

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Advocate

Lord God,
you give us all that we need,
there is nothing that we lack.
Guide us so that we do not become
easily distracted with what is not
essential.

Help us when we are confused
or uncertain about a decision,
to turn to you when we need
guidance and support.
May we allow the Holy Spirit
to dwell within us and aid
our living out the joy
your Resurrection brings.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, May 26, 2019
My Peace I Give to You

Today's Readings: Acts 15:12, 22–29; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Revelation 21:10–14, 22–23; John 14:23–29. After the disciples have followed Jesus for three years, one can imagine that they would be apprehensive and fearful at the thought of his leaving them. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains to the disciples how they are to live when he has gone to the Father. They are to keep his word, rely on the Holy Spirit, and live with untroubled hearts. In this way, they will live out his love in community.

Jesus gives his followers the gift of peace. As he states, this gift of peace is “not as the world gives.” The peace of Christ is not fleeting as is the peace that occurs when nations

or individuals cease to be engaged in conflict. This peace is a sign of unity with the Father, Son, and Spirit. When believers remain in Christ, they are at peace.

As is seen in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, peace may come after discerning the guidance the Holy Spirit provides. The early Church leaders needed to have many difficult discussions as they decided the rules necessary for followers. Regarding the decision on circumcision, the issue was debated and a determination made with the Holy Spirit. Just as the early Church relied on the Spirit, we need to do so. This week consider the place of the Holy Spirit in your life.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 27

The Holy Trinity

Jesus speaks of the Trinity as he tells his disciples that he will send the Spirit from the Father. The mystery of the Trinity is central to our faith and is expressed each time the Sign of the Cross is made. As all sign themselves with the cross at the beginning of Mass, the Trinitarian dynamic of worship is recognized. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 9; John 15:26–16:4.*

Tuesday, May 28

The Paraclete

After being with him for three years, Jesus is preparing his disciples for the day when he will no longer be physically present among them. Unless he goes to the Father, the Paraclete will not be able to come. The word Paraclete means “advocate,” a support to comfort and to console. Journal today on how the Holy Spirit has been a source of comfort or consolation in your life. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2, 2–3, 7–8; John 16:5–11.*

Wednesday, May 29

Spirit of Truth

Jesus tells his disciples that he has so much more to tell them, but they cannot bear it now. Jesus knew that it was not possible for them to absorb the fullness of all that he had to teach them at that moment. It should be comforting to us as well that Jesus still teaches us, reveals himself to us, and allows us to hear his message and meditate upon it. May the Spirit guide us to the truth. *Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 12–14, 14; John 16:12–15.*

Thursday, May 30

The Ascension of the Lord

The disciples received a glimpse of the glory of God the Father on that hill near Bethany. We now stand in that time between his glorious Ascension and the resurrection of our

body. Until then, it is our mission to spread his Word and baptize in his name. *Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Ephesians 1:17–23; Luke 24:46–53.*

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter

Change is difficult, since we become dependent upon what is familiar to us. The disciples are used to Jesus' presence, but soon he will be absent. They do not grasp that he will be with them in his Word and in his Body and Blood. Even when they are in the depths of their mourning, he will be present and walk with them in their sadness. How do we allow Jesus to be present to us in times of sorrow or sudden change? *Today's Readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4; John 16:16–20.*

Friday, May 31

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Imagine the humility with which Mary and Elizabeth greeted each other. The two women rejoice in each other's company and then Mary praises God for blessing her with the privilege of birthing the Messiah. Today pray the Magnificat and share in Mary's joy that God has “remembered his promise of mercy.” *Today's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a or Romans 12:9–16; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; Luke 1:39–56.*

Saturday, June 1

Ask and You Shall Receive

What type or form of prayer is most comfortable for you? Do you pray traditional prayers or do you offer a spontaneous prayer? Do you offer prayers of thanksgiving or blessing? Do you seem to pray more often for what you desire? Do you write your prayers or offer them to God in song? Gather your family around the table and ask them to choose a form of prayer that is new to them and pray together. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*

