

# Encountering THE SEASON

Easter for the Family

Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 15:1–2, 22–29

Revelation 21:10–14, 22–23

John 14:23–29

## Dear Family:

Read the reflection about remaining anchored in the Faith, and discuss the “Ponder and Pray” questions and prompts, thinking about how Our Lord is calling you to act. Then, consider the challenges of the “Live It” section, and have fun with the family activities.

## Anchored Faith

On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we are reminded of the necessity of anchoring our faith in the fullness of God’s Revelation. In the Gospel, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth, not as we imagine it but as God reveals it. This promise is vital in a culture increasingly inclined to be “spiritual but not religious,” in which people often shape their beliefs to their personal preferences.

The challenge of remaining faithful during this cultural shift is significant. Pew research reveals that many young Catholics stop practicing their faith as they transition into adulthood. This is known as the rise of the “nones”—those who claim no religious affiliation. More than half of these “nones” leave because of dissatisfaction with Church teachings on things like birth control, abortion,

and homosexuality.\* They prefer a version of God without the Church, citing fewer demands, less baggage, and the avoidance of labels. Yet Jesus calls us not only to a personal relationship with him but also to the community and teachings of the Church.

\* “Leaving Catholicism,” *Pew Research Center*, April 27, 2009, [pewresearch.org/](http://pewresearch.org/).

“ I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. ”  
—John 14:25–26



Jesus Christ Walking with a Lamb in a Meadow, AI generated (Adobe Stock)

Through Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium, God provides the means for us to know him fully. In a world of individualism and confusion, this triad remains a beacon, guiding us not to a God of our own making but to the God who made us, calls us, and sustains us in truth.

## Ponder and Pray

- How does your personal image of God compare to the God revealed in Scripture and Sacred Tradition? Are there areas where you might have unknowingly crafted a God of your own making?
- How can you cultivate a more consistent habit of reading the Bible and letting it inform your daily decisions and worldview?
- Are there teachings of the Church that you find particularly challenging? How can you open your heart to the Holy Spirit's guidance for clarity and peace?

## Live It

Jesus calls us to follow him as he truly is, not as we might imagine him to be. This week, spend time reading Scripture and reflecting on how God has revealed himself through the Church. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into deeper understanding and faith. Let this be a time to draw near to the God who loves you completely and invites you into his peace. Spend ten minutes daily with Scripture, asking, *What is God revealing to me today?*



## Fun for the Family

As a family, discuss a decision you're facing together, big or small. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and listen to each person's perspective. Together, discern the best path forward, trusting in God's guidance. This exercise reflects how the early Church sought unity, as seen in today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, and reminds us of the Spirit's active presence in our lives.

## Dive Deeper

Scan here to watch Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Easter with Fr. Mike Schmitz



Or go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhnGz4wJkAl>

Fr. Mike Schmitz, a Catholic priest and evangelist, is the award-winning host of these Ascension podcasts: *The Bible in a Year* (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)®, *The Catechism in a Year*® (with Fr. Mike Schmitz), and the *Fr. Mike Schmitz Podcast*. Fr. Mike is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth as well as the chaplain for the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD).

© 2025 Ascension Publishing Group, LLC. This product is intended for reproduction in parish bulletins in electronic and/or printed form. Excerpts are from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, Second Typical Edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of the *Lectionary* may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. This bulletin insert is not for resale.