

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 20, 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 20, 2022
3rd Sunday of Lent

Deserts can be lonely, isolated, and treacherous places. When a person wanders in a desert, they can easily get disoriented, dehydrated, confused, lost, and vulnerable. Temptation is at its peak, especially when confronted with something that may offer some respite or relief, even a mirage. Deserts can bring us to our weakest moment and tempt our faith. The Christian journey can be described as a desert experience as we vacillate back and forth, falling victim to the mirages of our lives versus the true, life-giving water offered by God. We need a burning bush experience in our lives that convinces us of the power of God and reveals Him as the "I am" of all existence.

Moses was leading his flock across the desert when he found himself at Mount Horeb. Mountains give us a fuller perspective of life, a panoramic view of what would otherwise be hidden from the limitations of our sight. That's when Moses met God. We have to find our way to a mountain experience where our vantage point can take on a wider view of life. Many things can do this for us: the birth of a child, the death of someone we love, the joy that comes from marveling at the beauty of God's work, the pondering of life's mysteries, and the ache of longing found deep within our souls. There are many things in life that can wake us up, give us a clearer, better view of things and become occasions where a bush may burn and God's presence as the eternal uncreated One is revealed.

God is very patient and gives us the time and space we need to figure things out and bear some good fruit. He doesn't rush to cut us down or get frustrated with our barrenness. But we have to remember that the desert journeys of our lives come with some risks. The major risk is that we will mistakenly believe that the mirages are real. Thus, we fall victim to thinking that the respite and refreshment we seek is discovered in a place other than where it actually is. Our faith and the life of the Church are the safeguards we need to keep us properly orientated so that we don't get lost or confused and stay on course.

Readings for the week of March 20, 2022

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8, 13-15/Ps 103:1-11/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 [3rd Lent]

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25: 4-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-9/Lk 11:14-23 [St. Oscar Romero]

Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 [The Annunciation]

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: Jos 5:9-12/Ps 34:2-7/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 [4th Lent]

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

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

Confirmation preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint 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. 21st - Private Intention
 Tues., Mar. 22nd - Albert "Mickey" Mabie (Rose Niedzwicki)
 Wed., Mar. 23rd - Jolae Ropiecki (Jerome)
 Thurs., Mar. 24th - Mary Ann Schneider (Family)
 Fri., Mar. 25th - John Oldenski (Ray Przybyszewski & Family)
 Sat., Mar. 26th, 4:00PM - Cackowski Family (Charlie & Charlene)
 Sun., Mar. 27th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **ANNE & STANLEY PRZEPIERSKI**, as gifted by the Family.

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!

NEXT BAKERY SALE

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Johnny Wildfire, who recently earned the Boy Scout's Catholic religious award, the *Parvuli Dei* ("Children of God"). Thank you for your service at our altar, and congratulations on your honors!

STOKING THE LENTEN FIRE

I think we all can acknowledge that there's a certain fatigue that comes over us all as we near the end of the Lenten season. Next week is Laetare Sunday, and I find that as soon as those pink vestments start coming out of storage, our collective motivation begins to wane. I get that. Maybe you're fatigued — I am, too. Maybe you're doing well in your resolutions and devotions but you're in danger of coasting. Or maybe, like many of us this year or in past years, you don't feel that you have even really begun your Lenten journey. Either way, chances are that the fire that was in your belly on Ash Wednesday is burning a bit low. All fires eventually do, once they consume whatever fuels them. So here we would do well to remember what fuels our Lenten fire. Sometimes we make resolutions that have the appearance of being spiritual, but also have an earthly motive. We give up chocolate hoping to lose weight. We stop gossiping so our friends may like us more. There is nothing wrong with these sacrifices — just with their motivations. As Moses removes his sandals to approach the burning bush, he sees that the fire burns brightly, strongly — but does not consume. It is propelled by something inexhaustible, something which is not of this world. Is your Lenten fire fueled by God? Are you daily surrendering yourself to the same voice that boomed from the bush in Genesis — the voice that commanded the Israelites to do what seemed like the impossible?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 13, 2022)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$153,772.00
Amount Received	\$5,672.00	\$106,812.00
Net over/under	\$1,516.00	(\$46,960.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 39; 9:00AM = 53
 Envelopes: 77/168



MARRIAGE MOMENT

On the Spring Equinox of March 20, nature reminds us of the equality between light and darkness. During these modern days when equality of the sexes is emphasized, reflect on how each of you contribute equally to your married life. Remember: Equality is more than sameness.

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in honor of **THE HOLY TRINITY USHERS SOCIETY** and their living and deceased members.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Mar. 21st - Bishop Donald Trautman
 Tues., Mar. 22nd - All Living & Deceased Fathers
 Wed., Mar. 23rd - Special Intention
 Thurs., Mar. 24th - Msgr. John Daniszewski (Estate)
 Fri., Mar. 25th - Kathy Benes (Family)
 Sat., Mar. 26th, 5:15PM - The People of Holy Trinity Parish (Pro Populo)
 Sun., Mar. 27th, 10:30AM - Nancy Slubowski (Gail & Thomas Blaszczyk)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

3/20 - Bill Downing & Dave Thiemann
 3/21 - David Malinowski
 3/23 - Patrick Rawa
 3/25 - Bridget Brieger
 3/26 - Audrey Dubowski & Dee Madura
 3/27 - Jim Rzomp

IN MEMORIUM

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 8th for Gertrude Menosky. Please keep her and her family and loved ones in your prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord..."

Today's Gospel passage reminds us that life is precious and the gift of time on this earth is just that — a gift. None of us knows how much time will be granted to us, so we must use this gift intentionally to glorify God and serve our neighbor. Jesus offers the parable of the fig tree to further illustrate this truth. The owner of the orchard came searching for fruit on a fig tree he had planted in his orchard. Finding no fruit on the tree after three years, he told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener intercedes and asks for one more year to cultivate and fertilize the tree in hopes it would bear fruit in the future. The fig tree was not dying; it simply wasn't doing much of anything at all. Can this be said of us and our lives as well? The season of Lent is a time to carefully reflect on the way we spend our time. Do we make God our first priority, tending to our spiritual growth and sacramental life with diligence? Do we give the next priority to our loved ones, focusing intentionally on them each day without distractions from phones, screens, or thoughts of work? If not, now is the moment to repent of our waste of time or of misplaced priorities on our use of time. God is merciful but just. Let's turn to Him and ask Him to make our lives fruitful while we still have time to do so.

COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Today, the Holy Trinity Ushers will have their annual Communion breakfast following the 10:30 Mass. Guest speaker is Father Christopher Singer, who is the Chancellor of the Diocese and Master of Ceremonies for the Bishop, and Spiritual Director for Seminarians at St. Marks. There is no specific cost for the breakfast a free will offering bag will be passed to defray costs.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The owner of the fig tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families there are those who don't live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time and help. Don't cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.

WEEKLY OFFERING FOR MARCH 13, 2022

Regular Offering: \$2,087.00 (28/131)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$102,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$83,346.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,087.00	\$89,361.00
Net (over/under):	(\$278.00)	\$6,015.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 38; 10:30AM = 74

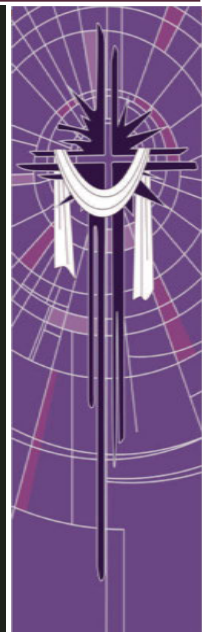
Living a Fruitful Life

"'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'" Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)
 Based on Luke 13:1-9



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

LEAVE TOLD YEARS	PARABLE MAN TREE USE	FRUIT SOIL DIG PLANTED	LOOK FERTILIZE FIND CUT	THREE FIG DOWN ALONE
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"Thus am I to be remembered through all generations."

News for Our Partnership



St. Oscar Romero | March 24
When St. Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, his country was in chaos. Many people in El Salvador were living in poverty, while a smaller elite group controlled all political and economic power. In 1980, El Salvador broke out in a 12-year civil war that left over 75,000 people dead. St. Oscar Romero set up pastoral programs to assist the victims of oppression. He also became an outspoken advocate for human rights, appealing to the Salvadoran military to stop killing their own citizens. On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was murdered while celebrating Mass in El Salvador. A car pulled up outside, and a gunman fired a single shot straight into St. Oscar Romero's heart. Calling him a "a martyr for the faith" nearly 40 years later, Pope Francis canonized him in 2018. For the occasion, Pope Francis chose to wear the same blood-stained belt that Romero was wearing at the altar when he died.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We invite you to join us for Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, March 23rd, at Holy Trinity at 5:30 PM. Consider incorporating this traditional Lenten devotional into your spiritual life.

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Consider joining us next 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.

FISH & PIEROGI DINNER

Please join the Holy Trinity community on Friday, March 25th, as they host their Fish & Pierogi dinner from 4PM-7PM (or until sold out). Dinner platter = \$15.00; Dinner = \$12.50; Seafood Cabbage Rolls = \$7.00; Children under 12 = \$5.00; Children under 5 = Free.

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

3/20) Ed Korytowski; 3/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 3/22) Kathy Wisniewski; 3/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman; 3/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic; 3/25) Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman; 3/26) Patricia Straub & John Kleiner; 3/27) Sr. Maxine Kaminski & Regina Jaworski

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

3/20) Msgr. Ed Lohse; 3/21) Msgr. David Rubino; 3/22) Msgr. Henry Krebs; 3/23) Fr. Philip Billotte; 3/24) Fr. Phil Oriole; 3/25) Fr. Scott Detisch; 3/26) Fr. Tom Brown

Sunday, Mar 20, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Something to smile about

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

“God called out to him... ‘Moses! Moses!’ He answered, ‘Here I am.’”

The International Day of Happiness celebrated today isn't about wearing a smiley face. This U.N.-sponsored observance has concrete aims: to end poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the planet. Certainly that would bring happiness, but how do we attain such lofty goals? Consider 19-year-old Catherine Spaulding (1793-1853), who led six women in the forming of the Sisters of Nazareth in Kentucky. Ready or not, Catherine ran a school, orphanage, and nursed the sick during epidemics. Neither age nor inexperience deterred her sisters from answering the needs of their society. Answer this generation's call and discover a reason to smile.

Monday, Mar 21, 2022

Commit to a better world

2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Luke 4:24-30

“When the people... heard this, they were all filled with fury.”

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed today, the anniversary of police in South Africa killing 69 people at a demonstration against apartheid in 1960. All these decades later, the violence of racial discrimination continues. The catechism instructs Catholics that racism “must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design.” No matter your age, make a commitment this Lent to help put a stop to racism once and for all.

Tuesday, Mar 22, 2022

Let living waters flow

Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35

“Deliver us by your wonders, and bring glory to your name, O Lord.”

It's World Water Day. This U.N. observance shines a light not only on the critical importance of a clean and adequate water supply, but also how it's endangered. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis identifies no less than five serious threats to our planet's water supply, some impacting our world right now, particularly among the poor. Visit the website of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns for ways you can help.

Wednesday, Mar 23, 2022

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

Time is of the essence

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19

“Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.”

Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo was a defender of the voiceless. A Spanish missionary to Peru who became archbishop of Lima, he defended the rights of the indigenous people who suffered terribly during Spanish colonization. His favorite saying was, “Time is not our own and we must give a strict account of it.” Many times, it can be easy to overlook those who are voiceless, to pass them on the street without a second thought. But as Saint Turibius taught, our time on Earth is limited, and we should spend it on the things that matter and can make a difference. Today, notice those around you who may not have a voice and reflect on how you can help them to be heard. Take a step toward doing so.

Thursday, Mar 24, 2022

Live your truth

Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23

“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”

Truth-telling is a central tenet of Judeo-Christian ethics. Today is World Day for Truth Concerning Human Rights, a focus that is essential because the loss of human rights is often built on lies stripping a group of people of their God-given dignity. Like so many Christian virtues, truth and honesty in the social sphere begin in small ways, with individuals living lives of personal integrity and then expecting the same of their leaders. As Saint Augustine says, “The greatest kindness one can render to any person is leading him to truth.”

Friday, Mar 25, 2022

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD; NO ABSTINENCE REQUIRED

Pregnant with possibilities

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.”

Mary's pregnancy seems to get the fast track: Annunciation, Visitation, and then boom, it's Christmas. But the Solemnity of the Annunciation is exactly nine months before Christmas, honoring the natural process of pregnancy. There are not many visibly pregnant Marys in Catholic iconography, but a few stand out. In the Americas, there's *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*, with Mary wearing a black sash customary for pregnant indigenous women. In Europe, you'll find *Madonna del Parto*, often depicted with a book on her belly, an illusion to the Word of God embodied in her womb. These images have been open to many interpretations from the truth of the Incarnation to the important role of women in salvation history. What do the images of Mother Mary inspire in you?

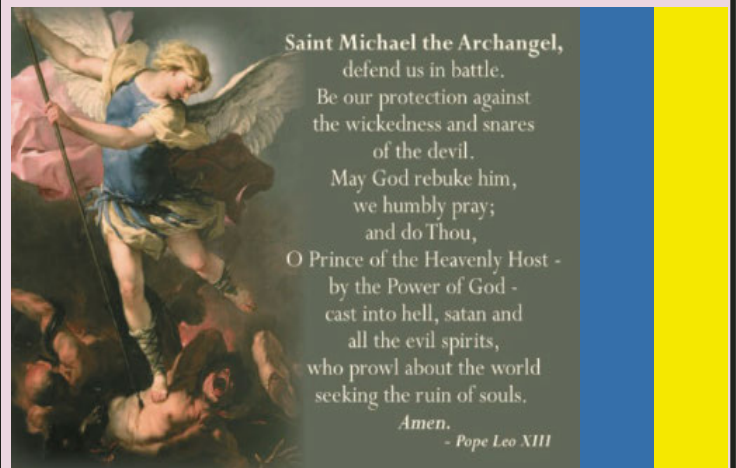
Saturday, Mar 26, 2022

The heart of mercy

Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

We hear a lot about sacrifice during Lent. Not so much about mercy. Yet as the Lord reminds us in today's responsorial psalm (51), “It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.” In a sense, mercy requires its own “giving up” activity. Giving up on getting our way, on keeping score, on getting even. Saint Thomas Aquinas defined mercy as the “compassion in our hearts.” Let mercy, the love beating within, be your Lenten offering.



Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our protection against
the wickedness and snares
of the devil.

May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray;
and do Thou,

O Prince of the Heavenly Host -
by the Power of God -
cast into hell, satan and
all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

- Pope Leo XIII

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