

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture readings is # 927 in the **Journeysongs Hymnal**

“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.”



Reflection

This is “Good Shepherd Sunday” and a particular focus taken today is leadership. Which voices do we follow? Why do we follow these voices and not others? Authentic leadership is rooted in authority, and authentic authority is the ability to author or bring life to birth. Genuine authority cherishes, guards, and encourages the best in life; it provides rest and refreshment; it guides our steps; it nourishes us; it leads us to God. Peter is an example of authentic authority: he proclaims the truth, even if others find it hard to hear; he denounces error, even when this places him in jeopardy; he calls for a change of heart, even when it makes great demands.

Authentic leadership is patterned after the leadership of Jesus. It is gentle and familiar, like the true shepherd; it has won the confidence of those who follow, as did the true shepherd; it is committed to the enhancement of the lives of others, as was Jesus. Authentic leadership is willing to forgo its own needs and to deny its own interests in favor of the needs and interests of others.

Heavy demands are placed on those who follow authentic leadership. Those who follow the Good Shepherd must follow him in the dark valleys as well as to the refreshing streams. They must be willing to relinquish some of their own plans and self-determination and entrust themselves to his leadership. They must never forget that they are following a shepherd who has paid the ultimate price on their behalf. *Dianne Bergant CSA*

Sacraments

The celebration of the sacraments is drawing near in our parish community. The Rite of Confirmation will be held on Sunday Mass, May 10, and First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday Mass, May 24. Please keep our candidates and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive these sacred gifts.

Novena of the Faithful for First Holy Communion

Our parish will begin a special *Novena of the Faithful* this Sunday following Mass, praying for the children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. This nine-day prayer is an opportunity for all of us to support them through our intercession while also renewing our own love for Jesus in the Eucharist.

After Mass, we will pray the opening of the novena together. Parishioners are then invited to continue the novena at home over the following nine days, using the guide provided in this bulletin.

Please join us in lifting up our young communicants in prayer and deepening our shared devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. All are encouraged to participate.

<u>Weekend Contributions</u>					
<u>St. John’s</u>	<u>Apr. 19, 2026</u>		<u>Holy Rosary</u>	<u>Apr. 19, 2026</u>	
Envelopes:	\$	1510.00	Envelopes:	\$	176.00
Plate:	\$	326.00	Plate:	\$	10.00
Ministries Appeal YTD	\$	3495.00	Ministries Appeal YTD	\$	2150.00
Ministries Appeal GOAL	\$	22477.00	Ministries Appeal GOAL	\$	2111.00

Saint John’s Catholic Church - Grand Marais

Holy Rosary Catholic Church - Grand Portage

10 East 5th Street, P.O. Box 549, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mon.-Thu.

Contact Info: Office/Rectory: (218) 387-1409 **Parish Hall** (only during functions): (218) 387-1398

Website: www.stjohns-holyrosary.org **Parish E-mail:** stjohns@boreal.org

Pastor: Fr. Pio Atonio **Cell:** (218) 576-2079 **E-mail:** sj-hrpastor@boreal.org

Saint John's — Grand Marais

Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Fourth Sunday of Easter Mass - For our Parishioners	04/25/26
Sunday 9:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Easter Mass - Allan Quello+	04/26/26
Monday 8:15 a.m.	Easter Weekday No Mass	04/27/26
Tuesday 7:45 a.m. 8:15 a.m.	Easter Weekday Rosary Mass	04/28/26
Wednesday 8:15 a.m.	Easter Weekday Mass	04/29/26
Thursday 7:45 a.m. 8:15 a.m.	Easter Weekday Rosary Mass	04/30/26
Friday 8:15 a.m.	Easter Weekday Mass	05/01/26
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	Fifth Sunday of Easter Mass	05/02/26
Sunday 9:00 a.m.	Fifth Sunday of Easter Mass	05/03/26

Holy Rosary — Grand Portage

Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Easter Mass - Jeff Peterson+	04/26/26
Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Fifth Sunday of Easter Mass - For our Parishioners	05/03/26

Liturgical Roles for St. John's

Saturday, April 25th:

Lector: Bill Gabler

Eucharistic Ministers: Maggie Waldrop,
Dennis Waldrop, **NEED**

Ushers: Harvey Sobieck, Bill Wehseler

Sunday, April 26th:

Lector: Maya Rodriguez

Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Bauer, Francis Toms

Ushers:

Saturday, May 2nd:

Lector: Dennis Waldrop

Eucharistic Ministers: Maggie Waldrop, Bill Gabler

Ushers: Jerry Kohl, Mark Quello

Sunday, May 3rd:

Lector: Ken Wielinski

Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Bauer, Francis Toms

Ushers: Douglas Hurth, Charlie LaBoda

Pope's Intention for 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.

CONFESSION TIMES

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Confessions can also be scheduled by appointment. Call the office to schedule an appointment for a confession for any time during the week.

Please Pray For...

We pray for all parishioners facing life-threatening illnesses, in both our parishes.

Those to pray for:

John Benschoter, Kathleen Sivets, Jimmy Spry, Krystyua Okruszek, Gene Peterson, Jeff Peterson, John Peterson, Dick Spry, Joe Carlson, Joseph Routh, David Williams, Christine Keeton, Dick Nelson, Pam Taylor, and the Gulstrand Family.

Prayer Intentions

As a parish family, we lift one another up in prayer. If you have a loved one who is ill—whether physically or mentally—facing surgery, near the end of life, or simply in need of the support of our prayers, we invite you to share their name with us.

Their names will be listed here in the bulletin, so that together we may hold them in prayer before the Lord.

Please contact the parish office at **218-387-1409** with the names you would like included. Submissions must be received by **Thursday mornings** to be published in the upcoming weekend's bulletin.



Mass Intentions

We have openings for Mass Intentions.

\$10.00 per Mass

Contact the Parish Office
(218) 387-1409 or stop by

Novena of the Faithful

Intercession for Those Preparing for First Holy Communion and Renewal of Eucharistic Devotion

This novena invites the faithful to pray for the children in our diocese approaching first Holy Communion, entrusting their preparation to Jesus present in the Eucharist, while encouraging our own renewed love and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Rooted in the Church's tradition of novenas as pious exercises of prayer and preparation, it seeks to strengthen unity within the body of Christ. Pray daily for nine days — for our first communicants and for fostering a deeper reverence for the Eucharistic mystery within our own hearts.

1. Sign of the Cross and Opening Prayer (pray once daily)

O Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, source of all grace, we, Your faithful people, beseech You for the children preparing to receive You in first Holy Communion. Purify their hearts, increase their faith and grant them worthy reception. Renew our own devotion to this sacrament of love, drawing us closer to Your Eucharistic Heart. Through the intercession of Your Mother Mary, hear our prayers. Amen.

2. Daily Prayers (pray slowly, reflecting briefly)

Day 1: Jesus' Gift

Jesus, Gift of the Father, thank You for the Eucharist, the treasure of Your abiding love. Grant these children pure and joyful hearts to receive You for the first time. Renew in us a grateful wonder before so great a gift. Amen.

Day 2: Real Presence

Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament — body, blood, soul and divinity — strengthen the faith of these young souls. Deepen within us the certainty of Your nearness and kindle renewed reverence in our hearts. Amen.

Day 3: Preparation of Heart

Jesus, Gentle Shepherd, prepare the hearts of these children to welcome You with trust and simplicity. Prepare our hearts as well, cleansing all that distracts or divides, that we may receive You with love. Amen

Day 4: Mary's Guidance

Jesus, through the loving guidance of Mary our Mother, lead these children to Your altar with joy and peace. Draw us all to imitate her wholehearted “yes,” trusting in Your grace. Amen.

Day 5: Joy of Communion

Jesus, Bread of Life, fill these children with the joy of Your indwelling presence. Stir within us, too, a renewed eagerness to meet You in Holy Communion, where You heal, transform and sustain us. Amen.

Day 6: Church Unity

Jesus, unite Your Church in prayer as these children join us more fully at Your table. Strengthen our communion with one another and deepen our belonging to Your mystical body. Amen.

Day 7: Holy Spirit's Fire

Holy Spirit, enkindle in these young ones a burning love for Christ in the Eucharist. Rekindle that same flame within us, that we may receive the sacrament with devotion and live its grace with fidelity. Amen.

Day 8: Eucharistic Devotion

Jesus, ever-present in the tabernacle, look with tenderness upon the children preparing to receive You. Grant us all a growing devotion to Your Eucharistic presence and hearts attentive to Your quiet voice. Amen.

Day 9: Mission

Jesus, send these children forth as witnesses to Your love in the world. Strengthen our own commitment to live as Eucharistic people — bearing Your charity, peace and truth wherever we go. Amen.

3. Litany for the Children (after daily prayers)

- Jesus, Bread of Life, bless these children
- Jesus, Victim of Love, purify their souls
- Jesus, our Savior, renew our devotion
- Lamb of God, grant them first Communion graces
- Lamb of God, deepen our Eucharistic love

Lamb of God, have mercy on us

4. Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, through this novena, protect those nearing first Holy Communion from distraction and sin. Ignite in us, Your faithful, a fervent and enduring Eucharistic devotion. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

- On the ninth day, it is fitting to attend Mass, offering your Communion for the children and for the renewal of Eucharistic faith in our Church.

