



SAINT LUKE CHURCH

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SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you." - Jn 17:1

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020

SUN 5/24 **ASCENSION:** Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/
Mt 28:16-20

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/
Jn 17:1-11a

MON 5/25 Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33

TUE 5/26 Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a

WED 5/27 Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/
Jn 17:11b-19

THR 5/28 Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/
Jn 17:20-26

FRI 5/29 Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19

SAT 5/30 **Morning:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/
Jn 21:20-25

SUN 5/31 **Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/
Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-
39. **Extended Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Ex
19:3-8a, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 55, 56 [52b] or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/
Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24,
35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39. **Day:** Acts
2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/
Jn 20:19-23

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter;
World Communications Day

Monday: St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory
VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin; Memorial Day

Tuesday: St. Philip Neri, Priest

Wednesday: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Next Sunday: Pentecost Sunday

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Being real people of faith comes with a price. Have you ever been seen as unpopular, out of sync or peculiar because of your faith? St. Peter tells us, "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you." If being a Christian comes easy for us, then we ought to rethink how we approach our faith. Developing habits of prayer, living in accord with the Gospel, setting time aside each week for the practice of our faith, seeing our relationship with Christ as the center and focus of our families all come with sacrifice. We are going to look differently than other folks and we ought to. We are going to find ourselves doing less of the things we are "supposed to do" and more of the things we know we "ought to do or want to do." This often means resisting secular tides and putting our boats into different waters. If this is what helps us know the one true God, then so be it. It also brings us to eternal life.



WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer. (Acts 1:14a)



PSALM

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living. (Ps 27) or Alleluia



SECOND READING

Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. (1 Pt 4:13)



GOSPEL

"I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began." (Jn 17:4-5)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What does faith and religion do for us? Ultimately, they remind us of some truths we conveniently forget: we are created by a loving God, we have imperfections, we sin, we need to be forgiven, we have a mission and a purpose, it's not just about us, and we hunger for the joy of salvation. These are human truths that are not dependent upon whether we like them. Ignoring them places us on the paths of comfort and satisfaction as we blindly pursue the busyness and superficiality of our empty lives. Instead of pursuing supernatural and lasting pleasure, we choose things that are easier and quicker to obtain: sex, drugs, travel, houses, cars, fame, popularity, self-achievement and satisfaction, physical enjoyment, and the like.

We may also find ourselves falling victim to more negative responses to what life brings us: anger, envy, lust, pride, gluttony, greed, and apathy. Human hearts can become so hardened to the truth that violence becomes the response of first choice. Being a Christian is hard! Yet, as Pope Francis reminds us, the Church needs to be a field hospital that has to be prepared to provide people with the remedy they need. What we need is Jesus Christ. The Church, with all of the glory of the sacraments, exists to help make Christ present and real for us. Once we find Christ, we find joy. Joy is a matter of the heart that is beyond pleasure and happiness. It is not found in some earthly satisfaction, only in Christ.

Once we accept that we are destined to be in Christ, then we will discover eternal life. Namely, "that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." It is easy to conveniently forget truth and pursue illusions immediately within our grasp, but at what price? A man celebrating 60 years of marriage remarked that it took so much effort and so many attempts to convince his wife that they were meant to be together. Even his friends told him he was foolish. He easily could have given up and pursued other interests. He chose to persevere and is so grateful that he made that choice because he now has a pearl of great price. Do we see a value in persevering in our faith regardless of the cost? If we don't take the risk, we could lose more than we know.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Everlasting Easter

The Easter season is almost over. This season is always a tougher one for us Catholics. We get Advent and Lent: preparation. We are on board with Christmas, mainly because we like to keep up our decorations until someone tells us the exact day we must take them down. But Easter as a season is a bit more difficult to observe. The rest of the world has moved on. There are no Easter eggs left in store windows and all those religious movies on television have given way to reruns or season-ending episodes. It just feels like Easter anywhere ... except in the Church.

The truth is that it should feel like Easter all year-round in the Church. Every Sunday, we celebrate a mini-Easter. Our Lord is ALIVE! He is risen and alive, and we need to celebrate. We also need to be about the work of the Lord. We are an Easter people who bear witness to his resurrection through our stewardship. If he had never risen, then we would be called to nothing by no one. But he lives! As this Easter season is drawing to a close, it is prudent to reflect on what his death and resurrection mean for each of us. How has it changed us? How does it motivate us? It doesn't look like Easter in most corners of the world, so it is up to us to bring a little Easter to every place we go and to everyone we meet.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Why Kneel?

Question:

Why do we kneel at Mass?

Answer:

Since the beginnings of the Church, kneeling has been a key posture of prayer. We see Sts. Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles kneeling in prayer. Early in the 4th century, the Council of Nicea prohibited kneeling on Sundays and special feasts. Kneeling began more as a posture of penance for our sins, but in the history of the Church, it has become more a posture of reverence and solemn prayer.

You will notice that the times we kneel at Mass are tied to the consecration of the holy Eucharist. We kneel in both anticipation of what will occur and then in awe of what has taken place: Jesus Christ becomes truly present to us under the guise of bread and wine. The profoundness of this event has over time led the Church to mandate in the current General Instruction of the Roman Missal that kneeling is the only posture allowed during this time. The sheer awesomeness of the holy Eucharist leads us to fall to our knees in wonder and thanksgiving.

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“Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.”

— Jn 17:5-6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Those closest to Jesus in his life gathered together in the immediate aftermath of his resurrection and ascension. What sort of mixed emotions do you think they experienced?

Second Reading

Peter encourages those who suffer for the faith to “glorify God.” When have you experienced this type of redemptive suffering?

Gospel Reading

At the conclusion of his farewell discourse, Jesus offers a prayer of petition to the Father for his disciples. How do you find Jesus' words comforting?



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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