

I WILL ASK THE
FATHER
AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER
ADVOCATE
TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS

John 14:16

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 17, 2020



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MASSES THIS WEEK

These Masses will be said privately by Msgr. Enke:

- May 17 James Crum † by Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Gallagher
Mary Ventura † by Pamela Dickenson
- May 18 **Saint John I, Pope and Martyr**
Living & Deceased Members of the
Sylvester Schumacher Family by Diane Kinney
- May 19 Mark Enke † by Constance M. Nye
- May 20 **Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest**
Living & Deceased Members of the Stevens
& Olsofka Families by Jean Stevens
- May 21 **Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest
and Companions, Martyrs**
Mary Ventura † by R. R. Donnelly
- May 22 **Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious**
Concetto Giuliano † by Mickey Smith
- May 23 Erin Haninger † Carly & The Van Order Family
- May 24 **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**
Thomas McNamara † (Anniversary)
by St. Vincent de Paul Members
Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward Parish

Online Giving

ONLINE GIVING

The Diocesan collection for – The Catholic Communication Campaign is this weekend.

Additional donations may be made for: The SVdP Conference; The SVdP Food Pantry please use “Food Pantry” Fund; and “The Haven” Fund to provide the much needed support to the Haven.

Sign-up for Online Giving from the St. Edward website home page www.saintedwards.org. Note: If your credit card has been changed, expired or was compromised, you will need to login to update your online account to continue your online contributions. As a safeguard, the program will automatically suspend your contributions if one of these events occurs. Please contact the Parish Office if you need help

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

Just to let you know that I've formed a committee that will help us in planning when and how we will “reboot” our parish of St. Edward the Confessor. We'll be reporting as soon as we know something.

In the meantime, let us hold each other in prayer. I ask, too, that you all continue to support our parish financially in these challenging times.

SUPPORTING ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CHURCH

We are so blessed to have such faithful and supportive parishioners. During this crisis, St. Edward the Confessor will continue to support our devoted employees and hard-working vendors. If you are able during this time, please consider continuing your financial support of our parish so that we can continue supporting our employees and many small business vendors that need to be paid on a timely basis.

If you normally donate by envelopes or the basket, we have our Online Giving link available from our parish website www.saintedwards.org. You can also mail a check to: St Edward Church, 785 Newark Granville Rd, Granville, Ohio 43023

If you have any questions about your current offertory, you can contact the Parish Office by emailing Cheryl at church@saintedwards.org or calling 740-587-3254. The office is on shortened hours but we continue to monitor email.

We will continue to pray for you and your family's health and safety during this time, and please continue to pray for us. Thank you.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The Sunday collection for May 10th was \$11,084.00. The Online collection from May 6th to May 11th was \$9,581.09.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 17, 2020 – YEAR A

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

♪ Alleluia! He is risen! This week, a playlist of instrumental Marian hymns and songs was posted on the music page of our parish website (<http://www.saintedwards.org/music/>). The site continues to be updated with daily reflections by parish staff and other resources for praying at home during this time. Let us keep praying and keep singing, and may God guide and protect us, our state, our country, and our world.

♪ Congratulations to the Denison Class of 2020, whose virtual commencement ceremony is this weekend. Two of the graduates, Harrison and Nicholas DeChant, have occasionally cantored and sung duets here at St. Edward's during their time as students. Two other graduates, Ali Gakenheimer and Caroline Little, have been instrumental in the planning and success of our weekly campus ministry Faith and Food gatherings. May God bless them all!

~ Paul Radkowski, music@saintedwards.org, 740-587-3254

RCIA

Please continue to hold our candidate, Andrew Zellers, in your prayers during this time. Please pray that this time may be an ongoing time for Andrew to draw closer to and deepen his relationship with God, and that God may bless him in his conviction to be received into the Catholic Church, his dedication to the RCIA process, and his patient waiting for the time when he'll be able to be received into the Church. May God Bless him and may Andrew have a felt sense of God's boundless love for him.

RCIA ~ Congratulations Andrew!

Andrew Zellers, Denison graduate (2020), was received into the Church and Confirmed, on May 9th. He has been a faithful member of our parish these past two years.

Andrew will be heading to Texas soon where he has taken a job. But, at heart he will always be an Ohio boy and St. Edward's boy too. Congratulations, Andrew, our prayers go with you!



FLOCKNOTE

Keep in touch with us

VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

JOIN FLOCKNOTE ~ THE ST. EDWARD FLOCK!
Text Church785 to 84576 to receive St. Edward Church Flocknotes via email or text. We would love to have you sign up for one of our ministry groups.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

This weekend, our special collection supports the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ in the United States and in developing countries around the world through the Internet, television, radio, and print media. Fully 50% of the money collected remains here in the *Diocese of Columbus* to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

IN SYMPATHY

We pray for former parishioner James F. Coffey, husband of Esther Coffey. May he rest forever in the eternal peace of Christ.

WELCOME NEW PARISH FAMILY

We welcome Bill and Pat Schuler who have joined St. Edward Parish. The Welcome Committee would like to meet you at a Welcome Sunday. We hope you feel at home here at St. Edward.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE**

We ask for your continued support of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Please mail your contribution to the church or you can use **Online Giving** and select "SVdP" and/or "Food Pantry" fund. Or make donation checks

payable to "St Vincent de Paul" and mailed to: Saint Vincent de Paul Center, 135 Wilson St., Newark, OH 43055. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The regular St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry collection is next Sunday May 24th. Monetary donations can be made according to information above.

Food Pantry Volunteers needed to help stock shelves Mondays or Thursdays. Also, volunteers are needed to assist our Food Pantry guests on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings once a month. Please call Barb Scholten for more information 740-258-3230.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS ~ THRIFT STORE

The Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store will be needing extra volunteers when we reopen! Although we are closed, we are receiving many donations of household goods. We anticipate receiving many more items when we reopen, as many are doing extra "spring cleaning" during this time of staying home! If you can lend us a hand in processing and pricing items when we reopen, please call Barb Scholten (740-258-3230) to sign up. Thank you for your consideration! God bless you.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you, a family member or someone close to you, would like to be added to the St. Edward Prayer Chain, please call Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 or email ckk1@att.net If you would like to volunteer to be a member of this ministry, please contact Cindy.

PREPARING FOR THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD AT ST. EDWARD

Congratulations on the upcoming birth of your child! Our parish celebrates Baptisms on the second Sunday of every month immediately after the 10:45 a.m. Mass. To prepare for a Baptism, expectant parents attend a baptismal preparation class and choose godparents for their child. At least one godparent must be a practicing, fully-initiated Catholic who is at least 16 years old. Please contact Cheryl Boggess at 740-587-3254 in the Parish Office for more information about godparents and baptismal preparation.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE AT ST. EDWARD

St. Edwards Church is proud to have two separate \$1,500 scholarships available to any St. Edward Parishioner in good standing, who is actively pursuing a post-secondary program. See guidelines below for more specific details. Former applicants who have not been recipients of the awards are encouraged to reapply. We suggest you apply to both and wish you best of luck with your applications. Scholarship applications are available in the Parish office and on the Parish website.

FATHER LOWERY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR 2020

Applications for the 2020 award of The Father Thomas J. Lowery Scholarship are now available. Please see the "Fr. Thomas J. Lowery Scholarship" link on the home page of our Parish website. This scholarship was established to honor the memory of our former pastor and is presented annually to any member of St. Edward parish who is pursuing a post-secondary program at an accredited institution. Applications should be submitted to the parish office on or before **May 29, 2020** (revised date).

BERNICE AND JOE CIRICOSTA SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2020

Applications for the 2020 award of The Bernice and Joe Ciricosta Scholarship are now available. Please see the "The Bernice & Joseph Ciricosta Tuition Assistance Application" link on the home page of our Parish website. This \$1,500 scholarship, established to honor the memory of Bernice and Joe Ciricosta, dedicated educators, will be presented annually to any parishioner in good standing of St. Edward Parish who is currently pursuing a post-secondary program at an accredited institution. Applications should be submitted to the Parish Office on or before **May 29, 2020** (revised date).



The Women of St. Edward (WOSE) is looking for someone to take over the Treasurer position effective July 1, 2020. Monthly reports are generated

using Quicken and Excel. These include monthly reports to the WOSE Business Group and to the Church Office. On a quarterly basis, there is a report generated for the Church Office. Checks are written throughout the year for expenses that require double signatures.

WOSE has two fundraisers yearly and the treasurer is responsible for obtaining startup cash and making the final deposits for both. As an officer, the treasurer attends the WOSE monthly business meetings, September – May to give a report. The current Treasurer will be available to consult and answer any questions. To express your interest, please contact our president Annie Lach at 502-541-1715 or annielach@gmail.com. We would like to thank Peggy Behrman for many years of involvement as the WOSE Treasurer and Spiritual Leader. She has also been the chairman of our Christmas Bazaar. Her enthusiasm and organizational skills will be greatly missed. Thank you Peggy for all of your years of involvement and good council.



"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God's will, than for doing evil." 1 PETER 3:17

The old line says, "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don't get the result that was intended, or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times, we may respond negatively and ask, "Why me? I did everything right!" Here's the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.

Learn how you can plan for your future while supporting your parish and contact The Catholic Foundation. Visit www.catholic-foundation.org/development for more information.

LIVING I DO

Witness to your children the power of a strong marriage by doing the following four things in front of them: affirm or thank each-other, exchange apologies and forgiveness, pray together, and prioritize couple time. If children see you doing these things, they will form a healthy concept of marriage; their preparation for marriage starts now...with you!

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE FROM THE DIOCESE

For an updated listing of resources to get help, opportunities to provide help, and ways for families to strengthen their faith amid the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/coronavirus-response

CRS RICE BOWL COLLECTION AMID COVID-19

Given the realities of COVID-19 and that CRS Rice Bowls physically cannot be collected, donations can be made online, by phone, or mail at <https://support.crs.org/donate/change-life-lent>, 1-877-435-7277, or Catholic Relief Services, CRS Rice Bowl, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303. 25% of all donations provide grant funds for local food pantries.

CANCELLATION OF MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AND MASSES

Memorial Day Services and Masses for the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus have been cancelled for May 25, 2020. St. Joseph, Resurrection, Holy Cross and Mt. Calvary Cemeteries will be open for visitation 8am-Sunset (4:30 Mt. Calvary). Offices are closed and will not be receiving visitors. Burial locations and maps can be emailed. Call for information 8-4:30, M-F and until 12 noon on Saturday. –Rich Finn, Director

STEWARDSHIP ~ TIME ~ TALENT ~ TREASURE

On this sixth Sunday of Easter, our readings remind us that God must come first in our lives, and that love of God shows itself in concrete actions — this is precisely why the stewardship way of life is so necessary.

Our second reading, from St. Peter challenges us to, "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts." In other words, we are to put Christ first above all else in our lives. His role is not merely as Savior of our lives, as significant as that role is — He is to be "Lord" of our lives as well. As His disciples, we are called to make Him ruler of all aspects of our lives — our time, talents and treasure.

The beauty of the stewardship way of life is that it offers us a concrete means to show that Christ truly is Lord of our lives, to "prove" our love, in a manner of speaking, because true love is not mere sentiment. "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me," Jesus tells us in our Gospel passage from John.

True love is an act of the will. It requires obedience to all of God's commandments. This requires courage, humility and deep trust in Him.

But the rewards of this kind of love are indescribably wonderful. Christ tells us Himself, "Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

Could there be anything more satisfying to live in such a way that the God of the universe is pleased to reveal more and more of Himself to us? - catholicsteward.com

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

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Newark, OH
Cell 740-334-9777
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Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

“The name of Jesus is in fact the great foundation of the faith that turns people into children of God. The Catholic Faith indeed consists in the news of Jesus Christ as light of the soul, gate of life, and foundation of eternal salvation.”

~SAINT BERNARDINE OF SIENA

**Monday, May 18 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter
Saint John I, Pope and Martyr**

Holy Gospel: John 15:26-16:4a Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. “I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God. They will do this because they have not known either the Father or me. I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you.”

Meditation: Jesus tells us much about the Holy Spirit. First, the Holy Spirit is inseparably one with the Father and the Son. It is the Holy Spirit who gives life – the very life of God – and who kindles faith in hearts receptive to God's word. The Spirit makes it possible for us to know God personally. He gives us experiential knowledge of God as our Father. The Spirit witnesses to our spirit that the Father has indeed sent his Son into the world to redeem it and has raised his Son Jesus from the dead and has seated him at his right hand in glory and power. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the knowledge, wisdom and plan of God for the ages and the Spirit enables us to see with the "eyes of faith" what the Father and the Son are doing. Through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit we become witnesses to the great work of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus warned his disciples that they could expect persecution just as Jesus was opposed and treated with hostility. We have been given the Holy Spirit to help us live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Spirit gives us courage and perseverance when we meet adversities and challenges. Do you pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you in faith, hope and love and to give you courage and perseverance with hope when you meet adversities and challenges?

Prayer: Grant, O merciful God, that we may experience at all times the fruit produced by the paschal observances. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint John I: O God, who reward faithful souls and who have consecrated this day by the martyrdom of Pope Saint John the First, graciously hear the prayers of your people and grant that we, who venerate his merits, may imitate his constancy in the faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Have you ever examined whom you turn to for help and support when you most need it? True friendship is strengthened in adversity. Jesus offers his disciples the best and truest of friends. Who is this promised friend? Jesus calls the Holy Spirit our Counselor and Advocate (also translated “Paraclete” or “Helper” or “Guide”). Counselor is a legal term for the one who will defend someone against an adversary and who guides that person during the ordeal of trial. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate and Helper who brings us safely through the challenges and adversities we must face in this life. As Jesus approaches the hour he was to be glorified – through his death on the cross and his resurrection – he revealed more fully to his disciples the person and role of the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday, May 19 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 16:12-15 Jesus said to his disciples: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his

own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”

Meditation: Jesus told his disciples that he would send them the Spirit of truth who will guide you into all the truth...and declare to you the things that are to come (John 16:13). Through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit poured out on the new community of faith on the day of Pentecost, we too are able to profess the same creed which the apostles proclaimed – that Jesus died, and was buried, and rose again on the third day, and will come again to judge, raise the dead, and give everlasting life (the Apostles Creed). We not only have the same faith given to the apostles and early believers, but we have the same Spirit in us who raised Jesus from the dead. The Lord Jesus gives each of us his Holy Spirit as our divine Teacher and Helper that we may grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God. Do you listen attentively to God's word and allow his Holy Spirit to give you understanding of God's truth and will for your life?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as we celebrate in mystery the solemnities of your Son's Resurrection, so, too, we may be worthy to rejoice at his coming with all the Saints. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What we would all give to know all truths! Truth, however, is not something we create nor is it our discovery. It is the gift of God who is the possessor and the giver of all truth. Jesus tells his disciples that it is the role of the Holy Spirit to reveal what is true. How can this be? Skeptics of truth don't want to believe in an absolute Truth. If truth is objective then it must be submitted to as authoritative. Some fear the truth because they think it will inhibit their freedom to act and think as they wish. Jesus told his disciples that the truth will set you free (John 8:32). The truth liberates us from doubts, illusions, and fears. Since God is the source of all truth, then the closer we draw to him and listen to his word, the more we grow in the knowledge of him and of his great love and wisdom for us.

Wednesday, May 20 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter Saints Bernadine of Siena, Priest

Holy Gospel: John 16:12-15 Jesus said to his disciples: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”

Meditation: Jesus told his disciples that he would send them the Spirit of truth who will guide you into all the truth, and declare to you the things that are to come (John 16:13). Through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit poured out on the new community of faith on the day of Pentecost, we too are able to profess the same creed which the apostles proclaimed – that Jesus died, and was buried, and rose again on the third day, and will come again to judge, raise the dead, and give everlasting life (the Apostles Creed). We not only have the same faith given to the apostles and early believers, but we have the same Spirit in us who raised Jesus from the dead. The Lord Jesus gives each of us his Holy Spirit as our divine Teacher and Helper that we may grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God. Do you listen attentively to God's word and allow his Holy Spirit to give you understanding of God's truth and will for your life?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as we celebrate in mystery the solemnities of your Son's Resurrection, so, too, we may be worthy to rejoice at his coming with all the Saints. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer to Saint Bernardine of Siena: Saint Bernardine of Siena, words were very important to you. You spent most of your life speaking the golden words of Jesus' mercy and his Holy Name, and you abhorred words that were shameful. Pray for us that we may always choose to speak Jesus' name with reverence, and choose words of love over words of shame. Amen.

Contemplation: What we would all give to know all truths! Truth, however, is not something we create nor is it our discovery. It is the gift of God who is the possessor and the giver of all truth. Jesus tells his disciples that it is the role of the Holy Spirit to reveal what is true. How can this be? Skeptics of truth don't want to believe in an absolute Truth. If truth is objective then it must be submitted to as authoritative. Some fear the truth because they think it will inhibit their freedom to act and think as they wish. Jesus told his disciples that the truth will set you free (John 8:32). The truth liberates us from doubts, illusions,

and fears. Since God is the source of all truth, then the closer we draw to him and listen to his word, the more we grow in the knowledge of him and of his great love and wisdom for us.

The Holy Name of Jesus – HIS: This monogram of the Holy Name, common among Western Christians, comes from the first three letters in the Greek spelling of Jesus' name. Those letters are iota ("I"), eta ("H") and sigma (here rendered as its Roman equivalent: "S"). Variations: Sometimes the iota is rendered as a "J" (hence, "JHS"), or one will see the monogram in all Greek letters, or with the final sigma in a "C" shape (hence "IHC"), an alternate way of rendering the letter sigma. They all mean the same thing. The greatest promoters of the monogram were St. Bernardine of Siena and St. John Capistrano. They carried



with them on their missions in the turbulent cities of Italy a copy of the monogram of the Holy Name, surrounded by rays, painted on a wooden tablet, wherewith they blessed the sick and wrought great miracles. At the close of their sermons they exhibited this emblem to the faithful and asked them to prostrate themselves, to adore the Redeemer of mankind. They recommended their hearers to have the monogram of Jesus placed over the gates of their cities and above the doors of their dwelling. It became even more popularized after St. Bernardine encouraged a playing card maker in Bologna – a man whose business had been ruined because of the Saint's preaching against gambling – to make holy cards depicting it instead of making his usual fare. Because the manner in which St. Bernardine preached

this devotion was new, he was accused by his enemies, and brought before the tribunal of Pope Martin V. But St. John Capistrano defended his master so successfully that the pope not only permitted the worship of the Holy Name, but also assisted at a procession in which the holy monogram was carried. The tablet used by St. Bernardine is venerated at Santa Maria in Ara Coeli at Rome. Formalized devotion to the Holy Name is the fruit of the work of St. Bernardine of Siena, A.D. 1380-1444, the Franciscan who reformed his Order and preached fiery sermons all over Italy.

Thursday, May 21 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 16:16-20 Jesus said to his disciples: "A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What does this mean that he is saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" So they said, "What is this 'little while' of which he speaks? We do not know what he means." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?" Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy."

Meditation: The world says take your joy now in whatever pleasures you can get from this present life – "eat, drink and be merry" as the saying goes. Jesus points to an "other-worldly" joy which transcends anything this world can offer. Jesus contrasts present sorrows with future joy. A woman in labor suffers the birth-pangs first, but then forgets her sorrow as soon as her new-born child comes to birth. We cannot avoid pain and sorrow if we wish to follow Jesus to the cross. But in the cross of Christ we find freedom, victory, and joy. It was Saint Thomas Aquinas who said: "No one can live without joy. That is why a man or woman deprived of spiritual joy will turn to carnal pleasures." Do you know the joy of the Lord?

Prayer: O God, who made your people partakers in your redemption, grant, we pray, that we may perpetually render thanks for the Resurrection of the Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: How do "weeping" and "rejoicing" go together? Jesus contrasts present sorrows with the future glory to be revealed to those who put their hope in God. For the people of Israel time was divided into two ages – the present age and the age to come. The prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah as the dawn of a new age. Jesus tells his disciples two important truths. First, he must leave them to return to his Father and second, he will surely come again at the end of time to usher in the new age of God's kingdom. Jesus' orientation for the time between his first coming and his return in glory at the end of the world is a reversal of the world's fortunes. Do you weep and rejoice in the Lord?

Friday, May 22 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious

Holy Gospel: John 16:20-23 Jesus said to his disciples: "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labor,

she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.”

Meditation: Why does Jesus tell his disciples to weep and mourn? Jesus was neither a pessimist nor a masochist, and he was certainly more than a realist! The way to happiness and joy in the kingdom of God is through the cross. Sin must be brought to the cross of Jesus Christ and evil can only be completely mastered by the power of God's redeeming love. Jesus told his disciples that it was more blessed to mourn for sin because it would yield the fruit of peace, joy, and righteousness. Jesus knew that the cross would be a stumbling block for those who refused to believe in him. The cross for Jesus was not defeat but victory – victory over sin, over the forces of evil in the world, and over the devil – the arch-enemy of God and humankind.

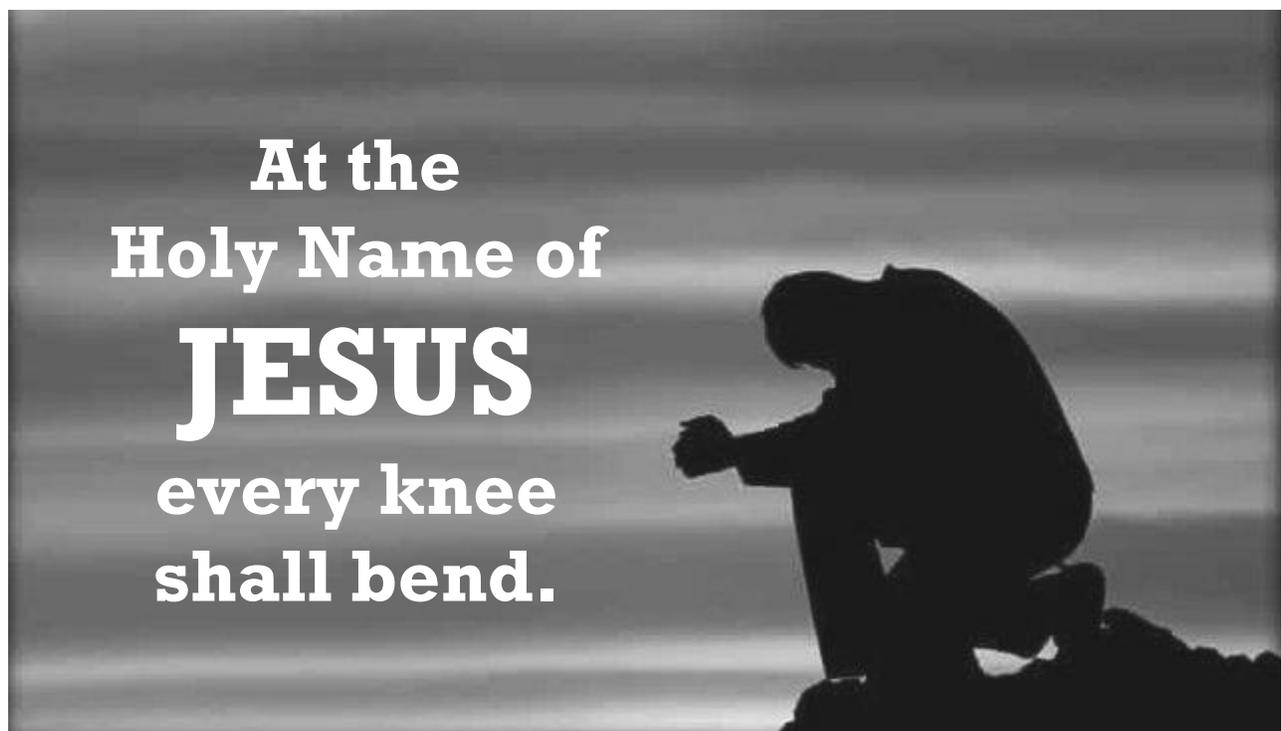
Prayer: Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Rita of Cascia: Bestow on us, we pray, O Lord, the wisdom and strength of the Cross, with which you were pleased to endow Saint Rita, so that, suffering in every tribulation with Christ, we may participate ever more deeply in his Paschal Mystery. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: We must remember that through his death on the cross, Jesus won for us new life and freedom over the power of sin, despair, and death. The Easter victory of Jesus teaches us courage in the face of suffering and death. In the resurrection of Christ our fears are laid to rest. His resurrection is total, final triumph, and for us peace and joy at the end. We will have troubles in the present reality. Through the eyes of faith, we know the final outcome – complete victory over sin, suffering, and death in Jesus Christ. That is why we can pray confidently now, knowing that the Father will give us everything we need to live as his children and as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you know the Easter joy of Christ's victory over sin and death?

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Easter* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmüller, C.P.; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2020



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Advocate

Heavenly Father,
 Sanctify our hearts with the gift of
 your Spirit.
 Empower us to continue the ministry
 of Jesus—
 to speak the truth with joy and gentleness,
 to comfort others in their sorrow
 and suffering,
 to withstand evil in all its forms.

Reveal your Son's enduring presence within
 and around us.
 Help us reveal him to others in all that we do
 so that your love may be known
 and embraced by everyone
 and the world brought to new life
 in your Spirit.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 17, 2020

For the Family



Today's Readings: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17; Psalm 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15–18; John 14:15–21. In John's account of the Gospel, Jesus refers to multiple commandments, but he gives only one: love one another. To love people—and we would add, to cherish all of God's creation—is to love the Risen Lord and, through him, the Father. That love first flowed the other way, from the Father, through the Son, to the world. Love for and from God pulls the world back together. The Advocate, God's own Spirit, unites people and assures them that they are and always will be God's children.

The Advocate also empowers believers to act as Jesus did. Philip fulfills this commissioning perfectly: he pro-

claims Christ, expels demons, and heals people. Then, when the Samaritans accept the Gospel, centuries of enmity are overcome as Jews and Samaritans are bound together by Baptism and the Holy Spirit. They become sisters and brothers of Christ and part of the new family of God, the Father.

Our Second Reading urges us to act as Christ did, both for our sake and for the sake of others. People will not always be as receptive to us as the Samaritans were to Philip. Only by responding intelligently but peaceably will we persuade people of the enduring joy that comes from following Christ. By speaking and acting with gentle and patient persistence, we will be brought to life in the Spirit.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 18

Journeys

The Advocate that Jesus promised has unmistakably filled St. Paul. For the rest of the Easter season we will hear about Paul's extensive travels and missionary work. Paul takes every opportunity to tell others about Christ and to enter into fellowship with them. Make a map of your Christian journey. What significant moments are on that map? *Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b; John 15:26–16:4a.*

Tuesday, May 19

Revealing Righteousness

Jesus promises to send an Advocate who will reveal whether a person is ultimately righteous or sinful. In Acts, the jailer recognizes that Paul and Silas are righteous despite their imprisonment. The jailer is so impressed by their behavior that he listens to them and is baptized. Are there people you don't listen to because you are certain they are wrong? Do they have some words of truth to offer you? *Today's Readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; John 16:5–11.*

Wednesday, May 20

A Gospel for All

Jesus helps his disciples prepare for his death. He also promises that the "Spirit of truth" will give them insight into future events so that they can act in his name. This Spirit is active in Paul as he preaches in Athens, a city renowned for its diversity. Paul's ministry in that city anticipates the spread of the Gospel to the wider and still more diverse world. Today, the Gospel is lived and expressed in countless ways. What are some Catholic practices unique to your area or culture? *Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.*

Thursday, May 21

The Ascension of the Lord

In ancient texts, revered people were sometimes shown being taken up into heaven. Their ascension was a metaphor for divine approval. Luke draws on this imagery to show that God approves of Jesus but also that Jesus shares God's power. Having ascended, Jesus is no longer physically constrained but is spiritually and sacramentally present in those who are baptized. *Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20.*

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter

In Acts, we're reminded that Paul did not work alone but counted on other people for material and emotional support. When the disciples learned of Jesus' forthcoming death, they also would have turned to one another for support. Who is a source of strength and comfort for you? *Today's Readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.*

Friday, May 22

Everlasting Joy

Jesus insists that his disciples will soon be filled with a joy from God that no one can take away. This promise seems to clash with the passage from Acts where Paul is unjustly treated by a mob and those in authority don't care. Paul, however, compelled by love and gratitude for Christ, continues his ministry. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.*

Saturday, May 23

Our Every Need

Jesus tells his disciples that soon God will give them whatever they ask. Often, however, we receive without asking. Apollos receives much needed instruction about the Christian faith. The Christian community then receives in Apollos a well-formed and compelling preacher. Surprise someone by doing something helpful but unexpected for them today. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*



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