



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 8, Issue 41

May 10, 2020

Dates to Remember

- All Masses and Parish Gatherings have been suspended by Cardinal Cupich until further notice.
- Please see our parish website for more information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

Mother's Day Blessing

Holy God,
You compared your own love for your people to the love of a mother for her children. Look with kindness on our mother who has shared in your creating love by the gift of her children.

We thank you for the joys and sorrows of her life, the giving and sharing, and, especially for your love that has formed us in your image.

Listen to our prayers and bless the mother who has nurtured and sustained us. Give her patience in abundance and let her find joy and satisfaction in all her work.

Glory and praise to you, loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, and who reigns with you in the glory of heaven, for ever and ever. Amen.

— Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family

Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 14: 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, then you will also know my Father.

From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.

The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me

will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Food For Thought

Faith is not alienation or a crooked deal, but a path of beauty and truth marked out by Jesus to prepare our eyes to gaze without glasses at "the marvelous face of God", in the definitive dwelling place prepared for each one of us. It is an invitation not to let ourselves be gripped by fear and to live life as a preparation for seeing better, hearing better and loving more.

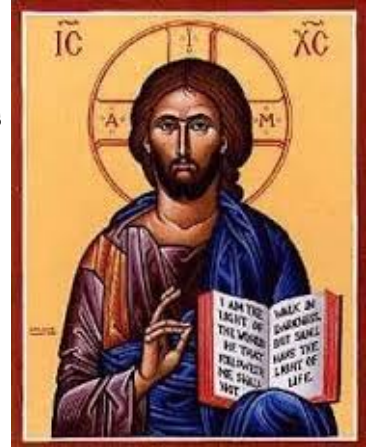
—Pope Francis

Sunday Gospel Connection: May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

John 14: 1-12

Gospel Background: The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.



Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

Family Connection: Members of the same family often bear close resemblances to one another. Sometimes physical resemblances are shared within a family, but often the similarities are behavioral characteristics and mannerisms. We hear this observation affirmed through a number of common phrases: "He's a chip off the old block" or "She's her mother's daughter." Today's Gospel points to a mystery of faith that might be examined in light of these familial relationships. In Jesus we see and know the Father. Likewise, the Father is known through the life and work of the Son, Jesus.

Talk together as a family about whether people outside of your family recognize common traits of your family. Are there physical resemblances that people recognize and so know each individual as a member of your family? Are there mannerisms that are shared by members of your family? What are some common interests and work that people might associate with your family? As you read today's Gospel, John 14:1-12, keep in mind that members of the same family share many characteristics, even though each person in the family is an individual. What does Jesus tell his disciples about his relationship with the Father? The relationship between the Father and Jesus is so close that Jesus says that those who have seen and known Jesus have also seen and known the Father. Jesus promises his disciples that because of their faith in him and in the Father, they too will be able to do the work of the Father as Jesus did. End your discussion by praying together that others will recognize in your family the work of the Father. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fifth-sunday-of-easter-cycle-a-sunday-connection/>

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Living Stones

Almighty God, master builder,
your Son is the foundation of our lives.
If the world seems to crumble and fall,
keep us anchored in faith, hope, and love.
Smooth and polish our hearts
until they gleam
and radiate your glory dwelling within us.
Build us up in holiness,

and fit us together so securely
that evil cannot fracture us
nor pain and death break us.
Fashion others into living stones, too,
until all people are part of your
house forever.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Dwelling

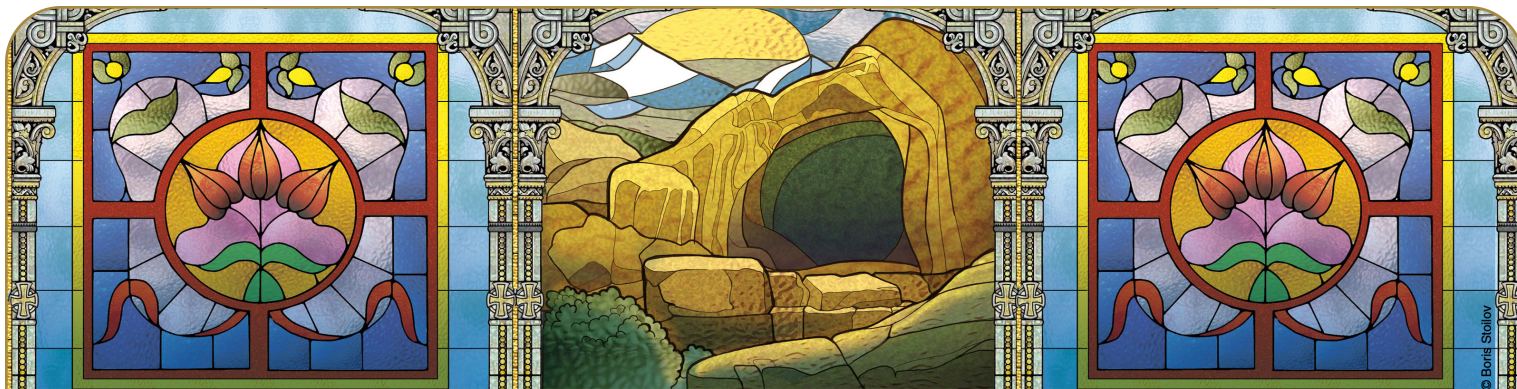


Today's Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19 (22); 1 Peter 2:4–9; John 14:1–12. Although God was understood to dwell in the Jerusalem Temple, that stone structure was a sign that God dwelled among his people, his “royal priesthood” and “holy nation.” As Jesus explained to his disciples, he fully reveals God’s presence and is the means by which people enter that presence. As God’s Son, Jesus is God’s place of dwelling and the one through whom we will dwell with God forever.

Jesus also tells us that there is endless space in his Father’s house. Jesus, the foundation of a living and eternal temple, has room for everyone to build their lives upon him. This living, growing dwelling place is so vast that it is ulti-

mately unavoidable: those who want to go around it can’t. There is no avoiding God’s presence, no hiding from his wonderful light.

As people build themselves on Christ, there’s the danger that parts of this structure will weaken. In the reading from Acts, we hear that some members of the community were not receiving the material assistance they needed. Once the problem was pointed out, however, the Apostles acted quickly. They not only ensured that help was given, they shared their Christ-given authority with others to prevent such problems from happening again. We must do the same. By showing others that Christ dwells among us, we will help them—and us—to dwell with Christ forever.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 11

The Best of Intentions

The people who worship Paul and Barnabas recognize that something wonderful has happened, but their faith is misdirected. They need instruction on how to interpret and respond to the healing they witnessed. They need the Advocate, who will teach and guide them. This Advocate, the Holy Spirit, continues to guide the Church to this day. Ask God for the Spirit's help in discerning where and how God is acting and how you can best respond. *Today's Readings: Acts 14:5–18; Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 15–16; John 14:21–26.*

Tuesday, May 12

Eternal Peace

Jesus offers a peace that no suffering or hardship can take away from us. His peace rises from God's salvation: we who believe in our Lord's triumph over sin and death no longer have anything to fear. St. Paul demonstrated confidence in this gift of peace when he resumes his mission right after nearly being killed for preaching the Gospel. Pray that whatever happens in your life, your faith in God's gift of peace may remain unassailable. *Today's Readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

Wednesday, May 13

Bearing Fruit

The first serious challenge to the unity of the Church was the question of whether Gentile converts had to obey the Jewish law. Since Jesus was Jewish, some people thought that those who believed in him must also become Jewish. Although the Church concluded that Christians did not also have to become Jews, we follow laws, such as the Ten Commandments that were given to the Jews. By obeying such laws we bear fruit, which Jesus, our true vine, commands us to do. What can you do to show you are bearing fruit? *Today's Readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

Thursday, May 14

St. Matthias, Apostle

Jesus reminds his disciples that he chose them; they did not choose him. This remains true when the disciples choose an Apostle to replace Judas. After narrowing the list of candidates, the disciples cast lots as a way of inviting God to choose between the two men. Do we readily invite God into our decision-making? Do we pray with the Scriptures and consult people who are faithful and wise? Do we open our hearts to God for a clear look at our motivations? *Today's Readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20–26; Psalm 113:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; John 15:9–17.*

Friday, May 15

Love One Another

Jesus tells us to “love one another,” but how exactly do we do that? One example is the way the Church dealt with the question of whether Gentile converts to Christianity had to become Jews. The Apostles wanted to ensure that both groups could come together for ritual meals in which they worshipped Christ. By resolving the dispute in a way that acknowledged the concerns of both parties, the Apostles brought more people into the peace and friendship of Christ. In what specific way can you fulfill Christ's commandment to love? *Today's Readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10 and 12; John 15:12–17.*

Saturday, May 16

Respect

It seems hypocritical for Paul to have Timothy circumcised when he previously said that Gentiles did not need to be. What Paul understands, however, is that Timothy, whose mother is Jewish, must honor his Jewish heritage. By upholding Jewish practices, Paul and Timothy also show their fellow Jews the continuity between Judaism and faith in Christ. Try to learn something more about Judaism today. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*

