

## The Work of the People

### *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

It is during this Sixth Week of Easter that we mark forty days since Easter Sunday with the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord. We mark forty days of preparation for celebrating the Resurrection and forty days after as we recall Jesus' call to his early followers and now to us to carry on what he began: the proclamation that the Kingdom of God has broken into time and space and the commitment to live the values of that Kingdom.

On this Sixth Sunday of Easter The Acts of the Apostles tells us of Philip going to Samaria to preach the Gospel. We recall that Samaritans were met with disdain by the Jews as a mixed race of Israelite descendants and foreigners living in the region. The people received Philip's proclamation, saw the signs performed by God through him, accepted the Word of God and were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. The subsequent visit by Peter and John results in an outpouring of the Holy Spirit among the people.

The passage from the First Letter of Peter offers a profound and succinct instruction for disciples. With our hearts set on Christ, we must be ready to witness to our hope in him, with gentleness and reverence. Disciples must be aware that we may be maligned for our belief and Christian actions. It is better to suffer for doing good rather than for doing evil. In doing so, we imitate Christ who, though sinless, suffered in order to lead humanity to God.

As we continue Jesus' Farewell Discourse in John's Gospel, we are presented with two key interrelated thoughts: disciples who love Jesus will keep his commandments. Observation of the teachings of Jesus is the sign of love for him; and those who love Christ will be loved by the Father. Christ will reveal himself to those who love him. Secondly, Jesus will remain with the disciples through the Advocate, the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot see, but who remains with and within the disciples.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Bishop Robert Morneau who is pastor of Resurrection Parish in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and auxiliary bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Green Bay.

In 1964 the original production of *Fiddler on the Roof* opened on Broadway. This delightful musical ran for over 3,000 performances. One of the popular songs dealt with the father of the Jewish family, Tevye, asking his wife Golde whether she loved him. Golde found it a foolish question, for had she not been his wife for twenty-five years, washed his clothes, fed him and their daughters day after day? But Tevye persisted again and again until Golde said, "I suppose I do." To which Tevye responded, "It's nice to know."

It is nice to know that we are loved. It's nice to hear the words, "I love you." True, doing good to others and serving their needs is a witness of love, but the words confirm the unspoken. Unfortunately, millions of people go through life without hearing those glorious words.

"If you love me," Jesus says, "you will keep my commandments." And the two great commandments? To love God and neighbor. It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit that we are empowered to move beyond our narcissistic, narrow lives and to be for others. In the laying on of hands at Confirmation, the Spirit came upon us to do the loving deed and to speak the loving words: "I love you." Now, isn't that nice to know?

"Certain silences are oppressive," Pope Francis writes in his post-synodal apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). And, "The right words, spoken at the right time, daily protect and nurture love." Pope Francis is our fiddler on the roof, singing the song of love and joy.

#### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17**

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Jn. 15:26; 16:4a  
 Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Jn. 16:5-11  
 Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22; 18:1/Jn. 16:12-15  
 Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Jn. 16:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Jn. 16:20-23  
 Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Jn. 16:23b-28  
 Sunday: Acts 1:1-11/Eph. 1:17-23/Mt. 28:16-20

**Congratulations Fr. Mark on the 45th year anniversary of your ordination on May 16th. May God continue to bless you always.**

**We would like to inform you that, due to the pandemic, the International Needs Collection, which was scheduled to be taken up on May 24 will not be taken up in the Diocese of Erie this year.**

**Likewise, due to the pandemic, Pope Francis has moved the Peter's Pence Collection, for this year, from Jun 27-28 to the October 3-4.**

*"...but always try to be kind  
 to each other  
 and to everyone else."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:15**

**WORSHIP**

**MASSES  
ARE  
SUSPENDED  
UNTIL  
FURTHER  
NOTICE**

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

**PARISH  
EVENTS  
HAVE BEEN  
SUSPENDED  
UNTIL  
FURTHER  
NOTICE**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) will be scheduled for Fridays between 2 pm - 3 pm. Please enter through the doors to the Gathering Space off the parking lot and go up the ramp to the Daily Mass Chapel. Please wear a mask and observe social distancing if other people are there. Confession can be scheduled at other times by appointment.

Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension will be live streamed on St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette page beginning at 9:30 am on Thursday, May 21.

As all 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie move into the yellow phase for reopening, Bishop Lawrence Persico has announced the diocese will take a gradual approach to restoring public worship in northwest Pennsylvania. General protocols including the suspension of public Masses, remain in effect, but permission has been restored for pastors to schedule periods of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as times for confessions, effective May 10.

St. Anthony of Padua will be open Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri from 9 am - 3 pm for our parishioners to make visits and private prayer. Please enter the church from the parking lot.

St. Bernadette Mission is also open for visits and private prayer on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri and Sun from 9 am - 3 pm.

Sunday Mass will be livestreamed on St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission Facebook page at 9:30 am, the normal Sunday Mass time.

*"It is God  
who arms me with strength  
and makes my way perfect."  
Psalm 18:32*

**VIRTUAL TOWN HALL  
ON PUBLIC WORSHIP DURING PANDEMIC**

Bishop Persico will host a virtual town hall on the topic through Zoom on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 pm. Parishioners will be invited to sign up for the event through a link on the diocesan homepage later this week, and will be able to submit questions for the bishop by email. In addition, the event will be posted on the diocesan website after it is over. To read the full release about the plan, visit [www.eriecd.org/news/News-releases.html](http://www.eriecd.org/news/News-releases.html).

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP**

Thank you to all our parishioners of both St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission who have been supporting our churches with the weekly stewardship gift.

You can continue to mail your offertory to PO. Box 214, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403 or drop it off at the parish office, 165 Beach Ave. on Mon, Tues, Thurs or Fri from 9 am - 3 pm.

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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