

The Work of the People
Seventh Sunday of Easter

In many dioceses in the United States, the Solemnity of the Ascension is celebrated on this Sunday. However, we in the Northeastern United States continue to celebrate the Ascension on the Thursday that is forty days after Easter. Today we celebrate the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the faithful Stephen who has been preaching the word of Christ is now surrounded by the angry mob and stoned. Even in this torture, he continues to look to God, and echoes the words of Jesus as he asks the Lord to receive his Spirit. The as yet unconverted Saul is an onlooker to the horror. Again, echoing Jesus on the Cross, Stephen asks for forgiveness for his executioners.

The particular reading we have today from the Book of Revelation features a variety of verses from the Epilogue. God, who is Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, speaks, as does Jesus, who affirms that the angel who has accompanied John in his visions is in fact John's angel. The words of summon at the end of the passage reflect the early liturgical life of the Church and echo the summons to the Eucharist of that time.

In John's Gospel today we leave the Farewell Discourse of Jesus and go to what has been called Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. Jesus offers this prayer in the context of the Last Supper. As in the Lord's Prayer, he addresses his Father directly. In this section of the prayer, Jesus prays fervently that they maintain their unity. He is one with the Father, and they must be one also. When they are in unity, he will be there. The prayer also reiterates the theme that commences the Gospel, which is that Jesus has existed "before the foundation of the world," what the Church will eventually term "begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father."

The reflection for this Sunday is from the *Commentary on John* by St. Cyril of Alexandria who is a Doctor of the Church and one of the most important theologians of the early Church.

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not pray only for the twelve disciples. He prayed for all in every age whom their exhortation would persuade to become holy by believing and to be purified by sharing in the Holy Spirit. May they all be one, he prayed. As you Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be one in us.

The only Son shines out from the very substance of the Father and possesses the Father completely in his own nature. He became man, according to the Scriptures, blending him self, so to speak, with our nature by an inexplicable union with an earthly body. In himself he somehow united totally disparate natures to make us sharers in the divine nature.

The communion and abiding presence of the Spirit has passed even to ourselves. This was experienced first through Christ and in Christ when he was seen to have become like us, that is, a human being anointed and sanctified. By nature however he was God, for he proceeded from the Father. It was with his own Spirit that he sanctified the temple of his body and also, in a way befitting it, the world of his creation. Through the mystery of Christ, then, sharing in the Holy Spirit and union with God has become possible also for us, for we are all sanctified in him.

By his own wisdom and the Father's counsel he devised a way of bringing us all together and blending us into a unity with God and one another, even though the differences between us give us each in both body and soul a separate identity. For in Holy Communion he blesses with one body, which is his own, those who believe in him, and makes them one body with himself and one another.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Jn. 16:29-33

Tuesday: Zep. 3:14-18a or Rom. 12:9-16/Lk. 1:39-56

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Jn. 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn. 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Jn. 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn. 21:20-25

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13 or

Rom 8:8-17/Jn. 20:19-23 or Jn. 14:15-16, 23b-26

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

*We fly to your patronage,
O Virgin Mother of God.
Despise not our prayers in our needs,
but deliver us from all dangers,
since you alone are pure and blessed.
O most glorious Ever-Virgin Mary,
the Mother of Christ our God,
accept our prayers
and present them to your Son and our God,
that for the sake of you,
He enlightens and save our souls.*

*-from Ukrainian prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mother,
c.11th century*

WORSHIP

Monday, May 30
 8:00 am + For all of our Dec. relatives and friends
 Tuesday, May 31
 8:00 am + Barbara Wiseman (Kathleen Lipkovich)
 Wednesday, June 1
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, June 2
 8:00 am + For the Repose of the Soul
 of Rev. William C. Miller
 Friday, June 3 - FIRST FRIDAY
 8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak
 (Len & Pam Lange & Family)
 Saturday, June 4
 4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners
 Sunday, June 5
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Dec. Brothers of John & Kay Weagraff
 (John & Kay)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 M/M Leonard Adamczyk
 (Gerard & Martha Adamczyk)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 2
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, June 4
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, June 5
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
ALTAR SERVERS
 Saturday, June 4 - 4:30 pm
 Payton Leandro
 Sunday, June 5 - 9:30 am
 Michael & Sophia Mott

*“Jesus, I believe in you.
 Increase my faith.”*

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP		
Offertory		\$895.00
Candles		3.00
TOTAL		\$898.00

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER
 All the Knights of Columbus Councils in Erie and Crawford Counties have come together to conduct a Baby Bottle fundraising drive to benefit the Women’s Care Center of Erie’s goal of purchasing a mobile ultrasound van. The baby bottles have been distributed. We remind you if you are financially able, to fill them with change, currency or checks and please return them by Fathers Day, June 19th.
 Thank you in advance.

SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL
 Seton Catholic School in Meadville is looking for an energetic, knowledgeable part-time Music teacher (3 days/week). This is a permanent position starting in the 2022-2023 school year. Music teaching certification required. Please mail or email a letter of interest, resume, teaching certificate, Diocese of Erie teaching application, 3 references, and necessary clearances to Christine Hess, Principal, Seton Catholic School, 385 Pine St. Meadville, PA 16335 or chess@seton-school.com. The required documentation can be found at <https://www.eriecd.org/schools/teachingforms.html> and <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/SafeEnvironmentForms-.html>. Please call 814 336-2320 with questions.
 Also looking to hire a middle school math and technology teacher. This is a permanent full-time position. An elementary or secondary teaching degree with a specialty in math and/or technology is preferred. Please call above with questions.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
 In today’s gospel Jesus speaks of unity, not uniformity. With uniformity everything is the same. Unity requires recognition and reconciliation of differences. How do you reconcile differences in your home? Do you listen respectfully or do you try to manipulate or impose your opinion? The seeds of unity and division are in every family. What we sow, we reap. What is your family harvest?

*“Lord,
 make us one in you!”*

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$2,499.00
Maintenance	1,166.00
International Needs	45.00
Candles	94.00
Initial Offering	225.00
Good Shepherd	65.00
Ascension	40.00
CSA	2,170.00
Donation	360.00
TOTAL	\$6,664.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$31,098	Paid: \$21,815

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
