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Blessed Mother



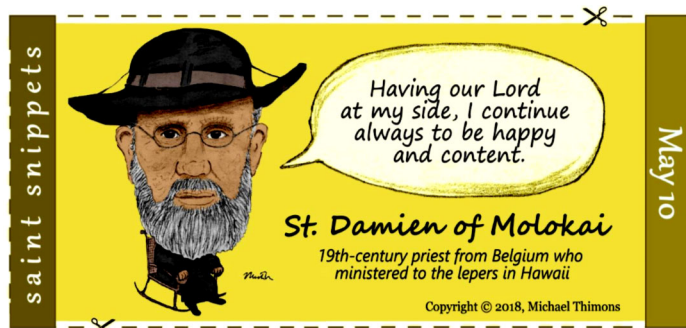
Feast of Faith

The Creed

Following the readings and the homily, we stand together and say or sing the Creed, our profession of faith. The Creed is a solemn statement of belief, a “rule of faith” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 67). It states the core of what we believe about God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The language of the Creed is knotty and difficult at times, precisely because its purpose is to express with precision what we believe about God. The Creed that we pray most often, the Nicene Creed, came out of the earliest ecumenical councils: Nicea in 325 and Constantinople in 381. It originated in a time of great controversy about the divinity of Christ, and thus the longest section of the Creed relates to Christ, truly human and truly God.

The Creed is both communal and personal: it is “we,” but it is also “I.” In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, it is only after listening to the teaching of the Church and professing faith in the Holy Trinity that the candidate is admitted to the sacraments. So it is every Sunday. We listen to the word, we profess our faith, and then we come to the altar.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



The Presence Of The Holy Spirit

We have a unique episode in the Acts of the Apostles today. A whole roomful of people are baptized with the Holy Spirit before they are baptized with water! The verb used—“the Holy Spirit ‘fell’ on them” (Acts 10:44)—is characteristic of the way the Spirit works throughout the book of Acts: powerful and surprising. Though this “baptism” is not the normative way the New Testament describes baptism, it is still a good reminder today that the Holy Spirit is not controlled by whether or not we pour water, but rather that our sacramental signs reveal the presence of the Spirit at work among us. And we have a double reinforcement of how this work is accomplished from a Letter and a Gospel bearing John’s name. It is love, self-sacrificing and self-giving love, that manifests the Spirit of Jesus in our midst. It is love that is the greatest of commandments. The Spirit is manifested equally through those who live in that love.

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20 (for Ascension); otherwise Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19; or, for Ascension, Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Sixth Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day
Monday:	St. Damien de Veuster; St. John De Avila
Wednesday:	Ss. Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras; Eid al Fitr (Islamic observance) begins at sunset
Thursday:	The Ascension of the Lord (unless transferred to Sunday); otherwise Our Lady of Fatima
Friday:	St. Matthias
Saturday:	St. Isidore; Armed Forces Day



Today's Readings

First Reading — The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles also (Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48).

Psalms — The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — God is love (1 John 4:7-10) or 1 John 4:11-16.

Gospel — No one has greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends (John 15:9-17) or John 17:11b-19.

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter May 9, 2021

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.

—John 15:16

Treasures From Our Tradition

Just as the origins of Lent have to do with accompanying people in the final stages of preparation for baptism at Eastertime, so does the structure of the Easter season help the newly received Catholics take root in the community. This is the season of “mystagogy,” which means “reflection on the mysteries.” This means that new Catholics are remembering the sacraments by which they become one with us, and are sorting out the implications for their everyday life. They can understand the excitement of Cornelius and his family in the first reading, filled with the Holy Spirit, and so eager to begin their new life that they overwhelm St. Peter. The second reading and the Gospel today likewise help our new brothers and sisters explore their new life as an experience of God’s tender love.

Long ago, our tradition named these newly baptized adults and children the “neophytes,” from Greek words meaning “newly planted.” Newly planted in the garden of faith, they look to us to provide the fertile soil in which their new life can take root and grow. You can help. If you have “neophytes” in your parish, a card or note of welcome, or warm words of congratulation, are still timely. It’s Easter!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Who Needs Love?

Part of the first reading from Acts that we don't hear is a vision Peter has, in which God tells him that all foods are OK to eat; no longer are some unclean. He later realizes that the vision was a symbol that all people are "clean," Gentiles as well as Jews. All are called to have faith in Jesus. Not all of the early Christians understood. The Jewish Christians were shocked that the Holy Spirit would give gifts, such as speaking in tongues, to Gentiles. Especially Gentiles who had not been baptized.

Now the distinction between Gentile and Jewish Christians doesn't seem very important today. But we still need to follow St. Peter's example of sharing our faith in Jesus. We seem to be more interested in converting other Christians than in bringing non-Christians to the faith. Does that mean we should drag any non-believers we meet to church on Sunday? Should we brag about how much we love God?

Today's gospel gives us a hint at what we can do to bring others to Christ. Jesus makes it sound simple: Love one another as I love you. (Jn 15:12) Remember that God's love for us comes first. That's why the Gentiles in the first reading received the gifts of the Spirit before they were baptized. The second reading from John tells us that love is not people loving God; it's that God loved us first, enough to send his Son to die for us. We may think that we have chosen to love and follow Jesus, but as the gospel tells us, Jesus chose us before we ever chose him. So maybe that part about loving others as Jesus loves us is not so much about being willing to die for those you love. It may just be our willingness to love others without requiring that they love us first.

How can we do that? I can introduce myself to someone new to the parish that I see in church. I can offer to help the poor without waiting for the pastor to beg. I can be courteous to other drivers, letting them go in front of me in heavy traffic. I can make a priority of seeing what I can do for others, instead of what they can do for me. Perhaps part of our daily prayer can be asking God to show us who needs our love today.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF Easter

MAY 9, 2021

This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.

John 15:12

LOVE IS REAL

In today's Gospel, Jesus likens our relationship with him to a plant with many Love. Songs and books, plays and artistic masterpieces have been created to convey the truth that love is real. As Christians, we know that love is of God. In laying down his life, Jesus pours out God's selfless, sacrificial, undying love. Jesus opens the door to a new relationship between God and humanity, that of friendship, of intimate closeness. Jesus calls us to show this same love for others, knowing that in doing so, we fulfill God's will. As the account of Peter, Cornelius, and all in his household attests, this great love of God cannot be contained by our preconceived notions of the way things are in the world.

THE CALL AND CAUSE OF LOVE

Love calls and causes us to do great things, more than we might believe we are capable of. While some are called to give their lives as martyrs, most of us find ourselves called to lay down our lives in smaller ways in the midst of everyday life. Parents lose sleep in the early moments of their baby's life, and again as their teens mature and gain independence. Adult children change their plans to care for aging parents. We hear the call of love as we become attentive and respond to the needs of the poor, lonely, sick, and vulnerable. Love causes us to turn our lives around, to strive to become more Christ-like in our words and actions. Peter followed this call of love when he entered the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. He was likely as astounded at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as were the believers who accompanied him, yet love caused Peter to see beyond the accepted boundaries of religion and race, seeing instead evidence of the Lord's great love at work.

THE JOY-FILLED WAY OF LOVE

Following the Lord calls us to sacrifice for the sake of others, giving our attention, time, and resources in order to share Christ's care and compassion. Jesus shows us that giving of self, pouring ourselves out in love for another, is a joy-filled way of life. Joy is more than a feeling and is deeper than happiness. Joy comes with the assurance that Christ is with us when our lives mirror the life and way of our Master. Joy is a sense of fulfillment in knowing and sharing Christ's love. When we reach out in love, Christ's joy fills our hearts. Strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, we find the grace to follow Jesus' command to love one another.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

Prayer of the Faithful

God is love, and so we come to God with all the needs and hopes of the world, offering them up in these our prayers.

**For a Church that models love for all people,
especially those on the peripheries of our society,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For hatred and division in the world to be overcome
by love, peace, and cooperation for mutual benefit,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and all
those who have loved us and been like mothers to us,
those who are living and those who have passed on to eternal life,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those newly baptized in water and the Spirit,
that the love they share may reveal our loving God to everyone they meet,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For our community of faith to be inspired to share
the transforming love of God with those who hunger for meaning and fulfillment,
let us pray to the Lord.**

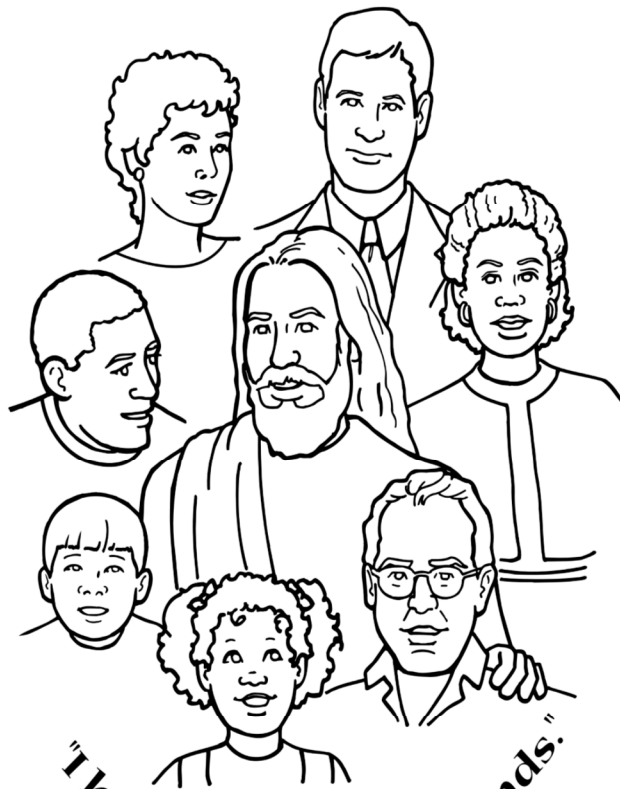
**For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from
COVID-19, and for all who have died,
especially N., N., and N.,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of
our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**O God of love,
grant that your joy may be in us
so that we may love our neighbors
and serve you in all we do.**

**We ask that you hear this and all our prayers
in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Risen Lord.**

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JOHN 15 : 15

"I have called you friends."



ALL OUR MOTHERS

Our country celebrates Mother's Day today. A particular flower is associated with Mother's Day—the carnation.

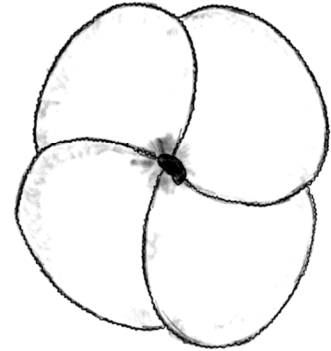
Anna Jarvis is the woman who had the idea for a day to honor mothers. Anna's mother died in 1905 after spending her life working to improve the lives of other people. Anna loved and admired her mother, so after her mother died, Anna worked to establish a day in her honor to honor all mothers. In May of 1907, Anna gave a talk at her church in Grafton, West Virginia, and handed out five hundred carnations to the mothers in attendance. The next year that church held a special Mother's Day service. By 1909, forty-six states held special services to honor mothers. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson officially designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. For 104 years people in the United States have continued to honor mothers on that day.

Anna Jarvis never wanted this day to be one for expensive presents, flowers, or candy. She wanted it to remain simple—a day to remember our mothers and stepmothers, living or dead, with our good thoughts and prayers. Anna declared the carnation the official flower of the day and the singular, "Mother's Day," as the correct spelling. She wanted attention to be paid to each mother individually.



How appropriate to celebrate Mother's Day during the Easter season! The day is a chance to honor our mothers and other women who are like mothers to us. We should also remember Mary, our heavenly mother. A mother's love reminds us of God's love, both of which give us life and help us grow.

Make some paper carnations like this one for your mother, stepmother, or other mother figure. Fill the petals with some words of your own and share them on this special day with the women you love and who love you.



The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

IT'S A THREE WORD ESSAY ON LOVE. I QUOTED GOD AS MY SOURCE. DO I GET AN 'A'?



BURROWS

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God;
and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
The one who does not love does not know God,
for God is love. 1 Jn 4:7-8

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