The Catholic Faith Community of

HOLY DISCIPLES PARISH

One Catholic Community of Faith In Oakville/Watertown



St. Mary Magdalen Church 16 Buckingham Street Oakville, CT 06779



St. John the Evangelist Church 574 Main Street Watertown, CT 06795

Parish Office: 860-274-8836

March 10, 2024

New 2024 - Mass Schedule

St. Mary Magdalen St. John the Evangelist

Church Church
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM 5:15 PM
Sunday: 7:00 AM
8:15 AM 9:30 AM

9.30 AM

Daily Mass: Wednesday: 8:00 AM (at St. Mary Magdalen Chapel) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 12:10 PM

(at St. John the Evangelist Church)

Holy Disciples Clergy

Pastor: Rev. Anthony J. Smith

Senior Priests: Rev. David C. Carey

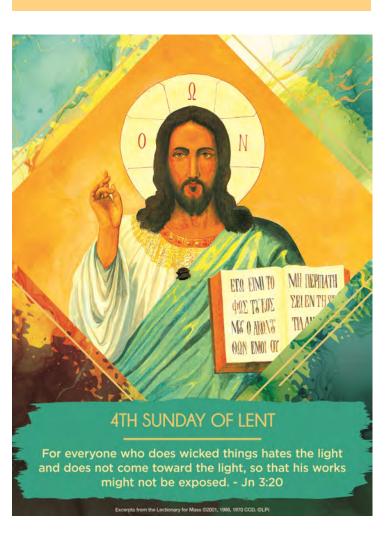
Rev. Joseph Napolitano

Deacon: Michael Malfitano

Victor C. Mitchell, Jr.

Senior Deacons: George Pettinico

Robert D. Gordon
Daniel A. Camerota



HOLY DISCIPLES PARISH



Every year Archbishop Blair honors parishioners from across the archdiocese for their extraordinary contributions to the church and their parish. The St Joseph Medal Award Ceremony is held each year at the Cathedral of St Joseph in the month of March. Pastors are asked to submit a nominee from their respective parish. The 2023 recipients were Cindy and Mike Daddona. The husband and wife team have served St Mary Magdalen Parish and, now Holy Disciples Parish, in many capacities



including catechist, Eucharistic minister and usher.



This year's nominee is Tom Desjardins. Tom has been a life-long parishioner at St John the Evangelist Parish and now with Holy Disciples Parish. Tom's list of involvement in ministry is long and distinguished. Tom is an active member of our Pro-Life Ministry. Along with his fellow members in the ministry, Tom has represented the parish on many fronts supporting the struggle to preserve the dignity of life. Tom is also a Eucharistic minister who visits homebound parishioners and serves at mass. In the past Tom has been a catechist, teaching adults preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. Each week Tom assists with Eucharistic Adoration on Monday and Thursday evenings. And when his work schedule permits, Tom will serve at funerals during the week. Tom also serves as a lector at the Wednesday 8:00 Mass and the weekend vigil Masses.

Tom lives his faith with extraordinary commitment and joy. He is a constant presence in our parish and his willingness to serve in so many capacities has been a tremendous benefit to me and to our parish community. On behalf of our parish I extend our sincere thanks to Tom for giving so much of his time and talent to serve. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says; 'the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve...' Tom has taken this as a blueprint for his life and for that we are so grateful. We congratulate Tom for this well-deserved recognition.

Tom will be presented the St Joseph Award by Archbishop Blair today (Sunday), 3:00 at St Joseph Cathedral, Hartford. Congratulations Tom Desjardin!

Father Anthony







Welcome to the parish! Please introduce yourself to our pastor, Father Anthony Smith, after Mass.

We welcome all visitors, but if you wish to become a member of the parish, please register by calling the Parish Office or stopping in at 21 Academy Hill, Watertown - Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Parish census forms are also available on the web at stjohn.weconnect.com



ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH **OAKVILLE**

Saturday, March 9, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM † Linda & Doming Rodis, Letitia & Mario Enad, by their family

Sunday, March 10, Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:15 AM † Angela Cirelli, by Sue Ponton

Wednesday, March 13, Lenten Weekday 8:00 AM † Katie Bovat, 2ndYear Anniv., by her parents

Saturday, March 16, Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent 4:00 PM † Phyllis J. Petto, by her family

Sunday, March 17, Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:15 AM † John Gizzi, by Carlo, Carl & Maria Perugini

Daily Mass on Wednesday is offered in the St. Mary Magdalen Rectory Chapel, located at 145 Buckingham Street in Oakville.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH WATERTOWN

Saturday, March 9, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent 5:15 PM † Ann Shuhart, 2nd Year Anniv., by her family

Sunday, March 10, Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:00 AM † Den Horace Hamor, 10th Year Anniv., by his wife

& family

9:30 AM † Donato & Giacondina Gugliotti, by Nicolina

Rinaldi & Elda Mancini

11:00 AM † John Creaven, by his family

Monday, March 11, Lenten Weekday

12:10 PM † Nunzio & Concetta Gugliotti, by their family

Tuesday, March 12, Lenten Weekday

12:10 PM † Jacqueline Byrnes, by her sister Fern Serben

Thursday, March 14 Lenten Weekday

12:10 PM † Bernard Bernetsky, by his wife Marilyn

Friday, March 15, Lenten Weekday

12:10 PM † Eleanor Charland

Saturday, March 16, Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

5:15 PM † Douglas Souilliard, 2nd Year Anniv., by his wife &

Sunday, March 17, Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:00 AM † Salvatore Loi, by his wife & family

9:30 AM † Pasquale Polletta, by his wife Giovanna & children

† Joseph Salustro, by his family 11:00 AM

For Offertory or Donations or Mass Intentions, Please make ALL CHECKS payable to Holy Disciples Parish.





This week the St. John Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of John Creaven, by his family.

The St. Mary Magdalen Lamp burns in memory of John Bavone, Jr., by his wife & family.

Gifts to God and to Holy Disciples Parish, from St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist Churches

Received in March 3 Offertory: 11,382.00 Received in March 3 Online offertory: \$ 3,010.50 Received in Monthly collection 1,273.00 Received in Monthly Online: \$ 378.00 Received in Easter Flower Envelopes: 85.00 Received in Candle donations: 409.69

Thank you for supporting your parish with your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Today we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support for this collection aids victims of persecution and natural disasters, provides legal services to poor immigrants, and advocates for the powerless. Through your generosity, six Catholic agencies reveal Christ's love to the vulnerable refugee, the immigrant family, and those who are poor and marginalized.

Please prayerfully consider contributing to The Catholic Relief Services Collection in today's second collection.



INCREASING DISASTERS, INCREASING RESILIENCE

Located in Southeast Asia between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has beautiful beaches, diverse cultures and the world's fourth largest

population. Many of the country's more than 17,000 islands are in the Ring of Fire, where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones are also becoming more frequent and destructive.

Find out how—with the support of Catholic Relief Services and generous communities like yours—Evita and her disaster preparedness group are working to keep their community safe. Visit **crsricebowl.org** to read this week's Story of Hope.



Easter Flower Memorials

If you would like to remember your loved ones this Easter by donating to the Easter Flower Memorial Fund, please fill out a flower envelope at the church entrances.

Place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office.

A list of the names of donations given "In Memory of" will be published in the bulletin. (Donations with no "Memorial" will not be listed.)

Mass Book is Open

On Thursday, February 1, our Mass Books opened to accept the scheduling of Masses for July through December 2024 at both St. Mary Magdalen Church & Chapel and St. John the **Evangelist Church.** The offering for each Mass is \$15.

We ask that you limit the number of weekend requests to 3 or 4. so as to allow more families an opportunity for Masses.

For an offering of \$20, our Sanctuary candle or lamp will burn in memory of someone for the period of 1 week.

Email the Parish Office at stjohn.wtnct@gmail.com, or call -860-274-8836, Monday through Thursday, from 9 AM to 4 PM.

Information for the Holy Disciples Bulletin needs to be received by 9:30am on Monday morning. If your ministry or church group would like something included, please email it to stjohn.wtnct@gmail.com by Monday morning. Thank you.

Holy Disciples Parish Ministries

*Italy Trip Information Meeting*For all pilgrims attending the Choir Italy Trip in April 2024, we will hold an informational meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 12, downstairs in Fr. Filip Hall at St. John Church



Join the Holy Disciples Youth Choir!!

Come sing on Wednesday nights from **6:30-7:30pm** and then one Sunday a month at St. John the Evangelist Church. We need singers!! Contact Mark Ryan at mryanmusic@mac.com for more information.

Join the Holy Disciples Adult Choir!!

Join the newly combined Holy Disciples Adult Choir, featuring members from both St. Mary Magdalen Choir and St. John the Evangelist Choir! They rehearse at 7:30pm on Wednesdays in the St. John Choir loft and will sing for Mass in our churches on alternate weeks.

Young Adult Ministry for individuals ages 18 - 30s



The Greater Waterbury Chapter of Crossroads for Christ meets each Thursday evening at 7:00pm in the Holy Disciples Faith Formation Building at 9 Academy Hill in Watertown.

They follow their meeting with Eucharistic Adoration, from 8:10 to 9 pm in St. John the Evangelist Church.

Looking Ahead......

Bereavement Support Meeting

The Holy Disciples Bereavement Ministry will hold their monthly support meeting, on Monday, March 18, at 1:00 pm in the Faith Formation Conference Room at 9 Academy Hill, Watertown.

If you have suffered the death of a child, parent, spouse or friend, the Holy Disciples Bereavement Support Group is here to help you. Please join us.

The Third Annual March For Life -Hartford

On Wednesday March 20, 2024—Held at the State Capitol, this event begins with a rally at Noon at the Capitol, followed at 1pm by a march around Bushnell Park.

The Holy Disciples Respect Life Ministry will take a bus from St. Anthony's Church in Prospect at 10 am. The bus is full, but if you would like to be put on the waiting list, contact Ginny Wawrzyniak at 860-987-8152 or email vw.wawrzyniak37@gmail.com.

Recognizing God in Your Ordinary Moments Awake, O Sleeper!

This morning came a little earlier than I would have liked — Daylight Savings Time always does. Sometimes that morning sunlight seems more intrusive than illuminating. You're still half -lost in sleep, and that sun is demanding of you a lot more than you're ready to give.

I've said it, and I'm sure you've said it, too. "Just five more minutes." You hit the "snooze" button on your iPhone once (maybe twice? Show of hands?) and turn away from the window.

So many kings of the Old Testament were steadfast in their sleepy ways, rejecting the light their God tried to share with them. Likewise, John tells us that, though Light — Christ — was sent into the world, the world preferred darkness.

Sometimes it seems, when reading through Scripture, that all throughout salvation history, God has been trying to pull back the curtains, to rouse us from our defiant slumber. And we resist Him. Time and time again, we resist Him.

Light brings a certain responsibility with it. It seems to compel productivity. Furthermore, there's no hiding in the light. Any photographer worth his salt knows how to manipulate it, highlighting the good and casting some merciful shade on the bad.

As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, we're getting so close to the main event. Can we handle the light that will come on Easter morning, bursting into the tomb as the stone is rolled away? Can we keep ourselves from hitting the "snooze" button on our souls, and sit up to face the dawn of a new day?

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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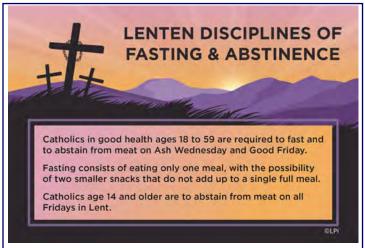


Thank you to everyone for your contributions to our recent food drive benefitting Watertown Social Services! Your generosity is greatly appreciated as we continue to be Holy Disciples caring for our brothers and sisters in need!

Remember the Sick

Please pray for our sick at home, in hospitals and in convalescent homes, especially: Paul Gugliotti, Denis O'Sullivan, Gloria Pavan, Betty Simonin, Betty Barnes, Joe Calabrese, Raymond Sullivan, Diane Butler, Kathy Craig, Fern Serben, Angela Dubauskas, George Plungis, Irene & Tim Viltrakis, Ron & Marlene Luth, Michael Valuckas, Alexandria Ford, Meghan Mooney, Melissa Destefano, Dan Camerota, Maia Demirs, Armand Collins, William D'Amico, DJ Ouellette, Brandon Young, Evelyn Van Buren, Michael Teixeira, Christopher

Call the Parish Office to add, remove or re-add a name



Lenten Observances

Confessions

For your convenience, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered every Lenten Monday in every parish in the Archdiocese of Hartford. At St. John the Evangelist Church, confessions will be heard from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Confessions are also heard on Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:30 PM at St. Mary Magdalen Church.

Adoration

At St. John the Evangelist, our Monday Holy Hour continues during Lent, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. On Lenten Fridays, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after the 12:10 PM Mass and will be reposed just before the beginning of the Stations of the Cross. The Blessed Sacrament cannot be left alone, so we need people to sign up to be present during the time between Exposition and Benediction. Sign up sheets are at the parking lot side entrance to the church.

Stations of the Cross



Join us for the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7 PM at both St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Evangelist Churches, through March 15.

On Friday, March 22, our Faith Formation students will present the Shadow Stations of sthe Cross only at St. Mary Magdalen Church at 7 PM. (No Stations at St. John) On Good at / PM. (No Stations at St. John) On Good Friday, at 7 PM, Stations will be offered only at St. John the Evangelist Church.

<u>Lenten Regulations</u>

Fasting means to refrain from eating food between meals and to eat only one full meal with the other two being lighter meals. It applies to those 18 to 59 years of age.

Abstinence means to refrain from eating meat. It applies to those who have reached the age of 14 and whose health will not suffer thereby.

> Ash Wednesday - Fast & Abstinence Fridays during Lent - Abstinence Good Friday - Fast & Abstinence

One Catholic Community of Faith in Oakville and Watertown

Staff

Parish Administrative Assistant

Nora Myers

Monday-Thursday 9-4 860-274-8836

Email: stjohn.wtnct@gmail.com

Fax: 860-274-0667

https://stjohn.weconnect.com

https://stmmagdalen-oakville.org

Faith Formation

Monday-Thursday 11-5
Gintare Lopez - Director
stmmreledgintare@gmail.com
860-274-1955
Karla Ryan - Secretary
karlaryanFF@gmail.com
860-274-4123
Johanna Dubauskas - Secretary
stmmreligioused@aol.com
860-274-1955

Youth Minister

Peter Ryan - holydiscipleslifeteen@gmail.com

Music Ministry

St. John the Evangelist Music Director & Choir - Mark Ryan
St. John the Evangelist Organist - Seth Uricheck
St. John the Evangelist Cantor - Teresa Malaspina
St. Mary Magdalen Organist - Michael Sherbo
St. Mary Magdalen Cantor - Sara Freiheit

Unified Schools

St. Mary Magdalen Elementary School

Mrs. Deborah Mulhall - Principal 860-945-0621

St. John the Evangelist Middle School

Mrs. Rebecca Goddard - Principal 860-274-9208

Parish Mailing Address: Holy Disciples Parish

21 Academy Hill Watertown, CT 06795

Parish Membership

All Catholics are to be registered with a parish, especially if a Sacrament or Sponsor Certificate is needed.



Sacrament of Baptism

Parents and Godparents attend a preparation meeting offered one evening each month. Godparents must be Baptized and Confirmed Catholic, registered and active in their parish, and have a Sponsor Certificate from their Parish.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Mary Magdalen - Saturdays from 3:00-3:30 PM or by appointment St. John the Evangelist - Mondays from 6:00-7:00PM or by appointment.

Sacrament of Communion Children - St. Mary Magdalen School and Office of Faith Formation.

Sacrament of Confirmation Children - St. John School and Office of Faith Formation.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

For adults who wish to become Catholic or Catholic Adults who have not yet received the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. Contact the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Call the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding.

Sacrament of the Sick and Pastoral Care

Notify the Parish Office if someone is homebound or in a hospital or convalescent home.

Holy Disciples Ministries

Holy Disciples Parish PRAYER LINE – (860) 274-0090 Catholic Women of Holy Disciples Parish

Respect Life Ministry

Buildings & Grounds Ministry
Ouilting Ministry

Gardening Ministry Prayer Shawl Ministry

Parish Events

Social Justice Outreach:

Soup Kitchen, Food Drives, Homefront, New Beginnings, Giving Tree, etc.

Liturgical:

Liturgy, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Sacristans

Faith Formation Life Teen Young Adult Ministry



The Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Elementary School St. John the Evangelist Catholic Middle School



5th and 6th graders got a kick out of Mrs. Carey's newest classroom addition... a giant pencil! They look ready to learn!

When you almost step on a toy car in the hallway it only makes sense that it's Mr. Lynch's 3rd grade class holding a distance contest. Way to make science fun!







Both the girls JV and the Boys' JV6 brought home runner up trophies in the Waterbury Parochial League Basketball Championship held at Holy Cross High School! The determination and heart shown by all of these players was amazing to watch. We are so proud of our players, their coaches and families for an outstanding season!



Honoring Active Service Members Staff Sgt Christopher Plourde, US Army Capt Mykal Kuslis, US Army Reserves Sgt James DosSantos, US Army SFC Lindsav Marie White, US Army Cmdr Matthew Stevick, US Coast Guard Capt Matthew C. Salver, US Army Cmdr Megan Donnelly US Navy Cmdr Michael Donnelly US Navy E3 Chelsea DeMarest, US Air National Guard E3 Seabee Michael Perugini, US Navy Staff Sgt. Nicholas DeCicco, US Army CW3 Nicholas Ciullo, CT Army National Guard PFC Christian Braatz, US Army PFC Noah Braatz, US Army PFC Christopher Trueblood, US Army 1st Lt. Michael Cullen, US Army National Guard TSgt Sarah Estime, US Air Force

Holy Disciples Parish wants to recognize and honor all those who are currently serving in the military. If you'd like to add the name of a loved one who is serving, please submit the name, rank and the branch of the service of your loved one. These individuals will be remembered in prayer.

Overcoming Anxiety Workshop

Dr. Thomas Finn, Clinical Psychologist on staff at the Franciscan Life Center, is offering a six-week Overcoming Anxiety Workshop. This psycho-educational program provides basic tools for managing anxiety including relaxation techniques and improved thinking styles based on the principles of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, a highly effective therapeutic method for anxiety reduction.

Dates: Thursdays, April 11 – May 16, 2024

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Place: Chiara Center, 275 Finch Avenue, Meriden, CT

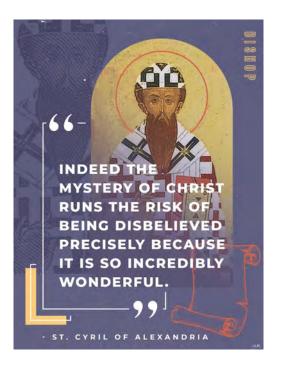
Cost: \$50.00/session.

Participants age 16 and over are welcome.

For reservations or more information, please call: 203-237-8084.

The Vocations Corner

The Israelites turned away from God and spurned His commandments. Jerusalem was destroyed and the survivors became slaves. In His mercy and grace, He later provided a way back. He so loved the world that He gave us His Son that we may turn away from the darkness of sin, turn to the Light, and have eternal life. Are you being called to share the joy of this Good News with others as a priest, deacon, or in religious life? Come and see. Contact Father Anthony J. Federico, III, Director of Vocations, 860-242-5573 email vocations@aohct.org, or visit the web at hartfordpriest.com.



Archbishop's Annual Appeal



The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the unhoused, counsel those in despair, offer much-needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2024 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at

https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/.

No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

A Gospel Meditation March 10, 2024 4th Sunday of Lent



Our national pastime isn't baseball. It's what the Bible calls "condemning the world." We generally enjoy pronouncing curses upon those whom we see as trouble, wrong, or evil. Don't believe me? Listen to almost any podcast, cable news network, or social media platform to hear it. It will be some version of: "We all agree that if *they* are eradicated, things will be great." Condemning is almost always clothed in virtue. It basks in its good intentions. That's why it is so attractive. Condemning seems like our best path to saving what is good.

What a shock, then, to hear Jesus announce: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (Jn 3:17). He comes to save the world, as we all want, but he will accomplish it without an act of condemnation. How hard it is to accept this! Condemning feels godlike. I judge who and what must be lost to protect the good. But in the light of Jesus' endless mercy and love, this is the *least* godlike thing we can do.

Lenten challenge: This week, I invite you to give up the delicious experience of condemning whomever in the world you most would like to see gone. Perhaps write down their names. Secondly, I invite you to consider fasting from any media that feeds the tasty but deadly tendency to condemn.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

A Wonderful Way to Leave a Legacy!
Please remember our Church in your Will.
Contact Father Anthony Smith
for information on how you can name
Holy Disciples Parish as a beneficiary.

CALENDAR

Saturday, March 9

3:00-3:30 PM Confessions (StMM)

Sunday, March 10

9:30 AM Mass live streamed on Facebook (StJE)

12:15 PM Baptism

Monday, March 11

6:00 PM Confessions (StJE)

7:00 PM Holy Hour (StJE)

Tuesday, March 12

6:00 PM Cub Scout Meeting - StMM Church Hall

7:00 PM Choir Trip Meeting - Fr. Filip Hall

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 AM Prayer Group - Faith Formation Conf. Rm

6:30 PM Holy Disciples Youth Choir - Choir Loft

7:30 PM Holy Disciples Adult Choir - Choir Loft

Thursday, March 14

6:30 PM BSA Meeting - StMM Church Hall

7:00 PM Crossroads4Christ - Faith Formation Conf Rm

8:10 PM Adoration - St. John

Friday, March 15

12:40-6:50 PM Eucharistic Adoration - St. John

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross - both St. MM & St. John

Saturday, March 16

3:00-3:30 PM Confessions (StMM)

Sunday, March 17

9:30 AM Mass live streamed on Facebook (StJE)

12:15 PM Baptisms



And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. - Jn 3:19-20

Readings for the week of March 10, 2024

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (6ab)/

Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/

Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/ Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/

Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53 Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/

Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

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