

5th Sunday of Easter - May 2, 2021

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Paul is accepted by the apostles at Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 22:26-27,28,30,31-32

The whole world shall praise the Lord.

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

God commands us to believe in Jesus Christ and to love one another.

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Jesus teaches that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.

Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbor. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick,

shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

The goal of our life of prayer is to increase our awareness that Jesus lives with us always. Prayer is more than a dialogue with God; prayer is a lifting of our minds and hearts to God so that God might dwell and act within us and through us. The pinnacle of our life of prayer is our communion with Jesus in the Eucharist. Through this sacrament, we receive Jesus himself, and he remains with us. Our life of prayer and our union with Jesus will lead us to fruitful service to others.

Place a plant in your gathering space. Invite everyone to look at the plant, noting the connection between the plant and its leaves. Talk about the integral connection between all the parts of a healthy plant. Introduce today's Gospel by saying that Jesus talked about his relationship to his disciples using this metaphor. Talk about the ways in which we are invited to relate to Jesus as his disciples today—prayer, Scripture, the Eucharist, and so on. When we do these things, Jesus promises to remain with us and to lead us to serve others well. Pray together that we will continue to be attentive and open to Jesus as he works in our lives today. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Fr. Joe has completed his 6 years as a pastor in Mount Forest, and the bishop has now assigned him to be a pastor at St. Patrick's parish in Cambridge. Fr. Joe will be greatly missed!

Fr. David Avila is coming to our parish as a new pastor on June 30, 2021.

Let us keep both Fr. Joe and Fr. David in our prayers.

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

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EX CORDE FOUNDATION GRANT

Thank You!

Ex Corde is a Foundation that Bishop Crosby established to financially help Parishes. The Foundation assists Parishes that are in need of basic repairs and renovations. We are pleased to announce that St. Mary of the Purification Parish was awarded \$20,000 to repair windows in the hall and repair the garage roof leak at the Rectory. **We are very grateful to the Ex Corde Foundation for their generous support!**

Prayer by emeritus Pope Benedict XVI

To cherish and support the priest that make a difference in our lives.

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest, you offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the cross and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit gave your priestly people a share in your redeeming sacrifice. Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests. Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial priesthood may be ever more conformed to you, the Divine Master. May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience. Let them be shepherds according to your own heart, single-minded in service to you and to the Church, and shining examples of a holy, simple, and joyful life.

Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your Mother and ours, draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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May is the month of the Rosary devotion



“Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world.”

-Blessed Pope Pius IX

Novena for the Cause of Life in Canada- May 5- 13 Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, May 5 – For the unborn, that they may be loved and protected by all those responsible for their care.

Thursday, May 6 – For mothers and fathers facing an unexpected or difficult pregnancy, that God may grant them the grace and strength to welcome their child into their lives.

Friday, May 7 – For those who have participated in an abortion, that they may seek the forgiveness of our merciful God and find peace and reconciliation with him.

Saturday, May 8 – For people with disabilities and the elderly, that they may be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve as children of God.

Sunday, May 9 – For people considering euthanasia, that God may grant them the courage and hope to continue their lives and unite their redemptive suffering to the Cross of Christ.

Monday, May 10 – For elected officials, judges and other public figures, that God may grant them the wisdom to enshrine in law the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and uphold the conscience rights of healthcare professionals.

Tuesday, May 11 – For families, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may serve as sanctuaries of life and defenses against the many attacks to which life is exposed.

Wednesday, May 12 – For all Canadian Catholics, including members of the Knights of Columbus, and all people of good will, that God may grant them the faith and courage to promote the dignity of the human person and defend life with conviction, civility and compassion.

Thursday, May 13 – Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima
For the organizers and participants of the National March for Life in Ottawa, Canada, and for all pro-life advocates, that God may bless and guide their work to defend life.
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