

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, eliminating any reason 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

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Jn. 14:21-26  
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Jn. 14:27-31a  
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Jn. 15:1-8  
 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Jn. 15:9-11  
 Friday: Acts 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

#### GOOD SHEPHERD COLLECTION

Last weekend, our parish took a special collection to support our retired diocesan priest fund. We appreciate your generous 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 return the special collection envelope for Good Shepherd in upcoming collections.

*"Come, risen Christ,  
and dwell with me this day."*

**WORSHIP**

Monday, May 8  
 8:00 am + James & Francis Rembielak  
 (Joan Rembielak)  
 Tuesday, May 9  
 8:00 am + Charles Metzler (Judy Metzler)  
 Wednesday, May 10  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, May 11  
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of PNA Lodge 1540  
 Friday, May 12  
 8:00 am + Tom Osiecki (Diane Polensky)  
 Saturday, May 13  
 4:30 pm + Lucille Hobson (Tom Hobson & Family)  
 Sunday, May 14  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Liv. & Dec. Members  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 For the Intention of all mothers

SUNDAY, MAY 14 we will celebrate a Baptism as well as First Communion at the 9:30 am Mass at St. Anthony of Padua.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**  
 Jesus tells us in the gospel: "Where I am going, you know the way." The point is: God is in each one of us, in our relationships and in our homes. The vocation of the Christian family is to live as though their own lives are a roadmap to heaven. Guide each other, encourage each other; love each other, following the way of Christ.

*"Lord Jesus,  
 thank you for remaining in me.  
 You are my place of rest.  
 I am so grateful to remain in you."*

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Tuesday, May 9  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, May 13  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession  
 Sunday, May 14  
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Before Mass - Confession  
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 After Mass - Confession  
 Monday, May 15  
 5:00 pm - doors open for BINGO

**INDOOR GARAGE AND BAKE SALE**  
 Saint Hippolyte Church in Frenchtown is holding their annual Indoor Garage and Bake Sale on Thursday, May 18 and Friday, May 19 from 8 am until 5 pm and "Bag Day" on Saturday, May 20 from 8 am until Noon. Refreshments will also be available, so stop in for lunch! Good, clean, gently used merchandise. Saint Hippolyte Church is located on Route 27, 7 miles east of Meadville.

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA ALTAR SERVERS**  
 Saturday, May 13 - 4:30 pm  
 Payton Leandro  
 Sunday, May 14 - 9:30 am  
 Max Marteny

**STEWARDSHIP IDEAS**  
 Take time to pray each day.  
 Re-examine your commitment to the parish's Offertory collection.  
 Donate gently used clothing.

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$421.00
Maintenance	5.00
Holy Land	5.00
Easter	10.00
Good Shepherd	15.00
Candles	<u>35.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$491.00</b>

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,410.00
Maintenance	250.00
Candles	50.00
Rice Bowl	33.00
Good Shepherd	617.00
CSA	241.00
Easter	<u>100.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,701.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$28,863.33    Paid: \$17,854.33

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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