

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 6, 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 6, 2022
1st Sunday of Lent

One of the greatest temptations human beings face is leaving the truth of who they are, where they came from and who created them in pursuit of more personal satisfactions. When we consider all that desires our attention in a given day, there are many lures that attract us to illusions about ourselves. We can easily find ourselves distracted or tired, preoccupied with preserving our status in life, social relationships, current trends, and corporate demands, and intrigued by pursuing what we perceive to be the “path of least resistance.” The daily concerns of life can quickly take our eyes off of our truth, making the empty promises of worldly accomplishments and ideologies seem so attractive. What is at risk in giving into this temptation?

We cease giving thanks to and worshipping our Creator as we pursue our own self-sufficiency, power, and prestige. We replace the true God with a “pet” one. While many do not totally dismiss the idea of God and pretend to remain at least remotely connected, they do not invest themselves heart, mind, and soul in the relationship either. That is why we are so easily swayed. If something attractive comes along, we lunge for it. After all, having a position above and over everyone else is a good thing, isn't it? In more honest moments, many have to admit that they believe this to be true. The Evil One is very convincing. But he can only gain control if we allow him to.

About temptation, St. Basil remarks, “As the pilot of a vessel is tried in the storm, as the wrestler is tried in the ring, the soldier in the battle and the hero in adversity, so is the Christian tried in temptation.” And here is found the reason for Lent. It is a wonderful opportunity to get a handle on the attractive lures of illusion that easily captivate us and bring us off track. It is also a time for some honest reflection rooted in prayer, fasting, and selfless giving that can bring us to temptation's remedy: love. Love of his Father gave Jesus resistance. It can do the same for us.

Readings for the week of March 6, 2022

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-15/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2-3, 7-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-14/Phil 3:17-4:1/Lk 9:28-36

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. 7th - Private Intention
 Tues., Mar. 8th - Stanley Widomski (Bernie & Barbara Tuszynski)
 Wed., Mar. 9th - Sophia & Francis Stankavich (Family)
 Thurs., Mar. 10th - Gabriella Wlodarczyk (Family)
 Fri., Mar. 11th - Sue Ruffley (Tom & Sharon Zielinski)
 Sat., Mar. 12th, 4:00PM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)
 Sun., Mar. 13th, 9:00AM - Adolf & Irene Kosobucki



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **KATHERINE & ALOYSIUS KUJAWINSKI**, as gifted by Nancy & Art Kujawinski.

LENT 2022

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!

CATHOLIC SISTER'S WEEK

This coming week, the Church acknowledges the contributions made by religious sisters to the life and ministry of the Church. Here, at Saint Stanislaus, we gratefully celebrate the life and ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Thank you for spreading the Gospel through your witness and faithfulness!

BAKERS NEEDED

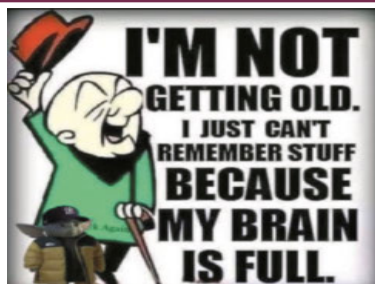
Once again, this year, we will be selling baked goods at our Fish & Pierogi Dinners. Please consider donating some baked goods. Donations can be dropped off on the Friday of the dinners, before 4PM. This is one of the biggest "money makers" of our Fish & Pierogi dinners, so all donations are much appreciated.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Jesus "was led by the Spirit in the wilderness." What is the wilderness in your life to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps there are uncharted areas in your marriage or family relationships. Spend this Lent in your "wilderness" with God work. Where is the Spirit leading you this Lent?

Lent calls us into deeper everyday stewardship because it beautifully creates opportunities to be mindful of the call of Christ in even the most mundane moments of our day. Many of us will participate in the time-honored tradition of doing penance, or "giving something up" for Lent. When we do this, we are mimicking the Israelites who filled their baskets with the first fruits of their harvest, "and having set them before the Lord, your God, (bowing) down in his presence" (Deuteronomy 26:10). What are we going to bring before the Lord this Lent? What are our first fruits? If you're struggling with ideas for how to "fill your basket," it can help to come at the problem from the opposite side. Take a look at the six characteristics of Everyday Stewardship and think about the moments in your day when you fail to fulfill the virtues to which they call you. What is keeping you from being mindful of the call of Christ throughout your day? I promise you, if you listen, you'll hear it more than once. What is keeping you from being prayerful? When you have set your first fruits before the Lord, what keeps you from bowing down in His presence to finish the offering? What keeps you from being grateful — especially of the small things that so often go unnoticed? What keeps you from being gracious, from leaving people smiling as they walk away? What keeps you from being committed and accountable? Where do your excuses come from and what makes you indulge them?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



WEEKLY OFFERING (FEBRUARY 27, 2022)

| | This Week | July 1 to date |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Amount we need | \$4,156.00 | \$145,460.00 |
| Amount Received | \$3,460.00 | \$97,175.00 |
| Net over/under | (\$696.00) | (\$48,285.00) |

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 46; 9:00AM = 62
 Envelopes: 70/168



Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **SISTER MARY ANTONIA SIKORSKI**, as gifted by Jack & Sandy Kempisty.



3/11 - Julie Kaminski & Sandy Kempisty
3/13 - Ed Korytowski & Kerry Sebastian

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Mar. 7th - Living & Deceased Fathers
Tues., Mar. 8th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)
Wed., Mar. 9th - Msgr. Richard Stack
Thurs., Mar. 10th - Nancy Slubowski (Mary Beth Fiorelli)
Fri., Mar. 11th - Loretta Lipinski (Judith Wagner)
Sat., Mar. 12th, 5:15PM - Deacon Tom Matusiak (Jack & Sandy Kempisty)
Sun., Mar. 13th, 10:30AM - Members of Polish Falcons #123

And so, it begins — the holy and, for some, daunting, season of Lent. This is the season in our liturgical year when the Church encourages us to increase our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to help us enter more deeply into the mystery of our Lord’s Passion and Death and to celebrate more fully His Resurrection. Jesus, by His own example in today’s Gospel, demonstrates the necessity of setting aside a period devoted especially to prayer and fasting as a means of strengthening our spiritual muscles. Just before the launch of His public ministry, He is “led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.” In imitation of Jesus, we should ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into the desert, too — the desert of our interior lives where our thoughts and desires reside. While our Lord was strong enough to withstand the temptations of the devil on His own, we most certainly are not! We must turn to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show us where we need to grow, and then rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance throughout these 40 days of growth. Perhaps we will be led to take on a spiritual reading program, or a daily time of meditation on the Scriptures. Maybe we’ll be inspired to fast from our favorite food or social media fix and find a project that serves the poor in this community. If these spiritual exercises hurt a little, that means we are doing them right! At the end of this season, we will be prepared to enter into the grace-filled days of the Triduum and we will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, be resurrected as a new creation with our Lord come Easter. Let us begin!

COMMUNION BREAKFAST

The Holy Trinity Ushers will resume their annual Communion breakfast following the 10:30 Mass, Sunday, March 20th. Guest speaker is Father Christopher Singer, who is the Chancellor of the Diocese, Master of Ceremonies for the Bishop, and Spiritual Director for Seminarians at St. Mark’s. A free will offering basket will be passed to defray costs. All Covid safety measures will be followed by the ushers in their food service.

CATHOLIC SISTER’S WEEK

This coming week, the Church acknowledges the contributions made by religious sisters to the life and ministry of the Church. Here, at Holy Trinity, we gratefully celebrate the life and ministry of the Felician Sisters from both Pittsburgh and Buffalo area. Thank you for spreading the Gospel through your witness and faithfulness!

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2022

Regular Offering: \$2,411.00 (32/131)


| | THIS WEEK | JULY 1 TO DATE |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Dream Goal: | \$3,000.00 | \$96,000.00 |
| Budgeted: | \$2,365.00 | \$78,616.00 |
| Total Offertory: | \$2,411.00 | \$84,273.00 |
| Net (over/under): | \$46.00 | \$5,657.00 |

Attendance: 5:15PM = 46; 10:30AM = 51

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).



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| 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 |
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|---------|--------|----------|-----------|---------|
| SPIRIT | DEVIL | DAYS | JORDAN | STONE |
| HOLY | LIVE | ANGELS | AUTHORITY | WORSHIP |
| DESERT | TEMPLE | COMMAND | BREAD | WORLD |
| TEMPTED | FORTY | KINGDOMS | JERUSALEM | HUNGRY |

“Man does not live on bread alone...”

- Luke 4:4

News for Our Partnership

VIBRANT, DYNAMIC CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

2022 Catholic Services Appeal
DIOCESE OF ERIE

2022 CSA PRAYER

God, loving Father, You sent Your Son to be the light in the darkness and the hope of all people. In Your every act of creation we see Your

love for us. Strengthen us for our role in the work of proclaiming the Gospel. Open our hearts to listen to the needs of our brothers and sisters. Give us joyful spirits that invite others to be drawn into relationship with You. Help us to be steadfast in times of discouragement and rejoice in times of blessing.

Lead us to be vibrant in our support of the mission of Your church, continuing to reveal the dynamic life You offer through Your sacraments of belonging, healing, forgiving, blessing, and sending. Allow us to be aware of Your Presence that we will remember You are always with us. Remind us always that what we do for the least of our sisters and brothers, we do for You. May we serve You in all things, through all things and above all things.
Through Christ our Lord.

APPRECIATION FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. You have joined together with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Erie to share of your blessings to help advance the mission of the church. We are grateful. If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late. Just drop your CSA envelope marked 'CSA' in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. Your generosity is appreciated.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

... to St James' Pack 37 Cub Scouts Sammy Otto (Holy Trinity) and Jonny Wildfire (St. Stan's) on achieving their Arrow of Light awards on March 13, 2022. Both are planning on continuing on in Scouting with St James Troop 37.



****BINGO****

All CASH prizes!!!

* Instants * 50/50 Game

Sunday, March 13th

Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3rd St.

1:00pm, Doors Open at Noon

\$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each add'l pk.

Kitchen food available

Call 814-456-5300 to reserve your seat!

All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity PCEP program.

Next game will be May 1st.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES RELIEF SERVICES

As an outward sign of sharing our time, talents and treasure the parishes of 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

3/7) Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky; 3/8) Steve Rimpa, & Stephanie & Bill Wycech;
3/9) Marcia Nitzczynski & Rose Marie Radomski; 3/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker;
3/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski; 3/12) Edie Luniewski & Debbie Oldenski

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

3/7) Msgr. Dan Magraw; 3/8) Fr. Marc Stockton; 3/9) Fr. Ray Hahn; 3/10) Fr. Bob Manning;
3/11) Fr. Bill O'Brien; 3/12) Fr Bill Barron

Sunday, Mar 06, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Dig a little deeper this Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

"[Jesus] was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil."

If practicing our religion is easy, we're not practicing our religion. This is one valuable lesson we glean from the time Jesus spends in the desert. Challenges to spiritual discipline are many: the desire for creature comforts, the hunger to be admired, the quest for control. Engaging this 40-day exercise each year strengthens the will and purifies the heart. It enables us to prepare for the real temptations that life offers. Is my prayer vital? Have I grown self-indulgent? Is my hand open to others? Our Lenten practice should be a response to those probing questions.

Monday, Mar 07, 2022

MEMORIAL OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS

My peace I leave you

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

"When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?"

Saints Perpetua and Felicity shared an intense intimate bond. These two North African women were young new mothers imprisoned together by the Roman Empire for being Christians. Perpetua was a noblewoman and Felicity was her enslaved servant - but their unequal relationship was upended by their new faith, in which Saint Paul said there is "neither slave nor free." The two held each other in the moments before their grisly public executions in an amphitheater and gave each other the kiss of peace before dying. Love has power over hate.

Tuesday, Mar 08, 2022

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS

Give your life in noble pursuit

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

"So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will."

The Order of Brothers Hospitallers honors the work of Saint John of God, who was born and died on this day. John's tumultuous path - as orphan, then soldier, then suffering from mental illness - eventually led to a humble spiritual life of tending the sick and dying poor. John succumbed to pneumonia after rescuing a drowning man. The order consoles the world's sick and poor but also, officially, oversees medical care of the pope. Remember the sick and dying today - and all who comfort them.

Wednesday, Mar 09, 2022

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS

Let your legacy be one for the ages

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

"My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn."

We celebrate the feast of Saint Frances of Rome. Her renown as a servant of the poor was so great that centuries after her death, she became an inspiration for the first community of black nuns in America: Baltimore's Oblate Sisters of Providence, founded in 1829 by Servant of God Mary Lange. Dedicated to teaching black children during slavery, the Oblates named their flagship school in the Italian noblewoman's honor, and St. Frances Academy is today the oldest continually operating black Catholic school in the nation. Like those holy sisters, let's model the charism of Saint Frances this day and always.

Thursday, Mar 10, 2022

Let faith lead you to freedom

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

"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Today is the death date of abolitionist Harriet Tubman (1820-1913), whose life embodied Christian liberation. A deeply religious woman, Tubman risked her life repeatedly to lead enslaved men and women to freedom, relying on a deep bond with God for strength during these dangerous missions. Today, many people suffer injustice and lack of freedom. Whether it be a phone call to a legislator or an act of solidarity with an exploited group, take one step today that honors the tradition of Harriet Tubman.

Friday, Mar 11, 2022

DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Second chances are a first principle

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

"If the wicked man turns away from all the sins he committed... none of the crimes he committed shall be remembered against him."

The good news of God's forgiveness is the most confounding of Christian teachings. For those who rarely turn away from God in sin, it seems unjust that God's mercy is indiscriminate, and for those who have turned away time and again and finally come to terms with their sinfulness, it seems impossible that God's mercy is at hand. As Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B. says, "Perhaps forgiveness is the last thing mentioned in the Creed because it is the last thing learned in life." Lent is our annual crash course in the practice of forgiving - ourselves and others.

Saturday, Mar 12, 2022

To those to whom much is given...

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

"Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!"

Jewish diarist Anne Frank, whose death is observed today, once wrote: "Why can't people who have more than they need for themselves give that surplus to their fellow citizens?" In most societies, alas, gaining wealth seems more the point than giving it away. But during Lent, Catholics customarily practice almsgiving, the tradition of sharing our wealth with those in need. Remembering that "charity covers a multitude of sins" (1 Pet. 4:8), what better time than Lent to send some of our money to our diocesan Catholic Charities or Catholic Relief Services?

A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

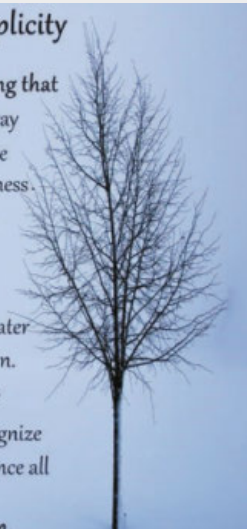
Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness.

Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and stronger compassion.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

In your sacred name, I pray. Amen.



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