

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 10, 2020



Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

104 WEST FIRST STREET • MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902
419.524.2572 | MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

Mass Schedule:

There will be no Masses offered at this time. Mass will be available on WMFD TV on Sunday at 10:00 A.M. and on the St. Peter's YouTube channel, website and Facebook page.

Spanish Mass:

Resurrection Parish, Lexington

All Masses are cancelled until further notice.

Parish Office Hours:

All offices are closed until at least June 1, 2020

Pastoral Care Contacts:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572
*Hospital & Follow-up
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living &
Prayer Pipeline*
Deacon John Reef 419.529.3694
Shut-ins/Homebound

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin plans for the baptism of your baby or child.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Other times by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the **Parish Center office at least eight months** in advance of the ceremony. A wedding date is confirmed after the initial meeting with a priest.

Bulletin Deadline:

Friday, 12:00 noon. All requests must be submitted in writing or email and must receive prior approval.

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572 ext.2122

Pastoral Staff:

Fr. Gregory R. Hite, *Pastor*
Fr. Austin Ammanniti, *Parochial Vicar*
Mr. Bill Johnson,
Director of Music & Liturgy
Ms. Lynne Lukach, *Pastoral Associate*
Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm, *Director of
Religious Ed. & Youth Minister*

Deacon:

Mr. John Reef

St. Peter's School:

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta
High School, Jr. High School
Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer
Elementary School and Montessori

Parish Business Manager:

Mr. Evan Mumea

Director of Development:

Mr. Jason Crundwell

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

May 10, 2020

Readings: Acts 6:1-7; First Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

We are drawing near to the Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension, forty days after Easter, just two weeks from now. Where does the time go? Like it or not, time tends to fly by quickly, even when we try to live it mindfully, taking one day at a time. We can ask if over these days and weeks since Easter Sunday 2020 we have grown and are changed. We hope so, but in fact we probably admit that we still have a long way to go in living completely for God and neighbor.

The lessons chosen for this Sunday are already getting us to think about the time of Jesus' Ascension, when the Lord will visibly leave his band but not abandon them. Jesus says to his followers, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me" (John 14:1). Furthermore, the Lord assures the disciples that "I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be" (John 14:3).

These are admittedly mysterious words and concepts, yet tremendous consolation for those who desire to belong fully to the Lord and God's kingdom now and in heaven for all eternity.

Looking at each of the Sacred Scripture readings for this Sunday, we find a strong thread running through them. In the first lesson, from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear of tension and division within the Christian community. Ideals are very important and never to be let go of, yet we must live in the reality that all of us are frail and can fall victim to blindness, prejudice and pettiness when it comes to living and working with others, even with the best of intentions.

What might be called Christian pluralism is at the heart of the first reading and it continues to be a valid concept for all of us, wherever we may be. It requires a strong commitment of loving acceptance of those who think and act differently than us. This takes prayer and guidance, to live graciously for the good of others, no matter who they are or what we may think of them.

The first letter of Saint Peter, the second lesson for Mass this Sunday, concerns itself with the fact that the life of a Christian is a life-long process by which we draw near to Christ, and in so doing, draw closer to one another as well. The image sometimes used to describe this mystery is that of the spokes of a wheel, such as those on a bicycle. As one draws closer to the center along the spokes, one also draws closer to others around. Drawing near to Christ also draws us nearer to each other.

As the follower of Christ goes forth in faith and closer to the Lord, it is charity or love of God and neighbor that transforms individuals, through the power of the risen Christ, into one family of God's people. To the extent that we live in love with one another we are growing toward Christ, our vital center.

Adhering to Christ we share in his mission that all the world might know the message of salvation and God's infinite love for the human race. God so loved the world, we are told in scripture, that Christ was sent by God to redeem all who were lost. In other words, everyone!

United to Christ we form a temple or house, as a pleasing offering to God for the growth in holiness of the entire Church (see Galatians 2:20). But the bottom line is living in love and not counting the cost nor giving up when the going gets rough, as it inevitably will.

Through the risen Christ and in his love we are capable of offering our lives to God as an acceptable sacrifice.

The lives of each of us and of all believers are meant to open the eyes of our fellow men and women, bringing them to the same fountain from which we draw life and never tire of doing so.

Christ completed his early sojourn and returned to the Father. Christ came as the ambassador of the heavenly Father. Christ's mission was to reveal God, with whom Jesus is one. Those who follow Christ are commissioned to continue the work of Christ, making the message of salvation in Jesus Christ known to the nations. Consequently, there is no reason for distress at the prospect of physical separation from the Lord, for the followers are in fact never really separated from Christ who promised to send us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to those who are willing to give all in order to have the one thing necessary, a share in God's life forever.

The followers of Christ must keep their faith both in the Father who sent Jesus Christ into the world and in Jesus himself, sent by the Father for the salvation of the human race. Jesus' return to the Father's side should not cause frustration, but engender hope in our eventual reunion with the Lord. There are many dwelling places where God lives, Jesus tells his disciples, and everyone can find a place there.

As Christ's messengers to the nations, we are endowed with God's help or power to fulfill our vocation. This power comes as the many gifts of the Holy Spirit, poured out initially at Pentecost, and upon succeeding followers at the time of their Confirmation and subsequently in the reception of the sacraments, especially Reconciliation or Penance and Holy Communion.

Christ promised to remain with his disciples, even until the end of time. That is great consolation, and in fact "Consoler" is another name for the Holy Spirit, or the "Comforter," who "will guide you into all the truth," as Jesus described the Holy Spirit (see John 16:13).

The early followers of Christ were so convinced of these truths that they regularly proclaimed in their sacred liturgy or worship the phrase in Aramaic, "Maranatha," that is, "Come, Lord Jesus, come" (Rev 22:20 and 1 Cor 16:22).

May that be our conviction and confident cry as well!

Homily by a Monk of the Monastery of Christ in the Desert, Abiquiu, New Mexico



Fifth Sunday of Easter*"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled..."*

Excerpted from a Homily by Father Tommy Lane

Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD

In the Gospel today we heard Jesus preparing his disciples for the time when he would no longer be with them. He said to them,

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. (John 14:1-3)

In the Gospel Philip asked Jesus to be able to see the Father and Jesus responded, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father." (John 14:9) If Jesus were to ask that question of us I think we would all answer that we do know something of Jesus but we don't know him very well. That is why we worry. If we knew Jesus better we would not focus on problems and difficulties but focus on Jesus instead. "Have I been with you all this time and you still do not know me?" "Have I been with you all this time in the Mass and sacraments and the Word of God in the Bible and you still do not know me?" "Have I been with you all this time in the faith of your community and when you pray to me and you still do not know me?" "Have I been with you all this time and when you look back over your life you can see that I sent you help when you needed it and you still do not know me?"

If we had more of Jesus in our lives we would have less fear, worries and anxieties. We would still have problems. God never promised that we would not have problems. Jesus himself had a big problem, he was sentenced to death as a common criminal. But Jesus rose on the third day and Jesus will help us rise above our difficulties also because as the second reading stated Jesus is the "living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God" (1 Peter 2:4) If we try to live without Jesus, life will not go nearly as well for us as when we have Jesus at the center of our lives. We can overcome problems better with Jesus in our lives than without Jesus. If we turn our backs on Jesus how can we expect to succeed? Let us focus on Jesus and not on the problems. Again as our second reading stated, "Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:6) When we have problems let us turn to Jesus who is always waiting for us.

Sometimes we say, "It's impossible."

But Jesus says in Luke 18:27, "Things that are impossible for men are possible for God."

Sometimes we say, "I'm too tired."

But Jesus says in Matthew 11:28 "Come to me all you who labor and are overburdened and I will give you rest."

Sometimes we say, "Nobody really loves me."

But in John 3:16 we read that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

Sometimes we say, "I can't go on."

But Jesus told Paul, "My grace is enough for you: for power is at full stretch in weakness." (2 Corinthians. 12:9)

Sometimes we say, "I can't do it."

But Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

Sometimes we say, "I can't manage."

But Paul wrote in Philippians 4:19, "God will fulfill all your needs in Christ Jesus as lavishly as only God can."

Sometimes we say, "I'm afraid."

But in 2 Timothy 1:7 we read, "God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power and love and self-control."

Sometimes we say, "I feel all alone."

But in Hebrews 13:5 God says, "I will never fail or desert you."

In our Gospel today Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." (John 14:1)



Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



“Preparing to Reconnect”

“I can’t wait ‘til this is over.” “This is all getting old.” “I sure hope this ends soon.” “We are afraid of a second wave.” “No one is really sure what the future holds.” “What will this do to the financial stability of our families and parishes?” No doubt you, like me, have heard these and similar phrases in these past days. People are anxious for the COVID19 pandemic to come to an end, anxious about their own health and the health of others, anxious to reconnect with their loved ones, anxious to return to a former familiar pattern of life, and most significantly anxious to reconnect with the Lord, with the Church and with one another and our parish families, in particular by our communion in the Holy Eucharist. You’ve all been anxious, and I’ve been anxious with you.

As we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, our Savior, I thank each and every one of you for your goodness, generosity, patience, understanding and charity as we have sought as a diocese to respond together to all the challenges that the pandemic has presented to us thus far. Aware of the intense desire of our faithful to return to our parishes, participate in the liturgy, and receive the Most Holy Eucharist, it is my sincere hope that you might help one another to persevere in this holy desire as we gradually implement a plan that will provide reasonable, gradual and practical guidelines

that promote the spiritual and physical health of everyone. In order together to move through and beyond this health pandemic, patience, understanding, and charity will need to be hallmarks of our lives, understanding that things will not return to “normal” immediately, but whatever the “new normal” is, we commit ourselves to live it in faith, hope and love.

From those first days realizing the seriousness and potential impact of the pandemic, we have all been working hard to respond to the myriad of issues that would and have arisen as a result, and how we would move forward together. This includes but is not limited to my working together with the Bishops of Ohio and with our own priest Consultors who serve as close collaborators. It involves the efforts of our Senior Staff and Pastoral Center team, our parish pastors and staffs working with their finance and pastoral councils, our school administrators and teachers, directors of religious education and coordinators of charitable outreach. The members of the Diocese of Toledo have been doing our best in the most trying of circumstances to offer care and attention to our parishes, schools and services; and even in the midst of the pandemic to consider how we might move our local church forward to serve better the mission of Christ and His Gospel.

With all these efforts in progress, and in order to capitalize on the momentum to move as a Catholic community through and beyond this pandemic, I have formed a diocesan "Pastoral Reintegration Team" comprised of clergy, religious and laity from around the diocese to help provide guidance, to share what has been identified as best practices, and to assist in our recovery. To "reintegrate" means to make whole again. This is what the team is striving to promote: to make whole again our parish and diocesan life. Please pray for this work in progress. Our team has chosen the theme "*Reconnect*," with the motto/catchphrase "Navigating Catholic life through the pandemic." Our efforts to "reconnect" will focus on five areas: worship/sacraments, evangelization/catechesis, communications, schools, and human resources. In addition, the team's efforts will fit well with our diocesan strategic Pillar One initiatives, "Supporting the Health of Parishes & Clergy." Be on the lookout for periodic communications to help us all to "Reconnect" with the Lord, with the Church and with one another. In the near future, "Reconnect" will launch a webpage where all of the communications and resources can be accessed. In the meantime, our team has created a brief survey for your input and feedback. Please take a moment to complete it by Thursday, May 7, 2020 www.dioceseoftoledo.org/reconnect.



Dear friends, in the uncharted waters of the present moment, the tremendous work, efforts and dedication of our priests, deacons, pastoral leaders, consecrated religious, parish pastoral teams, school leaders and teachers, parish finance and parish councils and diocesan pastoral center staff, have been unmatched. Now our focus, with eyes fixed on the Risen Lord, is to move beyond being anxious about many things, to being anxious about rebuilding, restoring and reinvigorating Catholic life in our nineteen counties. Please join me in praying together that we may be of one mind and one heart, faithful disciples creatively confronting each of the challenges that present themselves, in the name of Christ Jesus, who is anxious for us to "*Reconnect*" with Him! Together, prayerfully and intentionally, let's all together be about the work of "Preparing to Reconnect."

+ Daniel E. Thomas

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
May 4, 2020



Diocese of Toledo STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

5/4/20 • Volume 1. Number 3



Want to help?

Contact the pillar leaders below to share your ideas.

Pillar 1

Msgr. Marvin Borger
at
mborger@toledodiocese.org

Pillar 2

Deacon Joe
Malenfant at
jmalenfant@toledodiocese.org

Strategic Plan Updates

This is an update of the Strategic Planning process. In this issue we will share what the pillar teams have been working on this past quarter. Since mid-March, the priorities of the Pastoral Center staff have shifted to focus on the impacts of COVID-19 and the related current and future needs of our parishes, schools, Catholic Charities and the Diocese. Due to the significance of this effort, we added a new strategic action under Pillar #1 entitled **Reconnect**, which you will learn more about soon. Please know that the Diocesan Strategic Plan continues to be our common direction and a crucial element to a successful future for the Diocese. As we gradually normalize operations, our pillar teams will continue to work on other Strategic Plan priorities.

Pillar 1 - Supporting the Health of Parishes & Clergy

- We have researched the Minister to Priests position descriptions of other dioceses and had an initial dialogue with the Presbyteral Council concerning four different ways of structuring the position.
- Arrangements were made for the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations to provide a Consultation Team to review and make recommendations for our Permanent Deacon Candidate Formation Program. Originally scheduled for this spring, this review has been postponed to the fall of 2020 due to Covid19.
- The Office for Diocesan Priestly Vocations has completed its consultation with the Diocesan Admissions/Formation Board and Presbyteral Council and has started implementing their suggestions.
- We continue to research and evaluate "best practices" in "Vibrant / Dynamic Parishes", to identify contents for a database.
- We have concluded our research of Intentional Planning Offices from around the country. We are putting together a few options on what the Diocese of Toledo Office of Intentional Planning could look like.

Pillar 2 - Invigorating Evangelization & Formation

We have looked at evangelization from an academic view, by absorbing many related books, Church documents and reviewing approximately thirty-one plans from dioceses across the United States, but now was time to hear the most important voices, those of the people of the Diocese of Toledo.

- We have developed a survey to gain a better understanding of the vision and needs of the diocese in regards to evangelization. Hundreds of priests, deacons, religious and laity responded with great generosity. We are now assembling the results of these surveys to best understand the direction needed in a plan for evangelization of the people of the Diocese of Toledo.
- We held sessions where we could listen to the key leaders in the diocese answer questions regarding the real needs to accomplish evangelization in their parishes. Our team met at different times with 1) Priests and Deacons, 2) Parish and School Staffs 3) Parish Leaders (i.e. Pastoral and Finance Council) and key volunteers. A love for the People of God is alive and well in our parishes and there is a deep understanding that we must all be involved in evangelization, as the time is now.
- Sessions and outreach to other groups continues as it is our intention to hear from as many people as possible.

Pillar 3

Kelly Donaghy
at
kdonaghy@toledodiocese.org

Pillar 4

Matt Daniels at
mdaniels@toledodiocese.org

Pillar 5

#5 Rodney
Schuster at
rschuster@toledodiocese.org

Pillar 6

#6 Rodney
Schuster at
rschuster@toledodiocese.org

Pillar 3 - Enhancing Lay Leadership

- We have finished evaluating two platforms that will be used as the infrastructure to store/share pastoral and professional training courses for use throughout the diocese. This information will be presented to Senior Staff for final determination.
- We are in the process of determining who we will “partner” with who process training content “off the shelf” in the area of leadership development.

Pillar 4 - Strengthening Catholic Education

- We are evaluating the fiscal health of every diocesan school.
- We are developing a fundraising resource guide for schools to determine and encourage best practices.
- We are continuing to pilot a “virtue curriculum” in several schools.
- We have summarized school governance models for the Diocese.
- We have presented best practices for parental engagement to school leaders.
- We have and will continue to provide specific training to schools to better navigate the state scholarship programs.
- We have reviewed and made edits to our Catholic school educator standards.

Pillar 5 - Growing Catholic Charities Outreach & Advocacy

- “Action Committee” members met with Lima area Pastors on December 13, 2019, who expressed an interest to have Catholic Charities provide services. Areas of interest include counseling, prisoner re-entry/re-integration; immigration legal services; crisis navigation services; and possibly an emergency family shelter. Follow-up meetings with suggested community resources have taken place and are ongoing to further clarify the gaps in service in Lima.
- Meeting scheduled with Pastors from Napoleon, Bryan, Defiance, on March 18, 2020 postponed because of COVID-19.
- Catholic Charities provided questions to Pillar 2 in regard to the survey they sent out and follow-up focus group sessions. This information will assist in identifying other possible areas of service Catholic Charities can provide to Parishes in the future. The two questions included in the survey were:
 - What are the greatest social service needs of your Parish community?
 - What would you recommend to help meet these needs?

Pillar 6 - Develop Financial Resources

We will enhance and strengthen the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA):

- Launched 2020 ACA Campaign using a cross-functional Pastoral Center team to plan and implement. Researched and used best practices from other Diocese annual appeals. Developed materials to translate compelling stories and information. Created a ‘speaker’s bureau’ of diocesan personnel for parish use

We will conduct a Diocesan-wide Capital Campaign within the next 3-5 years:

- Completed a Feasibility Study and gathered feedback from numerous Diocese clergy and laity and shared the results of the study with key consultative bodies to determine if/when a Capital Campaign commence

We will establish a fully functional Office of Mission Advancement for long-term fundraising and support of parishes

- Hired a Mission Advancement Officer to lead Diocesan development and fundraising initiatives. Interviewing for a ACA Manager position and evaluating the best entity/partnership to secure capital campaign funds and provide for more extensive donor giving options.



The picture above was taken in the newly completed St. Peter's Catholic Church here in Mansfield in 1917 or 1918. Note the absence of stained glass windows (which did not arrive until 1920), as well as the visible differences in sanctuary furnishings and décor. The picture comes from the collection of the late Helen Keating Ott, who went on to establish the Children's Department of the Mansfield Richland County Public Library. Mrs. Ott would have been 13 or 14 years old when she took the picture. Though she herself was a Presbyterian, she was evidently inspired by the interior of our church. Note the sanctuary presence lamp suspended from the center of the ceiling in the apse. Forced perspective makes it look as though the lamp was hung to the right, however. **If anyone in our parish can remember when the lamp was removed and what might have become of it, we would love to know about it. Please contact the Parish Liturgy Office at 419-524-2572, ext. 2113 if you can shed any light on this question.** The lamp was removed prior to 1944 when the church was redecorated for the Parish Centenary. (Photo courtesy of Timothy Brian McKee.)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Bill Ruhl, Jeannie Burkhalter, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdry, Maria Loschinkohl, John Ziegler, Marlene Ziegler, Kim Rucker, Dorothy Trinter, Marti Selby, JoAnn Marbaugh, Baby Greyden Jack, Gwen Yockey, Mary Ann and Mel Switzer, Louise Steggall, Tammy Dudley, Keith Combs, Mady Ziegler, Elaine Johnson, Cindy Jasnek Cartier, Jeannine Klotz, Marilyn B. Williamson, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Charlie Henrich, Jill McMillen, Gary Caldwell, Jeffrey Davis, Willie "Frank" Williams, Catherine R. Liston, Pius Schell, Krista Marshall, Maggie Caldwell, Michael Davis, Michael Krempel, Marilyn Miller, Annette Togliatti, Rose Saul, Charlene Arthur, Alan Gallaway, Marty Moritz, Logan Page, Maxine Shannon, Gracie Shannon, Pam Schopieray.

Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

IN GOD'S ARMS...

Norma Geary

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.



FOR ALL OF THE CURRENT IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ST. PETERS PARISH OPERATIONS DURING THESE TROUBLED TIMES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

THERE YOU WILL ALSO FIND DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR USE AT HOME FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING FOR MAY 13, 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT

ALL ADULT FAITH CLASSES ARE ON HOLD UNTIL "NORMAL" PARISH CENTER HOURS AND OPERATIONS RESUME.



RECYCLING—NEXT DATE: MAY 8, 2020

FOOD COLLECTION: May 9 & 10

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER

All Catholic services and programming at ManCI and RiCI are suspended for now. Please keep our brothers in prayer. Fortunately, many of them are able to watch Mass on WMFD, just as we are. They expressed their gratitude and greatly enjoyed being able to see the interior of our beautiful church.

GOOD STEWARDS

Loving Father, you alone are the source of every good gift. We praise you for all your gifts to us, and we thank you for your generosity. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Help us to be grateful and responsible.

You have called us to follow your son, Jesus, without counting the cost. Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples.

We commit ourselves to being good stewards. Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase. Help us to make stewardship a way of life.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

AMEN

MASS INTENTIONS:

During this time, our priests are offering daily, private Masses for the intentions we have. Please know that your intentions are being honored. We have attempted to make a few calls for re-scheduling; however, if you have not responded, they will be honored in a timely manner. God bless and keep you!

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO DURING THIS TIME?

We have 3 small portable wooden benches that need stripped, sanded, and refinished. These are occasionally used in church. They are old, have seen a lot of use, but we would like to clean them up for various uses. If you are interested in taking on a somewhat tedious project, please let Fr. Hite know. It would make a great prayer! St. Joseph, pray for us!!

SUNDAY OFFERING

*Year to Date
April 30, 2020*

Sunday and Holy Day Collections

Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$703,761
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$709,868

Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$6,107)
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School Collection

Total School Collection To Date:	\$119,216
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$120,000

School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$784)
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TV MASS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

You may know that we are broadcasting our Sunday Mass on WMFD TV in Mansfield, as well as on our Facebook, YouTube and Parish Web pages. While there is no cost associated with the internet transmissions, the cost of broadcasting on television is \$135.00 per half hour.

Many parishioners and area businesses have stepped up to underwrite the cost of these broadcasts. In these uncertain days that need may continue for quite some time to come.

If you or your business would like to underwrite a TV Mass, please contact Jason Crundwell or Bill Johnson at the Parish Center at 419.524.2572 ext. 2125 or ext. 2113 for more information.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF ST. PETER'S PARISH BY MAILING IN YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES OR VISITING THE WEBSITE, WWW.MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG, TO LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT DURING THESE DIFFICULT DAYS!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - ST. PETER'S CONFERENCE

Our Conference members pray this finds you safe and well during these challenging times. We are committed with our ongoing mission in serving individuals and families during this pandemic. We continue to receive calls from our community of those in need and we invite you to pray for our Conference that we may assist our brothers and sisters, to offer some relief in financial emergencies, as well as offer comfort and hope through our love through HIM. We anticipate having a significant increase in requests for help in the upcoming months and our Conference members are prayerfully working to contemplate how we can adapt to meet this demand. We invite you to consider, if able, to support our Conference with a financial donation to assist in our mission. If you receive Parish Envelopes, donations can be made on the green bordered "My Special Gift" envelope with delegating donation to St Vincent de Paul and/or mailed to our Conference to St. Peter's Parish. We are a 501(c)3 recognized charitable organization. Thank you so very much for your ongoing support of our ministry which was established in this Parish in 1932 and remains committed in our vision to serve our fellow brothers and sisters.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is underway with a campaign goal of \$3 million. We can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our Diocese each year; education of our seminary students, care of the sick and needy are among them. We ask you once again for your help; we have to work together. Please respond generously when you are asked to make your pledge. Thank you for your attention and thank you for being my parish family. For more information, visit the Diocesan website at Toledodiocese.org/ACA.

Our parish goal is \$55,00.00 so far we are at \$27,346.85 with pledges from 208 households or 49.72%. Thank you for your support of our diocesan ministries and the help you provide to our seminarians and deacons who are in formation to serve our parish's future.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO OUR LADY, HEALTH OF THE SICK

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.



At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Daily Prayer



Sunday, May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

✠ O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders.

Psalm 65

page 406

Reading

John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Reflection

When we were young, we asked our parents or our teachers, "Where is God?" This is the question from Thomas in today's Gospel. As adult believers, we have come to understand that the "where-ness" of God is not so much God's private address but an "aware-ness" of God that is about presence. The message of Jesus to the disciples is that God dwells within the household of believers just as Jesus is in their midst. Divine presence is a household of many dwelling places, many rooms. In other words, God is big enough to live in the whole community of believers, wherever they are.

Prayers

others may be added

With Easter joy, we pray:

◆ **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

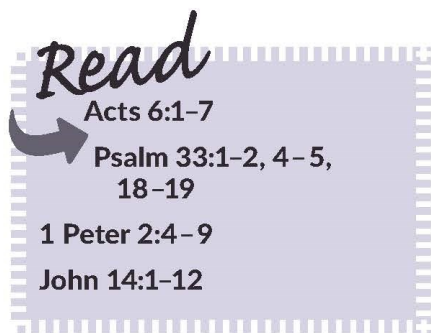
For all who volunteer for Habitat for Humanity projects, we pray: ◆ For faith communities that offer food and shelter for those without a place to live, we pray: ◆ For our neophytes who continue to explore the mysteries of their faith, we pray: ◆ For all mothers, that they be blessed for their love and their grace, we pray: ◆

Our Father . . .

God of joy,
you enliven our Easter faith as we
continue to live in communion
with your Son,
who calls us to eternal glory in
your kingdom.
Grant that as we believe in the words
of the Gospel,
we may imitate the works of his love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

✠ O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders.

For Teens



LIVING THE WORD

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020



REFLECTION

Often when we are deeply worried or anxious about something it can be helpful to imagine a place of peace and comfort. Sometimes we call this our "happy place," a space in our imagination where all is well and we can forget about our current worries. Jesus does something similar for his followers in today's Gospel, though the image is an ultimate reality instead of a dream.

Jesus uses a comfortable, familiar image to help ease the distress of his disciples. Knowing that they are uneasy, Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me" (John 41:1). Then Jesus shares an image of the Father's house where there are rooms for each person. The disciples could relate to the comfort of having a house and room prepared especially for them. We, too, find comfort in this image. We can relate to the peace and comfort of home and look forward to the time when we will join the Father in the place prepared for us.

The image of a house with many rooms also speaks to the idea there is no "in" or "out" in our loving God. All are welcome in God's home. All have a place. All belong.



ACTION

We have the opportunity to create a house where all belong in our Church today. What can you do to make sure that all people feel safe, secure and welcome in our churches? What can you specifically do to help create this inclusion in your church? Take your ideas and find ways to implement them. Do not be afraid to talk to your pastor, parish council, and other parishioners as you share the vision of welcome for your church.

"Do not be afraid to welcome Christ."

—St. John Paul II



QUESTIONS

- ✦ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ✦ What do you find most comforting about the image of heaven as a house with many rooms?
- ✦ Jesus says, "Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do" (John 14:12). What do you think Jesus means by this?



May 10, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LECTIONARY #52A

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Today's Gospel brings Easter Time into dialogue with Holy Week, as the Gospel pulls from Jesus' words between the Last Supper and his arrest. This reading is close in message to last week's, as both consist of Jesus telling the disciples how they must live after he has gone to the Father.

Q FOCUS: *To follow God's plan.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

Display the liturgical calendar and point out the Fifth Sunday of Easter. We are now over halfway through Easter Time. Today's Gospel is part of what is often known as the "Farewell Discourse" in John's account of the Gospel. This is Jesus' last instruction to the disciples before his arrest in the garden.

Church Teaching Connection

St. Teresa of Avila, a sixteenth century mystic, wrote on the call to discipleship, especially in her own monastic life. However, her spiritual writings continue to inspire us to this day. Her beautiful, poetic prayer, "Christ Has No Body," emphasizes our part in making God's plans come to life. *The prayer is found on page 190.*

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 14:1-12

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said

to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

Today's Gospel can be a little heady. On the one hand, Jesus' message to the disciples seems clear: this is what you should do, and how you should act, after I am gone. That might seem like a simple thing, but this is a big deal! This message is part of what's called the "Farewell Discourse." The Farewell Discourse is a long conversation between Jesus and the disciples in which Jesus really establishes the foundation for what became the Christian faith! Until this point, the disciples have really just been following Jesus, but they might not have been thinking about establishing a religion. They were probably just following a teacher whom they believed in! They probably weren't thinking about what would happen in the next generation of believers, let alone in two thousand years! But this discourse is Jesus explaining that God has greater plans for them. Those disciples, and we as well, are called to do great works in the name of Christ.

► How often do you think about your future?
Is it something really important to you, or something that you don't really worry about right now?

► What are your plans for the future?

► What plans do you think God has for you?
Are they the same as your plans, or different?

Jesus tells the disciples (and us) that he is going ahead of them to prepare a place for them (us). He also says that where he is going, we know the way, and this confuses the disciples. "We do not know *where* you are going; how can we know the way?" they say. Jesus in turns explains that *he* is the way, and the truth, and the life.

► What does this mean?

For both disciples and us, it means that the teachings he gave us—this Christian way of life, this Gospel message—are the way we should act. It's important to note that Jesus didn't leave the disciples with a checklist, or a how-to guide on establishing a religion. He didn't need to worry about that. What was important is not the method that we disciples use for bringing about God's kingdom on earth, but rather how we live our lives in the process.

It can be easy for us to think that God's plan for us is completely different from our own plan. Sometimes we might get a little too concerned about the details of God's plan for us, and sometimes we have trouble discerning exactly what God wants of us. When we have that uncertainty, the best way is to worry less about the *what*, and more about the *how*. Rather than worry about figuring out what God wants us to do, we should focus on living and acting in a Christian way, in a way that follows the Gospel values that Jesus taught his disciples. If God has a specific plan for us, the best way to discover it is to live in a way that follows the teachings of Christ. As Jesus told us last week, he is the gate through which we find God. And as he says today, he is "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6) which we are to follow.

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 188.

What are some Gospel values? Can you name some specific instructions that Jesus gives us?

What values do you think you do a good job of following in your life?

Which Gospel value or values most challenges you and which is the hardest for you to follow?

Act on the Word

Divine Planner

For this activity, provide the students with writing utensils and a sheet of blank paper.

At this point, the planner template is ready for the students to fill out. Read the following instructions:

Say to teens: Draw two vertical lines on your sheet of paper so that you create three separate columns. Now draw six horizontal lines across the paper so that you create seven rows. In the top row, writing from left to right, label each column with these titles:

✧ Timeline

✧ My Plan

✧ God's Plan

Under the heading, "Timeline," fill the left-hand column with the following data:

✧ Next month

✧ Next year

✧ 2 years from now

✧ 5 years from now

✧ 10 years from now

✧ 20 years from now

Take the next few minutes to fill out this planner. Start with the "My Plan" column. Think about what goals or hopes you have for the next month, next year, and so on. Write down your goals. Think about what you want your life to be like during those times? After you've completed your own side of the planner, fill out the "God's Plan" column. What do you think God wants for you or from you during these periods?

For the teacher: Give ten to twenty minutes for this thinking/writing stage. Some students or groups may take longer, or shorter, but this is a good rule of thumb. Once all students have completed their planner, ask them to look at what they're written for a minute and compare the two plans. Are there big differences? Is everything the same?

Now ask the students to turn their paper over to the blank side and to write briefly about this exercise. How does their plan compare to "God's plan"? After this writing stage, you can ask some students to share their experience, although it is not necessary for this activity. When the last writing (or sharing) stage is done, mention to the students that knowing or understanding God's plan is sometimes very difficult. Whether we think God's plan is the opposite or same as our own, we can never truly know what God intends for us or wants from us. But part of our Christian life is to help each other try to discern God's plan for our lives and to live that plan out.

Closing Prayer

For today's closing prayer, offer parts of St. Theresa's prayer:

Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

*Yours are the eyes through which he looks
compassion on this world.*

*Yours are the feet with which he blesses all
the world.*

*Yours are the hands through which he blesses all
the world.*

*Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.*

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Amen.

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.

For Families

May 10, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Hearing the Word

John 14:1-10a

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?"

Reflecting on the Word

Do not let your hearts be troubled. These are some of the last words Jesus offers to his disciples. Do not let your hearts be troubled when faced with despair, suffering, or loss. Do not allow the world to break you. This seems easier said than done, especially when we are confronted by the deep pain the world can bring. Jesus says he is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the way of hope, healing, and light in the darkest night. He is the way to eternal joy.

.....ON THE WAY TO MASS

Have you ever felt sad or confused or lonely? Did you ever lose your way and felt scared? When has your heart been troubled?

ON THE WAY HOME FROM MASS

Discuss with your family the following: Jesus doesn't want us to feel troubled. He wants us to believe in him and to trust him. Jesus has shown us the way to live good lives as sons and daughters of God. He has taught us the truth about God and his great love, and through him, we will have everlasting life with God in heaven.

Living the Word

Have your children cut out a dozen little hearts from construction paper. Ask them first to think about how Jesus doesn't want our hearts to be troubled. On each little heart, have them write one way they can show God's love to one another. Remind them to write their names on the hearts.

VOCATION

Roman Catholics in the United States spend a good deal of time speaking of “vocation” and the manner in which each of us discerns our vocation for life. In today’s apostolic letter, however, Peter gives us the “cornerstone” of our vocation, the description of what each of us is called to first and foremost by our baptism. He describes our vocation as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of [God’s] own, so that you may announce the praises” of Christ, who called us out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9). All of us, no matter what path our life’s vocation may take us down, have been chosen by God, made holy, and anointed as priests in the high priesthood of Christ through baptism. All of this, so that we may announce the praises of Christ. Vocation is given for proclamation at home, in the workplace—wherever life takes us—in service, in word, and in sacrament.

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SAINT DAMIEN JOSEPH DE VEUSTER OF MOLOKA’I (1840-1889)

May 10

In the mid-1990s, a heavily bearded, bespectacled Robin Williams appeared on Late Night with David Letterman, whose host was clearly taken aback. Letterman inquired as to why the wild look. Uncharacteristically subdued, the usually manic comic responded that he was producing and starring in a movie about a most extraordinarily compassionate man, Damien, the Leper Priest of Moloka’i.

Some saints transcend religious and ethnic boundaries to touch the heart that beats in each human being: Francis of Assisi; Mother Teresa; and, though Williams’ film was never completed, his admiration speaks, as does Damien’s statue outside the capitol in Honolulu, of this newest saint’s universal appeal. Far from his native Flanders’ idyllic beauty and rich culture, Damien volunteered to bear Christ’s light in the bleak leper colony of Moloka’i’s, building decent homes, opening schools, establishing clinics, planting farms, sharing the sufferings—and the social stigma—of those with whom he delighted to identify: “We lepers,” he would proudly say when finally he contracted leprosy. Saint Damien challenges us to identify the lepers of our own day, to examine our compassion for and our identification with them.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — To meet their growing needs, the community chooses seven reputable men to serve the new Greek believers (Acts 6:1-7).

Psalm — Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you (Psalm 33).

Second Reading — We, like living stones, let ourselves be built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:4-9).

Gospel — “Show us the Father,” Philip asks Jesus. To which Jesus replies: “Whoever sees me, sees the Father” (John 14:1-12).

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17

Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18 or
1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 14:15-21 or Jn 17:1-11a

This Weeks Cover Art: *Blessed Mother* by George Hitchcock (1850). Courtesy of WikiMedia Commons.