



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

April 26, 2020

Pray & Worship

Live-Stream Mass via Facebook Live

Daily Mass: Monday-Saturday at 8:15 AM

Weekend Mass: Sunday at 9:00 AM

- Additional private Masses will be offered for the intention.
- Recorded Mass will also be posted on our website about 1-2 hours after at stephen.org/recorded-mass.
- For questions about accessing our Facebook page or website, contact Alecia Hartwig at a.hartwig@stephen.org or (402) 861-4515 or Cathy Ashton: c.ashton@stephen.org or (402) 861-4507.

Private Prayer

The Daily Mass Chapel is open from 9 AM to 9 PM Monday-Friday and from 10:00 AM to 6 PM on Saturday-Sunday. The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7; door access code: 9675*

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 PM & Saturday: 3:30-4:45 PM

Only 10 people or less can gather. Confessions will be heard in the Daily Mass Chapel or the Worship Space.

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays. No more than 10 may gather. Parents are required to attend a preparation class — now online! Contact the parish office for information or visit: stephen.org/baptism-class.

Matrimony

Preparation for Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Contact parish office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Deacon Denny at (402) 861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

Homebound Eucharist

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Homebound Eucharist is not offered at this time.

Contact Us

Parish Office:

Phone: 402-896-9675
Emergency: 402-896-9675 ext 2
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Padraic Stack

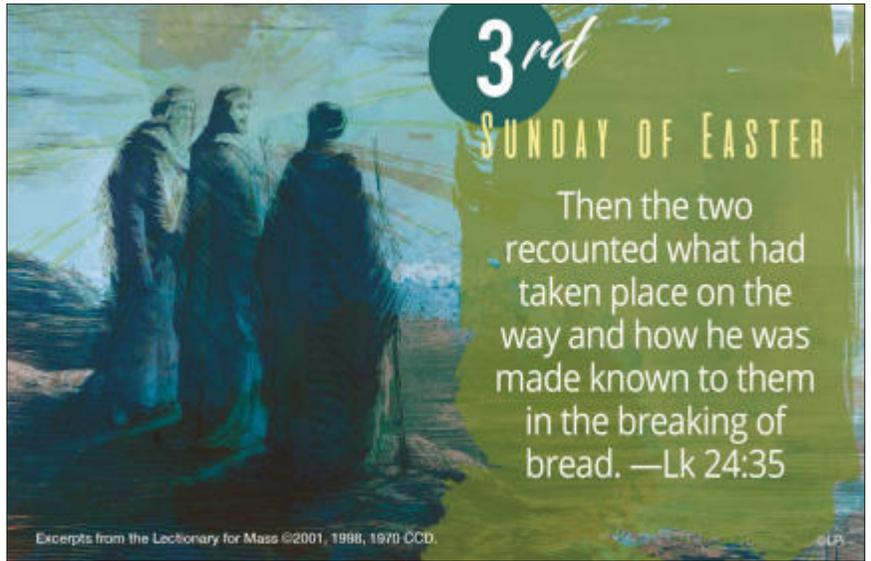
Deacons:

Dcn. Ernie Abbott, (402) 506-2239
Dcn. Chuck Botdorf, (402) 681-4701
Dcn. Denny Dethlefs, (402) 861-4538
Dcn. Jerry Kozney, (402) 659-9219
Dcn. Marty Warwick, (402) 926-1253

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline:

Submit requests to a.hartwig@stephen.org.



Pastor's Message

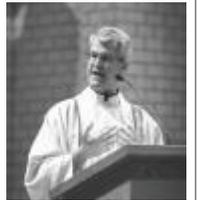
"And He said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?'"

Two disciples meet a stranger on the road in our Gospel today and they begin to talk about their confusion and disappointment. They had been followers of the man that claimed to be the Son of God, the Messiah, but He was taken from them and put to death. The stranger, who reveals Himself at the end of the journey as the Risen Christ, tells His disciples that they are foolish and "slow of heart in believing all that the prophets spoke!" Jesus then interprets the Scriptures that refer to Him and He helps them to understand that redemption would come through suffering and death. At the end of the journey, when they enter the town of Emmaus, the two disciples invite Jesus to stay with them and share a meal. When the bread was broken and blessed by Jesus, the disciples' eyes were opened and they recognized the stranger as Jesus Christ. As soon as they recognized Him, He vanished. They then ran back to Jerusalem to tell the others that they had seen the Risen Christ!

It is in our own journey of life that Jesus joins us and teaches us about His life, death and resurrection. Many times we don't recognize Jesus because He comes to us through the friends, family members, and strangers that enter our lives. We come to know the power of the resurrection when we gather for the Eucharist, when the Bread of Life is blessed, broken and shared. May our eyes be opened, so that we too may recognize how Jesus accompanies us and feeds us on this great adventure that we call "life." In turn, let us share the good news of our faith in Jesus with others. When we feel hungry or empty, may we have the faith to know that only Jesus can fill us and satisfy us with the gift of His life.

"Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Walk beside me and be my friend." —Albert Camus

God bless you!
Father Dave Belt



Welcome Newly Baptized

Iris Jane Malcom, daughter of Jake and Catey Malcolm

Not yet a Parishioner?

Register as a Parishioner on our website stephen.org. Click on "Become a Parishioner" in the footer or call the Parish office for more information. We're here to accompany you on your faith journey! We offer many opportunities, even during COVID-19 social-distancing, to help you and your family to learn, grow and form your faith. Contact Cathy Ashton: c.ashton@stephen.org or (402) 861-4507.

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

Financial Stewardship

4/14/2020-4/20/2020:

Offertory & Online Giving:	\$31,030
Fiscal* Year-to-Date (FYTD) Actual:	\$2,162,952
FYTD Budget:	\$2,140,675
FY Total Budget:	\$2,651,723
FYTD to Total Budget Percentage:	82%

Easter to-date Actual:	\$10,346
Easter Budget:	\$32,573

*SSM Parish operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1 - June 30.

Thank you for continuing to support us through your Sunday Offerings and Financial Stewardship. Conveniently give through OSV Online Giving or envelopes may be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha NE 68135.

Give online at stephen.org/give

Reflection: Stewardship as a Way of Life

"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?" LUKE 24:32

How often do we take the time to discern what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is asking of you.



Stay in the Communication with us!

Our primary communication tool is email using Flocknote. If you are not receiving our emails please follow the steps at stephen.org/flocknote or call the parish office to give us your email.

We  love
having you as part of our flock

 Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

- Choose to get updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime, no spam we promise

School News

- ⇒ School is closed through May 30th. We thank all parents & teachers for the amazing support as we embrace online learning!
- ⇒ We offer four Early Childhood programs for 3-5 year-olds. Enroll today! Learn more at: school.stephen.org/preschool

Religious Education News

- ⇒ Families activities and other resources continue to be sent to our RE families each week. Contact c.weil@stephen.org if you are not on our email list!
- ⇒ Registration for 2020-2021 is open. Please fill out a registration form and mail it to us or scan a copy and email it to c.weil@stephen.org. Payment can be mailed or dropped off at the parish office. Contact the R.E. office or email us if you need additional information. stephen.org/re-registration/
- ⇒ Please consider being a catechist. Tuition is waived for all registered students, lesson plans are already prepared and it is a great way to stay focused on your faith. Ask a friend to join you! If you are interested and have questions, please give our office a call.

Youth Ministry News

We are hosting different online events/sessions to continue to connect with, minister to, and share the faith with the youth of our parish. **We must have parental permission for a youth to participate in online discussions!** Please complete permission at www.smartwaiver.com/v/ssmyonline.

- ⇒ **Global Life Night Experience-“You Won’t Find Jesus Here” Series:** The Global Life Night Experience is a live, online session for teens which lasts about 30 minutes. Each Global Life Night Experience will feature empowering speakers and worship leaders. Watch at LFTN.CO/LIFENIGHT, 4 PM on Sundays. This Sunday's topic is **God in the Sinner**. The message will be given by Mari Pablo, and worship will be led by Francis Cabildo.
 - ⇒ **Project YM Live Events:** Join teenagers across the country each Sunday at 7 PM for ProjectYM Live – featuring some of the biggest speakers and worship leaders in Catholic youth ministry. Open to all tweens, teens, and their families...for FREE! Our parish is signed up to participate – all you have to do is head to PROJECTYM.COM/WATCH on Sundays at 7 PM to watch!
 - ⇒ **Project YM Live Watch Party: Sundays at 8 PM;** Open to all (will divide into age appropriate small groups)...An opportunity to pray together and discuss the night's Project YM subject matter. *Please feel welcome to join us even if you were unable to watch the Project YM Event.
 - ⇒ **Edge Middle School Ministry: Tuesdays at 7 PM;** for 5th-8th grade youth...An opportunity to continue to grow in faith and friendship together. This Tuesday you will get what you asked for...an opportunity to learn more about the lives of the Saints!
 - ⇒ **High School Discipleship: Wednesdays at 7 PM;** for 9-12th grade youth...We'll pray, check-in with one another, have question/answer time, and play games. A chance to continue to grow in faith and friendship!
- If you are not receiving emails from Youth Ministry, please contact Laura Bogue at l.bogue@stephen.org or join through Flocknote.

Senior Pictures

To help celebrate the Class of 2020, we are collecting senior pictures. Pictures labeled with graduate's first and last name and high school on the back can be dropped off or mailed to the R.E./Youth Ministry Office. They may also be e-mailed to l.bogue@stephen.org. **NOTE:** Pictures must be sent in by May 17th to be included on our prayer banner. If pictures are sent digitally and include a photographer's logo, please also send a print release from photographer.

Rice Bowls

During this time, we cannot guarantee someone will be in the parish office to collect the Rice Bowls when dropped off, and we do not want donations left unsecured. So, we are requesting that families either keep the cash/coin and write a check to SSM for the total or you can hold on to the Rice Bowl money until things settle down and we are able to collect them. If writing a check, please put "Rice Bowl" in the memo on the check AND also on the envelope and mail to: 16701 S Street, Omaha NE 68135.

Encounter Christ Prayer and Reflection

Are you missing time to pray with other parishioners? Would you like to spend a little time with the upcoming week's Gospel reading? Join us for Encounter Christ Prayer and Reflection.

- ⇒ Tuesday at 2:00-2:30 pm
- ⇒ Wednesday at 7:30-8:00 pm
- ⇒ Thursday at 9:00-9:30 am

RSVP here <https://forms.gle/Rk3Fi1V7psRGDTY7> and the zoom link will be sent to you. Questions? Contact Cathy Ashton: c.ashton@stephen.org or (402) 861-4507.

Tips for Watching Mass at Home

- Set up chairs as pews, instead of lounging on the couch
- Surround your tv or laptop with candles, crosses, or other holy items.
- Perhaps place it on a table with a white cloth and make your own little altar.
- Dress up in your Sunday best
- Sit, stand, kneel, and respond as you would in person
- Make a Spiritual Communion (see below)
- Celebrate after with a treat!

How to Make a Spiritual Communion

When we can't receive Jesus' Body and Blood, we can still express our desire to be united with Him. Pray the following prayer together:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Care & Support

Our sense of normalcy has changed. We are in unprecedented times. If you are hurting and need to talk, we are here. We offer one-to-one, Christ-centered care, and support. Our parish staff and trained volunteers attentively listen, compassionately discuss, and confidentially move toward resolution (including external resource referrals, when necessary). Contact Deacon Denny Dethlefs at (402) 861-4538 or the Parish Office at (402) 861-9675 (select option #2 after hours).

Prayer Line

You are not alone! Did you know St. Stephen the Martyr has prayer warrior who are ready to pray for YOUR intention? God has given us this incredible gift to intercede on behalf of others through prayer and thanksgiving!

Submit your prayer request to be shared with our Prayer Line Ministry and/or with our Parish Family at: stephen.org/prayer-line or call Beth Wetgen at (402) 669-4793.

If you would like to be part of the Prayer Line Ministry, please contact Beth Wetgen at pudenzbe@hotmail.com or (402) 669-4793. Or contact Cathy Ashton at c.ashton@stephen.org or (402) 861-4507.

Seeking Truth Registration

Open registration begins on April 15th for Seeking Truth live classes. Please join us this fall for St. Paul's Letters to the Romans and Ephesians. www.SeekinGTRUTH.net. DAY and EVE classes begin on Thursday September 10th.

In the meanwhile, try a free study on your own. The Gospel of John study is FREE and a great way to gather a few friends and use ZOOM for your PDF small group discussions from home, while you watch lectures on your own.

Delve in now! The Word of God is a lamp to our feet at a dark time. www.SeekinGTRUTH.net

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 25

8:15 am † Joe Miriovsky

Sunday, April 26

9:00 am † William Nellis
NA SI Our Parishioners

Monday, April 27

8:15 am † Vincent Leo Schroeder

Tuesday, April 28

8:15 am SI Dave Henslee
NA SI Susan & Paul Price & children

Wednesday, April 29

8:15 am SI Those affected by Coronavirus
NA † Patricia Smith
SI

Thursday, April 30

8:15 am † Tim O'Leary

Friday, May 1

8:15 am † John Maddock
NA SI Fr. Dennis

Saturday, May 2

8:15 am † Amelia Garlot

Sunday, May 3

9:00 am SI Bob & Anita Finger
NA SI Our Parishioners

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

Please note: All Masses are Private. The 9 AM Sunday Mass and the 8:15 AM Daily Mass will be Live-Streamed.

Pray for parishioners who are sick:

Mary Azara

Anthony Barela

Ray Brueneteau

Ricky Epperson, brother-in-law of Bob and Lisa Goldsmith

Janeen Harbert, sister of David

Mary Mannino, daughter of Lou

Ashely Nielsen & her unborn baby girl

Pray for souls of our parish-family who are deceased:

Joe Kucera, husband of Reenie

Sam Mazzuca



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Donation Drive

To Our St. Stephen's Parish Family--A Humble THANK YOU--for being the "hands and feet" of Jesus Christ to those in need. **HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A DAY OFF** and is **EVER PRESENT DURING THIS PANDEMIC**. Did you know that 1 in 6 children is living in poverty and almost 13% of Nebraskans don't know where their next meal is coming from? **FOR MANY OF US, IT'S A MATTER OF WHEN WE EAT, NOT IF WE EAT**. With so many families in our parish and community experiencing job loss, furloughs and income loss, finding the money to buy groceries becomes extremely critical. And, with our current situation, feeding everyone must be a continuous process.

We are so grateful for donations to help not just our Food Pantry, but Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Children's Hospital Rainbow House, and Essential Pregnancy Services. Your kindness and outpouring of love are so **GREATLY** appreciated! If you are able, please continue to bring any extra items you may have at home or donating items listed on the Donation Drive flyer. On Saturdays, the Knights of Columbus be available to collect cash, checks (made to SSM with Food Pantry in Memo), or gift cards.

Thank you to the Youth Ministry Hearts Open Wide crew, the Knights of Columbus, and all volunteers so far! If you know of any individuals or families in need please contact me at: Deacon Denny, 402-861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

Knights of Columbus Golf League

Friday night St. Stephens Golf. A Friday night 'league' begins May 8. If you like to golf but do not want to commit to a league, this may interest you. This is a pay as you play offering at Ti-buron. Nine holes with cart is \$20. We generally reserve four tee times beginning about 5:30. There are special conditions on playing this year. Singles only in carts, no pin removal, no access to bar for socializing before or afterwards, etc. If you are interested in participating, please email Steve Cinnamon at omaspice@gmail.com to express your interest and learn of the details.

Knights of Columbus 2020 Scholarship Application

SSM Knights of Columbus are accepting applications for the *2020 Deacon Wesley Kreun Memorial Scholarship*. Four \$250 1-year scholarships will be awarded to individuals attending local Catholic High Schools and four \$500 1-year scholarships will be awarded to individuals attending an accredited college or university. Pick up applications from the kiosk in the gathering space or from the parish office before April 30. Submit completed applications in to the parish office. Questions? Contact Hank Hardy at hhardy@janome-america.com. Thank you very much and God Bless!



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

DONATION DRIVE

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In light of recent events, area pantries and non-profits are experiencing a huge increase in demand. Catholic Charities is now serving over four times as many individuals as usual on a daily basis!

We are asking parishioners to bring in extra items they may have at home or are able to pick up on their next shopping trip.

FILL THE PANTRIES: SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES & ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Pasta, Dry Beans, Dry Rice
- Canned goods: fruits, vegetables, soups, chicken, and tuna
- Toiletries and feminine products

GRAB-N-GO SNACKS FOR RAINBOW HOUSE

- Easy Mac-N-Cheese
- Instant individual soups or pasta bowls
- Single-Serving cereal boxes
- Mixed fruit cups and applesauce cups
- Bulk packs of individually wrapped crackers or chips

SUPPORT ESSENTIAL PREGNANCY SERVICES:

- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby wipes

Please deliver donated items to the cart in the lobby of the Gonderinger Parish Center (GPC) Monday-Friday, between 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, or drop off donated items with the Knights of Columbus in front of the GPC on Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 PM.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT

Deacon Denny Dethlefs, Pastoral Associate
d.dethlefs@stephen.org

Laura Bogue, Youth Ministry Director
l.bogue@stephen.org

Vocations Corner

Do you recognize Christ in your life and hope to make Him known to others? Perhaps you are being called to the priesthood or consecrated life. If you are considering this possibility, contact the Vocation Office at (402) 558-3100 or email: vocations@archomaha.org.

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2020

- SUN 4/26** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35
- MON 4/27** Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29
- TUE 4/28** Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35
- WED 4/29** Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40
- THR 4/30** Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51
- FRI 5/01** Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59
- SAT 5/02** Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69
- SUN 5/03** Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

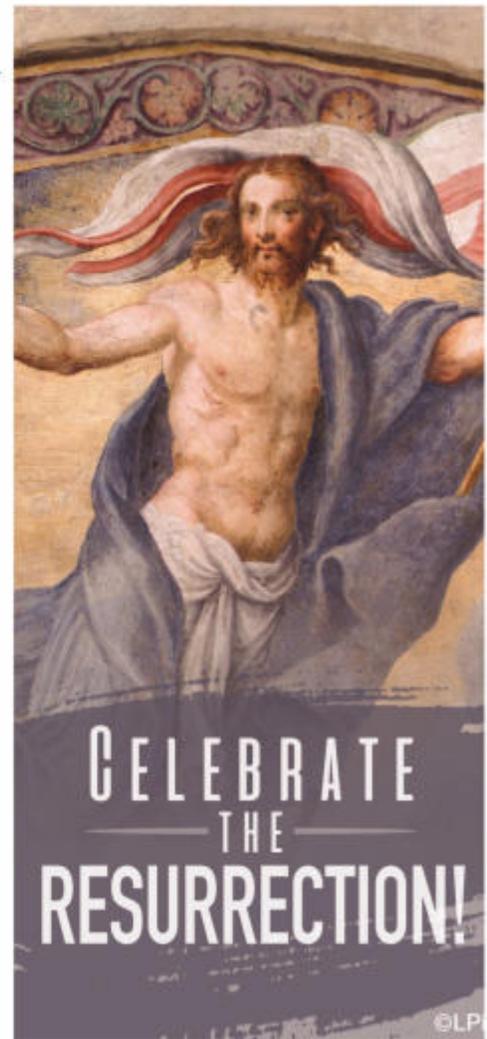
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2020

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Easter
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
- Wednesday:** St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** St. Pius V, Pope
- Friday:** St. Joseph the Worker
- Saturday:** St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Is God a real Being for you or simply an idea to be entertained? Often, we reduce God to a set of ideas, theories, and principles and neglect to see Him as the One who takes joy in helping us understand all of the events and mysteries of life. God delights in journeying with us and is the only One who can fill us with joy and make our hearts burn with excitement and jubilation. He is the One who assists us in recognizing the truth that is before us

and interpreting not only the jewels of Sacred Scripture but the events of history. If we recognize God, we can also see that He inspires us to see the divine meaning of our own lives as well. Sometimes it takes us a little time. After all, even Jesus' closest friends had to walk with him for a while on the road to Emmaus before their eyes were opened in the breaking of bread.



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020 | 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Remember in Your Prayers

ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



*Compassionate and Loving Father,
In the face of confusion and concern
impart to us the calm of Your presence.
In You allow us to find hope and healing.
Be with those who serve the sick and
give them Your caring hands.
Be with those who lead and give them
Your spirit of wisdom.
Be with those who have fallen ill and
give them Your comforting heart.
Wrap Your arms around our world
and hold us in Your love.
Allow us at this time of trial to then
serve as instruments of that love
to all we meet.
We ask this in Your Name.
Amen*

APRIL 29



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OF SIENA**
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020 | 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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