



## ***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

**May 6 / 7, 2023**

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### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**St. Boniface:**

***Saturday***

**5:00 pm**

**Our Lady of Perpetual  
Help**

***Sunday:***

**8:00 am-8:45 am Adoration &  
Rosary**

**8:30 am Confession**

**9:00 am Mass**

**Novena**

**Stations of the Cross**

***Tuesday & Thursday:***

**5:30 pm**

***Bible Study***

**Thursday 8:00 pm**

**Mission Statement:** We are a welcoming parish of Roman Catholic Christians with diverse roots deep in Appalachia and beyond. We are committed to growing in our faith and community through our worship and celebrations, with particular attention to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and The Holy Eucharist. We are a community gathered together by the Holy Spirit, filled with hope, to love and serve God and neighbor in the name of Jesus Christ; and through our sharing of Good News in word and deed, we seek to live and reveal to all the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit.



[Jesus said], "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me."

JOHN 14:1



## Where the Heart Is

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**S**ome would say that the purpose of life is to save one's soul. And certainly we should try, with the grace of God, to live our lives in such a way that we avoid evil and do good in order to do our part in building God's kingdom on earth. At the same time, we must remember that it is God who saves us. We don't save ourselves. Eternal life and happiness are byproducts of loving others. If the focus of one's life is to be happy, one never achieves it. If one seeks to serve others, however, happiness seems to find us. So also eternal life.

Robert Frost's "The Death of a Hired Man" is a poem about Silas, an aging drifter farmhand, and Warren and Mary, a farming couple who give Silas a room whenever he comes around.

Silas comes when he is needed the least and leaves when his presence would be most helpful, all of which frustrates Warren. In the poem Silas has returned, and Mary thinks it will be his last time, that he is dying. She says to Warren that theirs is the only home Silas has. Warren simply shakes his head as if to gently mock the idea of home: "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, / They have to take you in." Mary says it differently, "I should have called it / Something you somehow haven't to deserve."

Is that not also the promise of Jesus? "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?" (John 14:2). Something we somehow haven't to deserve. ●

### Reflect

**Where do you feel truly  
at home—and is Jesus  
invited?**



<i>Date</i>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>Saint Boniface</i>
<b>May 6 / 7</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>8:30 am ~ Confession</b> <b>9:00 am ~ Mass</b> <i>Crowning of Mary</i>	<b>5:00 pm ~ Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5:30 pm ~ Mass</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5:30 pm ~ Mass</b>	
<b>May 13 / 14</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>8:30 am ~ Confession</b> <b>9:00 am ~ Mass</b> <i>Mother's Day Blessing</i>	<b>5:00 pm ~ Mass</b>

	<i>OLPH</i> <i>Mass 9:00 am</i>		<i>ST. BONIFACE</i> <i>Mass 5:00 pm</i>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>May 7</b>	<b>May 14</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 13</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Mandy Hall	Joe McNaughton	Jerry Nowak	Mary Jo Leygraaf
<b>Server</b>	Creed Farthing	Joe McNaughton		

<b>Mass Intentions</b>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>St. Boniface</i>
<b>May 6 / 7</b>	Carolyn Banes	† Fr. Kiran Varaparla
<b>May 13 / 14</b>	Heyward McCowan Tibbs, Jr	Heyward McCowan Tibbs, Jr

<b>Our Gifts</b>	<b>OLPH</b>	<b>St. Boniface</b>
<b>April 29 / 30</b>	\$225.00	\$ 60.00

*May God bless you for your generous contributions  
to our Church!*



# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Reading 1

Acts 6:1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow,  
the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews  
because their widows  
were being neglected in the daily distribution.  
So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said,  
"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.  
Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men,  
filled with the Spirit and wisdom,  
whom we shall appoint to this task,  
whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer  
and to the ministry of the word."  
The proposal was acceptable to the whole community,  
so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit,  
also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,  
and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.  
They presented these men to the apostles  
who prayed and laid hands on them.  
The word of God continued to spread,  
and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly;  
even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

Exult, you just, in the LORD;  
praise from the upright is fitting.  
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;  
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

Upright is the word of the LORD,  
and all his works are trustworthy.  
He loves justice and right;  
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,  
upon those who hope for his kindness,  
To deliver them from death  
and preserve them in spite of famine.

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

## **Reading 2**

1 Pt 2:4-9

Beloved:

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings  
but chosen and precious in the sight of God,  
and, like living stones,  
let yourselves be built into a spiritual house  
to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices  
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it says in Scripture:

*Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion,  
a cornerstone, chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.*

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

*The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone, and  
A stone that will make people stumble,  
and a rock that will make them fall.*

They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, a people of his own,  
so that you may announce the praises" of him  
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**Alleluia**  
**Jn 14:6**

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

**Gospel**  
**Jn 14:1-12**

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."

## **REFLECTION**

Today's readings tell us how the early Church accepted the challenge of keeping Jesus' memory alive by remaining a dynamic Christian community, bearing witness to Christ by their unity, fidelity in worship and spirit of loving, humble service. Today's Gospel introduces Jesus as the Way to God, the Truth to be accepted, and the Life to be shared and lived.

The first reading, taken from Acts, shows us the early Church as a loving, serving, and worshipping community. Hence, it easily solved a problem of perceived discrimination by instituting the diaconate for the service of the community. In today's Gospel, Jesus consoles his apostles (who are sad and disheartened at His announcement that He will be leaving them soon), by assuring them that he is going to prepare an everlasting accommodation for them in his Father's House in Heaven. He gives them the assurance that he will come back to take them to their Heavenly abodes. It is then that Thomas says, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus answers Thomas' question with, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." The basic doctrine of Judaism is that Yahweh is the Way the Truth and the Life. Hence, Jesus is making a revolutionary claim that he is equivalent to Yahweh. Jesus also declares that he, himself, is the safest and surest way to God, discrediting the notions that all religions are equally sure ways to reach God, and that no organized religion but only living a good life of sharing love is necessary to reach God. But Jesus is the Way which he calls narrow because it is the way of focused, loving, humble, sacrificial service. Jesus is the Truth who teaches revealed truths about God and God's relation to man. Jesus also teaches moral truths and demonstrates them in his life. Jesus is the Life because, as God, he possesses the eternal life of God and shares his Divine life with his disciples through the Word of God and the Sacraments. In short, Jesus reveals the Father in the Way he lives, in the Truth of his word and in the new Life that he brings.

## **We need to accept Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life:**

We accept Jesus as the Way by walking his narrow way of loving, humble, sacrificial service. We accept Jesus as the Truth by learning and practicing what he has taught us, as given in the Bible and in the teachings of the Church. We accept Jesus as the Life by sharing in the Divine Life of God in His Church, making use of the means Jesus has established.

## **UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS**

*Saint John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; USA:*

*Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest*

May 10

*Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr*

May 12

*Our Lady of Fatima*

May 13

<i>Upcoming Events</i>	
<i>May 14</i>	<i>Mother's Day Blessing</i>
<i>May 21</i>	<i>Graduate Blessing</i>

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, Judy Delisle, Dal Macon, Linda Mills, Judy Patrick, Bob and Marie Alvaro, JoAnn Brown, Cathy Sims, Robert Moses, Kristina Neitsch, Danny Ezell, Yvonne Laschon, Iva Lee Hamblin, Gilbert Steely, Ella Johnson (3 yrs., cancer) and Garrett Moore.

Mass intentions in memory or honor of someone are a beautiful tribute representing the love and admiration you have for them and the impact they made in your life. Whether you have lost someone or want to support a person in your life, this special mass intention invites peace and the love of God into them. It is a way for you to bring joy into their soul and heart. If you would like to schedule a Mass for a loved one, please contact Father Lobo or the office.



# Dear Padre,

*I know a Catholic couple who wanted to celebrate their sacrament of matrimony at a Mass in a forest, but the bishop didn't allow it. Why not marry in God's creation?*

A marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic is usually celebrated in a parish church. It can be celebrated in another church or oratory with the bishop or pastor's permission. A marriage between a Catholic and an unbaptized person can be celebrated in a church or another suitable place, although a Catholic church remains the preferred place for the celebration.

Why is the parish church the preferred site for the celebration? For Catholics, matrimony is a sacrament—one of the seven sacred signs through which God communicates love to us. When Catholics ask God to bind their union as a sacrament, the couple's love for each other is a sign of God's love for both, and their union is also a continuous sign of Christ's love for the Church. Thus, the church as a "house of God," which contains the presence of Christ, is revered as the most sacred place to make this most sacred commitment. Marriage, according to Pope Francis in a 2015 General Audience, "is not merely a ceremony in a church, with flowers, a dress, photographs....Christian marriage is a sacrament that takes place in the Church, and which also makes the Church, by giving rise to a new family community....[Saint] Paul says that the love between spouses is an image of the love between Christ and his Church. An unimaginable dignity!" ●



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Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### MONDAY

May 8  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 14:5-18  
Jn 14:21-26

### TUESDAY

May 9  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 14:19-28  
Jn 14:27-31a

### WEDNESDAY

May 10  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 15:1-6  
Jn 15:1-8

### THURSDAY

May 11  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 15:17-21  
Jn 15:9-11

### FRIDAY

May 12  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 15:22-31  
Jn 15:12-17

### SATURDAY

May 13  
Weekday  
Acts 16:1-10  
Jn 15:18-21

### SUNDAY

May 14  
Sixth Sunday  
of Easter  
Acts 8:5-8,  
14-17  
1 Pt 3:15-18  
Jn 14:15-21



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*[Jesus] knows that, in life, the worst anxiety, anguish, arises from the sensation of not being able to cope, of feeling alone and without points of reference when faced with events. We cannot overcome this anguish alone...and this is why Jesus asks us to have faith in him, that is, to lean not on ourselves but on him.*

REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 10, 2020

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