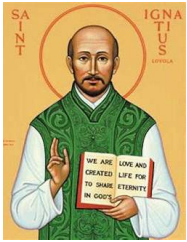


# Fr. Simon Sez

**Calling All Adult Catholics:** Our parishes need Catholic adults who are willing and able to be chaperones for our Confirmation candidates to be able to attend the Confirmation retreat in Watertown Saturday, February 4, 2023. We are also looking for any adult (paid or volunteer) with a certificate to transport people who can drive a shuttle bus for them. Please contact Fr. Simon!

**Confirmation Retreat Priest Substitute:** Fr. David Axtmann is planning on being our priest substitute the weekend of the Confirmation retreat Saturday and Sunday, February 4 - 5, 2023.



## “THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS: 365 DAYS OF INSPIRATION”

January 22 ~ Suffering: “If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint.”

~ St. Ignatius of Loyola

**The Bishop’s Bulletin for January 2023:** Have you ever wondered how the Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota benefits our local Church in eastern SD? Their 2022 annual impact report “The Joy of Giving” is included in the January 2023 issue of “The Bishop’s Bulletin.” They receive and distribute donor-designated gifts for Catholic ministries and charities across the Diocese of Sioux Falls and beyond. For more information go to [ccfesd.org](http://ccfesd.org) or call (605) 988-3788.

## The Bishop’s Bulletin for February 2023:

The final plan for restructuring our parishes will be coming out in “The Bishop’s Bulletin” for February 2023.



**Parish Contribution Envelopes and Calendars:** If you want a parish giving envelope and have not been getting one, please let us know. They are in both church gathering spaces. Calendars for this new year are available too.



## History Redeemed: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time



Isaiah 8:23–9:3  
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14  
1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17  
Matthew 4:12–23

Today’s Liturgy gives us a lesson in ancient Israelite geography and history.

Isaiah’s prophecy in today’s First Reading is quoted by Matthew in today’s Gospel. Both intend to recall the

apparent fall of the everlasting kingdom promised to David (see 2 Samuel 7:12–13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11–12).

Eight centuries before Christ, that part of the kingdom where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali lived was attacked by the Assyrians, and the tribes were hauled off into captivity (see 2 Kings 15:29; 1 Chronicles 5:26).

It marked the beginning of the kingdom’s end. The Davidic empire finally crumbled in the sixth century BC, when Jerusalem was seized by Babylon and the remaining tribes were driven into exile (see 2 Kings 24:14).

Isaiah prophesied that Zebulun and Naphtali, the lands first to be degraded, would be the first to see the light of God’s salvation. Jesus today fulfills that prophecy—announcing the restoration of David’s kingdom at precisely the spot where the kingdom began to fall.

His gospel of the Kingdom includes not only the twelve tribes of Israel but all the nations—symbolized by the “Galilee of the Nations.” Calling His first disciples, two fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, He appoints them to be “fishers of men,” gathering people from the ends of the earth.

They are to preach the gospel, Paul says in today’s Epistle, to unite all peoples in the same mind and in the same purpose—in a worldwide kingdom of God.

By their preaching, Isaiah’s promise has been delivered. A world in darkness has seen the light. The yoke of slavery and sin, borne by humanity since time began, has been smashed.

And we are able now, as we sing in today’s Psalm, to dwell in the house of the Lord, to worship Him in the land of the living.

St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology ([www.stpaulcenter.com](http://www.stpaulcenter.com))