(\$2,700.00)	(\$47,589.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 34; 9:00AM = 63
 Envelopes: 45/168



Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **DEACON TOM MATUSIAK**, as gifted by Pearl & Kathy.



3/02 Ken Brasington
3/04 Alexis LaZar

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Feb. 28th - Terry Hiney (Audrey Draskiewicz)
 Tues., Mar. 1st - Robert & Shirley Kempisty (Dan, Carrie & Lucas Loeffler)
 Wed., Mar. 2nd - For the People of Holy Trinity
 Thurs., Mar. 3rd - Lena Suizzo (Patty, Ed, & Anna Czulewicz)
 Fri., Mar. 4th - Kathyeen Benes (Bill & Corrine Dyakon)
 Sat., Mar. 5th, 5:15PM - Deacon Tom Matusiak (Pearl & Kathy)
 Sun., Mar. 6th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today Jesus tells us: "Why do you see the speck in someone else's eye but miss the log in your own eye?" It's always easier to try to change someone else than face the things in ourselves which need change. What a waste of time for we can't change anyone but ourselves.

SHOTS FIRED

You may have read in Tuesday's newspaper that shots were fired on Reed Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets. The incident occurred late Sunday afternoon and it was captured on our security cameras. A stray bullet did pierce one of our stain glass windows. The bullet was recovered by the police inside the church. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident. Plexiglass will temporarily be set in place. Our insurance company has been contacted and we are awaiting information regarding the next steps we need to take to have the window repaired.

The first reading from Sirach offers timeless counsel: "the fruit of a tree shows the care it has had: so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind. Praise no one before he speaks." Jesus uses the very same analogy in today's Gospel reading from Luke: "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit." Everything we have is a gift from God to be used for His honor and glory. This includes the gift of speech and, even more broadly, all forms of modern-day communication — email, text, Twitter, Facebook, and the rest. What comes forth from our mouths, or keyboard, or phone, reflects what is in our minds and hearts. Our ability to communicate with each other is itself a gift which we must steward well. In the same Gospel passage, Jesus reminds us, "No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher." The more time we spend with Jesus, our teacher, through regular prayer and a strong sacramental life, the more we will become like Him. Then all that we do and say (and tweet and post) will bring others to closer to Him. This is the life's work of the Christian steward. It is privileged work indeed.

MARRIAGE MOMENT

Although almost 50% of marriages end in divorce. If you have only been married once, fight the temptation to feel superior. Hard work, grace, and a little luck all go into the mix. The next few MMs will address the complicated challenges faced by couples in a second marriage. We can all learn from this.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Regular Offering: \$2,701.00 (30/131)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$93,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$76,251.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,701.00	\$81,816.00
Net (over/under):	\$336.00	\$5,565.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 42; 10:30AM = 49

ASH WEDNESDAY WORD SEARCH

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

ABSTAIN
ASHES
BLESS
CROSS

EASTER
FAST
FOREHEAD
LENT

REPENT
WEDNESDAY

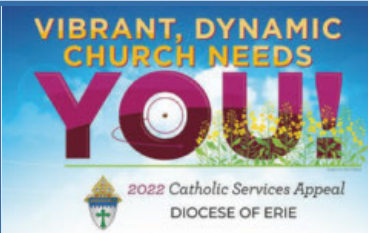


"Every tree is known by its own fruit."

- Luke 6:45

News for Our Partnership

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND: ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES
8:00AM - Saint Stanislaus
5:00PM - Holy Trinity



The 2022 Catholic Services Appeal will be held next weekend in our parishes. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the diocese to join

together in doing the work of the Gospel. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the church. The church serves each of us and our support is essential in continuing God's work in our area. Every CSA donation also brings us closer to being able to complete our own parish projects. No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can. Your generosity has enabled both parishes to accomplish A LOT of physical plant improvements over the past few years, and will continue to do so. The fact that both parishes have exceeded our CSA goals over the past three years is testimony of your selfless generosity! Many, many thanks!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: REFUGEE SERVICES

You may have noticed heightened activity in St. Stanislaus' former school building. In addition to renting our space to some local artists, Catholic Charities also rents space for their Refugee Services. In fact, this year they more than doubled the space they are renting! Catholic Charities provides for their refugee-clients basic furnishings and clothing, classes in the English language and "life skills" to assist them in adapting to our culture.

This is a vital ministry of Catholic Charities, and a fundamental component of our faith. The Book of Deuteronomy commands that we take special care of the widow, the orphan, and the alien, reminding us that our ancestors, too, were once foreigners in a land not their own (during their period of Egyptian slavery). Jesus' own life-witness is one of reaching out to the foreigner - like Naaman, the Syria leper, or the widow of Zaphath, or the Samaritan lepers - all foreigners to Israel.

Our parish council is exploring ways our community may more consciously support the ministry of Catholic Charities' Refugee Services. More information will follow...

2022 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Enjoy a dynamic experience with women from around the Diocese! The 7th annual women's conference will be held on Saturday, March 12, from 8:30AM-12:30PM, at Saint Jude Parish. You can also participate via Zoom. The conference features nationally known speakers and Mass with Bishop Persico. The cost is \$20. Register at www.138women.com. Or call 814-455-7364 with any questions.

Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity Partnered Parishes

LENTEN DINNERS

[Eat-In or Take-Out]



4:00 - 7:00 PM (or until sold out)

- ➔ **ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2nd at HOLY TRINITY**
- ➔ **FRIDAY, MARCH 4th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- ➔ **FRIDAY, MARCH 18th at SAINT STANISLAUS**
- ➔ **FRIDAY, MARCH 25th at HOLY TRINITY**
- ➔ **FRIDAY, APRIL 1st at SAINT STANISLAUS**

Saint Stanislaus
513 East 13th Street
Fish & Pierogi
\$15.00 for adults
\$6.00 for children 6-12
Free for children under 5

Holy Trinity
2220 Reed Street
Baked Fish, Pierogi, & Potato Pancakes
\$15.00 Platter
\$12.50 Dinner
\$7.00 Seafood Cabbage Rolls
\$5.00 for children under 12
Free for children under 5



At the entrances to our churches are two Lenten devotional booklets for your spiritual nourishment. The first is "A Time for Mending," and is available for a nominal contribution of \$1.25 (envelopes are available and can be placed in the collection basket). The second, "The Word Among Us," is complementary provided by our Breaking Bread publisher. Feel free to take advantage of these spiritual resources.

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

2/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, & Suzanne Sundy; 3/1) Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski, & Mary Speice;
3/2) Patty Czulewicz; 3/3) Judy Tucceri & Jackie Vargo; 3/4) Ed Czulewicz, & Eely & Ed Selleny;
3/5) Mary Ann Merski & Michelle Inter; 3/6) Msgr. Dan Magraw & Joan Oldenski

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

2/28) All in Consecrated Life; 3/1) Bishop Persico; 3/2) Msgr. Bob Smith; 3/3) Fr. Michael Kesicki; 3/4) Msgr. Richard Siefer; 3/5) Fr. Jim Gutting; 3/6) Fr. Zab Amar

Sunday, Feb 27, 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lord, that we may see

Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"

People of goodwill generally assume they're not complicit in racism or racist practices. That's because we describe racism as attitudes, words, and acts intended to harm or subordinate people whose origins are different from ours. However, racism involves omissions as well as actions: in what we fail to do or say to make equality tangible for everyone. Racism can also be institutionalized in laws, education, hiring practices, economic opportunities, zoning regulations, and voting restrictions. Racism operates best under the surface. As Pope Francis reminds us: Let none of us imagine that the conversion of hearts isn't meant for us.

Monday, Feb 28, 2022

Build it up

1 Peter 1:3-9; Mark 10:17-27

"All things are possible for God."

Ever wonder what the kingdom of God will be like? Well, look around, because you're already living in it. Not seeing all the love, peace, and justice you were promised? The kingdom of God began with Christ's death and Resurrection and will be brought into perfection by Christ at the end of time. Until then, it's our job as Christians to build the Kingdom up. Pray, discern what God is calling you to do, and act to make this world more harmonious and respectful of the dignity of others. And then of course, wait with hope.

Tuesday, Mar 01, 2022

Your Rx for Lent

1 Peter 1:10-16; Mark 10:28-31

"Do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance."

While many Christians focus on feasting today—ahead of tomorrow's fasting—it's also a good time to survey a smorgasbord of penitential spiritual practices, perfect for the upcoming Lenten season. Saint John Chrysostom identifies five in one of his homilies: "I have shown you five paths of repentance: acknowledgement of your own sins, forgiveness of our neighbor's sins against us, prayer, almsgiving, and humility." Sounding more like a doctor than one of the doctors of the church, he concludes: "Now that we have learned how to heal our wounds, let us apply the cures." How will you fill your prescription?

Wednesday, Mar 02, 2022

ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Add another step to your Lenten journey

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

"And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

Ash Wednesday is full of rituals and traditions of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. But it includes an extra step. As Pope Francis puts it, it is a time "to find concrete ways to overcome our indifference." So in addition to your regular Lenten practices, try to care more deeply about the suffering and disaffected in your community. Volunteer at your parish, a local charity, or for a social cause. Or simply go for a walk and reflect on how Jesus is present in those you encounter along the way.

Thursday, Mar 03, 2022

MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Exceed expectations

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

"What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"

Katharine Drexel was a wealthy heiress in late 19th-century Philadelphia. She rocked that world one day: "Miss Drexel Enters a Catholic Convent—Gives Up Seven Million," the Philadelphia Public Ledger announced when she decided not to simply become a nun but to found her own religious order. Head of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, she used her family fortune to found the nation's only Catholic university for African Americans (Xavier University in New Orleans), schools for Native Americans, and more. Are you, too, being called by God to do something unexpected?

Friday, Mar 04, 2022

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

A cleansing fast

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish."

A couple years ago, two young white women decided that they needed to more closely align their spiritual practices of Lent with their commitment to being anti-racist. They chose, as they wrote in *Sojourners* magazine, to try fasting from media that lacked a diversity of voices and to spend Lent engaged with books, films, and podcasts written or directed by women of color. Their goal was to take a step toward repentance, which is one of the hallmarks of Lent. To repent is to turn away from sin, including the sin of racism. What Lenten practice of prayer, fasting, or almsgiving might you contribute toward being more intercultural and helping end racism?

Saturday, Mar 05, 2022

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Tax forgiveness

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

"Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, 'Follow me.'"

Tax collectors in Jesus' time were particularly despised. The Roman occupiers auctioned off the right to collect taxes to the highest bidders, who then aggressively collected taxes from their neighbors in order to turn a profit on their "investment." When Jesus calls Levi the tax collector to follow him and attends a celebration with Levi's tax-collecting cohorts, the shock among the Jewish leaders is evident. But Levi became Matthew, the evangelist, and wrote a vivid account of the Good News. Jesus sees beyond the worst in us and brings out the best. Follow his lead.



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