

The Work of the People
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Easter Time is growing to a close. We have just this Sunday and the Seventh Sunday before we celebrate the coming of the Spirit into our lives at Pentecost. Let us continue to meditate on how we live the Resurrected life every day and how this new life makes a difference in our relationships with God and our brothers and sisters on this earth.

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Cornelius and the members of his household meet Peter. Peter speaks to them of God's impartiality and acceptance of all who believe. God's Word alive in Jesus Christ extends to all – Jew and Gentile alike. Those who hear the Word are welcomed into the community of faith. They, too, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the reading, Peter questions whether anyone can withhold the baptismal waters from Cornelius and his household. They were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for God's grace knows no bounds.

In today's reading from the First Letter of John, love and God are intimately connected. Love comes from God. Love became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ who suffered, died, and rose. From the love of God's son came life – life for us through him. This, the author of 1 John defines as love. It is what God does for us. It is the expiation of our sins through his Son. When we love God and one another, we link ourselves directly to God.

Today's Gospel passage follows immediately in John's account from where last Sunday's Gospel ended. Love is the theme connecting all of today's readings. The Father loves the Son. The Father's Son loves his disciples to the point at which he considers his disciples friends. His commandment is love; love one another. In love, we as his disciples bring forth fruit into the world.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Jean Vanier who was founder of L'Arche, an international network of communities for people with intellectual disabilities.

To love people as Jesus loves them is to wash their feet, to serve them in humility; it is to help them rise up in truth and love. Here Jesus is revealing something more: to love is to lay down one's life for others, to place their interests before our own. It is to give them life.

That can mean accepting difficulties, danger and even death so that they may live and grow in love. To love is to live in communion with others,

to transmit to them the life and love of Jesus. It is to reveal to them that they are loved, loved by Jesus. In this way we become their friend because we are a friend of Jesus.

In this friendship nothing is hidden or secret. Jesus has shared everything he has heard from the Father; all is given. The barriers that separated the finite from the Infinite, the temporal from the eternal, the human from the divine, have disappeared.

At times it is necessary for us to live an austere life, like John the Baptizer, and to seek a certain separation from our bodies, to strain to reach God through our efforts. But God has appeared in the flesh, has become vulnerable in the flesh. He has come to offer us his friendship, to invite us to become his beloved. He has become little and vulnerable, to live a communion of hearts with us and to join him in giving life to others.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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/Mk. 16:15-20

MAY CROWNING

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 —

CALENDAR LOTTERY FUNDRAISER

If you have unsold tickets for St. Anthony of Padua's Calendar Lottery Fundraiser for June please be sure to return them to the parish office or in the collection basket by May 13th. And if you need additional tickets they will be available after all week-end masses.

*"Jesus, your love is all I need!
Help me to remain in that love."*

WORSHIP

Monday, May 6
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of
 David & Christine Ochs Family
 Tuesday, May 7
 8:00 am + Bob & Anna Mae Braun (Susan Parkin)
 Wednesday, May 8
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, May 9
 8:00 am + Stephanie Ann Metzler (Judy Metzler)
 Friday, May 10
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of PNA Lodge 1540
 Saturday, May 11
 4:30 pm + Norma Adams (Family)
 Sunday, May 12
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Members of
 St. Bernadette Mission & St. Anthony of Padua
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 For the Intentions of All Mothers

BINGO DINNER SPECIAL
 On Monday, May 6 a Dinner special will be held in the Parish Center. Dinner includes: Chili Lime Pulled Pork Sandwich with Cole Slaw. Cost is \$7.00. Take outs are available.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME
AN INVITATION FOR CATHOLICS WHO HAVE
BEEN AWAY
2024 SPRING SCHEDULE
 May 8 - The Creed: What Catholics Believe
 The session 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.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 7
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, May 11
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, May 12
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 First Communion
 After Mass - Confession

CONGRATULATIONS
Michael Lawrence DeFrances
who will be making his First Communion on
Sunday, May 12

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
 Today's gospel challenges us to "love one another as I have loved you." Jesus is our model and he asks us to "lay down our life" (our time, attention, opinions and needs) for each other. This is the sacrament of the family, when God is made visible in our sacrificial love for one another.

MARRIAGE MOMENT
 Remembering may become more difficult with aging, but that doesn't mean we should allow ourselves to forget. May 6 is *Holocaust Remembrance Day* (<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/introduction-to-the-holocaust>). Regardless of whether you are Jewish or German heritage, take time today to remember the challenging and joyous times of your life and marriage.

"Lord,
thank you for showing me
what to focus on today."

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$816.00
Maintenance	5.00
Good Friday	5.00
Easter	10.00
Good Shepherd	255.00
Candles	53.00
TOTAL	\$1,144.00

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,239.00
Maintenance	420.00
Easter	100.00
Rice Bowl	22.00
Good Shepherd	195.00
CSA	850.00
Candles	39.00
Lottery Fundraiser	725.00
TOTAL	\$3,590.00
Catholic Service Appeal	
Pledged: \$32,721.00 Paid: \$20,836.00	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
