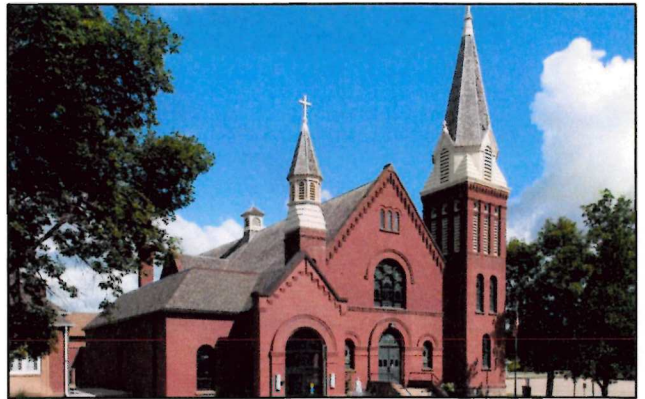


# St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

Divine Mercy Sunday  
April 27, 2025

[www.catherineofalexandria.org](http://www.catherineofalexandria.org)



## MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

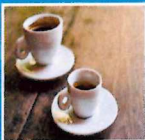
## RECONCILIATION:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 7:50 am

Tuesday 8:15 - 9:30 pm

Saturday - 4:00-4:45 pm

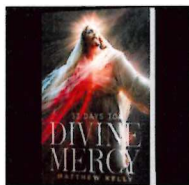
Sunday - 7:30-8:00 am



**Coffee and Rolls**  
**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Between the masses**



Divine Mercy Consecration with the group will take place at 1:45pm on Divine Mercy Sunday.



## Altar Server Recognition



The Knights of Columbus would like to invite you to an evening of bowling at Sky Lanes Bowling Alley in Valley City on Sunday, April 27th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Please note the cost is being picked up by the Knights of Columbus. Pizza and pop will be provided. The Sky Lanes Bowling Alley is located at 2379 Elm St, near City Lights (up on the hill). No need to RSVP, arrive any time after 6:00 PM for some bowling and fellowship with your peer Altar Servers of St. Catherine's parish.

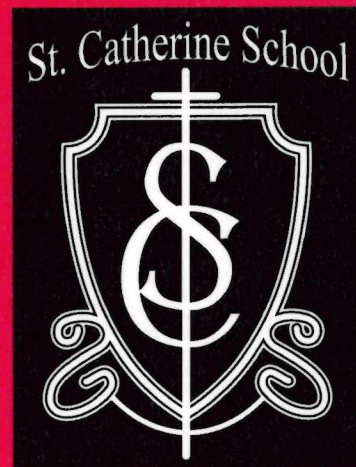
## Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am - 4:30pm

Closed from 12:00 - 12:30pm everyday

## St. Catherine Little Saints Childcare Center



Scan the QR Code for full position description



Now Hiring Lead Teachers  
St. Catherine School & Little Saints Childcare  
Opening June 1 | 5 Positions Available  
■ \$16-\$18/hr • Full Benefits  
■ Faith-Based • Full-Time

Start Date: May 1st (or sooner depending on needs of facility)

How to Apply:

Submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to:

■ Beth Nadelin - Childcare Director

■ [beth.nadelin@k12.nd.us](mailto:beth.nadelin@k12.nd.us)

■ 540 3rd Ave NE, Valley City, ND 58072

<https://www.stcatherine.k12.nd.us/>



## April/May Calendar of Events

<b>SUN 27</b>	<b>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY</b> 8:10am CDA Divine Mercy Chaplet 8:30am Mass 10:10am CDA Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass 2:00pm Reconciliation and Holy Hour 3:00pm Divine Mercy Sunday Hour of Mercy
<b>MON 28</b>	<b>NO MASS</b> 7:00pm Healing Prayer Group
<b>TUE 29</b>	<b>NO MASS</b> 8:30am – 10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie 6:30pm Cemetery Meeting
<b>WED 30</b>	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 6:30pm RE Closing Mass and Ice Cream Social
<b>THU 1</b>	<b>May Crowning</b> <b>10:30am All School Mass</b> 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters
<b>FRI 2</b>	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 2:00pm Mass – St Raphael
<b>SAT 3</b>	10:00am Mass – Mercy Hospital 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass
<b>SUN 4</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass <b>9:30am Coffee and Rolls</b> 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass

## MASS INTENTIONS April 28 – May 4

M 8:00am	<b>NO MASS</b>
T 8:00am	<b>NO MASS</b>
W 8:00am	Tony Drake
Th 10:30am	Shannon Dyrness
F 8:00am	Travis Steele
2:00pm	† JoAnn Pederson
Sa 5:00pm	† Dave Winkler
Su 8:30am	People of the Parish
10:30am	Angela Winchell

### Grant Them Eternal Rest

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of **Linda Kosse**, wife of Don Kosse, who recently passed away. May she rest forever in God's Loving care.

## TODAYS READINGS

**First Reading** — Acts 5:12-16

**Second Reading** — Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

**Gospel** — Jn 20:19-31

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15

**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14

**Sunday:** Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rv 5:11-14;  
Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

### PRAYER NETWORK

Remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who are ill or are in need of our prayers:

Warren Ventch	Audrey Suhr
Darlene Miller	Renita Westerhausen
Larry Doyle	Tyana Judd
Lucille Winkler	Colleen Musgrave
Marlys Koble	Jeff Gross
Donna Hammond	
Jerry Sand	
Krystal Lemer	

## Cemetery Announcement

St. Catherine cemetery is open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, if you need any help, you can call our Sexton Deacon Joe Leitner 701-840-7429.

## May Serving Information:

### Temporary Chairperson:

Margaret Doyle: 701-840-0142

Events: May 2, 10:30 Funeral

May 4, Coffee and Rolls

## KCs are serving Mother's Day Breakfast!!!

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - Noon**

We will be serving French toast, scrambled eggs, and ham. With strawberries, blueberries, whipped cream and Sunny D.

Free will Offering.





## Pastor's Page

### OUR HOLY FATHER

As I'm sure almost everyone has now heard, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, died this past week. May he rest in peace. After spending a lifetime serving Our Lord as best he could, he will now be receiving his reward. Can you imagine? And can you imagine the reward you and I will be receiving when the time comes that He calls us to Himself? Well, frankly, we can't imagine it. But we should do our best to do something about it - by being the best darn disciples and followers of Him that we can in this life.

Our Lord also said, "The more you are given, more will be expected." And the Pope is given a lot in this life, isn't he? But you and I have also been given a lot, haven't we? Aside from all our earthly blessings, we have been given the gift of faith and the fullness of the gifts that His Catholic Church offers, especially the gift of the Eucharist, which is, of course, Himself. So we need to do our best to use His gifts well - the gift of time (to serve Him and pray), the gift of our minds (to know Him and what is good and pleasing to Him), the gift of our will (to love Him and our neighbor), etc., etc., etc. We have all been richly gifted, haven't we?

Please offer your own prayer to Our Father for the soul of Pope Francis. And offer a prayer for the guidance of the Spirit of God as the Cardinals of the Church elect a new pope.

*Everything passes*, with that one big exception: HIM. We will pass from this world, too, as our Holy Father did, and go back to Him who is, was, and ever shall be. Keep your eyes on the prize, as they say . . .

\* \* \*

I was so pleased with our parish's Triduum celebrations during Holy Week. What wonderful liturgies where true worship "in spirit and in truth" (as Jesus would say) was offered to God as we remembered, celebrated, and experienced the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord.

I am so grateful that the Spirit of God brought forth our five candidates who entered into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. We prayed for them in a special way that night - I encourage you to offer a prayer for them now also: Casey Burchill, Rebekah Hilgemann, Kaitlen Lee, Kamren Saue, and Adam Svenningsen. They are just beginning their Catholic life. May we all encourage them and encourage each other to "keep going" with and for Our Lord!

Also, I must thank all those who helped in any way in the Holy Week liturgies and celebrations, including those who donated the beautiful flowers for our church. In a particular way I was so pleased with how our servers did at the altar of God - thank you! None of us can ever serve our God "too much" - right?

\* \* \*

Perhaps you've seen and heard already . . . but our church roof is now officially under its repair. As part of our Capital Campaign, our parish raised the monies needed to get this done as one of the ten projects. This is one of the big ones. I personally would not want to be up on that HIGH, STEEP roof, but those guys doing it seem to have no fear with that - good for us! I don't think I would find many volunteers to do that . . .

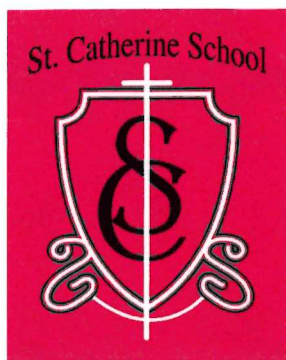
I'm not sure how long it will take - perhaps a couple of weeks. And sometime a bit later - but before the summer ends - they will come back and do the steeple. THAT should be a sight to see!

\* \* \*

Included in this bulletin is an insert with attached envelope concerning the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Nearly 40% of the dioceses in our country are considered "mission territories" because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for their communities on their own. Take a read of the insert, and if you are able, use the envelope and drop it off in the collection next weekend or bring it by the parish office. The work of the Church that Our Lord began will not end . . . until the end of the world . . .

Fr Duchscher  
Pastor





# Principal's Page

Dear St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Family,

As we move through the Easter season and into the final months of the school year, I am filled with **gratitude that overflows**. I am so thankful for the overwhelming support of our parish and school families. **St. Catherine Little Saints Childcare** is a new endeavor—not without risk—. Still, through the **prayers of our faithful parishioners and school families**, along with the **generous donations of time, talent, and financial support**, I truly believe our school is being positioned to serve families from **birth through grade 6** for many years to come.

Thank you for walking with us on this journey. Your support strengthens our mission and breathes new life into our community. In preparation for the daycare's opening, we will paint **the daycare classrooms and the school staircases** the weekend of **May 3rd and 4th**, ahead of installing **new flooring**.

If you can donate even an hour or two to help paint or assist with setup tasks, **please call the school office**. Every hand makes a difference, and we would be grateful for your help as we prepare for this exciting new chapter.

## Little Saints Childcare – Wishlist and Sponsorship Opportunities

As we prepare to welcome our first group of children into **St. Catherine Little Saints Childcare**, we seek parish and community support to help equip our rooms with the tools to provide high-quality care, especially for our **smallest future saints**.

We will be licensed to care for up to **10 infants**, and we initially set a goal of **8 commercial-grade cribs** (each costing approximately **\$250**). Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, **we have already received sponsorships for 6 cribs!**

We are now seeking **only 2 more crib sponsorships** to furnish the infant room fully. **Thank you so much** to everyone who has supported this initiative—**what a wonderful way to support families** and help us welcome the youngest members of our parish community into a Christ-centered environment.

Once all crib sponsorships are secured, we will **release a full Amazon Wishlist** with additional items needed for Little Saints Childcare. We are so thankful for the incredible support we have already received!

If you are interested in helping or have questions, feel free to contact me at **nicholas.lee1@k12.nd.us**.

## Daycare Hiring – Join Our Team!

We are currently **hiring for Lead Teachers, Assistant Teachers, and Float Staff**, with both **part-time and full-time positions available**. Interested applicants should email our Childcare Director, **Beth Nadelin**, at **beth.nadelin@k12.nd.us**. A **resume, cover letter, and three professional references** are requested.

## Exploring Summer Tutoring Opportunities

We are exploring offering **summer tutoring for students entering grades K–6** next school year. This would support students who experience **summer learning loss** or would benefit from **enrichment**. Tutoring will be open to all families, not just those currently enrolled. If interested, please email **nicholas.lee1@k12.nd.us**.

## Upcoming Virtue Focus: Justice – Gratitude

From **April 21–May 2**, our school will focus on **Gratitude**, a strength of the virtue **Justice**. Gratitude means **acknowledging blessings and expressing thankfulness**.

We look to **Blessed Solanus Casey** as our model of gratitude, whose entire life was a testament to trusting God's goodness and giving thanks in every circumstance. As Scripture reminds us:

"One of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice."

— *Luke 17:11–19*

To help foster gratitude in our students, we will focus on activities like **morning gratitude journals, sharing daily blessings, and writing thank-you notes**.

## Support for Our School – Easy Ways to Help!

- **Our Family Labels – One of the easiest ways to support St. Catherine School!** Simply clip UPC barcodes from Our Family products and drop them off at the **CDA corner** in the church basement or the school office. Each label adds up to help fund important school programs. Thank you for participating!

With gratitude and peace,  
**Nick Lee**



Deacon Jim McAllister 701-840-1473





## St. Catherine's Religious Education Grades K-8, 6:30 pm

### Dates to Remember:

**April 30:** Closing Mass and Ice Cream Social

If you have questions or concerns, please contact  
DRE Carol [labs@stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com](mailto:labs@stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com)

*"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day." St. Gianna Molla*

*St. Gianna Molla, pray for us.*

## St Catherine's Teen Corner Grades 9-12, 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, April 30:** Closing Mass, 6:30pm  
(Note Time)

Classes will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., unless noted in teen corner. All youth, grades 9-12 are invited to come, have fun and learn about their Catholic faith. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Deacon Tom Vanorny 701-210-0640.

## Tuesday Morning Movies

Please join the Tuesday Morning Movie Group, each Tuesday morning after the 8:00am Mass in the Sacred Heart Room for a movie, muffins and mighty good fellowship. Showing this week: "Seelos, the Great Intercessor". All are welcome!



## Prayer - Fellowship - Quilting Join the Fun!

St. Catherine Quilters make  
quilts for those in need in  
our area every

Thursday 1-4:30pm & 6:30-9pm  
next to the school cafeteria.

Everyone is welcome for any  
length of time. No experience  
necessary & supplies provided.

Questions call:

Christine, 840-2580 or Lela, 840-8352.



## Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Gerard # 2518



Meet Monthly 2nd Monday

**April 28:** Mid-Month Meeting 1:30pm

Mother's Day Item

7:00pm Healing Prayer Group

Please continue to save the Our Family Bar Codes!!  
We love free money!!

## SMP-Maryvale Convent Hiring

Are you wanting to work at a place that is faith-filled, and a home-like atmosphere? Come and be a part of our team at **SMP- Maryvale Convent**. We are hiring for a **Fulltime** (at least 36+hrs/week) CNA or PCA to care for our Sisters, mainly the 3-11pm & 11-7am (shift differential pay) with the possibility of 7-3pm. Fulltime position comes with a \$5000 sign-on bonus, competitive wage and benefit package. Also hiring for a **Casual** CNA or PCA to work a variety of shifts. Apply online at: [www.sistersofmaryofthepresentation.org](http://www.sistersofmaryofthepresentation.org) or call Amanda at 701-845-2864.

## Parish Appreciation Dinner

It's that time of year again. The parish appreciation dinner will be Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Eagles. Social at 5:30pm, meal at 6:00pm. This dinner is for all volunteers and workers for St. Catherine Church, School, and Nearly Nu. **Please RSVP to the Parish Office by May 15<sup>th</sup>.** 845-0354 or email [stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com)





## Today is Divine Mercy Sunday

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her *Diary* entry 699:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.

1:45 p.m.

CONSECRATION TO THE DIVINE MERCY

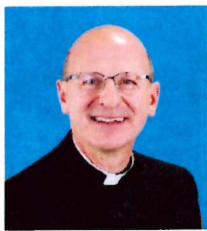
(for all those who participated in reading the book *33 days to Divine Mercy*)

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT  
RECONCILIATION

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

DIVINE MERCY HOUR OF PRAYER



### Invitation to the 40th Anniversary of Priesthood

Dear St. Catherine's Parishioners,

With a heart full of gratitude to our Father in heaven, I warmly invite you to join me in commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. It brought joy to my heart to serve the community of St. Catherine's for seven grace filled years as God guided me through your prayers and loving support. I hope many of you will be able to celebrate my anniversary with me.

- Date: Sunday June 8
- Location: Sts. Ann and Joachim
- Holy Mass of Thanksgiving: 4:00 p.m.
- Reception: A banquet meal will be served in St. Ann & Joachim's social hall. [Please RSVP](#)



I would be honored by your presence and ask your prayers for God's gracious blessing for the path ahead.

**Please RSVP** by Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> to Deidra Lies at [deidra@stanthonyfargo.org](mailto:deidra@stanthonyfargo.org), or call 701-237-6063.

In Christ's love and service,

*Fr Gerard Braun*

*"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me trustworthy, appointing me to His service."*  
1 Timothy 1:12



# Twelve Women of the Bible

Women's Retreat + June 23-25, 2025

Maryvale Retreat Center



We invite you to this mid-week retreat to have a closer look at twelve specific women—  
What can they teach us today?

Fr. Paul Duchscherer—Retreat Director

- + Retreat begins on Monday, June 23 at 12:00pm and concludes on Wednesday, June 25 at 3:00pm
- + Bring a Bible
- + Series of talks throughout each day
- + Daily Mass
- + Holy Hour-Adoration (Monday & Tuesday)

### Suggested Donation

\$50— daily rate with meals —or—  
\$250—seven meals with two nights lodging

Register online at [www.maryvalend.org](http://www.maryvalend.org)

Maryvale Retreat Center—3150 116A Ave SE—Valley City, ND 58042

St. Mary's 120th Eucharistic Procession  
for the feast of

## CORPUS CHRISTI

Lead by Bishop John Folda

10:00AM Holy Mass followed by a  
Eucharistic Procession, Outdoor Rosary,  
Free will Offering Meal, Fellowship,  
and Outdoor Kid Games

An honor guard of those who made their  
First Communion/Confirmation will  
lead along side Bishop John Folda  
(Wear your special attire, veil and everything)

**Saturday, June 21, 2025**  
at St. Mary's Catholic Church

6 miles East of Dazey, ND  
1624 115th Ave SE, Dazey, ND, 58429

Please plan accordingly for weather and outdoor activities

# BIG TICKET RAFFLE!

**St. Catherine School - 2025**  
540 3rd Ave. NE, Valley City, ND 58072  
**\$100 PER TICKET. ONLY 300 TICKETS PRINTED.**

**Grand Prize - \$5,000**  
• 2nd Place - \$1,000  
• 3rd Place - \$1,000  
• 4th Place - \$1,000  
• 5th Place - \$1,000  
• 6th Place - \$1,000

Drawing to be held  
Monday, May 19, 2025  
at 2:30 p.m. in school gym  
Winners will be notified  
Need not be present to win  
Not a charitable donation

**PROOF**

City of Valley City  
Permit #1537

(Prize money already gifted)

All proceeds go to St. Catherine's School

**ONLY 300 TICKETS SOLD!**

— \$100 per ticket —

All-cash prizes: Grand Prize - \$5,000

2<sup>nd</sup> - \$1,000  
3<sup>rd</sup> - \$1,000  
4<sup>th</sup> - \$1,000  
5<sup>th</sup> - \$1,000  
6<sup>th</sup> - \$1,000

**Sales after Masses on May 3-4**

Tickets can also be purchased at the Parish Office.

Real Presence Radio's Spring Live Drive is  
happening **May 6-8!**

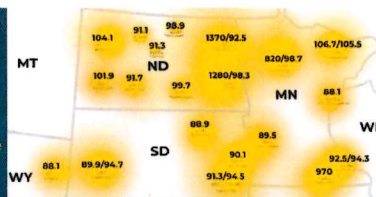
Join us as we broadcast **LIVE** from across our five-state listening area, sharing powerful stories of faith and hope, and the impact of Real Presence Radio. Call **877-795-0122** or support us online during the drive, and you'll be entered into a drawing for some amazing prizes! The phone lines will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM CT each day.

RPR is 100% listener supported — our mission thrives because of your generosity. Take us with you wherever you go by downloading the RPR mobile app from the Apple or Google Play Store. Want to learn more? Scan the QR code below or visit [RealPresenceRadio.com](http://RealPresenceRadio.com).

You can make an impact!

Support  
Real Presence  
Radio's  
Spring Live Drive  
"Anchored  
in Hope"

Tune in  
**May 6-8**  
**7:00 AM-7:00 PM CT**  
to hear how RPR has  
transformed lives.



**Call 877-795-0122**



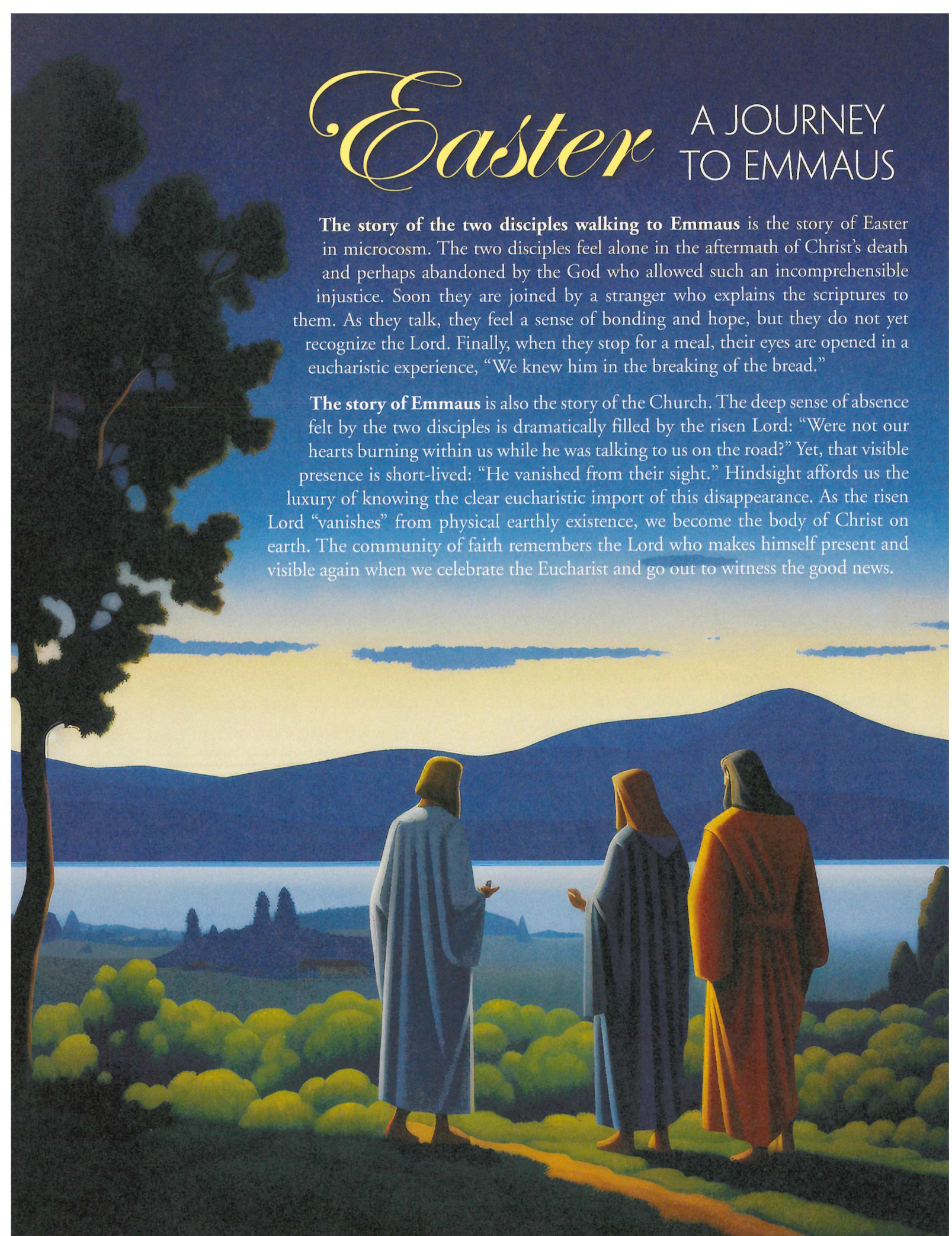


# Easter

## A JOURNEY TO EMMAUS

**The story of the two disciples walking to Emmaus** is the story of Easter in microcosm. The two disciples feel alone in the aftermath of Christ's death and perhaps abandoned by the God who allowed such an incomprehensible injustice. Soon they are joined by a stranger who explains the scriptures to them. As they talk, they feel a sense of bonding and hope, but they do not yet recognize the Lord. Finally, when they stop for a meal, their eyes are opened in a eucharistic experience, "We knew him in the breaking of the bread."

**The story of Emmaus** is also the story of the Church. The deep sense of absence felt by the two disciples is dramatically filled by the risen Lord: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?" Yet, that visible presence is short-lived: "He vanished from their sight." Hindsight affords us the luxury of knowing the clear eucharistic import of this disappearance. As the risen Lord "vanishes" from physical earthly existence, we become the body of Christ on earth. The community of faith remembers the Lord who makes himself present and visible again when we celebrate the Eucharist and go out to witness the good news.





## The Easter Season

The Easter season is a rich and spiritually significant time for Catholics, filled with key events that deepen faith and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Here are the main events of the season:

**Easter Sunday:** This is the most important day in the Christian liturgical year, celebrating Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. Believers rejoice in the promise of new life, symbolizing victory over sin and death. This day begins the 50-day Easter season of joy and hope.

**The Octave of Easter:** The first eight days of Easter, ending on Divine Mercy Sunday, are celebrated as one continuous "great day." Each day is a "mini Easter" with a focus on the resurrection and Christ's appearances to his disciples. These days emphasize the transformative joy of the Resurrection.

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** Held on the second Sunday of Easter, this day highlights God's boundless mercy and invites Catholics to trust in his forgiveness. Established by St. John Paul II, it is inspired by the visions of St. Faustina Kowalska and celebrates the merciful love of God for all humanity.

**The Ascension of the Lord:** Celebrated 40 days after Easter, this feast commemorates Jesus' ascension into heaven. It symbolizes the completion of his earthly mission and prepares the disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, Catholics reflect on Christ's promise of eternal life and his continued presence in the Church.

**Pentecost:** Occurring 50 days after Easter, Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season. This celebration remembers the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, empowering them to spread the Gospel. It is often referred to as the "birthday of the Church" because it signifies the start of the apostles' public ministry.

May the joy of the resurrection  
be known in every heart and home.  
May Christ who has conquered death  
grant us peace, enlighten our minds,  
and strengthen our will,  
that we may serve him faithfully.  
Let the risen Lord breathe his Spirit upon us,  
to renew our love and renew the earth.  
May he fill us with joy as we spread  
his message of life and hope. Amen.  
— Pope St. John Paul II

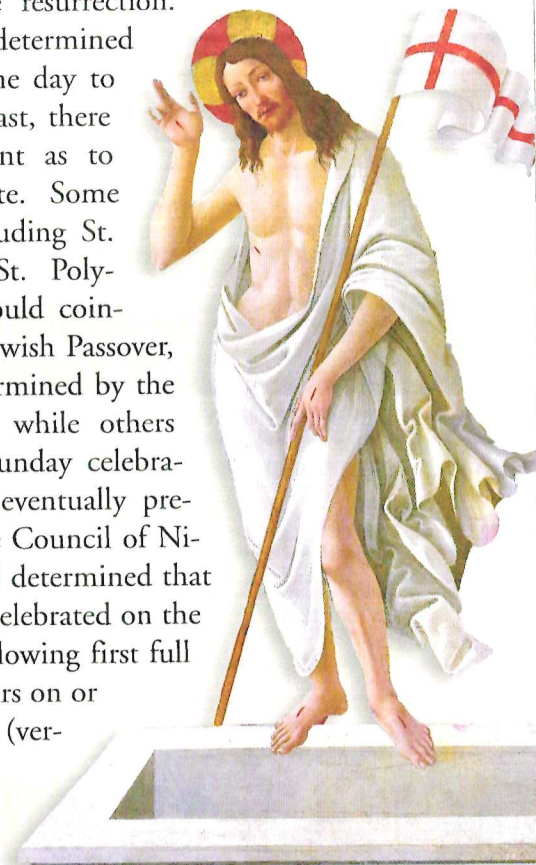
## THE HISTORY OF EASTER

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection, the culmination of Christ's mission and the foundation of our faith. Easter is also the oldest Christian holiday, one that Pope Leo I regarded as the greatest feast of the liturgical year, a conviction that has since been widely embraced. As St. Paul wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, then your faith has been in vain" (1 Cor 15:14).

St. Bede suggests that word *Easter* could be related to *Estre*, an ancient goddess of spring. The more common term for Easter was the Latin *Pasch* or *Passover*. Easter was the *Festa Paschalia*, a name that is plural because Easter is not just a one-day event but includes seven more days of celebration (called the Easter octave). The name *Easter* is also related to the German word for east, *ostern*, where the sun rises. So the associations of light from the rising sun and the new life of spring naturally carry over to our celebration of new life through Christ.

The fixing of the date of Easter was complex and somewhat controversial. To the members of the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection.

When it was determined to single out one day to highlight the feast, there was disagreement as to the proper date. Some Christians, including St. Irenaeus and St. Polycarp, felt it should coincide with the Jewish Passover, which was determined by the lunar calendar, while others preferred the Sunday celebration date that eventually prevailed when the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 determined that Easter is to be celebrated on the first Sunday following first full moon that occurs on or after the spring (vernal) equinox.





# STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME



**C**lose to 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered “home mission dioceses,” meaning that local conditions such as small, widely dispersed Catholic populations and economic hardships prevent those dioceses from operating their ministries without outside support. For example, with the smallest Catholic population in the 48 continental United States, spread across 66,800 square miles of mountainous terrain and rugged Oregon desert, the Diocese of Baker is so extensive that many parishes are a minimum of 50 miles from each other, and only one town has more than one parish.

Support provided to the diocese from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal covered the cost of having a priest in residence for two rural parishes.

Without this support, more than 400 parishioners would not be able to receive the sacraments regularly. The work of Catholic Home Missions in the diocese extends beyond such basic support to includes its family life enhancement program, which helps parishes overcome the isolation that families experienced during the pandemic, isolation that has become an ongoing challenge in rural communities.

You can make a positive impact in the lives of Catholics in the Diocese of Baker and other home mission dioceses across the United States and its current and former territories by supporting the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. For more information about Catholic Home Missions, visit [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## What Is a “Home Mission” Diocese?

Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home mission dioceses.

## CHMA FINANCIALS 2023



### Totals by Program Area

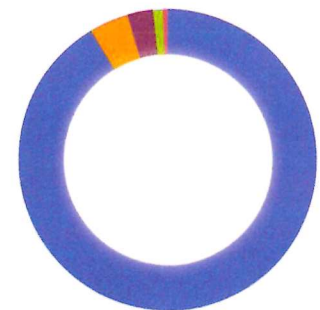
• Diocesan and Parish Assistance	\$2,399,000
• Faith Formation	\$2,030,000
• Priestly and Religious Vocations	\$1,840,000
• Special Grants*	\$995,825
• Cultural Ministries**	\$955,000
• Strengthening Marriage and Family Life	\$125,000
• Life and Dignity of the Human Person***	\$125,000

**Total: \$8,469,825**

\* Special Grants: New Bishop Installation Support: \$90,000; Diocesan Professional Development Opportunities: \$905,825. Total: \$995,825.

\*\* Including Hispanic and other ethnic and cultural ministries.

\*\*\* Including prison ministries and ministries for persons with disabilities.



• Grants and Donations	\$8,469,892
• Program Costs	\$479,626
• Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$375,914
• Administrative Expenses	\$103,543
• Allocations – Internal Grants	\$31,999

**Total Expenses: \$9,487,974**



### CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194

202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • [WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS)



*Strengthening the Church at Home*



# FORTALECIENDO LA IGLESIA AQUÍ



**C**erca del 40% de las diócesis en los Estados Unidos y sus territorios, tanto presentes como antiguos, es considerado como una “diócesis misionera”, lo que significa que las condiciones del lugar, tal como poblaciones católicas, pequeñas y muy dispersas y dificultades económicas, no les permiten realizar sus ministerios sin una ayuda externa. Por ejemplo, con la población católica más pequeña en los 48 estados continentales del país y extendida a través de 66,800 millas cuadradas en los terrenos montañosos y escarpados del desierto de Oregón, la Diócesis de Baker es tan extensa que muchas parroquias están, como mínimo, a 50 millas de distancia entre ellas y solo uno de los pueblos cuenta con más de una parroquia.

Gracias a los fondos proporcionados por el Llamado para las Misiones Católicas, la diócesis ha podido cubrir los costos para que dos parroquias

rurales puedan contar con un sacerdote en residencia. Sin este apoyo, más de 400 feligreses no hubiesen podido recibir los sacramentos en forma regular. La labor de las Misiones Católicas en la diócesis se extiende más allá de un apoyo básico, incluyendo su programa de mejoramiento de la vida familiar, el cual ayuda a las parroquias a sobrellevar el aislamiento que las familias sufrieron durante la pandemia, un aislamiento que se ha convertido en un continuo reto en las comunidades rurales.

Ustedes pueden efectuar un impacto positivo en la vida de católicos en la Diócesis de Baker y en otras misiones católicas en los Estados Unidos y en sus territorios, tanto presentes como antiguos, al brindar su apoyo al Llamado para las Misiones Católicas. Para informarse más acerca de las Misiones Católicas, visiten [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## ¿Qué es una diócesis misionera?”

Las diócesis misioneras son aquellas diócesis en los Estados Unidos, sus territorios y antiguos territorios que no pueden proporcionar los servicios pastorales básicos sin recibir una ayuda externa. Los servicios pastorales básicos incluyen la Misa, los sacramentos, la educación religiosa y la capacitación en el ministerio para sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosas y personas laicas. Casi el 40% de las diócesis en los Estados Unidos y sus territorios es considerado territorio de diócesis misioneras.

## DATOS FINANCIEROS DE CHMA 2023



### Totales por área de programa

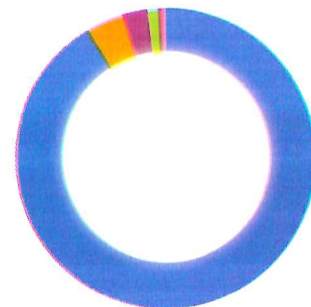
• Asistencia a diócesis y parroquias	\$2,399,000
• Formación en la fe	\$2,030,000
• Vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa	\$1,840,000
• Subvenciones especiales*	\$995,825
• Ministerios culturales**	\$955,000
• Fortaleciendo el matrimonio y la vida familiar	\$125,000
• La vida y la dignidad de la persona humana***	\$125,000

**Total: \$8,469,825**

\* Subvenciones especiales: Apoyo para la instalación de un nuevo obispo: \$90,000 Oportunidades para el desarrollo profesional en la diócesis: \$905,825, Total: \$995,825.

\*\* Incluyendo al ministerio hispano y a otros ministerios étnicos y culturales.

\*\*\* Incluyendo a los ministerios en prisiones y ministerios para personas con discapacidades.



• Subvenciones y donaciones	\$8,496,892
• Costos del programa	\$479,626
• Gastos de promoción y recaudación de fondos	\$375,914
• Gastos administrativos	\$103,543
• Asignaciones—subvenciones internas	\$31,999

**Total de gastos: \$9,487,974**



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