

Easter
2026

He is not here, for He has been

raised

just as He said.

– Matthew 28:6

Church of St. Edward the Confessor

Rev. Timothy Hayes, Pastor

Dcn. John Barbour; Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville, OH 43023

740-587-3254 · www.saintedwards.org



CHURCH OF
ST. EDWARD
THE CONFESSOR

785 Newark Granville Road
Granville, Ohio 43023
saintedwards.org | 740-587-3254

Pastor

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Deacons

Dcn. John Barbour

Dcn. Adrian Kyambadde

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Bulletin

Katie de Arias, Digital Media
& Engagement Coordinator
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Bulletin submission deadline
is Monday at 12:00 p.m.

/SaintEdwardsChurch

Mass Schedule

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.
*Holiday schedules TBA

Confessions

Saturday 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Adoration

Mondays 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Mass Intentions



Sunday, April 19 | Third Sunday of Easter

Second Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

8:15 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
10:45 a.m. For Bernadette Lieberth by Gerry & MaryAnn Moses
2:00 p.m. For Those Receiving First Communion

Monday, April 20

9:00 a.m. For Rick Rieser (RIP) by Neil & Marlene Elekes

Tuesday, April 21

9:00 a.m. For Jean Swearingen by Skip & Sandy McCord

Wednesday, April 22

9:00 a.m. For Emil & Darlene Looker by their Family

Thursday, April 23

9:00 a.m. For Rena De Silvestri by Mark & Paula Coleman

Friday, April 24

9:00 a.m. For Vicki Kiser by Debbie & Ginny Prusaczyk

Saturday, April 25 | Saint Mark, Evangelist

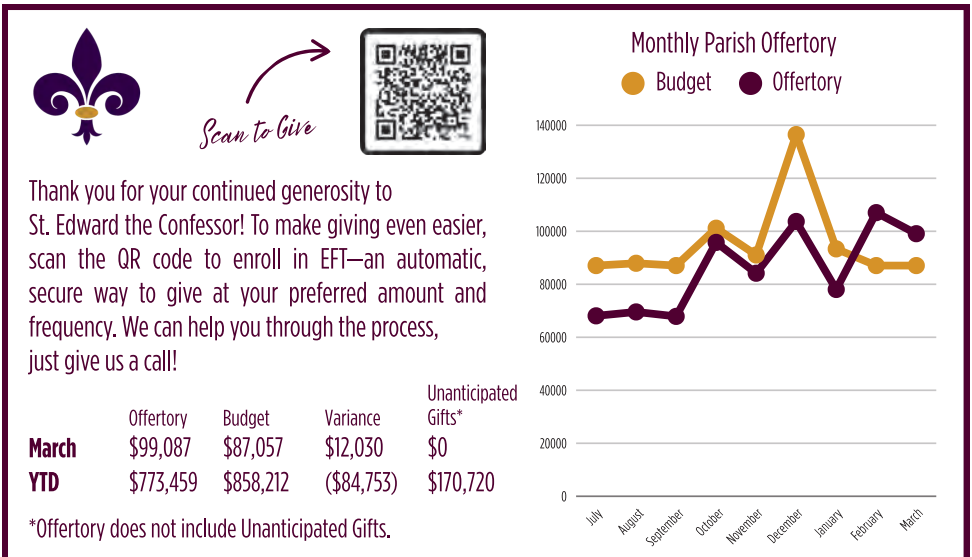
Second Collection for Catholic Home Missions

5:00 p.m. For Rick Rieser (RIP) by the Moses Family

Sunday, April 26 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

Second Collection for Catholic Home Missions

8:15 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
10:45 a.m. For Matthew Spiak by Betty Terlecky



Prayer to St. Michael

St. 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 Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits that prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls.



Sunday | 4.19 **Monday | 4.20** **Tuesday | 4.21** **Wednesday | 4.22**

Anointing of the Sick and Blessing of Healthcare Workers at all Masses
Second Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe
 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft
 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)
 2:00 p.m. – First Communion
 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hrezo)
 6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting in the Youth Room

6:00 a.m. – Adoration
 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)
 6:30 p.m. – Good Grief Ministry in the Lounge
 7:00 p.m. – Ad Hoc Finance Meeting in Enke Parish Hall

9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 12:00 p.m. – Quilters Workshop in Enke Parish Hall
 6:00 p.m. – Heart of Ohio Quilters Guild Monthly Meeting in Enke Parish Hall
 6:00 p.m. – Strategic Plan Steering Committee Meeting in the Lounge

7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship Breakfast
 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 6:00 p.m. – Strategic Plan Steering Committee Meeting in Enke Parish Hall
 7:00 p.m. – Men's Rosary Prayer Group in the Church

Thursday | 4.23 **Friday | 4.24** **Saturday | 4.25** **Sunday | 4.26**

9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 6:00 p.m. – Finance Council Meeting in the Lounge
 7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft

No Preschool
 9:00 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)

Second Collection for Catholic Home Missions
 7:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship in Enke Parish Hall
 4:00 p.m. – Confessions
 5:00 p.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)

Second Collection for Catholic Home Missions
 8:15 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Hayes)
 9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Loft
 9:30 a.m. – PSR in Classrooms & Enke Parish Hall
 10:45 a.m. – Mass (Fr. Ghiloni)
 12:00 p.m. – Baptism of Lucy Mae Kalinoski
 4:30 p.m. – Mass at Denison University (Fr. Hayes)
 6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting in the Youth Room

WELCOME
to our community

Visitors, you are known and loved by our Lord, Jesus Christ. We pray you find peace, hospitality, and friendship here. Children are always welcome! To join St. Edward Parish, stop by the church office or call 740-587-3254.

Low-gluten hosts are available. Please join one of the center Communion lines and inform the Eucharistic Minister.

Did You Know?

Our parish bulletin is printed at no cost to us: the advertisements on the last two pages, coordinated by Dee Printing, cover all costs. We encourage you to look through those pages and consider supporting the listed businesses. Thank you to all who advertise in our bulletin—your support helps keep our parish connected!



April 19, 2026

Dear Parishioners:

Many thanks to all who worked to prepare for our beautiful celebration of Easter. The spirit of Welcome that we want to develop among us shines out when we are joined by so many who are not with us throughout the year. Now that we have entered into the Easter Season, we want to concentrate even more on this. How we welcome others is the sign of our health as a community of disciples who are gathered together by the Risen Lord.

This weekend, we bless those who serve among the sick as ministers of healing and support. We also experience the communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This is one of the seven Sacraments of the Church. It has a special connection to the public witness of our Catholic Faith. It is somewhat ironic that the two Sacraments of Healing – Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation (Confession) – are the Sacraments that are most recognizable as Catholic. They are often portrayed in movies and in comments to represent the Church.

As we celebrate the Easter Season, it is fitting that we put into clear relief the power that flows from the Resurrection of Jesus. Confession prepared us for Easter. Now, the Anointing of the Sick reminds us that we need God's strength and His healing Mercy to walk the journey of Faith as we see life's limitations, illness that impedes our relationship with God, and death itself.

The Anointing of the Sick touches both of these. In the face of human weakness, it gives us strength to endure, plunging our experience of suffering into the Paschal Mystery. As we prepare to meet our Maker, it gives us the courage to trust in the One Who calls us to New Life in Christ.

Our communal celebration is a good time to remind everyone that you are always free to ask for the Sacraments of Confession and the Anointing of the Sick when they are appropriate to your experience of life. Don't wait until one who needs the touch of grace that they provide is at death's door. Hospitals and health care professionals are not able to tell us about those who are under their care (HIPPA legislation requires privacy in that regard), but families and the patients themselves are always free to let us know about their situation.

All of the Sacraments are a source of grace for the whole community and indeed for the whole world. When you receive forgiveness through Confession, you have the responsibility and power to pass it on, to share God's Mercy with the world. When you are in need of God's healing touch and you seek it through the Anointing of Sick, that same Mercy flows out as a healing river that brings life to all who are touched by it.

May grace flow among us and may we be ministers of welcome and healing to all we meet. Blessings on your Easter Season. May the Holy Spirit show us the path to Life!

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes
Pastor

Notes from the Loft



Notes from the Loft

**** 2:00 p.m. First Communion music information is in a separate program. ****

Prelude

From "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (arr. R.E. Smith)

Introductory Rites

Opening: Jesus Is Risen (#190)

Sprinkling Rite: I Saw Water Flowing (arr. R. DeBruyn)

(see "Notes from the Loft")

Gloria: Mass in Honor of Saint Benedict

(text on inside cover or p. 6)

Liturgy of the Word

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 16: Lord, you will show us... (p. 144)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (p. 144)

Music During Anointing: TBD

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: The Day of Resurrection (#175)

Sanctus, Mem. Acc. A, Amen, Lamb of God:

Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

Communion: O Sacrament Most Holy (#343)

Communion 2 (10:45 Choir): Two Were Bound for Emmaus

(B. Hurd)

Concluding Rites

Closing: I Know That My Redeemer Lives (#611)

Postlude

"Allegro Maestoso" from *Water Music* (G.F. Handel)

Cantors

5:00 p.m.: Bob Wantz

8:15 a.m.: Karen Bovenizer

10:45 a.m.: Beth Spieles

Notes from the Loft

♪ Alleluia! He is risen! Now that Lent has ended and the Easter season is here, solo instrumental music before, during, and after Mass is again permitted. The preludes, instrumental music during Mass, and postludes during these Easter weekends reflect the joy of this season. After the musical "fasting" of Lent, instrumental music often sounds particularly bright, boisterous, and joyful. In the words of today's designated entrance antiphon from Psalm 66, may all of our music during this holy season "sing to the glory of his name" and "render him glorious praise." Alleluia!

♪ Words for "I Saw Water Flowing" during the Sprinkling Rite: *I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple, Alleluia! Alleluia!*

1) *The water flowed, Alleluia! Flowed from the temple, Alleluia!*

2) *It brought God's life, Alleluia! And his salvation, Alleluia!*

3) *The people sang, Alleluia! They sang in joyful praise, Alleluia!*

Text: Based on Ezekiel 47:1-2, 9; © 1973, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Randall DeBruyn, © 1987, OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-731140.

- Paul Radkowski, music@saintedwards.org, 740-587-3254

PHASE 2: Mission, Vision & Strategic Priorities

(APRIL - JUNE '26)



OBJECTIVE: Discern identity & direction for the next 3–5 years

DELIVERABLES: Mission Statement, Discipleship Pathway, and 3–5yr Pastoral Plan

A Strategic Plan Rooted in Faith, Not Just Function.

We are grateful for the strong participation in our Strategic Planning listening sessions and parish survey as we now enter Phase II of the process.

Your input is already helping shape the future of St. Edward the Confessor Parish. This is not a typical business strategic plan, but one centered on the spiritual renewal and growth of our parish, guiding us more deeply into faith formation and discipleship. As we move forward, we are carefully discerning the best way to share what we've heard, including key themes from the listening sessions and survey results.

Thank you for your continued prayers and participation as we walk this journey together.

CATECHISM 102

Building on a great start with **Catechism 101**, we're continuing with a four-part series on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Whether you've attended before or are new, you're invited to explore what we believe, how we worship, and how we live and pray. Participants receive a *Catechism* and set of index tabs.

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

April 22 | Part II:

The Paschal mystery in the age of the Church; Sacramental celebration of the Paschal Mystery; Liturgical diversity and the unity of the mystery

May 6 | Part III:

The dignity of the human person; The human community; God's salvation law and grace

May 20 | Part IV:

The revelation of prayer; The tradition of prayer; The life of prayer

7 PM | THE LOUNGE

St. Edward Scholarships

Two **\$1,500.00 scholarships** are available to students at the Church of St. Edward the Confessor.

The Father Lowery Scholarship and Bernice and Joe Ciricosta Scholarship are available to any parishioner who is actively pursuing a post-secondary program.

Applications are found online:
saintedwards.org/scholarships.

Deadline to apply is May 18, 2026.

You're Invited To

**KEEP
CALM
AND
ADORE
ON**

Sign Up



*Join us for Adoration on Mondays
6am until Mass & after Mass until 10pm
at St. Edward the Confessor*

Receive the Sacrament of Anointing

The Anointing of the Sick and a blessing of healthcare workers will be at all Masses this weekend. All who are experiencing a serious illness or living with a chronic condition are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of healing.



Young Adult **GAME NIGHT**

**TUESDAY, MAY 5 | 6 - 8 PM
THE LOUNGE**

*Adults ages 21 - 40 are invited to join
for games & snacks*



HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

JOIN US EACH 1ST THURSDAY TO PRAY FOR
AN INCREASE IN PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

MARCH 5TH - SETON PARISH, PICKERINGTON

8:30AM MASS

9:00 AM HOLY HOUR

APRIL 2ND - HOLY THURSDAY

MAY 7TH - ST. PAUL, WESTERVILLE

5:00 PM - HOLY HOUR

6:15 PM MASS

JUNE 4TH - ST. FRANCIS DESALES, NEWARK

9:00 AM - MASS

9:30 AM - HOLY HOUR

JULY 2ND - TBD



PSR Fees Due For 2025-2026

Fees for 2025-2026 PSR classes are due. If you have outstanding fees, please scan the QR code to submit your payment online. The fee amounts are as follows: **\$110 for one student; \$195 for two students; \$225 for three or more students.** If you are unsure whether your fees have been submitted, please contact the PSR Office at 740-587-4160.

Are You Called to Volunteer?

We are looking for volunteers to support our Parish Office by answering phones, greeting guests, preparing mailings, and performing other daily tasks. We are in need of volunteers on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and are especially appreciative of those who are able to make a regular time commitment. Thank you for helping make our parish a welcoming and supportive community! For details, contact the Parish Office at 740-587-3254.

St. Vincent de Paul Donations – Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is currently in need of donations of **tuna and canned pasta**. Please consider purchasing an extra can or two to help out our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generosity!

NEW FOOD COLLECTION LOCATION: Items can now be brought to the Conference Room/Counting Room across from Fr. Hayes' office. The same wooden container is located just behind the door.

Meeting of The Good Grief Journey at St. Edward

The Good Grief Ministry meets on Monday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge. All who are experiencing grief are invited to attend to find comfort and hope after loss.



Women's Virtual Bible Study

Gather with other women for a **Walking with Purpose virtual Bible Study, beginning the week of May 4**. This study offers opportunities to find community and form authentic friendships while discovering the depth of God's love for you and learning how the gospels relate to your relationship with God and others. Multiple time and date options are available; scan the QR code to sign up!



Catholic Men's Luncheon

Gather with other Catholic men **on Friday, May 1 at St. Patrick Church (Columbus)** for a luncheon and talk by Chuck Janes of Kairos Prison Ministry on "Transforming Lives and Communities." Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch and program at 12:10 p.m. No reservations are necessary, but please bring \$12 for lunch. The luncheon is sponsored by Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. You can learn more about their work at kairosprisonministry.org. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Dave Kilanowski at dkilano@aol.com.

St. Charles Offering Summer Programs, Camps, and Classes

This June and July, St. Charles is hosting 35 exciting camps and classes for students of all ages and interests. Options include co-ed camps in Track & Field, Robotics, Volleyball, and Ice Hockey! Students can also participate in Camp Cardina, a fun-filled day camp exploring the best of St. Charles, along with Baseball, Basketball, Borromeo Project, Engineering, Football, Lacrosse, Quiz Bowl, Soccer, Speed Camp, Ultimate Frisbee, and Wrestling camps. For incoming freshmen, St. Charles also offers readiness courses in Latin, Algebra, English Preparation, and Study Skills. To register or learn more, visit scprep.org and select "Summer Programs" under the "Admissions" section. For questions, contact Ryan Aiello at 380-209-2248 or raiello@scprep.org.

In Loving Memory

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Margaret Rose Jenkins, beloved wife of parishioner Christopher Jenkins. Please keep Maggie and her family in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.



Keep Our Grounds Beautiful

Do you have a green thumb? Consider joining our landscaping ministry to help keep our parish looking lovely all year.

Contact the Parish Office for details: church@saintedwards.org



Interested in becoming Catholic, or learning more about your faith?

Inquire about OCIA today!



OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

“Stay with us, because it is almost evening.”

Lk 24:29



Scan the April Focolare Word of Life above or visit focolaremedia.com

FOCOLARE MEDIA
Word of Life

Stay in Touch!

Our Flocknote email is the way to stay up-to-date on happenings at St. Edward Church



Scan the QR code to join, or register online at StEdwardChurch.flocknote.com



St. Edward Preschool 2026-27 Enrollment Open!

St. Edward Preschool provides a loving early learning environment built on a strong foundation of Catholic faith, teachings, and values. Packets are available outside the Preschool office, in the Gathering Space, or online at saintedwards.org/enrollment-forms. Scan the QR code to register and pay the \$100 fee online.

Questions? Contact Adrienne Evans at 740-587-3275 or preschool@saintedwards.org.



Ministry Schedule



April 25-26 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

	Eucharistic Ministers:	Lectors:	Altar Servers:
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	S.A. Beaver Sonny Delmatto Nancy Himmelspach Kathleen Kiebel	Karen Kolbe	Arianna Carter Avery Miller Luke Priano
Sunday, 8:15 a.m.	Cindy Barbour Sue Casale Jane Dougan Lisa Sloan Stephanie Dodd Von Downing	Thomas Bressoud	Brooklyn Aransky Francis Aransky Daphne Harms
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	Margo Downing Emily Dunbar Katie Perry David Tarrant	Katelyn Shaw	Augustine Dodd Amanda Dunbar John Milligan

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

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CATECHISM

corner

CATECHISM CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK:

Read paragraphs 499-501 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

CATECHISM QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Was Mary, the mother of Jesus, always a virgin, even after giving birth to Jesus? Did Jesus have biological brothers & sisters?

Look in next week's bulletin for the answer!

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

What is the "canon" of Scripture? How many books are in the Old and New Testaments?

By the apostolic Tradition, the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of sacred books of the Bible. Simply put, the word "canon" refers to that complete list of books: 46 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

NO CATECHISM? NO PROBLEM!

Scan the QR code to read the *Catechism* online.



ST. EDWARD
YOUTH GROUP
7-12 GRADE
SCHEDULE
2026

- APR 19** YOUTH GROUP MEETING
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM
- APR 25** YOUTH GROUP MEETING
6:00- 8:00 PM, YOUTH ROOM
- MAY 3** YOUTH GROUP HOMELESS OUTREACH
2:00- 6:00 PM, ST. ED KITCHEN
- MAY 10** NO YOUTH GROUP - MOTHER'S DAY!
- MAY 17** END OF YEAR COOKOUT
6:00- 8:00 PM, ST. ED LAWN

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
STEVEN ARIAS | YOUTH@SAINTEDWARDS.ORG

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
[@ST.EDWARDS_YOUTH_MINISTRY](https://www.instagram.com/ST.EDWARDS_YOUTH_MINISTRY)

Celebrate Deacon Adrian!

Celebrate and support Deacon Adrian after Masses on May 9 and 10. He is graduating from The Pontifical College Josephinum on May 16 and preparing for ordination in Uganda this July. If you would like to give a gift, contributions are being collected through the Parish to help provide him a vehicle supporting safe travel among the parishes he will serve.

A Note from Deacon Adrian:

Time comes and goes; it never waits. However, it always teaches us life lessons. I remember starting my seminary journey, which took me eight full years to complete. At first, I thought I would never finish, so I decided to do what I could and leave the rest to God. Now, I look forward to my ordination as a priest on July 25, 2026. As part of my journey, I had the opportunity to travel to the United States to pursue my theological studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum. I was extremely fortunate, by God's will, also to meet the kindest people here at Church of St. Edward the Confessor. My first experience: I was shy and struggled to reach out to you. Honestly, you have helped me grow into a confident person through numerous interactions, listening to my homilies, bearing with my accent, and often not understanding what I am saying. I sincerely thank you for welcoming me and opening yourselves up through various parish activities.

I am excited to share the great news that, God willing, I will be ordained a priest in my home country, Uganda. I plan to dedicate my entire life there, serving God's people with love and commitment. You are all invited to the ordination; if you cannot attend, please feel free to visit me at any time of the year in Uganda. Don't forget to reach out at akyambadde915@gmail.com.





Sunday, April 19 | Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Monday, April 20

First Reading: Acts 6:8-15

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30

Gospel: John 6:22-29

Tuesday, April 21

First Reading: Acts 7:51—8:1a

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab

Gospel: John 6:30-35

Wednesday, April 22

First Reading: Acts 8:1b-8

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a

Gospel: John 6:35-40

Thursday, April 23

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20

Gospel: John 6:44-51

Friday, April 24

First Reading: Acts 9:1-20

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 117:1bc, 2

Gospel: John 6:52-59

Saturday, April 25 | Saint Mark, Evangelist

First Reading: 1 Peter 5:5b-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

Sunday, April 26 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20b-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Pope Leo XIV

Intentions of the Month:

April

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



Join Mommies Matter May 3rd-10th in celebrating motherhood by making a donation to Mommies Matter in honor or memory of a special mother in your life!

Each donation goes toward helping single, pregnant mothers receive the financial, emotional, and spiritual support she needs.

Become a monthly donor of \$9 or more (in honor of the 9 months of pregnancy), or increase your current monthly donation,

OR make a one-time donation of \$40 or more (in honor of the 40 weeks of pregnancy), and receive a Mommies Matter t-shirt!

Learn more at www.mommiesmatter.org/mothers-day



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Our Mission at Destination Wellness is to empower women to embrace their holistic health journey by nurturing the mind, body and soul. We provide a welcoming and supportive women's only environment where women can connect, grow, and thrive through personalized fitness programs, mindful practices, and community engagement. Our commitment is to inspire every woman to celebrate her strength, cultivate self-love, and achieve balance in all aspects of life.

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Lectio Divina

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“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” +Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

“The spiritual life is first of all a life.

It is not merely something to be known and studied, it is to be lived.”

+FATHER THOMAS MERTON, OCSO

Monday, April 20 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 6:22-29 After Jesus had fed the five thousand men, his disciples saw him walking on the sea.] The next day, the crowd that remained across the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gone along with his disciples in the boat, but only his disciples had left. Other boats came from Tiberias near the place where they had eaten the bread when the Lord gave thanks. When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered them and said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.” So they said to him, “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.”

Meditation: Take a few moments and ask yourself: What do you hunger most for in life? Is it health, wealth, power, titles, fame, love, truth, life? Jesus addressed this issue with those who sought him after the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. Where they simply hungry for things which satisfy the body or for that which satisfies the heart and soul? Jesus echoes the question posed in the Old Testament by the prophet Isaiah: “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy” (Isaiah 55:2)? There are two kinds of hunger -- physical and spiritual. Only God can satisfy the spiritual hunger in our heart and soul -- the hunger for truth, for life, and for love. Jesus also spoke about the works of God and what we must do to be doing the works of God, namely to believe in God's Son whom he has sent into the world.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, putting off our old self with all its ways, we may live as Christ did, for through the healing paschal remedies you have conformed us to his nature. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: We must understand that Jesus offers a new relationship with God which provides for a new kind of life – in fact the only *real* life. It is a life of love and service, and the forgiveness of others which corresponds to God's mercy and kindness; a life of holiness and purity which corresponds to God's holiness; and a life of submission and trust which corresponds to the wisdom of God. This is the work which Jesus directs us to and enables us to perform in the power of the Holy Spirit. Do you hunger for the bread which comes down from heaven and thirst for the words of everlasting life? Find this hunger, and fulfill it with Christ!

Tuesday, April 21 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter **Optional Memorial: Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: John 6:30-35 The crowd said to Jesus: “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written:

He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

So they said to Jesus, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

Meditation: Do you have a true and genuine hunger for the bread of life? A "from the depths of your heart" hunger? The Jewish people had always regarded the manna in the wilderness as the bread of God (Psalm 78:24, Exodus 16:15). There was a strong Rabbinic belief that when the Messiah came he would give manna from heaven. This was the supreme work of Moses. Now the Jewish leaders were demanding that Jesus produce manna from heaven as proof to his claim to be the Messiah. Jesus responds by telling them that it was not Moses who gave the manna, but God. And the manna given to Moses and the people was not the real bread from heaven, but only a symbol of the bread to come. Jesus then makes the claim which only God can make: I am the bread of life. The bread which Jesus offers is none else than the very life of God. This is the one true bread which can truly satisfy the hunger in our hearts. So the question becomes for each of us: Do you hunger for God and for the food which produces everlasting life?

Prayer: O God, who open wide the gates of the heavenly Kingdom to those reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, pour out on your servants an increase of the grace you have bestowed, that, having been purged of all sins, they may lack nothing that in your kindness you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Anselm: O God, who led the Bishop Saint Anselm to seek out and teach the depths of your wisdom, grant, we pray, that our faith in you may so aid our understanding, that what we believe by your command may give delight to our hearts. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Contemplation: Have you tasted and savored the bread of life? Or are you trying to pack ten pounds into a five-pound bag – cramming other things in your life, instead of investing your time the only thing that will give your life purpose, meaning, direction – life itself?! So what do you have to do to receive this great treasure - this "pearl of great price" we hear in scripture - this living bread? You have to sell all you have; your desires to go your own way instead of God's way; your desire to have power or fame. You have to put everything else behind God and seek Him and his righteousness first and all else will be given to you. This is never easy, and it will cost you a great deal. But what you get in return will be worth the price. So, seize this opportunity. Taste the bread that Jesus offers. St. Augustine wrote a prayer to express his gratitude to God for giving us the bread of life: *You are great, Lord, and highly to be praised; great is your power and your wisdom is immeasurable. Man, a little piece of your creation, desires to praise you, a human being bearing mortality with him, carrying with him the witness of his sin and the witness that you resist the proud. Nevertheless, to praise you is the desire of man, a little piece of your creation. You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. Amen.*

About Saint Anselm: As prior and abbot, Anselm made the Benedictine monastery of Bec the center of a true reformation in Normandy and England. From this monastery he exercised a restraining influence on popes, kings, the worldly great, and entire religious orders. Raised to the dignity of Archbishop of Canterbury and primate of England, he waged a heroic campaign in defense of the rights and liberties of the Church. As a result he was deprived of goods and position and finally banned from the country. He journeyed to Rome, and at the Council of Bari supported Pope Urban II against the errors of the Greeks. His writings bear eloquent testimony to his moral stature and learning, and have earned for him the title of "Father of Scholasticism."

Wednesday, April 22 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 6:35-40 Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen me, you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

Meditation: For us to more fully understand who Jesus is, we need to understand why he called himself the "bread of life." The Jews understood that God promised them manna from heaven to sustain them on their journey to the promised land. Bread is the very staple of life. We could not live without food for very long. Bread sustains us. But what, then, is life? Jesus clearly meant something more than mere physical existence. The life Jesus refers to is connected with God, the author of life. Real life is a relationship with the living God, a relationship of trust, love, obedience. This is what Jesus makes possible

for us -- a loving relationship with the God who created us for love with Him. Apart from Jesus no one can enter that kind of life and relationship.

Prayer: Be present to your family, O Lord, we pray, and graciously ensure those you have endowed with the grace of faith an eternal share in the Resurrection of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Ask yourself: are you satisfied with mere physical existence, or do you hunger for real life? Jesus makes three claims here. First he offers himself as spiritual food which produces the very life of God within us. Second, he promises unbroken friendship and freedom from the fear of being forsaken or cut off from God. Third, he offers us the hope of sharing in his resurrection. Those who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior will be raised up to immortal life with Jesus when he comes again on the last day. Remember, our earthly journey is just that – a journey. And where our journey leads us is up to us as to whom we follow – is it Christ our shepherd and guide? Or is it someone or something else? Jesus leads us to eternal life, everything else leads to a dead end – literally! Knowing this, why would anyone choose to follow anyone or anything but Christ on our earthly journey?

Thursday, April 23 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter
Optional Memorials: Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr; Saint George, Martyr

Holy Gospel: John 6:44-51 Jesus said to the crowds: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets:

They shall all be taught by God.

Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

Meditation: God offers us, his people, abundant life. But we can miss it. What is the bread of life which Jesus offers? It is first of all the life of God himself -- life which sustains us not only now in this age but also in the age to come. The Rabbis said that the generation in the wilderness have no part in the life to come. In the Book of Numbers it is recorded that the people who refused to brave the dangers of the Promised Land were condemned to wander in the wilderness until they died. The Rabbis believed that the father who missed the promised land also missed the life to come. When Jesus offers us real life he brings us into a new relationship with God, a relationship of trust, love, and obedience. And he offers us real life which lasts forever, a life of love, fellowship, communion, and union with the One who made us in love to be with him forever. To refuse Jesus is to refuse eternal life, unending life with the Heavenly Father. To accept Jesus as the bread of heaven is not only life and spiritual nourishment for this world but glory in the world to come. Do you truly accept Jesus as the bread of life?

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, let us feel your compassion more readily during these days when, by your gift, we have known it more fully, so that those you have freed from the darkness of error may cling more firmly to the teachings of your truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Adalbert: O God, who bestowed the crown of martyrdom on the Bishop Saint Adalbert, as he burned with zeal for souls, grant, we pray, by his prayers, that the obedience of the flock may never fail the shepherds, nor the care of the shepherds be ever lacking to the flock. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint George: O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by adorning blessed George with the victory of martyrdom, graciously grant that, as he imitated the Lord's Passion, so we may, by following in his footsteps, be worthy to attain eternal joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Bonaventure wrote this prayer to Jesus, the bread of life, that is worth contemplating on today: "Grant that my soul may hunger after Thee, the bread of angels, the refreshment of holy souls, our daily and super substantial bread, having all sweetness and savor and every delight of taste; let my heart ever hunger after and feed upon Thee, upon whom the angels desire to look, and may my inmost soul be filled with the sweetness of Thy savor; may it ever thirst after Thee, the fountain of life, the fountain of wisdom and knowledge, the fountain of eternal light, the torrent of pleasure, the

richness of the house of God. May it ever compass Thee, seek Thee, find Thee, run to Thee, attain Thee, meditate upon Thee, speak of Thee, and do all things to the praise and glory of Thy name, with humility and discretion, with love and delight, with ease and affection, and with perseverance unto the end."

Friday, April 24 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter
Optional Memorial: Saint Fidelis

Holy Gospel: John 6:52-59 The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Meditation: Why did Jesus offer himself as "food and drink"? The Jews were scandalized and the disciples were divided when Jesus said "unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you." What a hard saying, unless you understand who Jesus is and why he calls himself the bread of life. The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, when Jesus said the blessing, broke and distributed the loaves through his disciples to feed the multitude, prefigured the superabundance of the unique bread of the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper. The Gospel of John has no account of the Last Supper meal (just the foot washing ceremony and Jesus' farewell discourse). Instead, John quotes extensively from Jesus' teaching on the bread of life. In the Old Covenant bread and wine were offered in sacrifice as a sign of grateful acknowledgment to their Creator. Melchizedek's offering of bread and wine, who was both priest and king (Genesis 14:18), prefigured the offering made by Jesus, our high priest and king. The remembrance of the manna in the wilderness recalled to Israel that it lives by the bread of the Word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3). When at the Last Supper Jesus described his blood "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28), he was explaining his coming crucifixion as a sacrifice for sins. His death on the cross fulfilled the sacrifice of the paschal lamb. That is why John the Baptist called him the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Jesus made himself an offering and sacrifice, a gift that was truly pleasing to the Father. He "offered himself without blemish to God" (Hebrews 9:14) and "gave himself as a sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:2).

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who have come to know the grace of the Lord's Resurrection, may, through the love of the Spirit, ourselves rise to newness of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Fidelis: O God, who were pleased to award the palm of martyrdom to Saint Fidelis as, burning with love for you, he propagated the faith, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that, grounded in charity, we may merit to know with him the power of the Resurrection of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Contemplation: Jesus chose the time of Passover to fulfill what he had announced at Capernaum— giving his disciples his body and his blood. Jesus' passing over to his Father by his death and resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Last Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the church in the glory of God's kingdom. When the Lord Jesus commands his disciples to eat his flesh and drink his blood, he invites us to take his life into the very center of our being. That life which he offers is the very life of God himself. Do you hunger for the bread of life?

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