

St. Dismas Guild
P.O. Box 2129
Escondido, CA 92033

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St. Dismas Guild ~ Prison Ministry

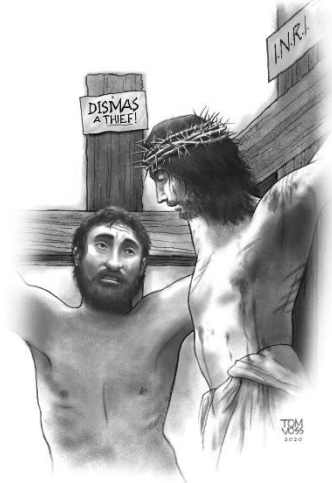
“Lord, when did I see you ...in prison, and not help you?” Matt. 25:44

St. Dismas Guild is a nonprofit organization which provides Catholic Bibles and Bible Study workbooks, etc., free of charge, to inmates.

Donations can be made on our website www.StDismasGuild.org
or by mail, PO Box 2129, Escondido, CA, 92033.

**The Church’s Dedication for April is to
The Blessed Sacrament and The Holy Spirit**

April 2026



DOING TIME WITH JESUS

Dear St Dismas Guild, I pray that I’m not too late to ask to be considered into the Bible study. I am new to your services, but I’m hoping to be a part of your service. My name is S.K. And I’ve been incarcerated for the last five years, and it was here that I found your newsletter. It says here that you offer a Bible Study. **I am recently reborn of faith, and I am seeking for the truth.** Do you offer perhaps a pen pal or something like a correspondence program as we do the Bible study? Like mentors or something? I just like writing and sharing my thoughts with others. I have been lost for many years to be honest; I’ve read the Bible many times before, but I’ve never taken the words serious enough to apply them to myself to where I can become what God has intended me to be. But I want to be what God wants me to be, for my past has done nothing for me, but pain and sorrow. Well, I don’t want to be using up all your time, but please enroll me into your Bible study and let me know if any other programs that you may be offering for I’m interested and grateful for whatever you can deliver to me. Thank you and God bless S.K.

Dear S.K., thank you so much for your heartfelt letter. It is never too late to seek the Lord, and we rejoice with you in your recent rebirth in faith. We are truly grateful that you found our newsletter and that the Holy Spirit has stirred your heart to want to grow closer to God through His Word. Your desire to apply the Scriptures to your life and become the man God intends you to be is beautiful and pleasing to Him. Welcome!

*We are happy to send you our Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study. Please know that **this Bible Study is NOT a correspondence course.** We do not ask you to return your answers, and we do not offer certificates for its completion. The study simply follows the Liturgical Calendar of the Church each week so that you can prepare your heart for the upcoming Sunday Mass. You may use the lessons in any way that helps you: pick one lesson at a time, follow along week-by-week with the readings for Mass, or study at your own pace.*

If you ever have any questions about a particular lesson or the readings, please feel free to write and ask. We are here to help.

*You also asked about a pen-pal or correspondence program. While the Bible Study itself is not set up for back-and-forth writing, we **do** offer a separate **Spiritual Mentoring Program** (men to men and women to women). This allows you to correspond with one of our trained volunteer mentors or ask Fr. Richard faith-based questions. If you feel it would benefit you to share your thoughts, reflections, and faith-based questions with a mentor, simply let us know in your next letter. We will then match you with a mentor and begin forwarding your questions to them so the two of you can write.*

You are already on the right path, S.K. Keep turning to the Lord—He is faithful and will complete the good work He has begun in you. We will keep you in our prayers, and we look forward to walking with you on this journey.

May the Lord bless you abundantly and give you His peace.

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Dear St. Dismas Guild, it is truly a blessing that you support us prisoners amid our challenges, enabling us to share God’s Word and grow in faith. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study has been life-changing, thanks to you. Every evening before lights out, my brothers and I gather for our daily “homework.” Our favorite part is the personal reflections. At first, I was guarded and closed off, but opening up honestly has transformed me. The Holy Spirit has filled us with joy, happiness, and renewal, turning hesitant sharing into deep connections that draw us closer to God’s grace.

I also cherish your monthly newsletters. Each one always has a topic or two that speaks directly to me or someone I know, offering constant encouragement. Thank you again for everything. I look forward to next month’s newsletter. J.G.

Dear J.G., thank you for your sincere letter — it truly lifts our spirits! Hearing how the Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study has opened your heart and your brothers' hearts is a beautiful reminder of why we do this ministry. What a powerful transformation the Holy Spirit has worked in you: from guarded and closed off to freely sharing, finding joy, and drawing closer to God's grace. Stories like yours are the reason we keep sending these resources.

Please know you and your brothers remain in our daily prayers. Keep letting the Lord work in you — He is doing something wonderful!

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION w/Fr. Richard

The need for Baptism and Continuous

Conversion: In man's creation, he is wounded by original sin and is not destined for heaven yet because of this. Original sin separates us from God. Baptism cleanses man from this and orients him toward God. It is the BEGINNING of the way to heaven. Everyone does not cooperate with God's grace; some choose evil, and thus are not equal in saving grace because of the life they have chosen, despite the saving grace received in Baptism. For this reason, we must seek to be continuously converted by God's saving grace.

One way we can do this is by making frequent, honest visits to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with the firm desire to sin no more. St. Paul speaks about this need for continuous conversion after Baptism in *Romans 6:1-4* — *“What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not! How can we who died to sin yet live in it? Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.”*

SACRED TRADITION

The Church's Dedication for April: is to the Eucharist and to the Holy Spirit. This tradition has developed because Easter Sunday often falls in April, ...and during the Easter celebration we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**, which would come after Jesus's resurrection. - aquinasandmore.com



A Few FEAST DAYS:

April 12th – Divine Mercy Sunday – The Feast of Divine Mercy was recorded in the diary of St. Faustina, granting the biggest promise of grace

from the Devotion to Divine Mercy. Jesus said: *“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain COMPLETE forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.”*

April 25th – St. Mark – Patron: Against impenitence—the refusal to repent of one's sins; attorneys; prisoners; TB of the neck lymph nodes.

April 29th – St. Catherine of Siena – Patron: firefighters; illness; miscarriages; nurses; sexual temptation.

DEACON KEN'S CORNER

Letter from the late Deacon Ken Finn dated, March 1985: Easter is a time to celebrate the Risen Lord. He is risen from the dead; He has conquered death and because of Him you and I can face tomorrow without fear. He

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died and rose from the dead so that you and I could die and rise from the dead also. We can celebrate at this Easter time the incredible victory that Jesus Christ has won for us. **We are really “Easter people” or “risen people”** — all we have to do is say, “Yes Lord.” He has paid the ransom for our sins and we are free, even if we are behind bars in some far-off prison.

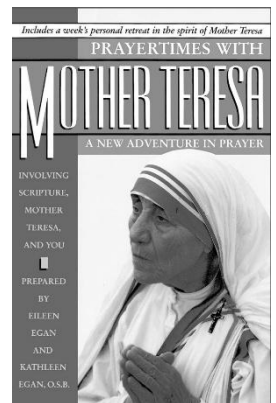
We ask, “Wow, what will it cost?” And the answer is our yielding our hearts and minds to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus' gift to us is our faith and we really need to ask: what is faith? Faith is the loving response to the power and presence of God in your life. Faith calls for a response from you and me, to really be effective.

I pray that this Easter season you will say to our Lord and Savior. Yes Lord, I thank You for dying for me, a worthless sinner. I thank You for rising from the dead for me, so that I can live forever too. I respond to Your gift of faith to me with my own “yes Lord” which will be reflected in the actions of my life. This is a prayer that will come alive as we really experience the risen Lord in our own personal life. **Happy Easter!**

PRAYERTIMES W/MOTHER TERESA

Response from March 13, 2026 – Week 10 – by

Marie: Good morning, Lord, when your kindness and love was revealed to me personally, I had a change of heart. I had a cancer in me eating away at my insides. That cancer was anger and bitterness that blinded me from seeing your love and it smelled of self-pity preventing me from receiving the love Ken had for me. You took away the guilt of my sin through no righteous act on my part but just because you love me. Thank you, Lord. I look back now and see how my love for you and Ken grew to where I love my quiet times with you reminiscing on one day joining Ken in heaven praising and worshipping you. I can see us prostrate and bowing down in homage receiving more of your love. Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of host. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. I love you Lord and receive the love you have for me today so that I can love others the way you love me.



Good morning, Marie. Week 10 was such a great learning experience! What I learned is we don't pray enough sometimes. Sometimes we forget to put Jesus first and with me I feel as something is missing and usually resume praying daily. I put a picture of Jesus with His hand outstretched and another image with Him walking on water. So, it reminds me to start each day saying, “Jesus, take me by the hand.” Yes, another topic that stood out was bitterness. In our world today, so few people are willing to help others or show genuine compassion for those in need. I feel a deep calling to teach them the word of Jesus, and I am committed to continuing this work going forward. Some people I know are consumed by bitterness and greed, and I will continue to lift them up in prayer.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

How to write a testimonial: We love hearing your personal stories. Share yours with us! **Structure it like this:** 1/3 on your life before Christ, 1/3 on how Christ transformed you, and 1/3 on how God is active in your life today. Keep it under 500 words.

Grow your personal relationship with God through *The Bread of Life Catholic Bible Study* workbook written by our Founders Deacon Ken and Marie Finn. It follows the Church's Liturgical Calendar and prepares you for Sunday Mass readings. **Request Cycle A workbook or our List of Books today!**

