

Perfect as One: Scott Hahn Reflects On Seventh Sunday of Easter

Jesus is praying for us in today's Gospel. We are those who have come to believe in Him through the Word of the Apostles, handed on in His Church.

Jesus showed the Apostles His glory, made known the Father's name and the love He has had for us from "before the foundation of the world."

He revealed that He and the Father are one (see John 14:9).

Jesus is the "first and the last" (see Isaiah 44:6), the root of David (see Isaiah 11:10; 2 Samuel 7:12), as today's Second Reading declares.

Wrapped in clouds and darkness as God was at Sinai (see Exodus 19:16), He is "the king . . . the Most High over all the earth," as we sing in today's Psalm.

Exalted at God's right hand, as Stephen sees in the First Reading, the Lord calls to us through the Church, His Bride.

He calls us to "the tree of life," to communion with God. This is the goal of His love, His saving purpose from all eternity—that each of us enter into the life of the Blessed Trinity and be "brought to perfection as one" with the Father and Son in the Spirit.

The story of Stephen, the first martyr, shows us how we are to answer His call.

Listen for the echoes of the Crucifixion: Stephen, like Jesus, sees the Son of Man in glory and dies with words of forgiveness and self-offering on his lips (compare Acts 7:56–60; Matthew 26:64–65; Luke 23:24,46).

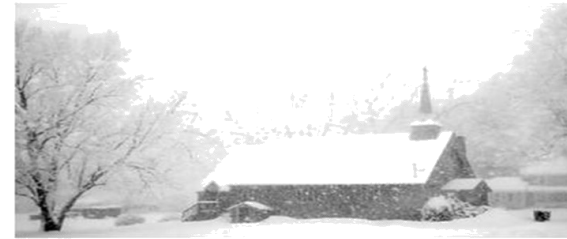
We, too, are to commend our spirits to the Father, to pray and offer our lives in love for our brethren, awaiting His coming in judgment. We renew our vows in every Mass, coming forward to receive the gift of His life.

We answer His call by crying out a call of our own: "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!"

And in our communion we answer our Lord's prayer: "That they may all be one, as You, Father are in Me and I in You."



Welcome to our parish!



*St. Augustine Mission
98 Church Lane
Wheelwright, MA 01094*



*St. Aloysius Church
64 Church St., PO Box 542
Gilbertville, MA 01031*

Mass Schedule

St. Aloysius Church: Saturday 4 P. M.

Sunday 7:30 A.M.

St. Augustine Mission: Sunday 9:00 A.M.

*For weekday Mass times please check the detailed schedule
inside the bulletin.*

Rev. Richard A. Lembo, Pastor

Ms. Loretta DiPietro
Pastoral Associate

Ms. Lynne St. George
Finance

Rectory Telephone - 413-477-6493

Safe Environment

As a reminder, our parish follows the guidelines of the national Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the US Bishops and the policies of the Diocese of Worcester. If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a Church employee or volunteer in the past, please contact our diocesan office of Healing & Prevention at **508-929-4363** (direct line and confidential voicemail). If you are concerned about a current case of abuse, please contact the local civil authorities immediately.

www.worcesterdiocese.org

Judith Audette 508-726-2880

"We, the faith community of the St. Aloysius Church and St. Augustine Mission, as part of cluster 36 and the Worcester Diocese, who in union with the Catholic Church throughout the world, proclaim our belief in the message and mission of Jesus Christ, as we strive to fulfill our Baptismal covenant, by nurturing our individual and spiritual growth in our care for one another."



Saturday May 31
4:00pm - **John E. Sullivan** by Family

Sunday, June 1-
7:30am - **Phyllis Sadowski King** by Mary King

St. Augustine
9:00am - **Special Intention**
by Pauline & Dave Anderson

Monday June 2
8:00am

Friday June 6
8:00am - **Wesley Laford** by the Laford Family

Saturday June 7
4:00pm - **Nick Seminara** by Alvira

Sunday, June 8
7:30am - **Souls in Purgatory**

St. Augustine



The Ascension of the Lord

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelations 22:13) This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work, or at school. Living gratefully and generously is an intentional lifestyle. Every decision you make either moves you closer to God or farther away. Choose wisely!

Offertory Collection**
May 24 & 25, 2025

St. Aloysius - \$1,497.00
St. Augustine - \$610.00
**This includes all envelopes given in the collection

Congratulations to the 5 following \$20.00 winners:

- | | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| #163 | Beth & Brian McDuffie |
| #105 | Vinny Nastasi |
| #175 | Mary Ann Vinskey |
| #230 | Beckie Robidoux |
| #16 | Bill Robinson |

Thank you everyone for your participation!

Joy Cannot Be Stolen

Scripture

“Remain in my love....
I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete” (John 15:9,11)

Reflection: I can vividly recall being at a conference many years ago where the speaker asked a very large crowd of us if we believed that the Gospel is “good news.” When we yelled back with a resounding “Yes” he said, “Then tell your face about it.” The hardships that come with discipleship cannot erase the joy of the discipleship.

Henri Nouwen, one of the great spiritual writers of the late twentieth century, said that joy doesn’t just happen to us but is something we choose. “It is a choice based on knowledge that we belong to God and have found in God our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death can take God away from us.” In other words, the joy of Christian's is not simply an emotional reaction. It is steeped in God’s love for us and spills over into our love for others. Nouwen, transparent about his own spiritual and emotional struggles, knew this love and joy deeply from his own experience, especially in his final years living in a L’Arche community outside of Toronto. There he served as a chaplain caregiver and friend to the mixed community of people with and without intellectual and physical challenges.

In our own daily routines, we choose joy because we know the love of God, but what about those times when God’s love does not feel real or tangible, when we feel distant from God? My advice is simple in these times let’s choose joy anyway, and we will surely rediscover God’s abiding love.

Meditation Dorothy Day, the American journalist, peace activist, and co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, knew the challenges of working for social change through the lens of the Gospel. Her work with the poor and oppressed was serious business. And yet she said Christians are called to the “duty of delight.” How are you making room for joy and delight in your witness in the Gospel?

Prayer: Jesus, you command us to love as you love. May the love we show to others be saturated with the joy of finding you present in every person we encounter.

C.U.

