

Readings for the week of May 05, 2024

Sunday:

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3,
3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

Monday:

Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and
9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday:

Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/
Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday:

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/
Jn 16:12-15

Thursday:

Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 16:16-20

Ascension:

Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/
Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or
4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20

Friday:

Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Jn 16:20-23

Saturday:

Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/
Jn 16:23b-28

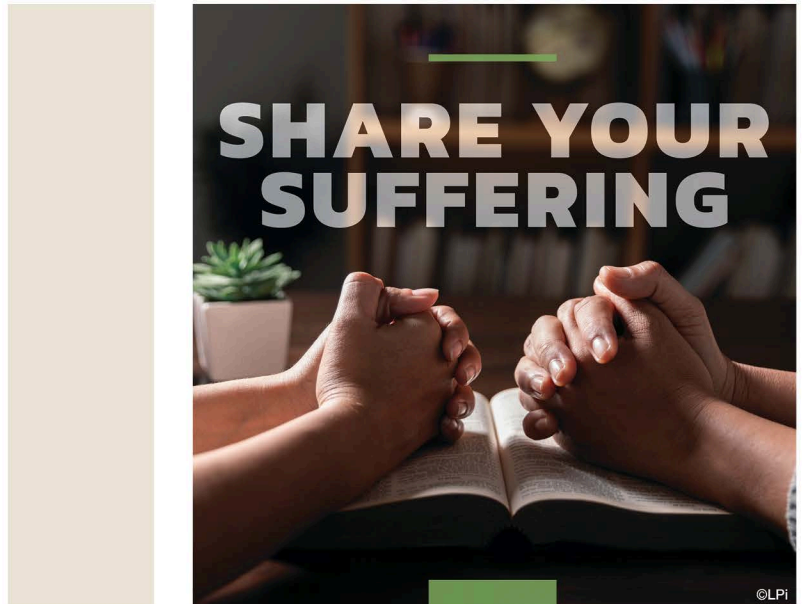
Next Sunday:

Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
(6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or
4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20

Seventh Sunday of Easter:

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/
Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 (19a)/
1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Once a man came to the Vatican and asked to see Pope John Paul II, claiming that they had been friends in Poland. When told of the man, the Pope said, “He is mistaken about our friendship. I don’t recall ever having suffered with him.” As it turned out, the man had never known the Pope. Now, I’m not sure if the story is totally factual. But doesn’t the juxtaposition of *suffering* with *friendship* sound exactly like JP II? He understood that the deepest and most lasting friendships are forged in the fires of shared suffering. No suffering, no friendship. Amazing.

This week we hear Jesus say to the apostles and to us, “**You are my friends if you do what I command you**” (John 15:14). In Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command — to love, to lay down our lives for others — will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens our friendship with Him. His suffering is ours; ours is His. We have become friends of God.

This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus? How might he be sharing his suffering with you, in the lives of those around you? Be attentive to that, and you’ll find that you are indeed a friend of God, because you’ve suffered together a great deal.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

As I Love You

This week my children were learning about energy. We set up an experiment with toy cars — one was placed in front of another, and a third was pushed into the two stationary ones.

The forward motion caused the front car to move, but not much. “Most of the energy goes into the car in the middle, not the car on the end,” my daughter concluded.

I asked her why she seems to have so much energy, and I seem to have so little.

“Because you’re old,” she replied confidently.

Most days I feel like that first car, barreling at life with all my energy and love and good intentions, only to have it almost entirely absorbed by the proverbial middle car. It’s so easy to be discouraged. The devil so badly wants us to feel discouraged.

But the law of love is not unlike the law of conservation of energy. Love is neither created nor destroyed. It is only transferred from one form to another. And yes, sometimes it certainly seems like it disappears. It appears to get lost between my hands and the plate of dinner that goes uneaten or evaporates off of my lips as words I fear are never heard. It is spat upon as a commandment the world would prefer I do not keep.

But we are not called to simply love one another — to love when it seems effective and productive and appreciated. We are called to love as Christ loved: recklessly, selflessly, and yes, even without logic. We are called to love with a love that doesn’t give up and is never withdrawn. A love that doesn’t fear death or the world’s hatred. A love that stands willing to argue, to be reviled, to be dismissed.

We are called to be that first car, hurtling ourselves against a world that isn’t ready to accept or understand us. And we trust that, even when we can’t see how, the love that seems to disappear simply changes forms.

*“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”
— John 15:12*

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

My neighbor is just beginning to explore the Catholic faith but was raised agnostic. I grew up believing in God, praying, and attending Mass. How does one start from scratch as an adult to develop a relationship with God?

Answer:

Start on a personal level! How did you and your neighbor become friends? How did you begin to discuss such a personal topic as faith? Communication, spending time together, and getting to know each other are essential to forming the bonds of a relationship. Personal prayer is essential to our relationship with God. We can’t be close to someone we don’t know! Invite your friend to explore the stories of Jesus in the Bible. Introduce them to the lives of the saints, especially ones you think they might be interested in.

Your neighbor might also have questions about the Catholic faith that you don’t know how to answer. If your friend hasn’t yet enrolled in RCIA classes, invite them to Mass at your parish. Introduce your friend to the faith formation director to make a connection. Personal support can be helpful as well, especially if few of your neighbor’s current friends are practicing their faith. Connect your neighbor to other people in your parish living their faith well. The good examples of other faithful people could help your neighbor to feel welcomed and supported. Our Church is vibrant and alive!

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. (Acts 10:45-46)

Psalm:

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (Ps 98)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. (1 Jn 4:8)

Gospel:

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15:13)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Christ's love for us is radical — it changed the whole world. It will not be easy to love as Christ loved, but this is the mission for which we have been chosen by God. So let us love one another. Let us change the world.

Observances for the week of May 05, 2024

- Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter
- Thursday:** The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation in some U.S. dioceses)
- Friday:** St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
- Next Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day; Mother's Day



Saint of the week

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was a bishop in the fourth century. His teachings on the Eucharist, among other topics, secured his place as a Doctor of the Church. Though his ministry was marked by estrangement, exile, and ultimately, reconciliation, he never lost his faith!

Prayer of Love

God the Father,
You created me in love.
Jesus, your love for me compelled you to come to earth to die for me.
Holy Spirit, love between God and Jesus, now you surround me with the love of the Father and the Son.
Help me to live out this reality, today and always.
Amen.

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”

- Jn 15:16-17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

The Jewish believers who accompanied Peter to the house of Cornelius were “astonished” that Gentiles who had faith in Jesus also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been surprised by what God has done in your life?

Second Reading:

John teaches us that the essence of God is love and we are called to love one another. Who might you work on loving this week?

Gospel:

Jesus taught his disciples that loving him and loving each other brings “complete joy.” What brings you joy in your life?



Support our local advertisers

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection." (Acts 1:21-22)

Psalm:

The Lord has set his throne in heaven. (Ps 103)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. (1 Jn 4:16)

Gospel:

"Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one." (Jn 17:11)

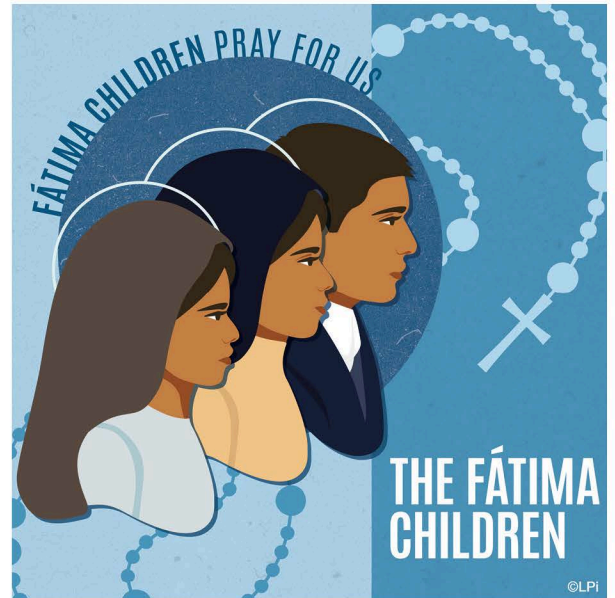
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

In his prayer to the Father, Jesus says it aloud to remind us, always and forever: if we belong to Him, we belong to the truth. Lord, may those words ring in our ears as we go into the world as Christ taught us. We are consecrated to the truth.

Observances for the week of May 12, 2024

- Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day; Mother's Day
- Monday:** Our Lady of Fatima
- Tuesday:** St. Matthias, Apostle
- Wednesday:** St. Isidore
- Saturday:** St. John I, Pope and Martyr; Armed Forces Day
- Next Sunday:** Pentecost Sunday



Saint of the week

The Fátima children, St. Francisco Marto, St. Jacinta Marto, and Venerable Lucia dos Santos, ages 7-10 years, impacted the world after the many apparitions of Mary they experienced. They shared Mary's call to pray the rosary and for peace in the world.

Prayer of Mission

Dear Lord,
Grace us with courage and zeal as we go forth in Your name, speaking your Word, offering Your love, and bringing Your healing to a world in need.
Amen.