

#### **Parish Mission**

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

#### **Parish Vision**

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

#### **Core Values**

Discipleship • Hospitality Serving • Worship

#### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m., 3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

#### **Weekday Masses**

Monday 6:30 a.m. Tuesday 6:30 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m. Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. Friday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. Saturday 6:30 a.m.

#### **Confessions**

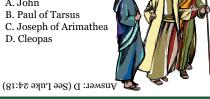
First Friday of month 12:00 noon Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. or by appointment

## ??? Bible Quiz ???

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus.

Who was he?

- A. John



**Third Sunday of Easter April 23, 2023** 

# Congratulations to those celebrating First Communion!

Savannah Beasley **Emaline Boyer** Greta Buersmeyer **Quinn Davis** Vivian Deason Amylia Dienstbach Logan Dunaway Maria Fuente Mondragon Hadden Frazier Elliott Hartke Hector Herrera-Leon Bonita Hendricks Nina Herrera Figueroa Graham Huey Charlee Hunter **Brock Johnson** 

**Daniel Koester** Hunter Litchfield Beckham Lovegreen Ellie Lovegreen **Beck Martin** Samuel Martin Elle Miller Stella Miller **Emmy Mills Bradley McCormick** Jackson McDonald Keaton Pfau Gavin Ralls A Bretz Repollo Tyler Ressel **Carter Riley** 

Carson Schade Ethan Schweinbold Charles Seo Louise Stiegemeyer Chloe Thomasson MarcoAntonio Treio Watson Unterreiner Abe Urhahn Mia Van de Ven Adela Vazquez Ava Vick Josephine Vollink Luke White Kalvn Wieser Cora Wittenborn

# Celebrants

Father Rick Jones • Father Alex Sutachan

# Teachers

Kathy Hotop-Raines • Howard Lewis • Bridget Ringstaff

# Director of Religious Education

Kathy Hotop-Raines

"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion."

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE



#### Mass Intentions

Monday, April 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen 6:30 am Ralph, Sr. and Edna Lape ♥

Tuesday, April 25 St. Mark 6:30 am Janet Knobbe ⊕

# Wednesday, April 26

6:30 am Edward and Clara Messmer &

5:15 pm Terry Star (living)

#### Thursday, April 27

6:30 am Pearl Powderly ⊕

8:00 am Don and Sally Schloss Family (living)

#### Friday, April 28 St. Peter Chanel

6:30 am Tom Wencewicz ₺

8:00 am Bonnie Miller &

#### Saturday, April 29 St. Catherine of Siena

6:30 am Sister Catherine Coiner, OSB ♥

5:00 pm Joseph Moore ⊕

#### Sunday, April 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:30 am Living and Deceased Members of the Lester and Bell Families

9:00 am St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family

10:45 am Robert Stroder む

3:00 pm Maria Juana Aceves ₺

(Bilingual)

#### Prayer Requests

Please remember the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.

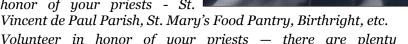
The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke the bread that they recognized Him. Simple acts of loving kindness still reveal the presence of God in our midst.

# **Diocesan Development Fund**

The annual Diocesan Development Fund appeal will be held on the weekend of May 6-7. This effort is conducted in every parish of the diocese to help finance the activities and ministries of the Catholic Church in southern Missouri. The parish goal for St. Vincent is \$285,000. Please keep the DDF campaign in your prayers.

# Here are a few ideas to show your appreciation to your priests:

- Pray, fast and offer sacrifices for your priests.
- Send your priests a gift card to a restaurant, gas station, grocery store, Amazon, etc.
- Post a picture of you and your family with your priests on social media.
- Make a charitable donation in honor of your priests - St.



- Volunteer in honor of your priests there are plenty of opportunities in your parish! Be an usher, sacristan, volunteer for youth ministry, PSR, etc.
- *Sign-up for Food for Fathers at https://signup.com/go/asyQDwa*.

Collection - April 9, 2023	
Collection	\$ 31,839.52
E-Tithing	\$ 3,687.00
Total	\$ 35,526.52
Weekly Budget	\$ 33,000.00
Difference (7-1-22 to 4-9-23)	\$ 60,595.55

# Collection - April 16, 2023 Collection \$ 24,039.73 E-Tithing \$ 40,183.67 Total \$ 64,223.40 Weekly Budget \$ 33,000.00 Difference (7-1-22 to 4-16-23) \$ 91,818.95

Thank you for being good stewards of God's gifts!

# **Eucharistic Minister Workshop**

All current Eucharistic Ministers and past Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Ministers) are invited to attend the upcoming renewal workshop to be held in Church on **Wednesday**, **April 26**, **at 6:00 p.m.** Additional Eucharistic Ministers will be needed because Bishop Rice is now allowing parishes to offer the Precious Blood during Holy Communion. During the Covid crisis, as an act of caution, the reception of the Precious Blood was suspended.

# **eGiving with Faith Direct**

Spring is in full bloom - God's glory is all around! If you want to help St. Vincent de Paul flourish, now is the perfect time to make the switch to eGiving. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift; you'll be growing the ministries that share the Good News of God's love.

Your recurring gifts will sustain and strengthen the parish. You'll provide St. Vincent Parish with consistent support that helps with programs, services, and ministries for church families and for those in need throughout the community. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/MO885. Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent Parish family.

# May He Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the family of

**John Robinson**, a member of the St. Vincent Parish family.

May he and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.





# **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
1913 RITTER DRIVE, CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

You may also register at https://forms.gle/w8HPpmkgqmo9aptdk6

Next weekend, a collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up at all Masses. Right now, nearly 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home missions (including the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau) because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please be generous.

#### • The Week Ahead •

#### Monday, April 24

#### Tuesday, April 25

2:00 pm Finance Council 5:30 pm Home and School

6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study

#### Wednesday, April 26

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry (8:00 - 11:00 am)

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

6:00 pm Parish School of Religion 6:00 pm Eucharistic Minister Workshop

#### Thursday, April 27

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 11:00 am)

9:00 am Thursday Women's Bible Study

5:30 pm Centering Prayer

#### Friday, April 28

#### Saturday, April 29

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 12:00 noon)

9:00 am Restore (Healing Prayer Workshop)

3:30 pm Reconciliation 6:00 pm Vincent's Vittles

#### Sunday, April 30

9:00 am Children's Liturgy

#### Readings - April 30, 2023

Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 2:20b-25 John 10:1-10



Do you know that St. Vincent de Paul sends out an email of events happening in the parish every week? This is a great communication tool and it helps to keep people connected. If you would like to be a part of this communication, please contact Becky Kitchen, Social Media Coordinator, at kitchen becky19@gmail.com and she will add you to the email list.

#### Contact Information

#### Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

#### Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

#### **Father Alex Sutachan**

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

#### **Deacon Robbie Huff**

Superintendent of Schools /Diocesan Chancellor Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau rhuff@dioscg.org / 573-335-7667

#### **Deacon Mark Kiblinger**

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

#### **Deacon Thomas Schumer**

Director of CCM, SEMO University thomas.schumer@semocatholic.org / 573-335-7667

#### **Tiffany Brey**

Youth Ministry Coordinator stvcapeyouth@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

#### **Pamela Chambliss**

Parish Office Receptionist pchambliss@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

#### **Kay Glastetter**

Principal of St. Vincent DePaul Grade School kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net 573-334-9594

#### **Kathy Hotop Raines**

Director of Religious Education kraines@svcape.eduk12.net / 573-335-7667

#### Rose Huff

Bulletin Editor/Administrative Assistant rhuff@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

#### **Becky Kitchen**

Social Media Coordinator kitchenbecky19@gmail.com / 573-382-6005

**Lenny Kuper**, Music Coordinator lennykuper@notredamecape.org 573-335-7667

**Jeffrey Lloyd**, Maintenance Supervisor illoyd@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

#### **Beverly McMeel**

Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant bmcmeel@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

**Cheryl Oberhaus,** Director of Parish Finance coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

# Spring Music Concert

You are invited to a Spring Music Concert at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri, on **Sunday**, **April 30 at 6:30 p.m.** There will be various church choirs performing, including the Saint Vincent de Paul Parish Choir, Saint Vincent de Paul High School Choir, and a contemporary ensemble. More information can be obtained by calling 1-800-264-6279.

#### **Solemn Profession for Bob Janota**

Bob Janota, ofs, will make his solemn profession as a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Secular Franciscan Order, on Saturday morning, **May 6, 2023**, during Holy Mass, at 10:30 a.m. Services will be held at the Poor Clare Monastery, 200 Marycrest Drive in Oakville, Missouri. All are welcome.

# **May Procession**

Please join the Association of the Miraculous Medal on **Sunday**, **May** 7, **at** 1:00 p.m., for the annual May Procession at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri. The procession will form in front of Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church. Participants will pray the Rosary during the procession to the historic grotto on the Rosary Walk. The traditional May Crowning and prayer service will be a part of this tribute to Our Blessed Mother. All are welcome to participate. You are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket as there is limited seating at the grotto. For any questions, please call 573-547-8343, or visit the website www.amm.org.

#### **Attention: Catholic Men**

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri



Tuesday, May 9 • 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Guardian Angel Parish • Oran, Missouri

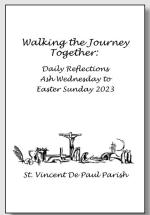
An evening of Adoration, Confession, and a Manly Meal with discussion To plan for food, please RSVP to <u>SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com</u>, or "SEMO Catholic Man Night" on Facebook or text 573-275-5214.



"We are an Easter people and our prayer is Alleluia!" Stay tuned to Covenant Network Catholic Radio to continue rejoicing in our salvation by our God and the Glory of Our Risen Lord. Listen to 94.3 FM on the radio or anytime on the free Covenant Network mobile app or at OurCatholicRadio.org.

# **Low-Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion**

Low-gluten communion hosts are available at all weekend liturgies to those suffering from Celiac Sprue disease. The hosts, made by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri, contain 0.01% wheat gluten. They are accepted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/celiac-disease-and-alcohol-intolerance.cfm), and are recommended by the journal *Gluten-Free Living* as "perfectly safe" for sufferers of Celiac Sprue disease (Vol. 9, no. 1). The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has approved these low-gluten altar breads for use in the Diocese. During a weekend Mass, the minister having the consecrated low-gluten hosts will be in the center aisle on the left side. When you approach this minister, just indicate that you need one of these consecrated hosts.



#### **Thank You**

Thank you to all who *Walked the Journey Together* from Ash Wednesday to Easter 2023. The Discipleship Committee would like to thank everyone who picked up and used the second annual parish reflection booklet during their Lenten journey. Hopefully you were inspired by the many thought-provoking reflections written by St. Vincent's own parishioners.

This project takes several months to come to fruition. Along with the 46 writers, the Discipleship Committee would like to give special

thanks to Bridget Wengert for coordinating the project, to Rose Huff for editing and printing the booklet, and to the members of the Discipleship Committee who reached out to parishioners to secure writers for this year's booklet and edited the submissions.

#### Walking the Journey Together 2023 Writers

Christina Baer Debbie Baumgart Carol Berens Tiff Brey Rob and Kim Bunger Rhonda Cuba Rachael Daume **Bobby Dean** Mallory Dohogne Alex Dow Ben Edwards Alan Essner Kali Essner **Brigid Farnham** Stephanie Galati Tyler Gill

Hannah Haden Alex Harold Diana Harold Alex Hendrickson Diane Himmelberg Deacon Rob Huff Nick Hussman **Bob Janota** Deacon Mark Kiblinger Cheryl Klueppel Mike Kohlfeld Adriana Lira Madrigal Dolores McDowell Barb McKeon Michele Moon Jeremy Nichols

Norma Parker
Tony Peters
Hugh Protzel
Matt Reinagel
Bridget Ringstaff
John Ryan
Craig Schumer
Debbie Schumer
Deacon Tom Schumer
Blake Schreckenberg
Kyle Thoma
Charlotte Welker
Andy West
Bridget Wengert
Becky White

# **Campus Planning Update**

Many parishioners have been asking about the work of the Campus Planning Team. Since the building of the new rectory and the razing of the old rectory two years ago, the Campus Planning Team has been meeting. The next project to be finished will be the parking lot to the south of the church where the old rectory was located.

After working with the City of Cape Girardeau and using the expertise of Bowen Engineering, there is a plan to move forward in May. The City asked that the plan include an area for water retention. This retention basin will be in the backyard of the house at 2000 Woodlawn, which the parish was able to purchase in December. (Note: The 2000 Woodlawn House is being reserved for a religious community of Sisters who may arrive in the summer of 2024. Until the Sisters arrive, the house will be used for other purposes.) This new parking lot will have space for approximately 50 vehicles. On the parking area closest to church, there will be handicap parking. This is adiacent to a new ramp that will lead to the side door of church.

If you want to review the design, a display of the new parking lot is in the gathering area of church. In a few weeks, the Campus Planning Team will update you about the possible plans for the De Paul Center (old Notre Dame building).

# Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <a href="http://www.svcape.com/Parish/">http://www.svcape.com/Parish/</a>.

Name	
Street Address	
City/State/Zip	
Email Phone	
☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau. ☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish. ☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member. ☐ Please change my address to the one shown above. ☐ I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.	
<ul><li>☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.</li><li>☐ I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.</li></ul>	



Congratulations to Connor McGarr and Morgan Thacker who were recently united in marriage.

Please continue to pray for all married couples and those preparing for marriage.

Po you recognize Christ in your life and hope to make Him known to others? Perhaps you are being called as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious? If you are considering the possibility, please contact Father Alex Sutachan at 573-335-7667 or email fatheralex@svparish.com.

# **Celebrating the Sacraments Celebrando los Sacramentos**

**Marriage**: Please contact the parish office at least **six months** in advance. (If you have been married before, an annulment may need to be done first.)

**Matrimonio**: Por favor comuníquese con la oficina parroquial por lo menos con **seis meses** de antelación. (Si usted ha estado casado antes, una anulación del matrimonio puede necesitar ser hecha primero.)

**Baptism**: Your family needs to be registered in the parish for three months prior to the baptism. It is necessary to schedule baptismal preparation classes six weeks prior to your child's baptism. Taking the baptism class prior to birth is encouraged! Contact Deacon Mark at the parish office (573-335-7667).

**Bautismo**: Es un requisito ser inscritos en la parroquia por lo menos 3 meses antes de bautizar. También los padres tienen que celebrar la santa misa cada fin de semana. La clase de preparación para el bautismo para padres y padrinos es cada último lunes del mes. Favor de comunicarse con Padre Rick una semana antes al 573-335-7667.

Anointing of the Sick: If you are going to the hospital for a planned surgery, please call the parish office so this Sacrament can be celebrated with you.

**Unción de los enfermos**: Si usted va al hospital para una cirugía planificada, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para que este Sacramento pueda ser celebrado con usted.



Do you want to explore the Catholic faith with the possibility of becoming Catholic? Perhaps a friend has expressed interest in the Catholic Church or someone who is not Catholic attends Mass regularly at St. Vincent with a relative or friend. Or maybe you are Catholic and want to study more about the Catholic faith? If so, then possibly RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) instruction may be the next step. For more information, contact Deacon Mark Kiblinger at <a href="mailto:mkiblinger@syparish.com">mkiblinger@syparish.com</a>.

# **Employment Opportunities**

**Teaching Positions** - St. Vincent de Paul School is currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year for the following positions: **Second Grade Teacher** and **Early Childhood Educator**. Applicants should have current Missouri teaching certification. Preference will be given to practicing Catholics. If interested, send a completed application to Kay Glastetter at St. Vincent de Paul School. Applications may be found on the Diocesan website: <a href="mailto:dioscg.org">dioscg.org</a>, by calling the St. Vincent School office at 573-334-9594, or by emailing <a href="mailto:kglastetter@sycape.eduk12.net">kglastetter@sycape.eduk12.net</a>.

**Summer Care Staff** - St. Vincent de Paul Summer Care is looking for several individuals to join their staff from late May until the first week of August. Must be 18 years of age or older. Virtus training is required. For more info, please contact the school office or email <a href="mailto:2023syssummer@gmail.com">2023syssummer@gmail.com</a>.

Coaching Openings - Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau, is seeking applications for the following coaching positions: Varsity Boys Basketball Coach and Varsity Baseball Coach. Notre Dame is a Roman Catholic School in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Preference will be given to practicing Catholics. Interested candidates should send their resume, cover letter, and a list of references to jeffgraviett@notredamecape.org. The application deadline for both positions in May 5, 2023.

# **Volunteers Needed**

Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support, Inc. is a nationally recognized program that Saint Francis Healthcare System uses as a backbone to provide support and education to bereaved parents and family during the loss of an early pregnancy, infant, or stillbirth. The program provides mementos such as pictures, castings of the hands and feet, and burial gowns and suits for these precious babies. If you would be interested in sewing gowns and suits from donated wedding gowns, please contact April Bond, RN at 573-331-5917 or Sarah Beth Ross, RN at 573-225-0897 for more information.

The mission of Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support, Inc. is to serve those whose lives are touched by the tragic death of a baby through pregnancy loss, stillbirth, or in the first few months of life.

Extend mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping.

# This Week at Home

#### Faith in the One He Sent

#### Monday, April 24

Jesus offers the key to discipleship to the crowds following him from shore to shore, pleading for more miracles. Jesus instructs, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent" (John 6:29). There it is in a nutshell: have faith. How do we fuel ourselves as disciples? Daily prayer, faithfully attending Mass, reading Scripture, sharing our faith with others, and more. There is much to learn about the call to discipleship through the Scripture readings this third week of Easter. Attend closely. *Today's readings: Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; John 6:22-29.* 

## St. Mark Tuesday, April 25

Today the Church commemorates St. Mark, disciple and evangelist. Mark's Gospel serves as a handbook for discipleship. We listen to the final words spoken by Jesus to his contemporary disciples and all who follow him forever after: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). The mission of the Church and our call as Christian disciples continues to be to share the good news about Jesus Christ in our words, action, gestures, and relationships. *Today's readings: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mark 16:15-20*.

# **Stand Up for Faith**

#### Wednesday, April 26

The challenges of discipleship are on full display in today's passage from Acts. The early Christians suffered terrible persecution and the scattering of their communities. Christians have faced persecution across the centuries to this day. Stories abound about courageous stands for faith in the face of grave threats. No matter what, the disciples of the early Church persisted and brought many more followers to faith, growing the Church against all odds. *Today's readings: Acts 8:1b-8; Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; John 6:35-40*.

#### **Called to Teach**

# Thursday, April 27

Philip demonstrates the call of discipleship to serve as catechist (one who "echoes" the faith). The eunuch seeks understanding and Philip responds, using the Scripture as his starting point, "telling him the good news of Jesus" (Acts 8:35). We are called to follow Philip's example as catechists, teachers, parents, and friends. Start with the Scriptures and unpack the truths of our faith, persistently sharing the joy of the Gospel with all who will listen. Today's readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; John 6:44-51.

## **Called and Chosen**

#### Friday, April 28

The reading from Acts tells the compelling narrative of the conversion of St. Paul on the road to Damascus. Proclaimed in this reading are the flash of light from the sky, the fall, the voice of Jesus, three days that St. Paul was blinded, scales falling from the eyes, and the call to discipleship. Most of us will experience our call to discipleship without the drama and stunned witnesses. Called on the day of our baptism, we are continually invited throughout our life to follow Jesus and serve as his voice, hands, and feet. Reflect on your call today. Embrace it anew in solidarity with St. Paul's faithful response. *Today's readings: Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52-59.* 

#### St. Catherine of Siena

#### Saturday, April 29

Today the Church lifts up St. Catherine of Siena, mystic, healer, peacemaker, unifier, scholar, and writer. Catherine is a model for all who seek to listen deeply for the will of God and courageously step out to steer the Church to her fullest potential. St. Catherine of Siena, pray for us. *Today's readings: Acts* 9:31-42; *Psalm* 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; *John* 6:60-69.

#### Sunday, April 23

#### **Remain Close**

*Today's readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33;* Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (11a); 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35. The Gospel story that recounts Jesus meeting disciples on the road to Emmaus mirrors our journey of faith. Just as Jesus drew near and walked with the disciples, Jesus continually draws near accompanies us on our path of life. Sometimes we see him right away and welcome his company. Other times, like the two disciples, our eyes are prevented from recognizing his presence. Nevertheless, Jesus persists in making himself known to

The disciples' response to Jesus is "Stay with us" (Luke 24:29). And he does, just not in the way they expect. First, he unpacks the Scriptures with them. Next, as he did at the Last Supper, he gives his real presence in the bread they share when they sit down at the table to eat together. So it is with us, every time we gather around our community table, the altar, Jesus stays with us. He becomes truly present under the appearance of bread and wine. We receive him into our very bodies, hearts, and souls.

As we journey through these Easter days, aglow with joy, God unceasingly pleads with us to "remain close." That can be done through keeping up the spiritual disciplines practiced throughout Lent. We can also remain close through being fully present at the celebration of the Eucharist, where Jesus draws near to us and invites us to spiritual union: communion.

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