

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Love One Another

Good and loving God,
you have showered us with abundant grace.
In Christ, you revealed your glory
and announced the coming of the Kingdom.
On the night before Jesus died,
he instructed the disciples to love
one another.

Give us a desire to share Christ's love.
When faced with temptation, we, like Judas,
often turn away from you
and refuse to show mercy and compassion.
Strengthen our resolve to follow you
with a desire for justice and charity,
so that we may be united to the mission
of your Son.

Rouse us from our complacency
and animate our souls by sending
your Holy Spirit
so that we may proclaim the Resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 24, 2016

Be Love



Today's Readings: Acts 14:21–27; Psalm 145:8–9, 10–11, 12–13; Revelation 21:1–5a; John 13:31–33a, 34–35. By this time in the Easter season, we might have almost forgotten that we are still celebrating Christ's triumph over death. We continue to tell the story of evangelization in the early Church in the First Reading, but the Gospel today brings us back to the Last Supper where Jesus commands us to love. Why are we hearing this story again?

Before his Passion and Death, Jesus instructed that we love others as he loved. To love as he loves means to serve our neighbors, care for the poor and marginalized, and love those who have no one to love them. Christ's Death and Resurrection teaches us that love requires us to give all that

we are for the sake of the other. Jesus' message is very clear, and yet we live in a world that struggles to love. Nearing the end of Easter, has the Resurrection of Christ challenged you to love more? If so, how might you express that? At the Eucharistic table, we share intimately with the whole Body of Christ in the greatest gift ever given, the Risen Christ. The love poured out on the table nourishes us and sends us as love in the world. This love reveals the new heaven and the new earth. It foreshadows the fulfillment of creation at the end of time. Consider those in your community who need the love of Christ. Reach out to them by having coffee with them, serving a meal, or just being a friend.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 25, 2016

Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist

Our First Reading calls us to remain steadfast in our faith amidst adversity. We know all too well the challenges and temptations we face daily. As did the early followers of Christ, we must remember we are not alone in our struggle. As members of the Body of Christ, we support and encourage one another in faith. As part of your prayer, consider writing down and or discussing ways you share the Gospel. *Today's Readings: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mark 16:15-20.*

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Peace

Reading the Acts of the Apostles can be quite exciting. Placing yourself in the story and trying to imagine what it must have been like in the early community is an exhilarating way to dig into the story a bit more. These were real people who had to deal with real persecution. Because Christ died and rose, his peace reigns forever in our hearts. Let the peace of Christ guide your steps and help you share his word. Consider decorating your home with a lily, a symbol of peace, and find out more about saints such as Norbert, who promoted peace. *Today's Readings: Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; John 14:27-31a.*

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Pruning

Fruit trees need to be pruned and trained so that they have a solid structure and can produce higher yields of fruit. As branches on the vine of Christ, we need to be shaped and trained so that as we grow in faith and in our relationship we will faithfully and zealously preach the Gospel. Radiating Christ's love and sharing it with others is the fruit that we bear. If we turn away from Christ, we become dead weight and are cut off so the rest of the plant (body) will thrive.

Visit a vineyard (or research online) to inquire about the pruning process and reflect on this Gospel. *Today's Readings: Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; John 15:1-8.*

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Love

Love is the main theme of today's Gospel. Jesus announces that he loves his people just as much as the Father loves him. We are asked to remain in this love and promised that Christ's love will be the source of all of our joy. Send a love letter and flowers to a spouse, child, or a dear friend and give thanks for God's love. *Today's Readings: Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; John 15:9-11.*

Friday, April 29, 2016

Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena

Today's Gospel reminds me of J. Michael Joncas' song "No Greater Love." This song continues to spark my imagination. How could someone love this much? It's hard, but we must love as Christ loved. The saint we celebrate today surrendered to this love. With a deep desire to respond to the will of God, she worked to protect unity in the Church. As you pray this evening, take some time to examine what you must surrender to love as Christ commands. *Today's Readings: Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:8-9, 10 and 12; John 15:12-17.*

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Fortitude

The high price of discipleship is that, like Jesus, we will be hated, persecuted, and dismissed. In Baptism, we have accepted Christ's mission, but too often we may find ourselves shying away from proclaiming the Good News. After the Resurrection, the disciples went full speed ahead in sharing the Christ they knew and loved. The Gospel today is a reminder that our cross will not be easy, but it is necessary. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the gift of fortitude. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5; John 15:18-21.*

