

## The Work of the People

### *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

At the Fifth Sunday of Easter, we mark a time that is more than half-way through the fifty-day Easter Season. We are moving toward the Solemnity of the Ascension and the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We are still celebrating what Jesus has done for us and we are preparing to celebrate what we need to do in our world and in our times as Jesus' followers.

In this Sunday's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we witness the continued growth of the early Christian community. As this community of believers grew, they developed a need for greater organization and shared ministry. The Twelve recognize that their role is to teach, and they commission seven men to serve the physical needs of all in the community. This ensures that everyone, regardless of nationality, will be treated fairly, that all will be cared for, diminishing cause for division among them. With the administration of the community in hand, the word of God continued to spread.

Today the author of the First Letter of Peter tells us that Jesus was rejected and yet "chosen and precious in the sight of God," and so are we, called to be built into a spiritual house which lives as God's holy people in the world. We who have faith are called to live as people of faith, offering a spiritual sacrifice through our lives. We have been called out of darkness into the light of Christ, as a people of God's own, announcing the praises of the Risen One.

While we make our way through Easter Time, the Gospel passage today begins to point us toward the eventuality of the Ascension. Jesus tells the disciples not to be troubled. He will prepare a place for them and will come back to take them to himself. The disciples are confused; Jesus confronts their fear, and in doing so points to his union with the Father and promises that those who believe in him will do great works through him.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Welcoming the Word* by Sr. Verna Holyhead, SGS who was an Australian Sister of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St. Benedict.

There is a gentle urgency about the first words of this gospel: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." This is a rallying cry to faithfulness as Jesus draws near to his passion and death through which he will return to his Father's house. Jesus does not deny that anxiety is looming and absence is threatening as he speaks, but his departure will only be that of a good host who excuses himself for "a little while" (John 14:19) in order to make rooms ready

for the guests who have been invited to his Father's house.

And yet Thomas's question haunts us. "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" In even the most faithful life, there may come a time when we seem either to stumble suddenly into darkness or gradually wander away from old certainties. We would all like a simple, clearly marked road to direct us to the Father's house through what is often the dark wood of our lives. What we are offered is not a map but a person, Jesus Christ, who replies to Thomas's question with another solemn, "I AM the way, and the truth, and the life." When we journey along a well-traveled road, we trust the road because we know it has been made and used by others who have been there before us, putting in bridges, median strips, detours where necessary. Others have traveled this way safely. When both the way and the Traveler who has gone before us is Jesus, we should journey with the greatest confidence.

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10**

Monday: Acts 14:15-18/Jn. 14:21-26  
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Jn. 14:27-31a  
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Jn. 15:1-8  
 Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn. 15:9-17  
 Friday: Act 15:22-31/Jn. 15:12-17  
 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Jn. 15:18-21  
 Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/1 Pt. 3:15-18/Jn. 14:15-21

### **THANK YOU FROM THE PRIESTS**

Last weekend, the Good Shepherd Collection for our retired diocesan priests was to be taken in the Diocese. Despite difficult times with this worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and the financial strain on many household budgets we appreciate your response to share in the care of those faithful priests who have ministered to your spiritual needs.

If you would like to add your support to this collection you may still do so in the upcoming weeks. Simply return the special collection envelope for Good Shepherd in the mail to the Parish Office at your convenience.

### **NOTE**

Bishop Persico has asked all churches with bells to ring them at noon for each Sunday of the Easter Season to celebrate the resurrection.

## WORSHIP

**MASSES  
ARE  
SUSPENDED  
UNTIL  
FURTHER  
NOTICE**

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

**PARISH  
EVENTS  
HAVE BEEN  
SUSPENDED  
UNTIL  
FURTHER  
NOTICE**

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU  
ON MOTHER'S DAY**

### **A MOTHER'S HEART**

*A mother's heart is always filled  
with love for her children  
with hopes and dreams for them.  
With a never ending prayer  
that God blesses them with happiness  
that God will protect them from harm  
that God cares for them in her absence.  
A mother's heart is always filled  
with love for her children  
and love for God.*

*Amen*

### WEEKLY SUNDAY MASS

*Sunday Mass will be livestreamed on St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission Facebook page at 9:30 AM, the normal Sunday Mass time.*

### UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

*The following are effective until further notice:*

- 1. All confirmations through May 17, 2020 will be rescheduled once the situation stabilizes.*
- 2. Funeral Masses may continue to be celebrated, but with only the immediate family members and funeral home workers present.*
- 3. Baptisms may continue to be celebrated, but only with the sponsor (s) and immediate family members present.*
- 4. Marriages may continue to be celebrated, but only with the bride, groom, two witnesses, and immediate family members present.*

### CHURCH VISITS

*St. Anthony of Padua will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am - 3 pm for our parishioners to make visits and private prayer. Please enter the Church from the parking lot.*

*St. Bernadette Mission is also open for visits and private prayer on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 9 am - 3 pm.*

*Please call the rectory at 398-4234 if you wish to make an appointment for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

### CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS MINISTERIUM

*We are joining with the other six churches in the Cambridge Springs Ministerium to pray throughout the week for all those impacted by the current pandemic and the subsequent quarantine. Each church is responsible for prayer during one day of the week. I chose Tuesday as our day since that is the day on which we regularly pray the Novena of St. Anthony of Padua. Please join us in prayer on Tuesday in your own way of praying or by praying the Novena. I have posted a booklet on the parish web site, [stanthonycambridgesprings.org](http://stanthonycambridgesprings.org), that you can download and print. I have also posted a video of me leading the prayer that you may access at that same site. Please join me in prayer each Tuesday. — Fr. Mark*

### WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to all the parishioners of both St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission who have been supporting our churches with the weekly stewardship gift.

You can continue to mail your offertory to P.O. Box 214, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403 or drop it off at the parish office, 165 Beach Ave. on Mon, Tues, Thurs or Fri from 9 am - 3pm.

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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