



SAINT LUKE CHURCH

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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth.” - Jn 14:16-17a

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17, 2020

- 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
- MON 5/18** Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a
- TUE 5/19** Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11
- WED 5/20** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
- THR 5/21** Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20
- ASCENSION** Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20
- FRI 5/22** Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20-23
- SAT 5/23** Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28
- 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

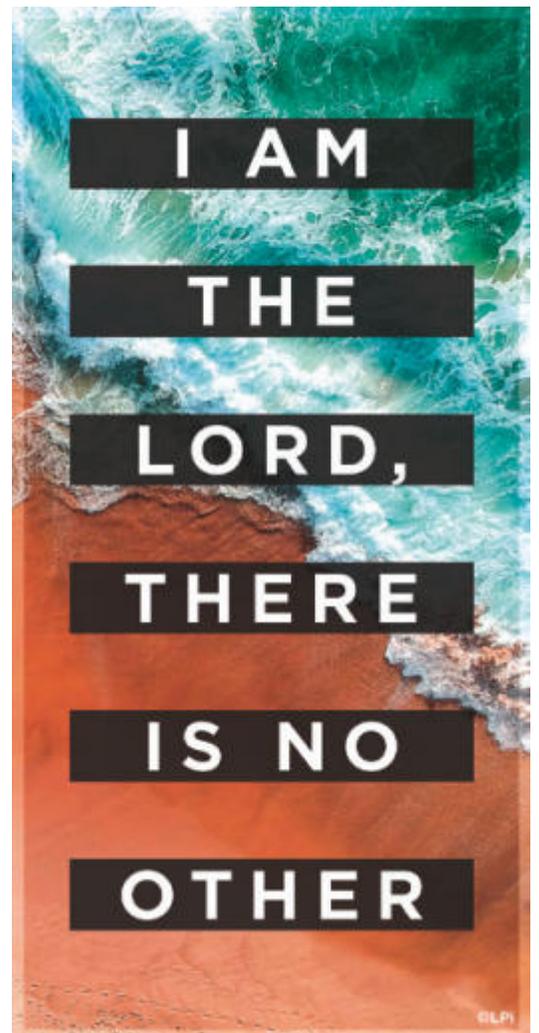
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17, 2020

- Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter
- Monday:** St. John I, Pope and Martyr
- Wednesday:** St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
- Thursday:** The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation in some U.S. dioceses); St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
- Friday:** St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
- Next Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Do you understand the true spiritual meaning of hope? Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. It is found when we place our trust in Christ's promises and rely not on our own strength, but on the help of the Holy Spirit. Hope, when seen in this way, doesn't set its sights purely on the things of this world but on the promises of God to come. Hope always is linked with faith and love. Often our hope can become too self-focused and something that is only about me and things that matter to me. Christ's resurrection reminds us that it is not ultimately for this purpose. What is the reason for your hope? Our Easter season provides the opportunity for us to again assess whether it is the kingdom of heaven and life eternal or something else.



*"In all your actions
seek in the first place the*

*Kingdom
of God*

& his glory!

-ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Then they laid hands on them
and they received the Holy Spirit.
(Acts 8:17)



PSALM

Let all the eaeth cry out to God with joy.
(Ps 66) or Alleluia.



SECOND READING

For Christ also suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the
unrighteous, that he might lead you to
God. (1 Pt 3:18a)



GOSPEL

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come
to you. In a little while the world will
no longer see me, but you will see me,
because I live and you will live."
(Jn 14:18-19)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We hope for many things: passing an exam, finding our true love, securing sustainable work, or surviving an illness. We often seek to have God be a part of what we hope for and desire, almost trying to convince Him that our agenda is what is ultimately important. While our particular hopes may appear to be what needs to be achieved in order for us to be happy, they really are not. Our lesser, more personal hopes can distract us from true hope.

When God became a human being, a powerful message was sent: all that is authentically human is found in the divine. As the human Jesus lived and died in order to show us that he truly is the universal Christ, we have to keep our sight focused on our eternal truth and destiny and who we truly are. We have to be careful when we allow our earthly concerns to distract us. True hope is found when we place our trust in Christ's promises and don't rely on our own strength. True hope focuses on striving toward the fulfillment of God's promises and not simply on achieving what we think we need in this life. Hope always travels with two friends — faith and love. In this trio of virtues, we find the very presence of God born in every human being. These are God's greatest gifts, and they lead us to the fullness of His presence.

As with faith and love, we cannot see hope with just our human eyes. We don't carry this virtue within us to use solely for our own personal agenda. Hope is not something that simply comes with the human package. As with faith and love, hope is a gift that is given to us to draw us closer to our eternal truth. Faith, hope, and love are signs that there is something far greater going on in us and something greater to persevere in obtaining. The true divine gift of hope is what will endure any hardship we encounter, especially those that will come from authentically living the Gospel. With all that is happening in our lives, in our church, and in our world, what is the reason for our hope? Ask God for the fortitude to see His eternal gift as the reason we get up in the morning and do the things we do.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Calculating Love

Have you ever Googled the word “love”? If you did, you may have come across something called the Love Calculator. It is a website where you can supply two names, and the percentage chance of a successful relationship is calculated. Curious, I entered my name and my wife’s. Twenty percent! I hope my wife doesn’t read this!

I then decided to add my name and God. A whopping thirteen percent! Then for the last attempt, I put in my name and Jesus. A very disappointing zero percent! Am I that unlovable? Of course, then I read the small print at the bottom of the page: “Please note that this site has no serious intention whatsoever.” Shocking!

The truth is, the modern world increasingly seems to have no real idea what love is or how to determine when love is real. That makes the seemingly simple words of Jesus about loving God and your neighbor very complex indeed. How can you love God with your all your heart, soul, and mind when you have no idea what the act of loving means? And then, what constitutes loving a neighbor? To make it more complicated, Jesus commands you to love them like you love yourself. I bet you can agree with me that there are a lot of people out there who do not even come close to loving themselves. Knowing what love is in modern times is just not that easy. How is a well-meaning person able to find out the true meaning of love?

You don’t know what true love is? I think you do. Turn your eyes to that crucifix hanging in your church, home, or office. The answer was given over 2,000 years ago, and the image remains for the entire world to see.

— 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:

Sign Before the Gospel

Question:

I have been going to Mass for years and have always wondered: why do we make the three signs of the cross before the Gospel?

Answer:

Certainly, many people go to Mass or other devotions, doing and saying things out of habit or reverence and not really understanding the reasons behind some of these things. But everything we do has a meaning or purpose that helps us to worship better, proclaim our beliefs, or focus the attention of the people on something that has a greater importance or significance. A review of the meaning of various gestures and practices can help us have a deeper appreciation for what we do.

There is a little prayer that goes with the three crosses before the Gospel: “May the words of the Holy Gospel be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart.” In standing to hear the Gospel, we acknowledge that Jesus is present, and the words of the Gospel are addressed to us. All of the gestures and special postures we adopt before the Gospel are intended to help us prepare for hearing the Word as well as act on it. The incense, the Alleluia, the deacon or priest, and the special dialogue and announcement that introduces the Gospel help us focus our attention on the Good News we are about to hear. The three signs of the cross show our desire and good intention to hear and live the Gospel.

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“On that day you will realize
that I am in my Father
and you are in me
and I in you. Whoever has my
commandments and observes
them is the one who loves me.
And whoever loves me
will be loved by my Father, and
I will love him and
reveal myself to him.”

— Jn 14:20-21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

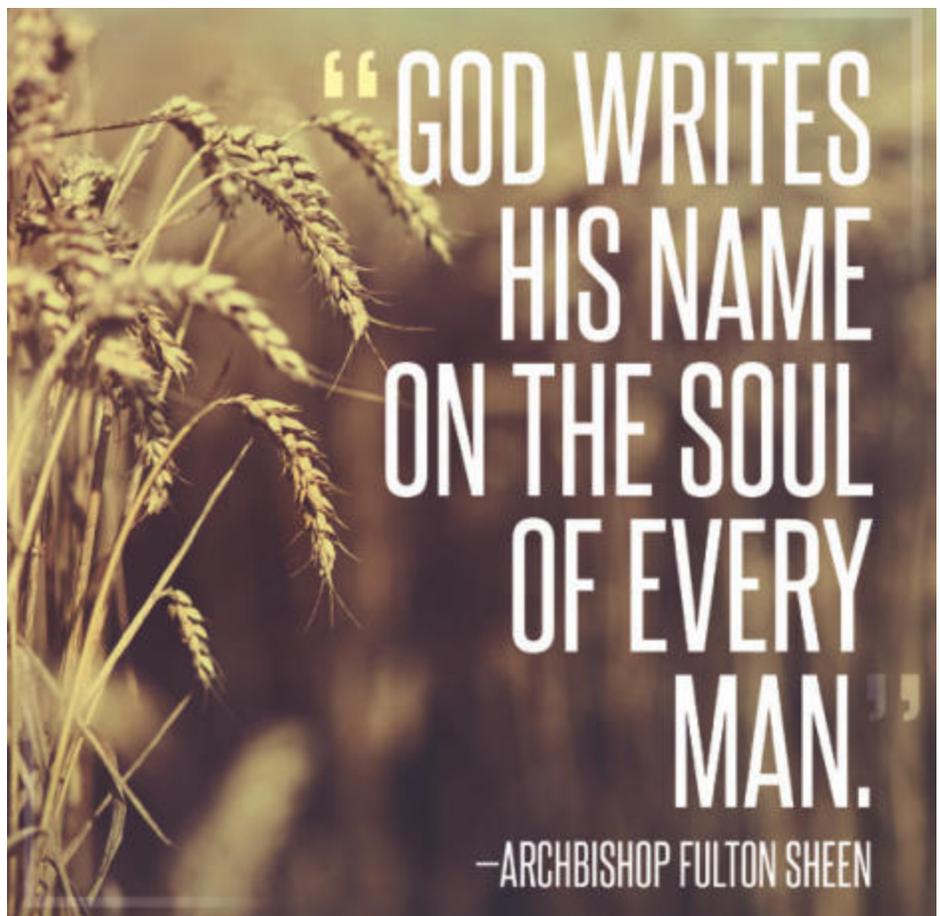
In Acts 2, Luke records how the Holy Spirit initially descended upon the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. In today's reading, we hear how the Holy Spirit also descended upon the Samaritans who believed in Jesus. What lesson do you think Luke is conveying to us?

Second Reading

Peter advocates for being prepared to defend the faith, even in the face of danger. How does one find the courage to defend the faith in a hostile environment?

Gospel Reading

Jesus reveals to his disciples that the intimacy between himself, the Holy Spirit, and the Father can be shared with fellow believers. How do you experience the intimacy of our triune God?



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