



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, May 11, 2015**

### Presence of the Holy Spirit

Today's Gospel contains a warning. The future will be tumultuous for the disciples. They will be thrown out of the synagogues and be killed by those who think that they are doing the right thing. Still, the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Spirit of truth will be with them. He will speak for Christ, and it will be their responsibility to do so also. Do you pray to the Holy Spirit to help you face difficulties and challenges in life? Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b (4a); John 15:26—16:4a.

**Tuesday, May 12, 2015**

### Faithful Testimony

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the persecution of the disciples that Jesus foretold. Paul and Silas are stripped, beaten, and imprisoned. Still, they pray and sing. And when an earthquake opened their cell doors, they did not escape but provided a testimony of faith to the jailer. Would you have run from your tormentors? Are you able to sing in spite of hard times? Does your prayer provide consolation? Today's Readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8 (7c); John 16:5–11.

**Wednesday, May 13, 2015**

### Our Lady of Fatima

The Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima observes the apparitions to three Portuguese children in a field close to Fatima. Pope John Paul II attributed the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life when he was shot on May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square. Exactly a year after the assassination attempt, the pope celebrated a Mass at Fatima, giving thanks to Mary. Mary is the Mother of the Church and also the spiritual mother to each of us. Have you nurtured a relationship with Mary as your mother? Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14 (Alleluia); John 16:12–15.

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

### If Celebrating the Ascension Today

Today's solemnity is a celebration of Jesus' enduring presence within the Church. The Ascension was both the beginning and end for the disciples. Instead of being left with sorrow and grief, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Can you name some ways in which the Holy Spirit is living and working in the Church today? Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 4:1–13; Mark 16:15–20.

**Friday, May 15, 2015**

### St. Isidore

St. Isidore the Farmer (1080–1130) is the patron saint of Madrid, Spain, and the United States National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC). NCRLC works for social, economic, and spiritual development in rural America, through prayer, education, and advocacy. You may want to visit [www.ncrlc.com](http://www.ncrlc.com) to keep up with legislative and other issues that affect not only farmers but all who rely on them for food. The materials on the website, including an Eater's Bill of Rights, are from the perspective that we need to be faithful stewards of creation. Today's Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7 (8a); John 16:20–23.

**Saturday, May 16, 2015**

### Your Joy Will Be Complete

"Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you." In the discourse in today's Gospel, Jesus continues to teach the Apostles how to pray, this time telling them to pray in his name to the Father. When they do so, their prayers will be granted. It is interesting that Jesus tells the Apostles that their joy will be complete when they ask and receive. What do you consider complete joy to be? Today's Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10 (8a); John 16: 23b–28.

