

# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Prayer of Confidence

Ever-living and ever-loving God,  
you sent your Son to be with us forever.  
In our lives we look for your guidance  
and your protection,  
and we gather in prayer asking for your  
blessings to continue.  
May we find you in one another  
as we pray together in your name.  
May we be filled with your Spirit

as we open our hearts to be filled with  
your grace;  
and may we accept your loving kindness  
in the assembly of the faithful,  
even as we are uncertain of where  
you lead us.  
We ask this, in confidence, through your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May 28, 2017  
Christian Living



*Today's Readings: Acts 1:12–14; Psalm 27:1, 4, 7–8; 1 Peter 4:13–16; John 17:1–11a.* Peter tells us in the Second Reading that we must not be ashamed if we suffer in the name of Christ. At Baptism we become Christians, and then carry Christ's name as our identity. In the Gospel, Jesus includes us as among those to whom he revealed God's name and are his own. Together, we share an identity, a calling, a sacramental nature. We Christians must not be ashamed of that identity. In our world today, however, we are often challenged because we are Christian. When that happens, then we turn (return) to Christ's words, teachings, and example to know what we are to do. Jesus' prayer in today's Gospel repeatedly turns all back to the Father in glory. He glorified the Father as he taught us. His care for us was to return us to

the Father as faithful people of God.

Even as we live as Christians, we need to examine what it means to live fully our baptismal identity. When we do so, we become more confident in our being identified with Christ. As we near the end of the Easter season, take another look at the profession of faith we proclaim together every Sunday. Discuss the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed in your homes or small discussion groups. How does each section of the Creed profess who you are and what you believe? To go more deeply into this identity, ask how that section of the Creed is practiced in your life, or how you witness its being practiced in the world. As Christians, we together respond: I do believe.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, May 29**

### The Holy Spirit

In the First Reading, Paul is confronted with the statement that some disciples have never even heard of the Holy Spirit. As odd as that may sound, we often do not understand or teach about the Holy Spirit, whose power and presence were promised to us by Jesus. The unifying power of the Holy Spirit is singular. The next time you participate in the Eucharist, notice the references to the Holy Spirit, who makes all one. *Today's Readings: Acts 19:1–8; Psalm 68:2–3ab, 4–5acd, 6–7ab; John 16:29–33.*

**Tuesday, May 30**

### The Hour Has Come

Both Paul, in the First Reading, and Jesus, in the Gospel, are beginning to say goodbye. How do we prepare to say goodbye to family and friends? The struggle is one of loss and deep love. Knowing that someone will be enjoying the Kingdom of God is at odds with knowing that we can no longer share with them the Kingdom insights here. *Today's Readings: Acts 20:17–27; Psalm 68:10–11, 20–21; John 17:1–11a.*

**Wednesday, May 31**

### Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The beautiful feast of two pregnant cousins visiting one another is a celebration of family support through prayer and particular insight. Elizabeth, much older, and Mary, much younger, find in one another a way to express the holiness of each other's pregnancy, and to accept whatever God has in mind for them and their offspring. We might want to think of how we can be supportive to soon-to-be mothers. *Today's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; Luke 1:39–56.*

**Thursday, June 1**

### Truth and Belief

How do we know what the truth is? Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles begins with a dispute over St. Paul and the truth that he presented. How do we determine the truth—or truths—of our faith? The first response should be one of prayer, with Jesus' actions as a model for a prayerful life. Not only does Jesus give us an example of always relying on prayer to mark his life, his final prayers are an appeal to unity among believers. To determine the truth, we must be united in our belief and trust in God. *Today's Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; John 17:20–26.*

**Friday, June 2**

### Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs

Marcellinus and Peter, two martyrs of the persecutions of the early fourth century, were so respected that they continue to be mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer I. Marcellinus was a priest, and Peter an exorcist. Their martyrdom in the year 304 under the Emperor Diocletian prompted a profound reaction, and their burial sites were eventually the foundation for basilicas built in their names, a testament to so many other martyrs of the early Church. *Today's Readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 17:21:15–19.*

**Saturday, June 3**

### St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

Charles Lwanga and twenty-one other Ugandan Christians were martyred between 1885 and 1887 by the brutal dictator Mwanga. Some of the martyrs had been baptized, but many were still catechumens. All were marched to their death, tortured along the way, and forced to witness each other's brutal deaths. Their witness is a reminder that, in every age, people struggle to keep the faith alive. *Today's Readings: Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20–25.*

