

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Love One Another

Lord God almighty,
you have loved us throughout all time.
We share in this love
as we try to obey your command
to love one another.
Through this new commandment,
we reach out in love to our brothers and
sisters
when we offer service to those in need,
when we forgive one another,
and make daily sacrifices for others,
all so that your glory will be revealed.
May our expressions of love for one
another
show our love for you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, May 19, 2019
A New Heaven and a New Earth

Today's Readings: Acts 14:21–27; Psalm 145:8–9, 10–11, 12–13; Revelation 21:1–5a; John 13:31–33a, 34–35. “Behold, I make all things new.” In the Second Reading, John’s description of a new heaven and a new earth provides a glimpse of the Parousia, a time when everything will be made new. The glory of God will be revealed then and the faithful will be transformed. This reading is one of the options for a funeral. Mourners are comforted by hearing of the old order passing away and the person entering a place where pain does not exist.

Before Jesus left his disciples, he gave them a new Commandment that would lead to a new way of being. By

loving one another, Jesus said, they would be known as his disciples. Love is a witness to the world. Jesus tells his followers to love “as I have loved you.” How is this love different from the way human beings often love?

During the fifty days of Easter, we rejoice in knowing that Jesus loved us so much that he died and rose from the dead, releasing from death those who believe. Knowing Christ means becoming more like him, loving others as he loved. How can you continue to be open to God’s transforming love so that your life can glorify him? Reflect on this during your quiet prayer time.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 20

The Paraclete

Jesus prepares the disciples that “the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything, and remind you of all that I told you.” Have there been times in your life when you were especially aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit? What was happening that made you feel that presence? *Today’s Readings: Acts 14:5–18; Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 15–16; John 14:21–26.*

Tuesday, May 21

My Peace Is My Gift to You

Jesus tells his friends not to be distressed or afraid as he is going away for a while. At this moment of their great fear, he offers them the gift of his peace. This peace is one that no fear, anxiety, or worry can touch. Have you ever had peace amid times of illness or trouble? Are you able to contribute to peace among your family and coworkers? Or do you find yourself bringing fear and worry? Jesus offers us the gift of peace, it is ours to accept or reject. *Today’s Readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

Wednesday, May 22

St. Rita of Cascia

As a young woman, St. Rita of Cascia sought religious life, but her family had other plans for her. She dutifully married and bore two sons. After becoming a widow and upon the death of her sons, she entered religious life. At age sixty, while meditating upon the crucified Christ, a thorn penetrated her forehead and she was afflicted with this stigmata for more than fifteen years. She offered up her constant pain for the physical and spiritual comfort of others. Is there an illness or burden that you are dealing with today? How can you offer that to the Lord? *Today’s Readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

Thursday, May 23

Your Joy May Be Complete

After Jesus compares the love that he has for his followers to God’s love for him, he gives what seems like a simple directive. The disciples can remain in his love if they keep the commandments just as he has kept the Father’s commandments. By remaining in Jesus, the disciples’ “joy may be complete.” The source of complete joy is the deep and complete love of God. Can you imagine such joy in your life? *Today’s Readings: Acts 15:7–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 10; John 15:9–11.*

Friday, May 24

Bearing Fruit of Love

Jesus concludes the parable of the true vine as he tells the disciples that they are to bear fruit that will remain. The faithful bear fruit by living out the love of God. Those who love are not only disciples but friends of Jesus. After all, he tells his followers, “I have told you everything.” Indeed, we only tell our closest friends everything. *Today’s Readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10–12; John 15:12–17.*

Saturday, May 25

The World of Hate

“If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” At times, living out the Gospel will mean becoming isolated from friends and family. Jesus tells his disciples that following him comes with a price. Sometimes that price includes being hated. Our consolation is knowing the Lord. If you have ever been the one who ostracized someone for their belief, request forgiveness. *Today’s Readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*

