

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

FAITH · FAMILY · FRIENDSHIP

April 7, 2024 ♦ Second Sunday of Easter ♦ Divine Mercy Sunday

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:

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PARISH STAFF:

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Safe Environment Coordinator:

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Music Director:

Sharon Williams

Cemetery Manager:

Steve Bebeau

TRUSTEES:

Lynn Eggert Russ Ray

PARISH COUNCIL:

Adam Benney Angie Haggerty
Lisa Crosby Marilyn Nordine
Cindy Gibbs Jim Penick
Stacy Glass Jake Reining
Clark Grotte



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

- Jn 20:28-29



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/
Jn 20:19-31
Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/
Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/1 Jn 2:1-5a/
Lk 24:35-48



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:32-35).
Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).
Second Reading — The victory that conquers the world is our faith (1 John 5:1-6).
Gospel — Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed (John 20:19-31).

CELEBRATIONS OF EUCHARIST:

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



8 Mon. **No Mass**
9 Tue. **No Mass**
10 Wed. 8:00 a.m. **No Mass**
11 Thu. 8:00 a.m. Merlin & Mildred Dahlheimer
Family - Living and Deceased
12 Fri. 8:00 a.m. The Holy Souls in Purgatory
13 Sat. 5:00 p.m. Parishioners of St. John the Baptist
14 Sun. 9:00 a.m. Erwin Bourgeois †



Next Weekend - April 13 and 14

5:00 P.M.

Ushers: Thomas Bouley
Lynn Eggert
Reader: Deb Sodman
Server: Paul Dahlheimer
Communion Minister: Stacy Glass

9:00 A.M.

Ushers: Melissa and Mason Reining
Reader: Scott Theisen
Servers: Sydney, Brooklyn and Asher Reining
Communion Minister: Jake Reining
Children's Liturgy: Lead: Melissa Reining
Assistant: Lisa Crosby



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS . . .

Bena Bourgeois, Dick Bukosky, Marie Corbin, Ken Croteau, Tammie Dahlheimer, Donna Rivers Huan, Bob Huss, Martha Killian, Wayne Lahn, Jane Lenz, Rick Marion, Nikki Miller, Barbara Mulcahy, Alanna Neutgens, Tim Neutgens, Phil Novack, Anné Otremba, Viola Plante, Jodi Playle, Chris Rickart, Dennis Sack, Catherine Schumacher, Rosemary Steer, Billi Jo Weekley, and Sandi Weekley. Raymond Bernard (brother-in-law of Joan Playle), Terry Bukosky (son of Richard and Vonnie Bukosky), Linda Chase (daughter of Jim and Bonnie Haberle), Jeff Chouinard (son of Joanne Chouinard), Tammy Courtright (sister of Sue Harff), Matt Deal (brother of Robyn Bernens), Julie Corbin Dray (niece of Joan Playle), Matt Hennen (nephew of Kathy Bennett), Wayne Jurmu (father of Barb Carnes), Gregory Killian (son of Martha Killian), John Novack (brother of Phil Novack), Dawn Schmidt (friend of Joanne Chouinard), Dave Stasson (brother-in-law of Lucy McAlpine), Carol Ticky (sister of Mary Dahlheimer), Hudson Wright (cousin of Kathy Timm), and Dan Zapf (grandson of Earl and Elaine Schulenburg).



Notes from the Pastor

St. Thomas the Apostle often gets a bit of a bad rap. Most art of Thomas, including my personal favorite "The Incredulity of Saint Thomas" by Caravaggio, depict Thomas literally putting his finger into the wounds of our Lord. We tend to focus on his doubt - even today we use the phrase doubting Thomas - and not on his belief.

St. Thomas stands as one of the apostles on which our Church is founded, and Thomas is so transformed by the Resurrection that tradition tell us he traveled across two empires to establish the Christian faith in India and despite skepticism from certain medieval and Reformation thinkers, when Portuguese arrived in India 14 centuries later, they encountered Christians in Kerela who owe their faith to St. Thomas. It's also a traditional practice in Catholicism to pray the acknowledgement of St. Thomas "My Lord and my God" when the host and chalice are elevated, so that like him we would have our eyes open and see the Risen Lord in the Eucharist.

Based upon the success of adoration during Lent, the Parish Council recommended that we keep Friday adoration going until May 17th, ending the week before Memorial Day weekend. This providentially means that adoration will go through the season of Easter and end on Pentecost weekend, so we, like St. Thomas, can see our Risen Lord.

Following the Sunday mass, I will be flying down to St. Louis for a quick visit to my aunt and uncle, so there will be no daily mass on April 10th.

- Fr. John Powers

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY: EUCHARIST

Please join in a three-session study of Bishop Robert Barron's *Eucharist*, the great meal of fellowship that God wants to establish with his people; the bond in which the divine life is shared spiritually and physically with a hungry world. Sessions will be held Mondays beginning April 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Long at 763.428.4539 or clongsh13@gmail.com. No previous Bible study experience is necessary. ALL ARE WELCOME!

C.R.O.S.S. FOOD SHELF COLLECTION

This weekend is our regular time to contribute non-perishable food and dry good items to the local food shelf. Please place your donation of items in one of the bins located at the exits. Monetary donations and/or Scrip gift cards may be placed in a specially marked envelope and dropped in the regular Sunday collection basket.



SPRING PLANTING FUNDRAISER

St John the Baptist is sponsoring a Spring Planting 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 14 for delivery Wednesday, May 8. Proceeds will benefit our church and its vital ministries.



OPERATION RICE BOWL

Thank you! Our community changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, and we want to say THANK YOU! A total of \$1,025.81 has been collected so far. If you haven't yet turned in your Rice Bowl, please do so by placing it in the regular Sunday Offering basket soon.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own..." - Acts 4:32

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money - these are all gifts from God! We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

Parish Support



OFFERTORY • EASTER • MARCH 31, 2024

Adult Envelopes (48)	\$ 2,334.00
Plate and Non-Parishioners	2,007.00
Ash Wednesday Offering (1)	20.00
Easter Offerings (55)	4,385.00
Automatic Deposits (17)	663.00
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 9,409.00
Projected Need	\$ 6,975.00
Received Last Week	9,409.00
Projected Need to Date	198,975.00
Amount Received to Date	195,997.00
Deficit - Last Week	\$ 5,412.00
- This Week	2,978.00
Holy Land Collection - Good Friday	\$ 541.25



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested for John Reining (the father of fellow parishioner Jake Reining) who passed away recently. May the Lord grant him eternal rest. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Nomination weekend for the Parish Pastoral Council will be next weekend - April 13 and 14. Please carefully read the position description below and prayerfully consider whether you might nominate yourself or someone else for this position. There are three member's terms expiring this year: Marilyn Nordine, Cindy Gibbs and Jake Reining. Cindy and Jake are completing their first term and are eligible for re-election; Marilyn is completing her second term and is ineligible for re-election. You will be asked to nominate 3 people on the ballot.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Parish Pastoral Advisory Council Member

Responsible to: Pastor and Fellow Parishioners

Works with: Pastor, other Pastoral Council members, parish staff, trustees, and auxiliary groups within the parish.

Purpose of the Position: This position serves in an advisory capacity to the Pastor along with other Pastoral Council members.

Responsibilities: This position is responsible to research the needs, concerns, hopes and activities of the Parish and to bring these to the Pastoral Advisory Council for discussion and recommendations which will allow the Pastor to carry out his leadership role in the parish. You may be asked to take an office on the council; Chairman, Vice-Chair, or Secretary, as voted by fellow council members. You may also be asked to serve as a liaison to one of the subcommittees. These positions change annually.

Qualifications: This person must be a registered parishioner of St. John the Baptist Parish and a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church. Full-time parish employees are ineligible to be members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Amount of Time Required: Meetings are held monthly, lasting approximately 2 hours. The date and times of the meetings will be determined by the Pastor. You may also be asked to attend further meetings, retreats, or gatherings as determined by the Pastor.

When and Where the Ministry is Performed: The Pastoral Council meets in the parish social hall.

Length of Commitment: The council member will serve a 3-year term, beginning in June of any given year, and ending in June, 3 years later. Council members are limited to two consecutive - 3 year terms. Once you have served two consecutive - 3 year terms, you are ineligible for re-election for 1 year.

Training Provided: No specific training is necessary to hold the council position, but you may be required to attend further training or retreats as requested.

Responsible To: Each council member is responsible to report to the Pastor, as head of the Pastoral Advisory Council.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

TLC KIDS - THIS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Our Pre-K through Confirmation age students will meet this week for TLC Kids on Wednesday, April 10. We have sessions from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., and from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. If any of your children are unable to attend, please email Sarah at sarah.sjbchurch@gmail.com.

HEALING MASS

Fr. Park will celebrate a Healing Mass at St. Michael Catholic Church in St. Michael on Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. Following Mass, Fr. Park will individually pray over all of those who would like prayer. Prayer teams will also be available after Mass to pray for specific needs. Come to the Lord Jesus and experience His healing power.

KING'S HOUSE "A DAY AWAY" RETREAT

Saturday, April 27 - Do YOU need some ME time with the Lord? Time away from your normal all-too-busy life, to be in solitude with the Lord? King's House is offering some time to spend the day in private prayer on "Holy Ground", a peaceful spot to "walk humbly with your God." Optional conferences, guided meditation and guided Holy Hour. 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch included. Suggested donation \$30 per person. Register online at www.kingshouse.com or call 763.682.1394



FOR MEN AGED 18+

If you are interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, and growing in faith, then joining the Dayton Knights of Columbus might be right for you! For more information, visit www.kofc.org, contact Dan Drentlaw at gkdanieldrentlaw@gmail.com or text/call 763.370.1869.

HOLY SPIRIT ACADEMY FIT FOR LIFE

Experience faith, fitness and nature on a 4 mile walk/run at Holy Spirit Academy's annual Fit for Life fundraising event, held at the beautiful Lake Rebecca Reserve in Rockford, Minnesota! Join us on May 4 at 10:00 a.m. to support faithful Catholic education. The cost is \$30 with a \$100 family cap. Register at holyspiritacademy.org/fit-for-life.

HOLY SPIRIT ACADEMY ENROLLMENT

Holy Spirit Academy is now enrolling 9th - 12th grade for the '24 - '25 school year. **Discover the difference in academic and moral excellence!** Learn about our integrated curriculum, art program, sports, and clubs. Schedule a shadow day for your student or a parent tour! Financial aid and scholarship opportunities are available. Visit holyspiritacademy.org or call 763.220.2402.



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Thank you to all who have given to the Catholic Services Appeal already! Your generosity is helping us to reach our goal of 100% participation. If you haven't donated yet, there

is still time to make your gift, no matter how large or small. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Catholic Services Appeal to help make Jesus known and loved through ministries supported by the CSAF. You can complete and return your pledge card (extra pledge cards available at the exits) by dropping it in the Sunday collection basket, mailing it directly to CSAF, or make a secure gift online at love.archspm.org or use the QR code.

Scan here to donate to the 2024 Catholic Services Appeal



Or visit love.archspm.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AWAKEN: WOMEN'S RETREAT - Saturday, April 13, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Holy Name of Jesus in Medina. Calling all women, ages 22-102! You are invited to reflect on God's specific call in our lives as women. The day will begin with 8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by talks, group discussion, personal reflection and prayer. Adoration and an opportunity for Reconciliation. Featured speakers are Annie Grandell and Sister Amelia, O.P. Breakfast and lunch are both included. Learn more at hnoj.org/awaken.

CHAPTER TWO MARRIAGE RETREAT - Saturday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., St. Paul, Ham Lake. Chapter Two Retreat is designed for couples in which one or both are entering into a second marriage. This retreat, serving the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and surrounding dioceses, helps couples prepare to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony through reflecting on the beauty and richness of the Church's teaching on marriage and the family while discussing the unique challenges and complexities of their situation. Presentations given by priests, educators and lay persons. Learn more and sign up at churchofsaintpaul.com/chapter-two.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE GROUPS - These groups are currently meeting and open to all victims/survivors of abuse in the United States:

- Victim/Survivor Support Group for those Abused by Clergy as Adults - First Mondays
- Men's Healing/Discussion Circle - First Mondays
- Support Group for Relatives or Friends of Victims of Clergy Sexual Abuse - Second Saturdays
- Victim/Survivor Support Group - Third Mondays
- Survivor Peace Circle - Third Tuesdays

For more information and details visit archspm.org/healing. Questions? Contact Paula Kaempffer, Outreach Coordinator for Restorative Justice and Abuse Prevention, 651.291.4429.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 7

- Divine Mercy Sunday
- 8:00 a.m. Confessions (till 8:40 a.m.)
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 9:00 a.m. Mass
- Food Shelf Collection Weekend

Monday, April 8

- The Annunciation of the Lord
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation - The Eucharist, Social Hall (till 7:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 10

- 8:00 a.m. **No Mass**
- 5:00 p.m. TLC Kid's Session (till 6:00 p.m.)
- 6:00 p.m. TLC Kid's Session (till 7:00 p.m.)
- 7:00 p.m. TLC Kid's Session (till 8:00 p.m.)

Thursday, April 11

- 8:00 a.m. Mass

Friday, April 12

- 7:30 a.m. Confessions (till 7:50 a.m.)
- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel (till 7:00 p.m.)

Saturday, April 13

- 4:00 p.m. Confessions (till 4:30 p.m.)
- 4:30 p.m. Rosary
- 5:00 p.m. Mass
- Hospitality following Mass hosted by KCs

Sunday, April 14

- Third Sunday of Easter
- 8:00 a.m. Confessions (till 8:40 a.m.)
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 9:00 a.m. Mass
- Hospitality following Mass hosted by KCs

USE OF PARISH FACILITIES

A reminder that all use of the parish's facilities for meetings, gatherings, etc. must be scheduled with the parish office. Please call the parish office at 763.428.2828 prior to your planned event to make scheduling arrangements and to make sure there are no conflicts. Thank you.



SCRIP NEWS

Visa Gift Cards - Visa Gift Cards are available in \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500 denominations at a 1.25% profit and are accepted anywhere Visa is accepted. Visa gift cards if bought through your local bank usually incur a service charge to purchase which can be up to 5%. Buying through St. John's Scrip Program costs you nothing extra. Visa cards are only good in the U.S.

Scrip Sellers for Next Weekend

- Apr. 13 5:00 p.m. Maraline Virnig & Patti Fodstad-Bouley
- 14 9:00 a.m. Linda McAlpine & Jim Penick



**Liturgical Minister and Scrip Seller
Schedule Request Form
May - June 2024**

Name(s): _____ Telephone: (H) _____
Address: _____ (W) _____
_____ Email: _____

New ministers welcome!

- ▶ Please ✓ all that apply:
- I/We would like to join the liturgical ministry team.
 - I/We currently serve as liturgical ministers.
 - I/We would like to return to the ministry schedule.
 - I/We do not wish to serve during this time.
 - I/We no longer wish to serve.

- ▶ Please fill in family member(s) name and ✓ which ministry you prefer:

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Name(s)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Reader	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Altar Server	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Usher	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communion Minister	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Choir	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> SCRIP Seller	_____

- ▶ Please ✓ which Mass time(s) you wish to be scheduled for:

Saturday 5:00 P.M. Willing to minister at either Mass
 Sunday 9:00 A.M.

- ▶ Please list any weekend dates you will not be available for scheduling from May 1 - June 30:

Dates: _____ Dates: _____
Dates: _____ Dates: _____

- ▶ Please ✓ if you would be willing to minister for:

10:00 A.M. May 27 - Memorial Day

Please return this form to the church no later than **Sunday April 21, 2024**
by dropping it in the Sunday collection basket, emailing to sjbchurch@yahoo.com
or by mailing it to the parish office at P.O. Box 201, Dayton, MN 55327-0201.

If you have any questions, please call Patti Fodstad-Bouley at 763.428.2828.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



Loving and Merciful

Eternal Father,
in you we find mercy,
compassion, and love.
May your Spirit work within us,
calming our fears
and opening our hearts
so that we might greet others
with peace.
Grant us wisdom to put aside
our doubts
and like Thomas profess our
belief in you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 7, 2024
Ever Merciful



Today's readings: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31. On this Second Sunday of Easter, the Church also celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. The readings today reveal some of the many facets of God's mercy. The psalm proclaims that "his mercy endures forever," and in the Gospel, Jesus enacts that mercy as he greets the disciples in peace. In a loving manner, Jesus helps the group of disciples overcome doubt about the resurrection. Though his followers do not recognize him, he is gentle, beginning both visits with the greeting, "Peace be with you."

During the homily on the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope John Paul II declared that the Second Sunday of Easter

would be called Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina had shared her visions of Jesus appearing to her dressed in a white garment and with rays of light emanating from his heart. Jesus asked her to share the word of his mercy for a day to celebrate his mercy. St. Faustina trusted her vision.

The disciples to whom Jesus first appeared and whom he showed his wounds also trusted the man standing before them. At the sight of Jesus, these followers surrendered themselves completely to God. Think about your first encounter with Jesus. What was that moment like for you? How has your relationship changed over the stages of your life? Have others come to know Christ through your belief?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 8 Say Yes!

God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son and chose Mary as his mother. Though Mary was a young girl, she did not waver in her response to God, replying to the angel, “May it be done to me according to your word.” How hard is it for you to say yes to God? Do you need to practice an affirmative response to God? As we continue to celebrate Easter, pause for a moment to acknowledge the opportunities in your life to say yes to God’s will. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 7:10–14, 8–10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Tuesday, April 9 Invitation to Give

Imagine being told you need to rid yourself of all your possessions and give them to those in need. Many saints eschewed lavish lives and gave their wealth to the poor. These men and women stood in solidarity with those in need. God invites us to be in relationship with both him and others. Just as Jesus emptied himself for us, we must empty ourselves in service to others. How can you empty yourself for members of your community? *Today’s readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

Wednesday, April 10 Forgiving Yourself

Not only does God hear the cry of the poor, as the psalm proclaims, but he sent his Son so that all who believe might have eternal life. It is especially heartening to hear that “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn.” Pray to God that he might help you forgive yourself for shortcomings. Should you not show yourself the same forgiveness that God shows you? *Today’s readings: Acts 5:7–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

Thursday, April 11 Power to Speak

“We must obey God rather than men,” Peter tells his persecutors in today’s reading from Acts. On this Memorial of St. Stanislaus, the Church honors a bishop who was not afraid to speak out against the evil in the king’s deeds. As a Christian, are you committed to the work of fighting injustice and asserting the dignity of all people? Are you ready to be pointed out because you speak the truth? Pray to God that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you are bestowed with strength and courage to denounce injustice and suffering. *Today’s readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2, 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, April 12 Trust in God

Have you ever discovered that you were “fighting against God,” as today’s first reading cautions? Why is it so hard for you to trust in God and let something be? After all, God will more than provide for our needs just as Jesus did when he multiplied the loaves and fish for the people who came to him. Humbly ask God to bestow upon you a gentle heart that listens to his Word and is open to his will. *Today’s readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

Saturday, April 13 Surrender

“It is I. Do not be afraid,” Jesus says to his disciples. Over and over, Scripture instructs not to be afraid and yet fear keeps a hold on us. God requests his followers to put their complete trust in him. God is always with us. Pause to feel his presence. When feeling alone or afraid, pray that the Holy Spirit fills you with courage to surrender to God. *Today’s readings: Acts 6:1–7, Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*



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