



# CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

FAITH · FAMILY · FRIENDSHIP

March 30, 2025 ♦ Fourth Sunday of Lent

## MISSION STATEMENT:

We are called together in fellowship to witness to our Catholic faith through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments. We give testimony to Jesus Christ by reaching out with compassion to others.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

P.O. Box 201 · 18380 Columbus St  
Dayton, MN 55327  
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Fax: 763.428.6462  
Email: [sjbchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:sjbchurch@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.sjbdayton.org](http://www.sjbdayton.org)

## PARISH STAFF:

Pastor:

Fr. John Powers  
[powersj@archspm.org](mailto:powersj@archspm.org)

Business Manager:

Patti Fodstad-Bouley

Director of Faith Formation and  
Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Moylan  
[sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com)

Music Director:

Sharon Williams

Cemetery Manager:

Steve Bebeau

## TRUSTEES:

Lynn Eggert

Russ Ray

## PARISH COUNCIL:

Adam Benney

Clark Grotte

Barb Carnes

Angie Haggerty

Lisa Crosby

Jim Penick

Cindy Gibbs

Jake Reining

Stacy Glass



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'"  
- Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/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, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/  
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53  
Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 3:8-14/  
Jn 8:1-11

### TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The Israelites ate of the yield of the land of Canaan (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12).  
Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34).  
Second Reading — Whoever is in Christ is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).  
Gospel — This man welcomes sinners and eats with them (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32).

### CELEBRATIONS OF EUCHARIST:

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday thru Friday 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Friday 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.  
Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00 - 8:40 a.m.

Other times by appointment.

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Monday by 9:00 a.m.

### PARISH REGISTRATION:

We warmly welcome new parishioners and request that they register by calling the parish office.

### BAPTISM:

Congratulations! We are excited to help you welcome your child into the Church. Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to their child's baptism. Please call the parish office to register.

### MARRIAGE:

Couples should contact the parish office as soon as possible after their engagement is announced. The preferred preparation period is 12 months. You must be a registered parishioner before setting a wedding date.

♿ HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

31 Mon. **No Mass**  
1 Tue. 6:30 p.m. Bill Murphy †  
2 Wed. 8:00 a.m. No Intention  
3 Thu. 8:00 a.m. Angela Walton †  
4 Fri. 8:00 a.m. Al and Marian Corrow ††  
5 Sat. 5:00 p.m. St. John the Baptist Parishioners  
6 Sun. 9:00 a.m. Robert (35 year anniv.) and Edella Guimont ††



### LITURGICAL ROLES



Next Weekend - April 5 and 6

#### 5:00 P.M.

Ushers: Patti Fodstad-Bouley  
Teri Ray  
Reader: Deb Sodman  
Server: Logan Crosby  
Communion Ministers: Cheri McCann  
Steve and Kelly Slavik

#### 9:00 A.M.

Ushers: Melissa and Mason Reining  
Reader: Terry McAlpine  
Servers: Jude and George Walton  
Communion Ministers: Heidi Rzeszutek  
Barb Carnes and Sarah Moylan  
Children's Liturgy: Lead: Sarah Moylan  
Aide: Jackie Penick



### KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS . . .

Bena Bourgeois, Marie Corbin, Ken Croteau, Dan Fodstad-Bouley, Donna Rivers Hauan, Bob Huss, Martha Killian, Wayne Lahn, Jane Lenz, Rick Marion, Barbara Mulcahy, Marilyn Nordine, Anné Otremba, Viola Plante, Jodi Playle, Catherine Schumacher, Mary Watson, Billi Jo Weekley, Sandi Weekley, and Anne (Loftus) Whiting. Becky Barder (sister of Ed Barder), Raymond Bernard (brother-in-law of Joan Playle), Linda Chase (daughter of Jim and Bonnie Haberle), Jeff Chouinard (son of Joanne Chouinard), Tammy Courtright (sister of Sue Harff), Cora Dawsey (granddaughter of Steve and Kelly Slavik), Sandy Delgehausen (friend of Tim and Kathy Timm), Darrell Delles (brother-in-law of Joan Playle), Julie Corbin Dray (niece of Joan Playle), John Elfa (cousin of Kathy Timm), Mike Gullickson and Bill Southworth (friends of Marilyn Nordine), Wayne Jurmu (father of Barb Carnes), Gregory Killian (son of Martha Killian), Scott Knowlan (son-in-law of Mary Christian), Jeff Nettleton (friend of Russ and Teri Ray), John and Virginia Resler (friends of Lynn Egert), Dawn Schmidt (friend of Joanne Chouinard), Dave Stas-son (brother-in-law of Lucy McAlpine), Karla Storlein (cousin of Tim Timm), Carol Ticky (sister of Mary Dahlheimer), Michelle Tuomisto (Teri Ray's nephew's wife), and Dan and Kristy Zapf (grandson and granddaughter of Earl and Elaine Schulenburg).



## From the Pastor

Every time we read the story of the Prodigal Son at mass a different element stands out to me. This year I am touched by the father's desire to restore dignity to his younger son - by calling for sandals and a robe and a ring. The father doesn't just welcome his wasteful son back, he wants to restore him. When you read Leviticus about the details of a jubilee year this idea of restoration is at the heart of the celebration. As we celebrate this jubilee year, the Church wants us to be agents of restoration who bring hope in the mercy of God revealed to us by Jesus.

This restoration isn't just meant for those outside the community, who are like the prodigal son, but also those inside the community - like the elder brother and the servants. Everyone is invited to the celebration; everyone is invited to share in the father's joy. Now if there are things holding you back from entering fully into the feast, I would be more than happy to journey with you - be that through getting your children baptized, or receiving the sacrament of confirmation, or working through questions about the faith, or something as straightforward as going to confession and receiving the forgiveness of the Lord, who desires to receive us with greater joy than even this father does when he receives his prodigal son.

- Fr. John Powers

## LOOKING AHEAD → HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

**Holy Thursday, April 17** - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 18** - Stations of the Cross will be held at 3:00 p.m. Evening service of the Lord's Passion will be held at 7:00 p.m.

**Holy Saturday, April 19** - The Easter Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 20** - Masses celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord will be at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

## MASS INTENTIONS

With the recent addition of the Tuesday evening Mass, we have open dates in the Mass schedule for Mass intentions. Masses may be offered for the living or deceased and for various reasons like remembrance, thanksgiving, or special intentions. If you would like to schedule a mass intention, please call the parish office at 763.428.2828 or email [sjbchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:sjbchurch@yahoo.com). The usual stipend is \$7.00.



## C.R.O.S.S. FOOD SHELF NEWS

**Monthly Collection** - Next weekend is our regular time to contribute non-perishable food and dry good items to the local food shelf. Please pick up one of the grocery lists located at the exits of church today which has a list of most needed items, fill a grocery bag with items from this list, and return it next weekend with your donation. Monetary donations and /or Scrip gift cards may be placed in a specially marked envelope and dropped in the regular collection basket.

## GLOBAL SOLIDARITY THANK YOU

Last weekend's collection for Global Solidarity totaled \$646.00. Our brothers and sisters in Africa, Latin America, and especially Central and Eastern Europe, and all those who receive much needed assistance through Catholic Relief Services thank you for your support and generosity.

**TRAVELERS** For nationwide Mass times and locations visit [www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org).



## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan."*  
- Joshua 5:12

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.



## OFFERTORY • MARCH 23, 2025

Adult Envelopes (57)	\$ 2,180.00
Plate and Non-Parishioners	516.00
Misc. Contribution - QCD	225.00
Automatic Deposits (29)	<u>2,299.00</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$ 5,220.00</b>
 Projected Need	 \$ 5,243.00
Received Last Week	5,220.00
Projected Need to Date	204,477.00
Amount Received to Date	216,789.00
 Surplus - Last Week	 \$ 12,335.00
- This Week	12,312.00





## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Fridays of Lent. This Friday's Stations will be led by the youth.

## CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN UP

We ask that all wreaths and old flowers be removed from St. John the Baptist Cemetery as soon as possible. Beginning April 14, we will begin removing any wreaths and unsightly flowers that remain in the cemetery.

## SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER

St John the Baptist is sponsoring a Spring Plant Fundraiser featuring annuals, vegetables and perennials. Order forms are available at the tables located at both exits of the church - be sure to include your name and phone number when ordering. Place your order forms in an envelope along with payment and drop them in the regular Sunday offering basket. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 13 for delivery Friday, May 2. Proceeds will benefit our church and its vital ministries.

## EASTER PLANT MEMORIALS

If you would like to have one or more of the Easter plants which adorn the sanctuary area for the Easter season as a memorial for a deceased loved one, please put your name and the name(s) of the one(s) being remembered in an envelope along with \$13.00 for each plant and drop it in the regular Sunday collection basket or mail it to the church. Deadline for memorial requests is April 13.

## EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Because of early publication deadlines, all bulletin information for the April 13 bulletin must be submitted by Wednesday, April 2 and for the April 20 Easter bulletin by Wednesday, April 9.

## OLD PALMS COLLECTION

You are invited to bring your old palms to church with you from now until Holy Saturday evening. Please place them in the collection bins located at the entrances of the church. We will burn the palms in the Easter fire at the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.



## OPERATION RICE BOWL

**Protecting Crops from Natural Disasters in Bangladesh** - Sha-

hadat's village, and much of Bangladesh, is located on flat lowlands. The intense rainy season causes flooding that often destroys farms and crops. Find out how Shahadat learned new farming skills from a Catholic Relief Services program that enabled him to increase the yield of his vegetable crops despite the challenges of climate change. Visit [crsricebowl.org/week-4](http://crsricebowl.org/week-4) to read this week's Story of Hope. Rice Bowls are available at the exits.

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### TLC KIDS - THIS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Our Pre-K through Confirmation age kids will meet again this Wednesday, April 2. We have sessions from 5:30 - 6:30, 6:00 - 7:00 and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., with the Confirmation class meeting from 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. If your children are unable to attend or if you have any other questions, please email Sarah at [sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com).

**MINISTERS NEEDED** - We are still in need of the following help for the **Easter Sunday** Masses: Ushers for the 9:00 a.m. Mass, Altar Servers for the 7:00 a.m. Mass, Communion Minister for the 7:00 a.m. Mass, and 2 Scripture Sellers for 7:00 a.m. Mass and 1 for 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please call or email the parish office if you can help.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### ST ALBERT'S CCW SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON

**2025** - Inviting all women to join St Albert's CCW annual fundraiser, SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON 2025 on Saturday, April 5 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St Albert Parish Center, 5700 Lander Ave NE, Albertville. Let us gather together and enjoy a springtime of God's blessings in our lives! Bring your family, children, and even men are invited as well! Variety of salads, ham sandwiches, desserts and drinks. Gluten-free options are available. Tickets: \$8 per adult | \$3 per child (8 and under). Hope to see you there!

**HOLY SPIRIT ACADEMY FIT FOR LIFE** - Experience faith, fitness and nature on a 5k at Holy Spirit Academy's annual Fit for Life fundraising event held at the beautiful Lake Rebecca Park Reserve in Rockford, MN! Join us on May 3 at 10:00 a.m. to support faithful Catholic education. The cost is \$30 with a \$100 family cap. Register by April 7 for a free T-shirt! See more details and register at [holyspiritacademy.org/fit-for-life](http://holyspiritacademy.org/fit-for-life).

**LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - St. Michael Catholic Church in St. Michael will present the Living Stations of the Cross on Palm Sunday and Good Friday at 8:00 p.m. The Living Stations is a dramatic presentation of the Passion and Death of Jesus. Visit [www.stmcatholicchurch.org](http://www.stmcatholicchurch.org) for more info.

**STAY IN THE KNOW: GET THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT - FOR FREE!** Be in-the-know with news from your Catholic community and the Church around the world. Get The Catholic Spirit, the award-winning newspaper of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, in your home. Free subscriptions for parishioners are available via each parish. Contact St. John's parish office at 763.428.2828 to be added to the mailing list.

## LENT

**Question:** Lent always seems to help me renew my relationship with God and strengthen my religious practice. Do you have any suggestions as to what I could do to achieve that the rest of the year?

**Answer:** The obvious answer may seem to be to do whatever you do during Lent all year round. But part of the power of Lent is that we focus as a community on renewing our faith and preparing for Easter. Our Lenten practices have a purpose and a goal. Therein lies the secret. When we focus our efforts on one virtue, or try to change one bad habit, or seek to deepen our understanding of one aspect of faith, we focus our efforts and give our full attention to what we are trying to accomplish. We tend to be more successful achieving our goals. More importantly, it has a ripple effect in our lives: one thing changes or is added to the spiritual mix of our lives and many aspects are changed.

All too often we leave our spiritual growth to chance and the practice of faith to habit, and then wonder why we have no sense of growth or progress. Think of it in terms of exercise. We walk, lift weights, bend and stretch to attain the maximum benefit from what we do. In addition, to keep those benefits, we eat healthful food and get enough vitamins and rest. Spirituality requires the same kind of attention: we pray, fast, read the Bible, receive sacraments, and do charitable work to maximize the benefits of practicing faith. Keeping Lent year round keeps us in spiritual shape! ©LPi

## MUSIC DIRECTOR JOB OPENING

St. John's is seeking to hire a Music Director. Duties include: Planning for the music for weekend and special liturgies, provide accompaniment for the parish music worship program for both weekend liturgies, coordinate the work of the volunteer choir including recruiting, training and support; maintain instruments; and attend monthly Liturgy Committee meetings. Parish music experience preferred. See full position description on our website. Please send Cover letter, resumé and references to: P.O. Box 201, Dayton, MN 55327 or email [sjbchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:sjbchurch@yahoo.com).

## CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

The 2025 Catholic Services Appeal is in progress. When you give to the Catholic Services Appeal, you partner with fellow Catholics to share Christ's love with neighbors in need through ministries that serve the poor, support life and strengthen the Faith.

St. John the Baptist's Parish Goal is \$14,532. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to CSAF. Visit [love.archspm.org](http://love.archspm.org) for more information and to donate online or scan this QR code.



## THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, March 30

8:00 a.m. Confessions (till 8:40 a.m.)  
8:30 a.m. Rosary  
9:00 a.m. TLC Mass  
Buying Stock in Youth Fundraiser

### Monday, March 31

6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation - The Rescue Project!  
(till 7:30 p.m.)

### Tuesday, April 1

6:30 p.m. Mass

### Wednesday, April 2

8:00 a.m. Mass  
TLC Kid's Sessions

### Thursday, April 3

8:00 a.m. Mass

### Friday, April 4

Day of Abstinence  
7:30 a.m. Confessions (till 7:50 a.m.)  
8:00 a.m. Mass  
8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration (**till 5:00 p.m.**)  
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper (serving till 7:00 p.m.)  
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross led by the Youth

### Saturday, April 5

4:00 p.m. Confessions (till 4:30 p.m.)  
4:30 p.m. Rosary  
5:00 p.m. Mass  
Food Shelf Collection Weekend

### Sunday, April 6

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
8:00 a.m. Confessions (till 8:40 a.m.)  
8:30 a.m. Rosary  
9:00 a.m. Mass  
Food Shelf Collection Weekend

**ARE YOU NEW IN THE PARISH? WE WELCOME YOU!** If you would like to register as a parishioner of St. John the Baptist, please call the parish office at 763.428.2828.

**TRAVELERS** - For nationwide Mass times and locations call 1.858.207.6277 or go to [www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org).



## SCRIP NEWS

**Easter Shopping** - Use Scrip gift cards for all your Easter shopping needs. For filling your Easter baskets and purchasing dinner supplies, we carry Coborn's, Cub Foods, Walmart, Walgreen's and Target plus we have many other merchants for your Easter decorating and Spring wardrobe purchases.

## Scrip Sellers for Next Weekend

Apr. 5 5:00 p.m. Steve and Kelly Slavik  
6 9:00 a.m. Jim Penick and Linda McAlpine



# **SOUP SUPPER FRI, APRIL 4**

Hosted by Religious  
Education Board

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6:00-7:00 pm

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St John the Baptist, Dayton  
Social Hall

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Variety of Soups, Grilled  
Cheese Sandwiches and  
Salads will be served

**FREE WILL OFFERING-  
PROFITS WILL SUPPORT  
YOUTH AT EXTREME FAITH  
CAMP**

# APRIL 2025

*The April calendar is subject to change -  
Please watch the bulletin for updates.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>  April Fools' Day  Mass 6:30 p.m.	<b>2</b>  Mass 8:00 a.m.  <b>No Adoration following Mass</b>  TLC Kid's Sessions  Confessions 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>3</b>  Mass 8:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration till 9:00 a.m.  Choir Practice 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<b>4</b> Day of Abstinence Confessions 7:30 am Mass 8:00 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 a.m. - <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Soup Supper 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross led by the Youth 7:00 p.m.	<b>5</b>  Confessions 4:00 p.m.  Rosary 4:30 p.m.  Mass 5:00 p.m.  Food Shelf Collection
<b>6</b> Confessions 8:00 a.m.  Rosary 8:30 a.m.  Mass 9:00 a.m.  Food Shelf Collection	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Mass 6:30 p.m.	<b>9</b> Mass 8:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration till 9:00 a.m.  TLC Kid's Sessions  Confessions 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>10</b>  Mass 8:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration till 9:00 a.m.  Choir Practice 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<b>11</b> Day of Abstinence Confessions 7:30 a.m. Mass 8:00 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - 7pm	<b>12</b> Confessions 4:00 p.m.  Rosary 4:30 p.m.  Mass 5:00 p.m.  CCW Bake Sale
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> Confessions 8:00 a.m.  Rosary 8:30 a.m.  Mass 9:00 a.m.  CCW Bake Sale	<b>14</b>  Lunch and Cards 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.  Adult Faith Formation - The Rescue Project! 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<b>15</b>  Mass 6:30 p.m.  Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>16</b> Mass 8:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration till 9:00 a.m.  <b>No TLC Sessions</b>  Confessions 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>17 Holy Thursday</b> <b>Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 p.m.</b> (incense)  Rice Bowls Collection  Adoration following in the Chapel	<b>18</b> Day of Fast and Abstinence Stations of the Cross 3:00 p.m.  <b>Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.</b>  Holy Land Collection	<b>19</b>  <b>Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30 p.m.</b> (incense)  No Confessions or 5:00 p.m. Mass
<b>20</b>  <b>Easter Sunday</b>  Masses at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.	<b>21</b>  Parish Office Closed  Adult Faith Formation - The Rescue Project! 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<b>22</b>  Earth Day  Mass 6:30 p.m.	<b>23</b>  Mass 8:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration till 9:00 a.m.  TLC Kid's Sessions	<b>24</b> Mass 8:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration till 9:00 a.m.  Committee Meetings 6:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b>  Confessions 7:30 a.m.  Mass 8:00 a.m.  Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	<b>26</b> Confessions 4:00 p.m.  Rosary 4:30 p.m.  Mass 5:00 p.m.  Catholic Home Mission Special Collection
<b>27</b> Divine Mercy Sunday Confessions 8:00 a.m.  Rosary 8:30 a.m.  Mass 9:00 a.m.  Catholic Home Mission Special Collection	<b>28</b>  Adult Faith Formation - The Rescue Project! 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<b>29</b>  <b>No 6:30 p.m. Mass</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>No 8:00 a.m. Mass</b>  TLC Kid's Sessions	<b>CELEBRATIONS OF EUCHARIST:</b> Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Wednesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 9:00 a.m.  <b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:</b> Friday: 7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Sunday 8:00 - 8:40 a.m.		



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



## We Return

God our Father,  
your compassion knows no bounds.  
You hear us cry out to you  
and you save us from distress.  
We have sinned against you  
and no longer deserve your mercy;  
we find ourselves lost,  
yet we return to you.  
Grant us strength to repent, to return  
to you,  
and to share with others the  
everlasting joy  
of your mercy and forgiveness.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 30, 2025

The Lord Hears



*Today's readings: Joshua 5:9a, 10–12; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32 (33).* When reflecting on today's Gospel, we are often encouraged to consider the loving father's unconditional love for both of his sons. The younger son asks his father for his inheritance and foolishly wastes it, inevitably finding himself in dire need. He decides to return home and apologize to his father, expecting to be treated like one of his father's hired workers. Despite the younger son's selfish recklessness, his father is "filled with compassion" upon his return. His father rejoices, dresses him in fine clothes, and prepares a feast. Certainly, Jesus is encouraging us to return to God, who has unending love and mercy for us despite our sinfulness.

Having experienced God's goodness and boundless mercy, we rejoice. Joining the psalmist, we sing: "When the poor one called out, the Lord heard, / and from all his distress he saved him." It is important, though, to reflect on both the times we find ourselves living as the younger son and the older son. When have you found yourself acting selfishly, unsettled in worldly desires and neglecting those in your community? When have you found yourself acting out of jealousy, comparing your blessings and actions to another's? Spend time praying with today's parable, trying to approach it free of judgment. What can you do when you find yourself acting like either of the sons? How can you call out to the Lord and return to God? How can you resolve to do better?





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, March 31

#### Believe

God responds to our petitions, though sometimes in ways and at times we do not expect. Today, we hear about the royal official asking Jesus to heal his ill son. Jesus tells him that his son will live and, though the official believes, it is not until later that he realizes that Jesus' word healed his son. Patient listening and a dedication to prayer are necessary to be attuned to God's movement in our lives. Reflect on how God has responded to your prayers. *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b; John 4:43–54.*

### Tuesday, April 1

#### Notice

Today we repeat with the psalmist: "The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob." God is with us just as Jesus is with the sick man in Jerusalem. This evening, reflect on God's presence in your day. Take care to notice the moments, big and small, in which God was with you. Say a prayer in gratitude, and ask for the strength to behold the deeds of the Lord tomorrow. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

### Wednesday, April 2

#### Lifted Up

In today's reading from the Book of Isaiah, we are reminded that "the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted." We echo this with the psalmist, singing of God's grace and mercy. We are lifted up amid our struggles and strife. In your prayer today, write about something that weighs you down. Offer it up to God, knowing he "lifts up all who are falling / and raises up all who are bowed down." Make it a practice to humbly turn to God when you are feeling weighed down. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145: 8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

### Thursday, April 3

#### Accept Jesus

Jesus rebukes the Jews in today's Gospel, saying, "I came in the name of my Father, but you do not accept me." Jesus says they "accept praise from one another" instead of seeking the praise that comes from God. How can you accept Jesus more fully? Consider how you have prioritized the praise or earthly desires of those around you. How can you shift your priorities and seek God in your day-to-day? Challenge yourself to commit to a tangible action that will lead to accepting Jesus. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

### Friday, April 4

#### Blinded by Wickedness

The reading from the Book of Wisdom states that the thoughts of the wicked erred, "their wickedness blinded them, and they knew not the hidden counsels of God." Our sinfulness makes it hard to see God and to be guided in holiness. If able this weekend, schedule a time to go to confession. Can you participate in the sacrament of reconciliation more regularly? *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.*

### Saturday, April 5

#### St. Vincent Ferrer

St. Vincent Ferrer, a Spanish Dominican, is the patron saint of builders; he is known for strengthening and building up the Church through his preaching and ministry. In today's Gospel, we hear of the division that emerged as people debated who Jesus was. This division continues today. To celebrate St. Vincent's memorial, pray for unity in the Church. How can you help unite your faith community? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*





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