

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 "in speech" only. This exhortation to love as

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: 1 Cor. 15:1-8/Jn. 14:6-14
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Jn. 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Jn. 15:1-8
Thursday: 2 Tm. 4:1-5/Jn. 10:11-16
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Jn. 15:12-17
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

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. Its purpose is to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families.

May 6th is the National Day of Prayer.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Like the vine grower in today's gospel, parents must "prune and cleanse" the branches in their family if their children are going to be rooted. Discipline, limits and setting goals are a necessary part of parenting so our children will grow and "bear fruit"

WORSHIP

Monday, May 3
 8:00 am + John E. Auer
 Tuesday, May 4
 8:00 am + Wanda Pilarczyk (PNA Lodge 1540)
 Wednesday, May 5
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, May 6
 8:00 am + Ed Yucha (Sue Parkin)
 Friday, May 7
 8:00 am + Daniel Baker (Rita Baker & Family)
 Saturday, May 8
 4:30 pm + Denny Wiseman (Kathleen Lipkovich)
 Sunday, May 9
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 For all mothers

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 4
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, May 8
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, May 9
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

THE MAGNIFICAT
(Canticle of Mary)
 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.
 From this day all generations will call me blessed:
 the Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is His Name.
 He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.
 He has shown the strength of His arm,
 He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
 and has lifted up the lowly.
 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich He has sent away empty.
 He has come to the help of His servant Israel
 for He has remembered His promise of mercy,
 the promise He made to our fathers,
 to Abraham and his children for ever.
 Amen

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$385.00
Good Shepherd	130.00
TOTAL	\$515.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$6,190 Paid: \$5,415

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Anyone interested in helping to coordinate the Vacation Bible School for July, 2021, please call the rectory, 814 398-4234, and we will connect you with the other people on the team. Thank you.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS
Digital safety and keeping your child's personal information personal.

If your child gives out personal information over the internet, it is easy to track and tough to completely remove. Teach your children to never give out personal information, such as: full name, address, phone number, email, school or birthday on any social media site. Help your child set up strong passwords (alphanumeric) and do a yearly checkup on passwords. Adjust privacy settings for online games, apps, social media sites and your child's electronic devices. Don't forget to check the GPS settings ability to unintentionally share your child's location. Avoid using public wi-fi when sharing personal information. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

K through 8th open registration for 2021-2022 school year, see classrooms, meet teachers, and learn about scholarships. See how Seton helps student become active, life-long learners!
 Seton Catholic Pre-School full or half-day available. Personal tours available. Call 814 336-2320 or online at www.seton-school.com. All faiths welcome.

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
 - John 8:12

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$748.00
Maintenance	252.00
Candles	67.00
Easter	50.00
Good Shepherd	689.00
Latin Mass	235.00
TOTAL	\$2,041.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$23,305 Paid: \$15,559

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
