

The Work of the People  
*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

This Seventh Sunday of Easter is a time of looking backward and looking forward at the same time. We have celebrated the Solemnity of the Ascension (in other parts of the United States Ascension is celebrated this Sunday) and we look forward to celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. On this in-between weekend we celebrate Christ with us.

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles for this Sunday focuses on how the ministry of the Apostles continues in the early Church. A new leader is chosen through discernment and in communion with other Apostles and believers. The Eleven, now Twelve again, will continue their proclamation of the Risen Christ and the new life he offers.

Now, nearing the final days of Easter Time, we hear these words again. The message is simple, yet profound. The words this Sunday as in the past few Sundays are words of love. God is love. We know this because God sent his son as the Savior of the world. We go forth and carry on Christ's work as he returns to the Father. Ours is the call to teach others how to live in God's love. We do this within a communion of faithful people who can constantly remind us of God's love and our ongoing invitation from God to live in that love.

In the Gospel today, we hear that joy is Jesus' wish for his dear ones, his disciples. He knows he took care of them while he was with them on earth, but he must return to the Father. So now he prays that the Father watch over them while they are still in this world. He does not want his followers removed from the world, for then they have no impact on the world. Bind them to the truth and make them holy our Jesus' desires for the disciples and us.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Alice Camille who is the co-author of *The Forgiveness Book*.

Let's be Church, you and I. Never mind what others are saying or, after two thousand years, how hopeless it all seems. Let's stick together—we call it communion, don't we?—and practice being the people of God united in one faith, one Lord, one baptism. Anyone who agrees on that much can come along!

It doesn't matter which of the last ten popes is your favorite. It doesn't matter if you take

communion in the hand or on the tongue. It doesn't matter if you prefer to pray the rosary, the Jesus Prayer, or the collected poetry of Daniel Berrigan. I won't make a face if you wear gym clothes to Mass instead of a suit and tie. Your stance on female deacons isn't a deal-breaker.

Our unity can't hang on political affiliation. It's none of my business what you've done or failed to do. Are we the friends of Jesus or aren't we? I grant you: Jesus had a pretty strange assortment of friends. If that's okay with him, it has to be fine with us.

Does it make Jesus sad, I wonder, to see how divided we are? On the night before he dies, our unity is on his mind: that we might stick together, come what may. Jesus is right to worry about this. Today's assembly is a minefield that wary homilists must tiptoe through. Would St. Paul dare to suggest today that, in Christ, there is no conservative or liberal? What is Church, if we don't believe this?

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Jn. 16:29-33  
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Jn. 17:1-11a  
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Jn. 17:11b-19  
Thursday: Acts 22:30;23:6-11/Jn. 17:20-26  
Friday: Acts 24:27; 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 Gal. 5:16-25/  
Jn. 20:19-23 or Jn. 15:26-27; 16:12-15

### 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.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Jesus was worried about his disciples and he turned to prayer. No matter how much time we spent trying to "guard and protect" our children, each day they become less dependent on us and we must let go and let God. Prayer and parenting go together.

*"Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us;  
make us one."*

## WORSHIP

Monday, May 17  
 8:00 am + For the healing of John Yanoshik  
 (Kathy Yanoshik)

Tuesday, May 18  
 8:00 am + Jim Rasavage (Kathleen Lipkovich)

Wednesday, May 19  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Richard Baker (Dan & Karen Nowak)

Thursday, May 20  
 8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (James & Karen Mott)

Friday, May 21  
 8:00 am + Living & Deceased Members of  
 Baker/Nowak Families (Rita Baker & Family)

Saturday, May 22  
 4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, May 23  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Dec. Members of Woika & Weagraff Families  
 (John & Kay Weagraff)  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Jim Rasavage (Wife, Carol)

**COLLECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL NEEDS**

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous to the collection today. For more information please visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).

**MARRIAGE MOMENT**

Distance can put stress on a marriage. Having a spouse who travels a lot or who is deployed to military service poses a challenge. Do you have any practices that help the two of you when you are apart for awhile?

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 18  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Thursday, May 20  
 6:00 pm - Finance Mtg. - St. Anthony of Padua and  
 St. Bernadette Mission  
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 6:45 pm - Parish Council Mtg. - St. Anthony of Padua and  
 St. Bernadette Mission  
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Saturday, May 22  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, May 23  
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

**2021 DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY  
 CELEBRATIONS**

The 2021 Diocesan Anniversary Celebration Liturgies for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60 or more years of marriage will be held August 8, at 2:00 pm at St. Jude in Erie. To register please go online to <https://www.eriecnd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or contact your parish office or the Family Life Office at 814 824-1261.

**DRIVE-THRU SPAGHETTI DINNER**

All are welcome to enjoy the 68th annual spaghetti dinner at Sacred Heart Church auditorium, 816 W. 26th St. Erie, on May 16. The event is drive-thru only, from noon - 5 pm. Spaghetti with homemade sauce and meatballs, salad, bread and dessert, all for only \$9. Cash and credit cards accepted.

*“Come upon me, Holy Spirit!  
 Strengthen your gifts within me”*

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$551.00
Maintenance	30.00
Ascension	30.00
International Needs	30.00
Candles	<u>114.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$755.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal Pledged: \$6,390    Paid: \$5,765	

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$825.00
Maintenance	325.00
Candles	35.00
Flowers	120.00
Ascension	15.00
International Needs	<u>10.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,330.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal Pledged: \$23,775    Paid: \$16,749	

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---