

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## The Spirit of Grace and Truth

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
King of the Universe,  
for you have graced us with your presence  
and given us your Spirit, the Spirit  
of Truth.  
May we, who have been baptized by water  
and the Spirit,  
receive your grace and truth,  
respond with hope,  
and bless others with the light of your love.  
And may we, anointed by the power of the  
Holy Spirit,  
find the peace, healing, strength, and faith  
you give  
as we accept your gifts.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May 21, 2017

## No Longer Orphans



*Today's Readings: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17; Psalm 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15–18; John 14:15–21.* In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he will not abandon them as orphans. For three years, they had followed him and trusted that he would show them the Truth. Each of the Twelve relied on Jesus to guide them, to demonstrate the best way to be good, loving, religious people. Now he tells them to demonstrate their love by keeping the Commandments. And he assures them that he will send the Advocate. He tells them that they need to trust what they already know, for within that *knowing*, they will have all that is necessary to live in God's love. Jesus was trying to teach the Apostles the hard lesson that they need to trust what they have learned

and what they have been living. We, too, need to take that lesson to heart.

Today's Gospel is a bit about handing on what is in the family. Every family has a talent, an attitude, or a particular trait that appears here and there throughout the family tree. Jesus tells us today that he lives on in each of us through the Spirit. Jesus lives on through a holy attitude, a helping hand, a grateful smile. Guided by his commandments, we have the Spirit coursing through our spiritual veins, and we recognize him in others, and sometimes in ourselves. He remains with us, lives through us, and we share the life of God in those familiar and holy ways of the Spirit inherited through the sacraments.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, May 22

#### Our Advocate

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus refers to the Advocate as the Spirit of truth. In the First Reading, Lydia who is persistent and faithful, becomes an advocate for her household and her friends, who eventually are baptized by Paul. For whom are you an advocate? *Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a, 9b; John 15:26–16:4a.*

### Tuesday, May 23

#### Good Works, Belief, and Baptism

The account of Paul and Silas in prison, in today's First Reading, shows the strength and faith of the disciples as they spread the Good News. Because of the imprisoned evangelizers' faith, the jailer is converted. He then cares for them and is baptized, along with his household. How does your life draw others to the faith? *Today's Readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; John 16:5–11.*

### Wednesday, May 24

#### Dying and Rising

Too often, we accept Christ's dying and rising without recognizing its profound impact on our lives. How have you allowed your faith to transform you? Have you struggled and made it through a dark time and found new life with God's help? In this sixth week of Easter, the depth of the meaning of the Paschal Mystery may just be dawning on you. Hang on to the realization of that new meaning and allow transformation to occur. *Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.*

### Thursday, May 25

#### Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." We often wonder how we are to fulfill this command from Jesus. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis speaks of slowing down and

accompanying people, allowing them to share their concerns. We can respond to others by humbly and gently sharing God's Word. *Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20.*

### Thursday of the Sixth Week in Easter

In today's reading from Acts and the Gospel, the way Jesus' disciples acted before he died and rose is contrasted with how they lived afterwards. In the Gospel, Jesus' words puzzle the Apostles. In Acts, however, Paul proceeds to spread the Good News with no qualms. He knows that his faith is based in Jesus Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.*

### Friday, May 26

#### St. Philip Neri, Priest

Holiness and humor mark the life of Philip Neri (1515–1595), who frequently used lighthearted methods to emphasize a more spiritual, deeper meaning. He turned Carnival into a pilgrimage to the seven churches, complete with music, laughter, and dancing. The focus on the churches attracted so many, and the movement around the city of Rome was so exhausting, that there was no time for sinful partying. How can you use humor for holiness' sake? *Today's Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.*

### Saturday, May 27

#### Complete Confidence in God

"If you ask anything of the Father in my name he will give it to you," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. We often take that as an endorsement to ask for just about anything. Our prayer, however, must truly be in Jesus' name. That implies less control on every small desire we have, and more asking for the joy promised. How that joy is delivered is up to God. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*

