

The Work of the People
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Easter Time between Easter Sunday and the Solemnity of the Ascension is a period of forty days. We are not to take this number literally but recognize that in Scripture this indicates a time of preparation and formation. Jesus used this time to further prepare his followers to continue the work he had begun. This can be an excellent time for us who are constantly being formed, to take a closer look at scripture by way of study and for our prayer.

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Saul comes to Jerusalem and wants to join the community of disciples. Since he had a history of persecuting followers of the Way, the disciples feared him. Barnabas, however, sponsored Paul to the Apostles. He brought Paul before the Apostles so they could hear of his conversion. The passage recounts no debate about Paul joining the community of disciples. All we read is that he went about proclaiming the Lord with the Apostles. New disciples are always welcome in the community of believers.

In today's reading from the First Letter of John, the reader is encouraged to believe in God's son, Jesus Christ; to keep his commandments; to love one another. When we do these things, we can have confidence that we will remain in Jesus Christ. We will know his spirit alive in us. We will be Easter people for the world and for one another.

Jesus' call for us, in today's Gospel, to glorify the Father by bearing fruit and becoming disciples is clear. The way we do this is by remaining united with Jesus, the true vine and the Father who is the vine grower. Jesus promises to always remain in us. Ours is the call to remain in him and bear luscious fruit for the world. Ours is the consolation that we do not have to do anything on our own. In fact, we cannot do anything without the true vine.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, who is a Franciscan friar and assistant professor of systematic theology at the Catholic Theological Union,

As Christians, we know we are called to love one another. This is something Jesus mentions throughout the Gospels. Too often, however, we consider it sufficient to merely love with our words, to love in an abstract and general way, or

Christ has loved us calls out our inadvertent shifts from the self-sacrificing love that demands something of us to an easy love that remains superficial and secure. We are to love not just in theory but in practice, "in deed and truth." Think of it as a Christian variation on the old line about it being one thing to "talk the talk" and another thing to "walk the walk."

As we see in the Acts of the Apostles, St. Paul comes to learn this the hard way. When he arrives in Jerusalem and seeks out the disciples of Jesus, nobody believes him at first. He claims to be a Christian, he says as much with his words, but his legacy of persecuting Christians—his previous actions—suggest something else to his hearers, which is why they were afraid of him. Just as St. Paul demonstrated contempt with his earlier actions, so now he must earn the trust of the Jerusalem Christians with actions demonstrating love. It is not enough to "talk the talk" of discipleship, but we must "walk the walk" as the earlier followers of Christ did before us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Jn. 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Jn.14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Jn. 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Jn. 15:9-11
Friday: 1 Cor. 15:1-8/Jn. 14:6-14
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Jn. 15:18-21
Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/1 Jn. 4:7-10/
Jn. 15:9-17

MAY CROWNING

On Sunday May 5th we will have May Crowning directly after the 9:30 am Mass. We will then have a Celebration in the Parish Center for all our children that received Sacraments. Please come and support our children.

Thank you!

—The Faith Formation Team —

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME AN INVITATION FOR CATHOLICS WHO HAVE BEEN AWAY 2024 SPRING SCHEDULE

May 1 - Tips on Sinning -
Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
May 8 - The Creed: What Catholics Believe

The sessions will be held at 6:30 pm at St. Brigid's, Meadville. Please check the bulletin boards at both entrances of the church for further information.

WORSHIP

Monday, April 29
8:00 am +
Tuesday, April 30
8:00 am + Mark & Rose Smith (Smith Family)
Wednesday, May 1
8:00 am + NO MASS
Thursday, May 2
8:00 am + For the Healing of Matt Allyn
(James Horton)
Friday, May 3 - FIRST FRIDAY
8:00 am + Alan B. Wolfe (Sophie Baumgartner)
Saturday, May 4
4:30 pm + Liv. & Dec. Members of
St. Anthony of Padua & St. Bernadette Mission
Sunday, May 5
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Marie Genung (Pat & Richard)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Dec. of Kaye/McLaren Families
(Gerald & Harriet McLaren)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, April 29
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO
Tuesday, April 30
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
6:30 pm - St. Anthony & St. Bernadette
Finance Council & Parish Council Mtg. at
St. Anthony Parish Center
Saturday, May 4
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
Sunday, May 5
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession
10:30 am - Faith Formation May Crowning and
Last Class
Monday, May 6
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
CARD SHOWER**

Parishioner of St. Bernadette Mission, Mary Jane Zinciak, will be celebrating her 100th birthday on May 1, 2024. Cards can be sent to this address - 209 West 36th St. Erie, PA 16508.

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$374.00
Good Shepherd	70.00
Candles	3.00
TOTAL	\$447.00

BINGO DINNER SPECIAL

On Monday, April 29th a Dinner special will be held in the Parish Center. Dinner includes: Baked Chicken Quarter, Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Roll. Cost will be \$7.00.

CALENDAR LOTTERY FUNDRAISER

Tickets have been mailed to all parishioners for St. Anthony of Padua Calendar Lottery Fundraiser for June, 2024. On the back of Fr. Mark's letter are the monetary prizes listed for each day. Please return all unsold tickets to the parish office or in the collection basket by May 13. Additional tickets will be available after all week-end masses.

INDOOR GARAGE AND BAKE SALE

St. Hippolyte Church in Frenchtown is holding their annual Indoor Garage and Bake Sale on Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3 from 8am to 5pm. Bag Day will be Saturday, May 4 from 8am - noon. Refreshments will be available. All good, clean, gently used merchandise.

**47TH ANNUAL ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE
MAY 4, 2024**

The March will begin at Perry Square in downtown Erie at 11:00 am and will conclude by 12:30 pm following a brief program. Please arrive by 10:45 am. Be a voice for the voiceless!

ALL SAINTS PARISH

Sunday, May 5, All Saints Parish Ladies Society is hosting their annual "Spring in the Country" Luncheon and Gift Auction. Tickets are \$10 and can be ordered online at allsaintsrcc.org or from any Ladies Society member or at the door. Doors open at 12:30 pm. Event runs from 1pm - 4pm. Lunch, 50/50, raffles, door prizes and more.

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,227.00
Maintenance	259.00
CSA	115.00
Church Roof & Tower Area	330.00
Candles	46.00
Good Shepherd	1,604.00
Lottery	1,205.00
TOTAL	\$4,786.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$32,690.00 Paid: \$19,986.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
