

# Encountering THE SEASON

Easter for the Family

Fourth Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 13:14, 43-52  
Revelation 7:9, 14b-17  
John 10:27-30

## Dear Family:

Read the reflection about the trials of life, and discuss the “Ponder and Pray” questions and prompts, thinking about how Our Lord is calling you to act. Then, consider the challenges of the “Live It” section, and have fun with the family activities.

## You Are Not Alone

Life is filled with stress, challenges, and times of great trouble. From school finals to health battles to major transitions, the weight of these moments can feel overwhelming. Yet, today’s readings remind us of a deeper truth: We are never abandoned. In Revelation, John sees a vision of the saints who have “survived the time of great distress.” Their survival isn’t just physical—it’s spiritual. They remain in God’s hands, held by his love and strengthened by his presence.

Stress has the power to reveal, clarify, and purify. It shows us what we truly value, in whom we trust, and it refines our hearts for God. Like the disciples in Acts who faced persecution with joy, we are called to interpret stress through the lens of faith. Jesus assures us, “No one can take them out of my hand” (John 10:28). Even in difficulty, we belong to him.

“ My sheep hear my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me. ”  
—John 10:27



He Lives by Mike Moyers

Whatever you’re facing today—trials, uncertainty, or grief—remember: You are not abandoned, you are not alone, and you do not have to be afraid. Trust

in the Lord’s presence, and keep moving forward, knowing that nothing given to God is ever wasted.

## Ponder and Pray

- When stress or troubles arise, how do you typically respond? How might shifting your perspective to trust in God change your experience?
- Stress can reveal what we value most. What has recent stress in your life revealed about your priorities or trust in God?
- Nothing given to God is ever wasted. How can this truth help you face difficulties with hope and courage?



## Fun for the Family

Set up a simple obstacle course at home or outside. Pair family members, and blindfold one person while the other guides them through the course using only their voice. Discuss how trusting the guide mirrors our trust in God. Reflect together: How can we trust God more, even when we can't see the outcome? Close with a prayer, asking for deeper faith and courage in times of stress.

## Live It

This week, reflect on how stress affects your faith. Do you see it as a crushing weight or as a way God strengthens and purifies you? When challenges arise, repeat this truth: "I am not abandoned, I am not alone, and I do not have to be afraid." Surrender your struggles to God, trusting that he can use every moment, even the hardest ones, to draw you closer to him.

## Vocations to the Priesthood

God our Father,  
From eternity You appointed Your only begotten Son  
to be the High Priest of the human race.  
Pour forth, we beseech You,  
Your Holy Spirit upon our families,  
that vocations to the priesthood may be multiplied.  
Lord Jesus, give us holy priests:  
To offer up the sacrifice of the Mass;  
To lead the little ones to You;  
To strengthen the faith of believers;  
To preach the Gospel to all peoples;  
To bring forgiveness to sinners;  
To feed souls the Bread of Life;  
To comfort the suffering & dying, and  
To spread Your Kingdom in our midst.  
Mary, Mother of our High Priest, pray for us and obtain for us an increase  
Amen

## Family Prayer for Vocations

Father, increase our family's love for one another.  
May we honor each other in times of happiness or hardship,  
bearing with one another in love, just as You love us.  
In a special way, help us strive for holiness in our current states of life.  
Should You call some of us to the priesthood or religious life,  
help us to respond with courage and joy.  
Together, we make heaven our goal, and pledge, with Your grace,  
to help each other on life's journey to You.  
Through the intercession of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.  
Amen

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