

*Parish Newsletter*  
*For*  
*15 May 2022*



## **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*From Father Robert – Reflecting On The Gospel*

The shadow of Judas falls over the first verse of today's gospel. The words about glory and love are spoken only after this chosen disciple has gone out into the night that is already within him. Jesus speaks gently to his own, to "my children." In the five verses of this gospel, two words are constantly repeated: "Glory" and "love." Judas walks away from both. In the prologue to his gospel, John proclaims that the glory of God was revealed in the descent of the Word into our humanity, "glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." Now as Jesus comes to His "hour," the love that will be His ultimate self-sacrifice becomes also His hour of glory, a new prologue to His ascent to the Father in the glory of the resurrection. This is the life and love and glory that Jesus will share with His disciples.

This the "hour" and this is the "today" in which past, present, and future flow together and are redefined as the reality in which all

disciples, both at and beyond this gospel table, are to live Jesus' love command. This commandment is "new," not because the Old Testament was lacking in love but because, first, it is a commandment given with the authority of Jesus Himself Who loved His own to the end. Second, it is "new" because it is about the love that is to be practiced in the new Christian communities of Jesus' disciples. This does not mean these communities will be elitist or exclusive, but is a recognition of the truth that Christian life and mission depend mainly on the witness of those who love one another as Jesus has loved, with the radical love that takes Him to death and resurrection.

The loss of faith, so often results from the lack or distortion of this love, is tragically evident in the past and present history of the church. Sexual, physical, or psychological abuse by those called Christian – and especially those in whom great trust has been placed – denominational division and bickering, human rights ignored or violated: all these are failure in obedience to Jesus' command to love one another as He has loved us.

One of the significant New Testament words for resurrection is *anastasis*, "standing up." Jesus stood up for the insignificant, dispossessed, and disadvantaged people; He stood up against the lack of love in powerful people and places, both civil and religious, and He died because this is the way He lived. This is why God "stood up" for Jesus by raising Him from the dead to the glory of His resurrection. In our parish communities, we may have wonderful liturgies and eager ministers, but if there is also jealousy, possessiveness, status seeking, and more judgment passed than love given by both laity and clergy, if there are subtle policies of exclusion rather than inclusion, shadows

fall over us. We become death-dealing individuals rather than life-giving communities.



How did Jesus love His disciples?

Do you feel that you love others as Jesus loves you? Why or why not?

What is one concrete example of Jesus' love for you in your life?

If you were in Antioch in the first century, how do you think you would have reacted to Paul and Barnabas?



**About Liturgy: "Love One Another"**  
"This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). This passage, which ends today's gospel, must stand as a reminder to each of us: in all things we do – not some of the things, not most of the things, - in all things we do, there must be humble and sacrificial love. Even in lament or righteous

anger, there must be love. If that love is absent, we are not living and proclaiming Christ. An end, no matter how noble or fruitful, cannot justify a loveless means. The elevation of even the most marginalized and cast aside cannot be accomplished by lowering the worth of any other individual or group of people. May this wisdom, this spirituality fill all we do as we lead the church universal in communal prayer.



Today throughout the church in the United States, we are joining with parishes in supporting the Annual Catholic Communication Campaign. Our financial support helps to bring the Good News of Jesus to others through all the various forms of media. Thank you for what you will do to help in this outreach.



This morning, following our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, the Pastoral Council is hosting a festive Newcomer's Brunch to welcome more than 101 newly-registered families to our parish community. I wish to thank the Pastoral Council for the planning, preparation, decorating the parish hall, and cooking the wonderful foods that will be served to our newest members. Welcome to all!



### ***Funeral Liturgies This Week***

This coming Tuesday, 17 May 2022, at 10:00 a.m., we will be celebrating the Funeral Liturgy for **Catherine Darretta** in the Chapel of the Holy Cross at Holy Cross Cemetery. The Committal will take place on Wednesday, 18 May 2022, at 1:15 p.m. at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon.

On Wednesday evening, 18 May 2022, I will be presiding for the Funeral Vigil of **Retired Police Chief Robert Joseph Maginnis** at Church of the Assumption, San Leandro at 7:00 p.m. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday morning, 19 May 2022, at 10:30 a.m., followed by Committal at St. Mary's Cemetery, Oakland.

On Thursday evening, 19 May 2022, I will be presiding for the Funeral Vigil of **Pascual Mena Mena** in the Chapel of the Holy Cross, Holy Cross Cemetery, Antioch. On Friday morning, Visitation and Viewing will continue here in our sanctuary beginning at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Funeral Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

On Saturday morning, 21 May 2022, Visitation and Viewing for **Ligaya Ibay** will begin at 9:00 a.m. until the time of the Funeral Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.



For the past number of years, parishioner **Dilcia Aparicio** has served faithfully in caring for the Altar Linens, washing and ironing the corporals, Fair Linens, and purificators. She and her husband, Edgardo, are moving to Las Vegas, and we now find ourselves in need of a new member of the Altar Guild to succeed Dilcia in this important “behind the scenes” ministry. This ministry can be done by both men and women! If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please give me a call at the parish office. The need is immediate. Thank you!



### ***Mission Alignment Process News***

This past Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, I was joined by parishioners Brian McCoy, Chip Sharpe, Susannah Nelson, Theresa Nelms, and Will Avitabile for a Diocese Region #3 meeting that was held at St. Bonaventure Parish, Concord. Approximately 100 parishioners and their pastors met to receive data from the MAP Survey we all took last fall. The data included the names of each parish in the diocese, the number of liturgies offered, indications of multiple languages, the number of baptisms, confirmations, individuals received through the RCIA, the

attendance over the past five years, the amount of funds on hand, and a color-coded line indicating the overall health of the individual parish (Red = not good; Yellow = on the verge of not doing well, especially financially; Green = healthy and financially sound.

I am happy to report to you once again that we are a “green” coded parish, meaning we are sound, stable, and healthy.

Participants were invited to contribute on two levels as they studied the data: Trends and Take-aways. Each person studied the data, took notes, then shared the results of their individual study with the other participants at their table. Then each table shared their observations with the entire group.

The Trends included: diminished number of parishioners participating in Sunday Eucharist; diminished income/revenue; insufficient and aging clergy; reduced participation not necessarily due to the pandemic but other factors (clergy sexual abuse, 19 – 55 years of age missing altogether, etc.)

The Take-aways included: need to reduce the number of liturgies; create new ways to invite parishioners to return to active practice of their faith; train, empower the laity to take a more active role in leading and administration; reduce the number of parishes through merger/consolidation/closure/soft-mergers (one priest for three parishes or clustering parishes with joint leadership).

The next major step in the process happens for us on June 1<sup>st</sup> when a Deanery Meeting will be held at Good Shepherd Church, Pittsburg, to respond to the question the Bishop put to us: how shall we proceed?

What recommendations do you make? How shall we be “church” going forward in order to meet the spiritual/sacramental needs of our people? Pastors will be bringing ten representatives from their parish to attend the meeting.

At the conclusion of the gathering, the bishop made his closing remarks and one of his comments pointed to our present culture as the main reason for the decline in church attendance and Catholics no longer practicing their faith. In an excellent article entitled “Why The Church In The West Is Failing?” Jesuit priest and scholar, Fr. Thomas Reese has done an excellent job of explaining the current status of the institutional church and how we have gotten to where we are. You will find that article in “Articles of Interest” and I encourage you to read it – it is eye-opening. Stay tuned...



Each week I have the honor of recognizing some of the many volunteers who do so much for the parish throughout each week.

Thank you to those who clean the sanctuary and the bathrooms in preparation for the coming weekend **Phil Hadsell, Reno and Thelma Benasfre, Al Cosce, Carole Miller, Jean Rogers, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, and Steve Rojek.**

To **Virginia Noack** who vacuums the carpets at the entrance to the church each day, empties the waste receptacles in the

restrooms as well as making sure they are clean and ready for use.

To **Lisa Lombardo** who records our liturgies and uploads them to our YouTube Channel for those who cannot be with us in person.

To our Parish Office Volunteers: **Alicia Perez, Melody Costanza, Lorraine Lohmeier, and Bev Iacona.**

To our Parish Security Team: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, Tony Gumina, Dave Simpson, Brian McCoy, Jose Perez, Bill Barbanica, and Rick Carraher.**

To those who help and assist Estrella Rusk, Financial Secretary, with accounting, data entry, recording, and banking.

To our Liturgical Ministers: **Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Sacristans, Altar Guild, Adult Acolytes, Art & Environment Committee Members, Liturgy Committee Members, Cantors, and Funeral Coordinators.**



*From Werner Hoch*

There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering. The pain we witness can be overwhelming. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the

lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer with extraordinary love.

Lord, grant that I may always bear in mind the very great dignity of life you have called me to and all its responsibilities. Never let me dishonor it by being cold, or unkind, or impatient.

This is the attitude that I am striving to accomplish in my lifetime: to be able in some small way to help others not as fortunate as myself.

Coming to help the Food Bank of Contra Costa-Solano takes so little of my time that I would not be anywhere else but right here, helping to feed the less fortunate of our community. Just to listening to some folks thanking us for what we do is the best reward that i could ask for. And that alone is the reason so many generous people volunteer their time and join us to do God's work.

All the wonderful volunteers accomplished serving 215 families, even though there was a good chance of a shower or two on last Friday afternoon. It did not affect any volunteers from coming to the church parking lot for about one and a half hours to help others in need.

This is what God has called us to do and we gladly answered the call. Thank you everyone for helping with this ministry of outreach. Werner .🏠



***Volunteer Opportunity***

The parish is looking for a volunteer to maintain the parish website. This is a great

opportunity to serve your community by supporting one of the parish's principal means of communication. Good communication skills, creativity, and attention to detail are important. The website, which is hosted by eCatholic®, can be maintained from home. Contact the parish office if interested.



### ***Mini-Relay for Life Walk***

Father Robert and fellow parishioners, St. Ignatius of Antioch has a wonderful outside ministry that Maryann Peddicord and I have been proud to co-lead as captains for almost 16 years! In 2004 Brian and Vicki McCoy and several parishioners formed, at that time, the Harvesters group and joined the fundraising arm of the American Cancer Society called the Relay for Life 24 -hour walk. Maryann and I took the leadership role in 2008 after Brian and Vicki retired.

Every year we gather with other teams, made up of families, businesses, churches and individuals. We set up canopies around a high school or junior college track and take turns walking for and in memory or honor of someone touched by cancer. We have a beautiful walk for survivors and a Luminaria Ceremony honoring or in memory of loved ones. White paper bags with names and pictures of loved ones, friends, co-workers line the track and glow sticks are placed inside after it gets dark. It is such a beautiful sight to see the bags light up the track. We walk and read the names, cry tears of sadness for our cancer warriors

that are no longer with us and filled with joy and hope for our cancer survivors.

Our church has a book that we place in the narthex every year around the beginning of June. It is a book with the names of those that have been touched by cancer. Our team members take turns carrying the book in a back pack while they walk during the Relay for Life Event. Our parishioners have filled that book with names since 2004!

During this event and throughout the year we solicit donations through our walking, through fundraising events such as our past pasta dinners, bunco games, and Spring Tea and even a golf tournament. Over 18 years of participation of our Church team has raised over \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society.

In 2019, our Relay for Life event was cancelled due to COVID, and our own St. Ignatius of Antioch Team had to cancel our beloved Pasta Dinner and Spring Tea. Our St. Ignatius of Antioch Team was instrumental in suggesting an online auction to keep The Relay for Life alive and still making fundraising a reality. We also decided to create our own mini-Relay last year with limited participation and it was such a great success that we are going to have another again this year!

The Relay for Life event raises much needed funds to continue the research that will someday eradicate all forms of cancer and create new and improved drugs to combat cancer, support cancer patients and their families through various free services, fund legislative laws geared to pass new cancer drugs and to raise awareness of the dangers of cancer-causing chemicals, cigarette, cigar and vape smoking through educational campaigns and in-service programs.

This Year our St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay for Life Team invites you to our mini-Relay for Life event in our back 40 parking lot. The event will take place on June 11 from 6 PM to 9 PM. We will have raffle prizes, a Luminaria Ceremony, a cancer Survivor Walk, music, food, and fun!! We will have a table outside starting May 21, to sell tickets for the BBQ dinner cooked and hosted by our Knights of Columbus.

We are asking for your help this year in making our mini-Relay a success. We are in need of water for our walkers, raffle prizes, volunteers to man the luminaria bag table, and walkers that will help carry our book. Come join us and enjoy music, food and friendship! A great big thank you to our wonderful Knights for being our set up and take down crew and for the BBQ for this year!

Alicia Perez and Maryann Peddicord,  
Co-Capts., St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay for Life Team



### ***Sharing Our Faith***

Faith Formation Catechists are the heart of our faith. You do not need to be a certified catechist to teach. Please consider sharing your faith with a group of children this year. In-Person classes begin September 21, 2022. All grades are taught one time per week from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., from September 21, 2022 through May 17, 2023.

The prayer of St. Francis says.... "It is in giving that we receive." Ask any catechist and they will assure you that you will get more than you give. St Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church Faith Formation will

provide catechists with resources and training that help people become successful. The main goal of a catechist is the growth of faith for the children they work with.

If you would like additional information about being a catechist for grades 1-8 or for our confirmation program for grades 9-12, please contact Shelli Daviess, Faith Formation Coordinator at 925-778-0768, ext. 305 or email me at: [daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net)

Proverbs 22:6, "*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*"



The Children's Liturgy of the Word will be returning to Sunday Mornings at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. If you would love to be a Catechist for the children during the homily on Sunday mornings, please reach out to me.

It would be wonderful to have 4-5 Catechists, rotating each week to work with the children. That would mean each Catechist would work with the children every 4-5 weeks.

All materials will be provided each week. If you are interested, please contact Shelli Daviess at [daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net) or 925-778-0768 ext. 305. Thank you.



How to Get Your  
**California**  
Food Handlers Card



### ***California Food Handler Cards***

As reported in the Parish Newsletter, our new kitchen has been certified by the Contra Costa Health Department and now has a permit to operate as a production kitchen. As we move closer to being able to use our new facility, we want to remind everyone that a California Food Handler Card will be required for anyone who works in our kitchen, including food servers. This will ensure that everyone working at our events has a basic knowledge of food safety and sanitation.

Food Handler Cards can be obtained by taking an online food safety course. Courses are offered by a number of certified organizations and with prices ranging from \$7 - \$15. Links for several certified organizations are posted on the parish website (note: you are not limited to the organizations listed - you may choose other organizations from which to obtain your card as long as they are certified).

Once you obtain your Food Handler Card, please provide a copy to the parish office. Per health department rules, these copies will be kept onsite in our kitchen.



# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## The Glory of God

Compassionate God,  
you shower us with an enduring love.  
May we open our eyes and hearts to  
your works.

In your goodness, you have promised  
to wipe away every tear from our eyes  
and bring us to a place free of pain.  
May we open ourselves to embrace  
your command to love one another.  
Grant that we see you in our brother  
and sister

and love them as you have loved us,  
and in so doing, glorify you.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 15, 2022  
God's Dwelling among Us



*Today's readings: Acts 14:21–27; Psalm 145:8–9, 10–11, 11–13; Revelation 21:1–5a; John 13:31–33a, 34–35.* Have you ever noticed something wondrous for the first time and then learned that it had been present for quite a while? That occurs in our relationship with God and his work in our lives. Often, people are so absorbed with the many events in their lives that they miss the goodness and love that God sends their way.

The reading from Revelation tells us that God has made his home among us: “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. . . . God himself will always be with them as their God.” In his place among us, God is present through

the most difficult times. “He will wipe every tear from their eyes,” we are told. But there is more. “There shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain.”

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that it is by our love that we will be recognized as disciples. Through our love the presence of God becomes known to family, friends, and the community. Who in your life noticeably manifests the love of God? Make it a point this week to stop for a moment to appreciate God’s presence in your life. Pray for the grace of awareness to be God’s presence for those who most need to know they are loved today.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, May 16

#### A Healing Love

Jesus tells his followers that those who keep his commandments love him. The love that Jesus proclaims is rooted in the reality that all of us are created in the image of God. This love recognizes our frailty and failures and our need for healing. This love also recognizes the best of who we can be for one another. Such love forgives and provides for healing. How will you show the love of God today? *Today's readings: Acts 14:5–18; Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 15–16; John 14:21–26.*

### Tuesday, May 17

#### The Gift of Peace

What does it mean that Jesus offers the disciples peace? Peace doesn't mean the absence of challenges, conflicts, or worry; the power of peace is that it exists in the midst of all these things. The person who is at peace trusts that someone greater holds your life as precious in every moment. Peace can help you put matters in perspective so that, rather than worrying or being fearful, you remember, as Sr. Thea Bowman said, "who you are and whose you are." *Today's readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

### Wednesday, May 18

#### Remain in Jesus

Jesus tells us that he is the true vine and we are the branches. Jesus' entire life and ministry was rooted in his relationship with his Father and his desire is to share that relationship with us so that we can nourish others. The simplest way to maintain our viability as a life-giving branch on the vine is to remain rooted in our relationship with Christ. Prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, are ways we can remain in Jesus. *Today's readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

### Thursday, May 19

#### Joy

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God," said Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. In today's Gospel, Jesus offers love as the simple ingredient for joy. This love is grounded in Christ. Consider how your life would be more joyful if you allowed yourself to rest in the love of God. Sometimes it is difficult to accept that God offers us his love unconditionally. When we accept that, it is easier to love ourselves and God. *Today's readings: Acts 15:7–21; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 10; John 15:9–11.*

### Friday, May 20

#### Loved and Chosen

The Gospels this week have focused on being rooted in our relationship with God. Love, peace, and joy are only possible because of that relationship. Today Jesus adds another layer: he sends his followers out to continue his mission. Today it would be good to pray for the grace to be courageous to accept that we are chosen and loved, and to share the love we have known through him. *Today's readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10 and 12; John 15:12–17.*

### Saturday, May 21

#### Reality Check

Today's Gospel offers a reality check regarding discipleship. Not everyone will appreciate the Christian message that you share, and some may rebuke you for spreading the Gospel. Living as a Christian can mean facing persecution. Jesus tells us to remember that he experienced these challenges. When discipleship is the hardest, take comfort in knowing that your witness provides a source of life and hope. *Today's readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*





CoCo Farms



THE GREEN TRIANGLE



# DVG MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

Remember and honour

## ANTIOCH

Oak View Memorial Park  
2500 E. 18th St. Antioch, CA  
**PROGRAM STARTS @ 10AM**



# **St. Ignatius of Antioch**

## **Relay for Life Mini-Relay**

*Saturday, June 11*

*6 PM to 9 PM*

**Raffle Prizes! Music!**

**Food** (BBQ by our Knights)

Tickets for Food will be sold after  
mass starting May 21.

Proceeds will benefit the American  
Cancer Society

[See Alicia Perez or Maryann Peddicord for more Info](#)