



SAINT LUKE CHURCH

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SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?" - Jn 14:2

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10, 2020

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| SUN 5/10 | Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12 |
| MON 5/11 | Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 [1ab]/Jn 14:21-26 |
| TUE 5/12 | Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a |
| WED 5/13 | Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8 |
| THR 5/14 | Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17 |
| FRI 5/15 | Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17 |
| SAT 5/16 | Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 [2a]/Jn 15:18-21 |
| SUN 5/17 | Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/1 Pt 3:15-18 /Jn 14:15-21 |

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10, 2020

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday: | 5 th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day |
| Tuesday: | Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr |
| Wednesday: | Our Lady of Fatima |
| Thursday: | St. Matthias, Apostle |
| Friday: | St. Isidore |
| Saturday: | Armed Forces Day |
| Next Sunday: | 6 th Sunday of Easter |

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

What do you imagine the resurrected life of heaven to be like? When we try to get our minds around such an enormous concept, we can easily find ourselves at a loss. For some folks, the enormity of the question actually causes them to ignore the reality of heaven or even conclude that it does not exist. Jesus knew that the magnitude and grandeur of eternal life are really too much for us to grasp. He kept it simple and described it in terms of relationship. The disciples treasured their relationship with Jesus, and he assured them, "Where I am you also may be." Ultimately, that was enough for them to know. They would be with him. Strengthen your relationship with God as He is the way, the truth, and the life. Is the assurance that you will be with Him enough for you as well?



*"My Immaculate
Heart will be your
refuge and the way
that will lead you to
God"*

-OUR LADY OF FATIMA

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. (Acts 6:7a)



PSALM

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps 33) or Alleluia



SECOND READING

You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Pt 2:9)



GOSPEL

Jesus said to him,
“I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through me.” (Jn 14:6)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When earthly lives end, especially when the person is younger, we tend to focus upon and consider what was lost. We think of lost opportunities — things they won't be able to see, babies they won't be able to cradle, and adventures that now must go undiscovered. Our minds create this chasm between earth and heaven that sees the losses of this life as permanent ones, never possible to achieve again. This perception causes many folks to remain stuck in their grief as they ponder all of the missed opportunities and regrets.

This is not resurrection thinking. All of the love that we can give and receive, the joy and elation that can be experienced, the adventures that can be undertaken, and the possibilities to be discovered are all part of a continuous journey. They are not ends in and of themselves but are all part of the unfolding of a relationship we have with God, who not only makes all of these wonderful things possible now but sustains them and fulfills them into eternity. The perception and experience of loss is really an illusion, because in God's eternal kingdom and in God's time, nothing is ever lost. Even the most intimate and tender of moments we can conceive of sharing with another human being are only part of a journey toward perfect intimate and tender moments to be shared with God in our resurrected life. We become like God and see God as He is in eternity. What greater joy, love, and hope can ever be discovered as we walk down our often dimly lit paths in this world.

This is an awesome wonder and magnificent news to behold. Call to mind someone you have lost in death. How do you see them now? How do you see yourself in heaven? Remind yourself, again, that God is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Our happiness is not going to be fully realized in this world, and there is nothing we can find here that cannot be found one hundred fold in eternity. It's all about relationship, and not solely about the relationships we have with each other, ourselves, and the world in which we live. It's about our relationship with God. If we realize how special that one relationship really is, then there is only one particular of heaven and life eternal that really matters: namely, that we fall into love eternal and discover truth. For when we finally close our eyes in death, then all will be well as long as we are with God. There are no losses, only gains.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Witness for Jesus

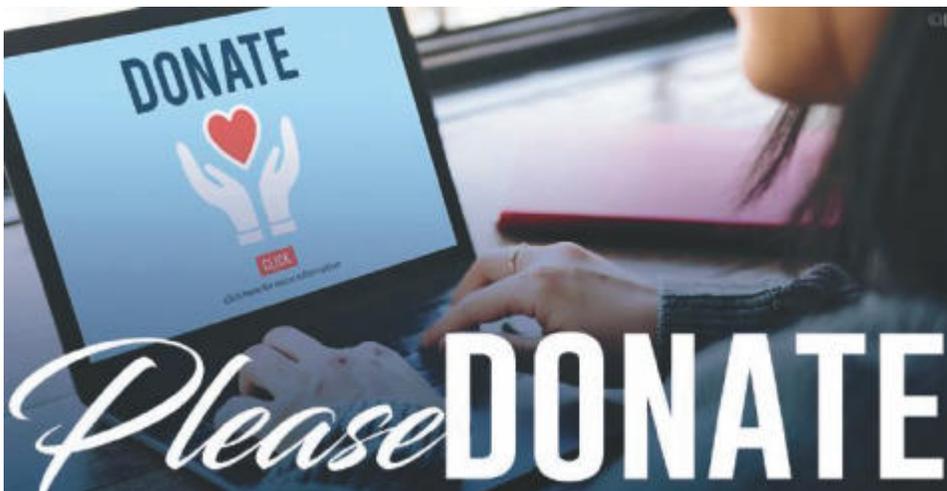
This journey of faith is not always easy. Sometimes the greatest wounds are those we suffer when family members and friends wander away from God and leave us behind. The faith they had when they were younger is now strained, or they see the daily walking with Jesus to be too difficult. For them, Jesus becomes what Peter wrote about when he described Jesus as the stone that causes people to stumble and the rock that makes them fall. Our journey is hard enough, but watching a loved one stumble and fall is heart-breaking.

What are we to do in such a situation? Most importantly, we pray. We must realize that God is more powerful than us, and even if we can't make them see the truth, He can. Then we witness to the transformative power of Jesus by our own lives. We need to serve him in word and deed. We should let a joy of being a disciple enlighten our faces. Allow Jesus to work through us so that others may be drawn to him. Lastly, we must never lose hope. Many have walked long journeys alone only to find God far down the road. What will it take to bring someone to Christ? It might be an action, a word, or an emotion. We never know how certain people will be touched. That loved one is a gift from God in your life. Place them back in God's hands, and let Him pick them up if they have stumbled and fallen.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Saints or Sinners?

Question:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

Answer:

Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

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Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

— Jn 14:6-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

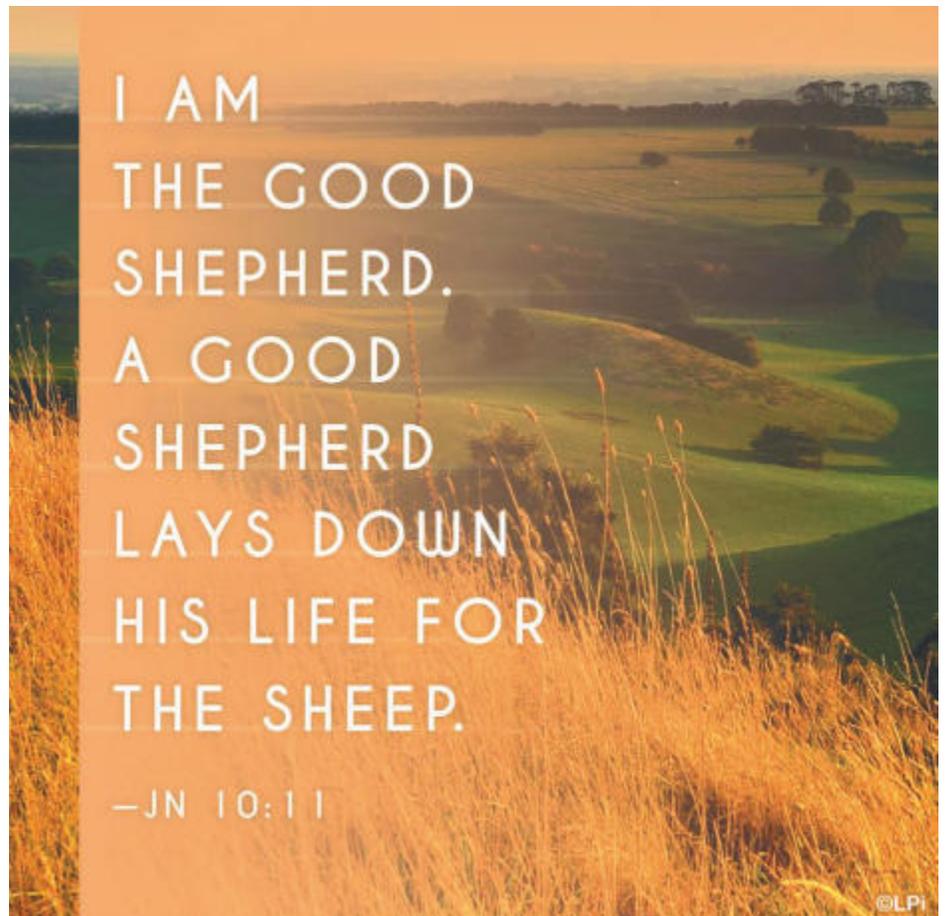
In today's reading, Luke offers an example of the cultural tensions that existed in the early Church between the Hellenists (Gentiles) and the Hebrews (Jews). The resolution resided in offering service to the other. Why do you think service can be a key to resolving community conflict?

Second Reading

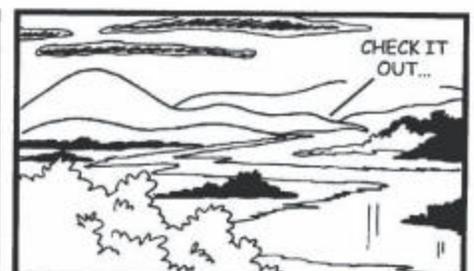
Peter emphasizes the importance of faith in Christ for building a strong spiritual house. How has the gift of faith strengthened your home?

Gospel Reading

In his farewell discourse, Jesus encourages the disciples, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." What inspires you in times of spiritual doubt?



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