

# 'AWAY' Days

with Sandy Prather



Sometimes it is good to get away. When we get away, we step back from the ordinary routine. We rest and relax; we allow ourselves to be renewed. We take time simply 'to be,' instead of always 'doing.' We have time for listening and learning, sharing and reflecting. Star of the North invites you to an 'Away' Days Retreat. Each 'Away' Day will focus on a different contemporary spiritual book. Through a combination of presentations and reflective time, we will explore the themes and ideas of the authors, and apply their insights to our lives. *It is not necessary to have read the books.* We invite you to take advantage of the peaceful space at the Star and join us for 'Away' Days.

**Tuesday January 24:** *Proclaiming His Kingdom: Meditations for Personal Recollection.* John Fuellenbach, SVD 1992. Start the new year right with a mini-retreat! Divine Word missionary priest John Fuellenbach is a gifted retreat leader who uses Scripture, stories and poetry to invite his readers to a new experience of God. Under such headings as Trust, Presence, Compassion and Obedience, Fuellenbach focuses on conversion and what it means to follow Jesus. With insights both wise and easily accessible, Fuellenbach invites us into discipleship and a deeper relationship with God.

**Tuesday February 21:** *Jesus' Plan for a New World: The Sermon on the Mount.* Richard Rohr with John Bookser Feister, 1996. Whenever Richard Rohr tackles Scripture, you know you are in for a treat! With an eye that reads the Scriptures from the bottom-up, Rohr always inspires even as he challenges the status quo. In this book Rohr and Feister invite us to see Jesus' sermon on the mount as a radical manifesto for a new world order, one based on the gospel values of cooperation, service, trust and redemptive suffering. As a new picture of Jesus emerges, so do new possibilities for Christian living. You might find yourself considering your Lenten journey in a new way!

**Tuesday March 20:** *Lazarus, COME FORTH!: How Jesus Confronts the Culture of Death and Invites Us into the New Life of Peace,* John Dear, S.J. 2011 "Resurrection is here and now, for one and all," [Dear, p.3] The journey from death to life; from tomb to resurrection; from a culture of violence to a new life of peace. Jesuit priest and noted peace activist John Dear has written a powerful and profoundly moving reflection on an underused gospel story. In the episode of Lazarus' being raised from the dead, Dear hears all of us being called out of our tombs into new life. The story offers us three new commandments of Jesus to obey: 'Take away the stone.' 'Come forth!' and 'Unbind him and let him go free.' The last becomes our mandate for unbinding a humanity caught in a culture of war and violence. Comforting, challenging and hopeful, John Dear's book is the perfect Lent/Easter accompaniment.

**Tuesday April 24:** James Martin S.J., *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor and Laughter are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life,* 2011. Jesuit James Martin, *The Colbert Report's* official chaplain, looks at the role joy, humor and laughter play in our spiritual lives. Using Scripture, the lives of saints, spiritual teachings, and numerous anecdotes, Martin shows how joy is the inevitable outcome of faith. He offers practical advice on how humor helps us embrace our humanity, demonstrate courage, foster relationships and deepen our experience with God – all while enjoying ourselves. Holy people are joyful people and Martin offers numerous examples beginning with Jesus, biblical figures and the saints. Come share some Easter joy!

**9:30 am - 3:00 pm**

**Advance Registration \$25.00/day, OR \$30.00 at the door**  
**Star of the North 780-459-5511**