SAINT COLUMBAN Catholic Church

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

St. Columban Parish 506 First St. S. Yelm, WA 98597

360-458-3031

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00AM –2:00PM parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org Website: www.saintcolumbanyelm.org











Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM Sunday: 10:30AM

Daily Mass: Tues—Fri 9AM *except 1st Fridays

Rosary is said 30min prior to each Mass

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Following First Friday Devotions or by Appointment Confession: Saturdays 3:30—4:30PM First Friday Devotions: 6:30PM The church may be opened upon request during office hours for private prayer.

See Calendar on Page 3 for current schedule and updates

St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. Please contact the parish office to submit a request.

St. Vincent De Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in

Help Line: 360-458-1904

Please leave your name, phone number, and

details of your need.

St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St. S, Tenino, WA 98589 For administrative assistance please contact St. Columban

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00AM Rosary is said 30min prior to Mass

Sacraments

Confession: Sundays 7:30 -7:45AM Daily Mass (First Fridays): 9:00AM Anointing of the Sick: by appointment



Love one another as I have loved you.

May 15, 2022 5th Sunday of Easter

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders. In the sight of the nations, he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

1st Reading: Acts 14:21b-27

Responsorial Psalm: I will praise your name forever, my king and my

God.

2nd Reading: Revelations 21:1-5a

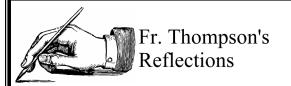
Gospel Acclamation: *I give you a new commandment says the Lord; love*

one another as I have loved you.

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Communion Antiphon: *I am the true vine and you are the branches says* the Lord. Whoever remains in me and I in him bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

We are a Catholic faith community that seeks to place God first, to know Him, and to grow in holiness together. We strive to live the Gospel through the Eucharist, in our teaching and way of life.



When will we have Wine

One of the first and longest ongoing modifications we have made to our celebration of the holy Sacrifice of the Mass on account of the plague has been restricting the reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice. We all know that, of course, but the response of many Catholics to this reality has really revealed a quite disturbing lack of faith and understanding of the nature of the divine gift that is the Blessed Sacrament. In particular, I cringe a little when people ask me, "so, when are we going to have wine again?"

The fact of the matter is that you have never received wine in Holy Communion and never will. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass mere bread and wine are consecrated to become really and truly the Precious Body and Blood of the risen Lord Jesus Christ: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Despite the appearance of the Eucharistic species remaining unaltered, they are in substance—in the nature of what they truly are—not in any way shape or form bread or wine anymore: they are Jesus Christ present among us. It is not a symbol. It is not that Jesus is present "in" or "alongside" the substance of bread and wine, but that despite the physical matter and shape of bread and wine, the Eucharist is wholly and solely Jesus Christ.

Frankly, if one does not believe this, he should not present himself for Holy Communion. As Saint Paul teaches us, whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the Body and Blood of Christ does so to his own condemnation, not to eternal life (cf. 1 Cor 11:29). Now, I know most people who ask about the return of opportunities to receive the Precious Blood do not actually deny the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and it is just the result of atrociously poor catechesis and/or perhaps just sloppy use of language. However, one should not be content with these deficiencies of faith, and should work to understand the Eucharist better and to be mindful of the words chosen to speak about sacred things (i.e. since/if you believe in the Real Presence, call the contents of the chalice the Precious Blood rather than wine, and correct yourself if you misspeak!).

A second misunderstanding is that Communion is deficient without the chalice being offered. Yes, it is more ideal for certain people in certain circumstances to receive Holy Communion under both species, but each and every fragment of a host or every drop of the Precious Blood is the wholeness of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ and to receive either species is to receive Jesus just as fully as receiving both together. Indeed, for much of the Western Church's history the chalice would be offered to people beyond the celebrating priest(s) only on very rare occasions.

The present instructions in the Missal envision the Precious Blood being offered in such a way that respects the role of clergy (deacons, priests, bishops) as the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and while extraordinary ministers may be employed in cases of real necessity, they are used for lack of, not instead of, ordained ministers. Furthermore, if from time to time the Precious Blood is to be offered in a parish setting, the pastor is charged to ensure it is reverently and safely received, and that the parishioners understand the significance of what they are receiving (hence why I am writing this letter to correct the major error in calling the Precious Blood "wine." Incidentally, many need to work on reverently and safely receiving the Body of Christ, much less the Precious Blood!)

So, I have no idea when the plague's residual impact will wane enough that we could contemplate offering the Chalice again at all. At the same time, even if it is in principle permitted again, I will need to discern when and how we in this parish will take advantage of the opportunity again.

Happy Easter,

Fr Thompson

Financial Stewardship

Week of May 1, 2022		
Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,762.00	\$712.00
Collection (Basket)	\$3,430.00	\$1,172.75
Online Giving	\$593.00	\$300.00
Net	(\$1,739.00)	\$760.75
Special Funds		
St Vincent DePaul	\$209.42	
Sacramentals	\$2.75	
Flowers	\$20.00	
Building Fund	\$194.62	
Mass Intentions		
2 nd Collection (Name)		
Called to Serve as Christ	Last Reported	14-Mar
3 Year Goal	307,368	54,327
Total Pledged	117,529	26,997

Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal for St. Columban \$24,555

Goal for St. Peter \$3.984

Donate
Today!



PARISH STAFF

Fr. Brian Thompson Priest Administrator
Ext.6 frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Holly Dodd Bookkeeper
Ext. 4 holly@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Katie Hennigan Faith Formation
Ext. 2 katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Jennifer Langham Music, Liturgy & Admin Support Ext. 1 jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Chad Lucero
Ext. 3

Youth Ministry
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Steven Slater, St. Columban Maintenance steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org

En Espanol Ext. 5

SAINT COLUMBAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

SAINT PETER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston, stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Faith Formation



CHILDREN'S PRAYERS

For the 2021-2022 school year, the children in our Faith Formation program prayed an average of 474 prayers every week. Keep up the stellar work faithful young prayer warriors!

2022-2023 Faith Formation Registration

If you wish to register your family for the 2022-2023 Faith Formation program, please visit our website, stop by during office hours (M-Th 9-2) or call the parish office:

Grades K-5 Katie Hennigan 360-458-3031x2 katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org Grades 6-12 Chad Lucero 360-458-3031x3 chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org

In Our Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sister and those who have asked for our prayers:

Jessica Nash

Paul Hennigan

Pam Henslee

Mary Taylor

Lindy Parse

Rose Montgomery

Cecelia Edgerton

Maria Teresa Siegemund

- + All those in harm's way.
- + For the people of the Ukraine
- + For our parish youth who are preparing to receive 1st Communion next Sunday

Rest In Peace

All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name please contact the parish office.

All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes.

Faith Formation: Grades K-12

- Classes have ended for the 2021-2022 catechetical year. Please look for registration opportunities in the fall.
- Confirmation II students: please check your email for important updates on Confirmation.

Please see the parish website for a complete class schedule.



RCIA is open to all adult learners and those seeking the Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and/or

Confirmation. Classes will resume in September. Contact Katie Hennigan for more information. katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org

360-458-3031x2.

PARISH MINISTRIES

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer with any of these ministries, please contact the parish office.





May 18
6:00PM Parish Hall

June 25
9AM-2PM Parish Hall/Parking Lot



St. Vincent de Paul

May 19 Monthly Meeting 7:00PM Parish Hall



St. Peter's Circle

July 12 Bi-Monthly Meeting 9:30AM St. Peter Mission



ALTAR SOCIETY

Cleaning the Church Every Thursday after Daily Mass

Gardening the Church Grounds Every Tuesday after Daily Mass



Please contact the parish office for more information, the latest updates, and schedule changes. Unless otherwise noted, all events are considered to be held at St. Columban.

May 16	Rosary Prayer Group
7:00PM	St. Columban

May 17	Daily Mass
9:00AM	St. Columban
6:00PM	Cantor Practice Church
6:30PM	Spanish Prayer Group Parish Hall

May 18 Daily Mass 9:00AM St. Columban In Memory of: Chase Chwialkowski RIP

May 19	Daily Mass
9:00AM	St. Columban
In Memory of:	Lloyd Black RIP

May 20	Daily Mass
9:00AM	St. Columban
Intentions of:	Daniel Smith

May 21	Confession
3:30PM	St. Columban
5:00PM	Vigil Mass

May 22 6th Sunday of Easter
ST. PETER MISSION TENINO
7:30-7:45AM Confession

8:00AM Mass

ST. COLUMBAN

10:30AM Mass

1st Communion

Bonus Bulletin Content!

To save on printing, some extra bulletin content will now be exclusively found in the online edition of our bulletin, which is also emailed weekly to parishioners. Sign up at flowbeaklyto parishioners. Sign up at



Your gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal helps the Archdiocese of Seattle live out the mission set before us by Jesus Christ. That mission — to help others encounter Jesus, become disciples and make disciples — is at the heart of our efforts. TOGETHER WE CAN make a difference as disciples of Christ.



"Mission is not what we have. It is who we are. We are the body of Christ."

-ARCHBISHOP PAUL D. ETIENNE

Please Make Your 2022 ACA Gift Today!

Total	Monthly Gift	
Pledge	10 Months	12 Months
\$3,500	\$350	\$290
\$2,500	\$250	\$210
\$2,000	\$200	\$165
\$1,500	\$150	\$125
\$1,020	\$102	\$85
\$750	\$75	\$60
\$540	\$54	\$45
\$360	\$36	\$30
\$240	\$24	\$20

Yes, I want to help support our ministries with a gift or pledge:

- · Give online at archseattle.org/GiveACA
- · Scan the QR code to make your gift
- · Make your gift by phone at 800-809-4921
- Place your ACA envelope into the collection basket at your parish or in the mail



Data below from the 2020–2021 Annual Repo

TOGETHER WE CAN be Christ to Others

182
Diocesean



81
Retired



118
Permanent Deacons

20 Seminarians



Newly Ordained Priests





72Catholic Schools



19,846 Students



Masses celebrated in person and livestreamed each weekend



600,605
Catholics in the
Archdiocese of Seattle



28, /32Square Miles

Square Miles from cities to farmland

7

Languages
used to
celebrate Masses
including English,
Spanish,
Vietnamese,
Korean, Polish,
and Latin



2,187



3,194
Infant Baptisms



1,499
First Communions



4,704
Confirmations

Annual Catholic Appeal | 710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104 800-809-4921 | aca@seattlearch.org | archseattle.org/GiveACA





Help Complete Our Prayer Garden!

We are six benches short of completing our Outdoor Stations of the Cross in the Prayer Garden.

Benches cost \$405.00

Name:	Phone:
Address: _	
Email:	
□Cash	☐ Check made payable to <u>St. Columban Catholic Church</u> and please mark " Bench on the memo line.

Return this form to the Parish Office no later than June 1, 2022

If you would like to purchase a Memorial Brick to dedicate your bench to a loved one or for a specific intention, please fill out a Brick Order Form which is a separate purchase.

The New Commandment

In the Old Testament, before Jesus came, there were many commandments. They told the people how they should live and what they should and shouldn't do. Jesus obeyed the commandments, but He gave His followers a new one, something different than any of the others:

LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

The love that Jesus was talking about is called charity. It means doing what is best for a person. Here are some ways to love others:



Always think kindly of people. Even when you know something bad about someone, try to think nice thoughts about them.

Always speak kindly about people. Saying bad things about others can hurt them.



Would you like some of my candy?

Sure!
Thanks!

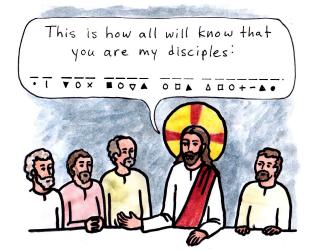
Always act kindly toward others. Treat everyone in the way that you would want to be treated. Show that you are a follower of Jesus by how you love others!

Answer to front page: If you love one another. Answer to Word-Find: Jesus comes again

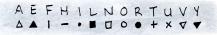
www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Easter May 15th, 2022



What did Jesus tell His disciples in today's Gospel reading?
Use the code below to find out!



John 13:31-35

Saint Pascal Baylon May 17

















AS SOON
AS HE
HAD DIED,
PEOPLE
BEGAN TO
PRAY TO
PASCHAL,
AND
MIRACLES
STARTED
HAPPENING.

PASCHAL NEVER STUDIED OR HAD ANY IMPORTANT JOBS, BUT HE BECAME A GREAT SAINT ANYWAY. HE KNEW WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING: LOVING JESUS. WHEN YOU REALLY LOVE JESUS YOU WILL BE GENEROUS WITH OTHERS TOO. DO YOU REALLY LOVE JESUS? HOW CAN YOU BE GENEROUS?

The New Jerusalem Word-Find

Try to find all the words in CAPITALS in today's second reading. The leftover letters fit into the blanks at the end.

J J O H N E T E A R A O S
U E A R T H R O N E D R H
B R I D E A T H E M O D A
H U M A N P R E P A R E D
U S H A L L S A E L N R M
S A Y I N G C V O W E A O
B L M W M A K E P A D C U
A E O A O V M N L Y E E R
N M R I L O U D E S S Y N
D W E L L I N G W I P E I
T H E I R C E V E R Y S N
D O W N B E H O L D A G G
A I N G O D H I M S E L F

Then I, JOHN, saw a new HEAVEN and a new EARTH. The former heaven and the former earth HAD passed away, and the sea was no MORE. I also saw the holy city, a new JERUSALEM, coming DOWN out of heaven from God, PREPARED as a BRIDE ADORNED for her HUSBAND. I heard a LOUD VOICE from the throne SAYING "BEHOLD, God's DWELLING is with the HUMAN RACE. He will dwell with THEM and they will be his PEOPLE and GOD HIMSELF will ALWAYS be with them as THEIR God. He will WIPE EVERY TEAR from their EYES, and there SHALL be no more DEATH or MOURNING, WAILING or pain, for the old ORDER has passed away."

The One who sat on the THRONE said, "Behold, I MAKE all things new." Rev.21:1-5

This tells about what will happen after

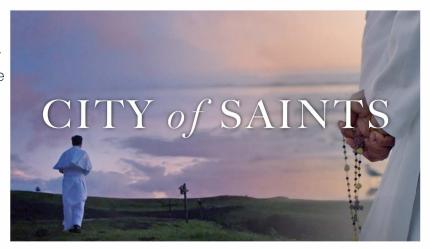
FORMED®

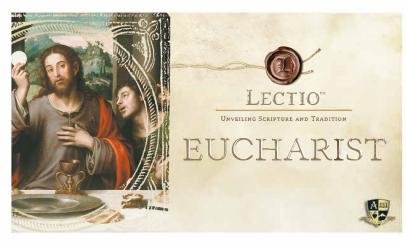
PICK OF THE WEEK

May 15, 2022

CITY OF SAINTS

In this series, award-winning director Charles Francis Kinnane tells the true stories of God's grace through the ministries of the Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey. This influential Catholic film series has inspired over 1.2 million people worldwide.





LECTIO: EUCHARIST WITH DR. BRANT PITRE

"The Lamb of God," "The Bread of Life,"
"The Body and the Blood of
Christ"—these are phrases we know
from the Mass. But do we understand
what they mean in the greater context
of Church teaching? In this program,
discover firsthand how Christ's Body
and Blood are an integral part of God's
plan for our salvation.

LEARN

LISTEN

THE FOUR LAST THINGS: DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HEAVEN, HELL BY FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

In this exceptional presentation, Fr. Mike tackles four topics that many of us understandably struggle with: death, judgement, Heaven, and Hell. As you listen to this talk, you'll be reminded that God wants to welcome you into Heaven, your true home!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



The new Jerusalem promised by the Bible is not built by human hands but comes as a gift from God. In striving for growth in our families we must remember that ultimate perfection comes only from God.



on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit <u>www.usccb.org/bible/readings</u> or download an app such as Laudate or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

This week's second reading reveals a "new heaven and a new earth [and] the holy city, a new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God." (Revelation 21:1-2) In the same way that God spoke first in creation, he also has the last word in presenting us with the holy city.

Our human response to God's initiative has meaning. It communicates openness to receiving life. Yet, we must always understand that our efforts participate in God's ongoing work of creation. This gives us patience and perspective when interacting with our loved ones.

Check out the Archdiocese of Seattle Easter Resources page for ways to celebrate all season!

Acts 14:21-27

It is necessary to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.

Psalm 145

Your kingdom is a kingdom for all ages.

Revelation 21:1-5

I saw the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

John1 3:31

Love one another as I have loved you.

At Home with Faith

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Celebrate the Joy of the Easter Season!

https://archseattle.org/easter/

Describe how growth can be a gift:

- Watch for a time when your child is concerned about a lack of growth. Often our children become frustrated when they struggle to learn a skill like playing an instrument. They might even be worried about aspects of their own physical development.
- Ask your child about a time when they learned a new skill or discovered new growth. Invite your child to reflect upon a time when they learned something new. Maybe when they learned to ride a bike. Or maybe when they noticed they had grown. See what your child remembers about the experience. Sometimes they may not even remember what happened. All of a sudden, after trying for a period of time, the skill or growth may have seemed to come of its own accord.
- Remind them that God is continuing his work of creation in them. Often that work happens without us noticing. Let them know that only part of our growth and development comes from our own efforts. As St. Paul said "I planted . . . but God gave the growth." (1 Corinthians 6)
- Wrap up with a reminder of some growth you observed from them recently. Encourage your child by sharing an observation of some growth you observed recently. This example can help remind them to keep trying and remain hopeful.



As flawed as each family may be, God created each one to participate in his work of expressing love.

For more on the Year of the Family, visit https://archseattle.org/vof

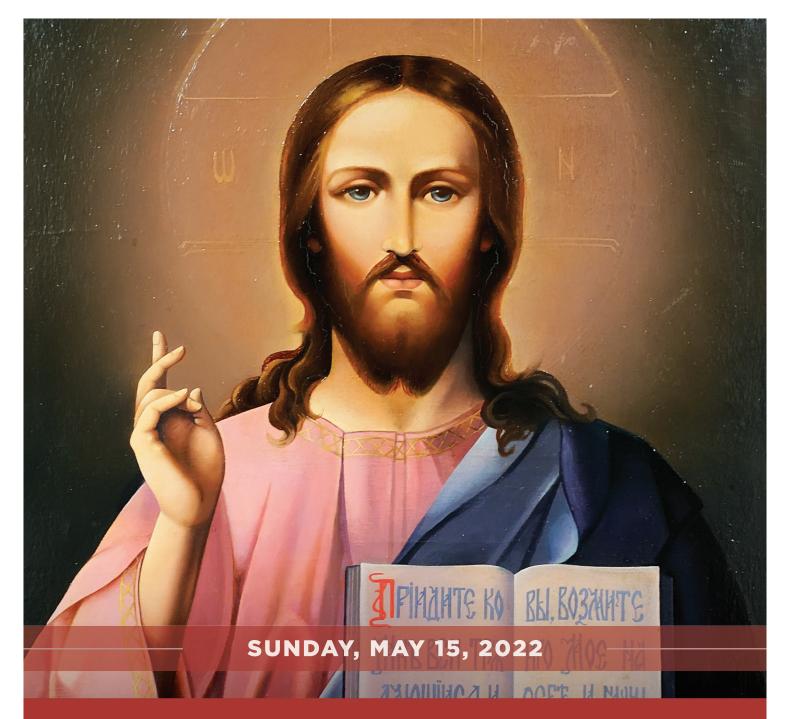
"The Gospel of the family spans the history of the world, from the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26-27), to the fulfilment of the mystery of the covenant in Christ at the end of time with the marriage of the Lamb (cf. Rev 19:9)."

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) #63

Human institutions come and go — companies, cultures and nations. The family, created by God, endures. As flawed as each family may be, God created each one to participate in his work of expressing love.

Pope Francis calls us to look upon the family and upon each member of the family with eyes of love. Where we see imperfections, we work for improvement. When improvement is slow, sometimes agonizingly so, we remain hopeful knowing that the ultimate perfection comes only from God at the end of time.

For more resources, visit us online at:



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6 O

[Jesus said,] "My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another."

- Jn 13:33a, 34a

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 15, 2022

Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-

33a, 34-35

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn

14:23-29

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 15, 2022

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter; St. Isidore

Wednesday: St. John I, Pope and Martyr

Friday: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Saturday: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions,

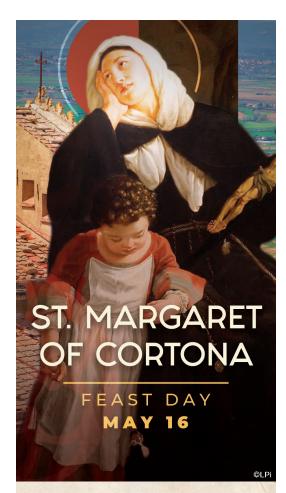
Martyrs; Armed Forces Day

Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

The resurrected Christ gives us the strength to do things we can never have imagined. Life will often give us mountains to climb, and we wonder how we will find the energy, ability, and determination to forge ahead. But, with a good dosage of faith and a fervent life of prayer we find ourselves succeeding and ascending to heights that once frightened us. What we realize after we have reached the other side is that this hardship we once saw as an obstacle has become a vehicle for something better and greater. We are stronger. The same is true with the Gospel. The prospect of loving one another may seem idealistic or unobtainable. Yet, when we risk moving beyond just looking out for or helping each other to actually LOVING each other, miracles happen. There is something wonderful that occurs with love. We see people in ways we never saw before, understanding and appreciating each other's journey. Love leads to reverence. Faith is strengthened and we move on to try again.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Though St. Margaret of Cortona (1247 – 1297) is today known as being an incredibly pious Catholic, she didn't start out that way. Born into a farming family in Laviano, Tuscany, her mother died when St. Margaret was seven. Her father remarried, but life with her stepmother was so difficult that St. Margaret moved out of the home and instead chose to live with a man named Arsenio, though they weren't married. They had been living together for nine years when she gave birth to a son. Knowing in her heart that this wasn't the life that God intended for her to have, she prayed for purity.

One day while waiting for Arsenio, his dog led her into the forest where she found Arsenio murdered. So shocked was St. Margaret that she fell into a life of penance. She and her son returned to Laviano, but still found her stepmother to be as unwelcoming as ever. They then went to Cortona, and eventually her son became a friar

Three years after her conversion, St. Margaret followed in her son's footsteps and became a Franciscan tertiary. During her life, St. Margaret established a hospital and founded a congregation of tertiary sisters. She was canonized in 1728.

CLPI

FIRST READING

They called the church together and reported what God had done with them. (Acts 14:27)



PSALM

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. (Ps 146) Or Alleluia.



SECOND READING

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." (Rev 21:4)



GOSPEL

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. (Jn 13:34)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God." Many folks really work very hard to circumvent difficult situations. We prefer the easier way around something, rather than risk inconvenience, hurt or prolonged suffering. It's no wonder euthanasia is rapidly becoming acceptable around the world. Through purely human eyes, there is no issue bypassing the inevitable, taking control and bringing things more swiftly to a place of peace. If this is the way God sees things, then why does Jesus make such a big deal helping us understand the experience of suffering and embrace it? God's wisdom clearly takes us in another direction.

Imagine if we were able to eradicate ALL hardship and suffering. Where would we be? As we look at our own journeys, many of our solid more growth producing life lessons have been born of suffering, disappointment, inconvenience, darkness, and despair. There is something sacred about all of these experiences as God uses them to create something new. Envisioning a life without hardship and suffering brings us to a vision where everything is flat-lined and dull. As much as hardship and suffering are difficult crosses to bear, not taking them up runs the risk of us becoming shallow, empty, and lifeless. Helen Keller remarks that, "a happy life consists not in the absence but in the mastery of hardships." What an incredibly wise insight! Many really successful people and saints were brought to their station in life because they suffered. Suffering teaches us about what's important and propels us to search the depths of our souls for resources and strength we never would have known before.

This is especially true when we love as Jesus asks us to love. Love, perhaps above any other experience, can cause us great hardship, pain, and suffering especially when it's authentic and unconditional. While it can thrust us into an incredible experience of God and life on one hand, it can bruise and wound us deeply on the other. Mastering the art of love is the secret to living life well, walking in the presence of God and investing in the joy of the Gospel. Love and suffering walk hand in hand. Compromising one will compromise the other. Maybe that's why Jesus spent so much time convincing us to accept both.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING Call

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Loving as New Creations

"There's something different about you."

Think about the times in your life when this has been said to you. Maybe it was after someone complimented you on a job well done, and you realized that you were walking through life with a little more confidence. Maybe it was after meeting someone special, as you carried the glow of that relationship wherever you went. Chances are, if someone has noticed something different about you, it's because, inwardly, you've been changed by the loving or respectful actions of another person.

Love, you see, can make us into new creations. From the love of God flows the grace to tackle any challenge, including the biggest challenge of all: loving each other well. Christ knows what a big request this is. He was human, too. He came and lived among us. He knew intimately what it was to love people in the chaos of their own flaws. He knew what he was asking of us when he said, "As I have loved you, so you should also love one another."

In essence, this is the call to stewardship: loving as Christ loves, amidst the messiness of everyday reality. Loving with accountability, challenging ourselves and our brothers and sisters to be faithful even when it is hard. Loving with an unflinching sense of hospitality that welcomes even those we do not agree with or understand. Loving with gratitude, giving thanks for the great variety of ways that Christ can make himself known to us through others.

It isn't easy — we all know that. But if we ask God for the grace to remain steadfast in this greatest commandment, we will be given what we need to live as new creations.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.



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Jesus said, "My
children, I will be
with you only a
little while longer.
I give you a new
commandment: love
one another."
- Jn 13:33a, 34a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass

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LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

We hear in Acts how Paul and Barnabas formed Gentile-believing churches in cities of the eastern Roman Empire. What do you think is needed today to build a strong faith community?

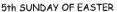
Second Reading

In John's final visions, he sees "a new Jerusalem" coming down from heaven. God is fully present with humanity and there is no more suffering and death. How often do you think about the end-times?

Gospel Reading

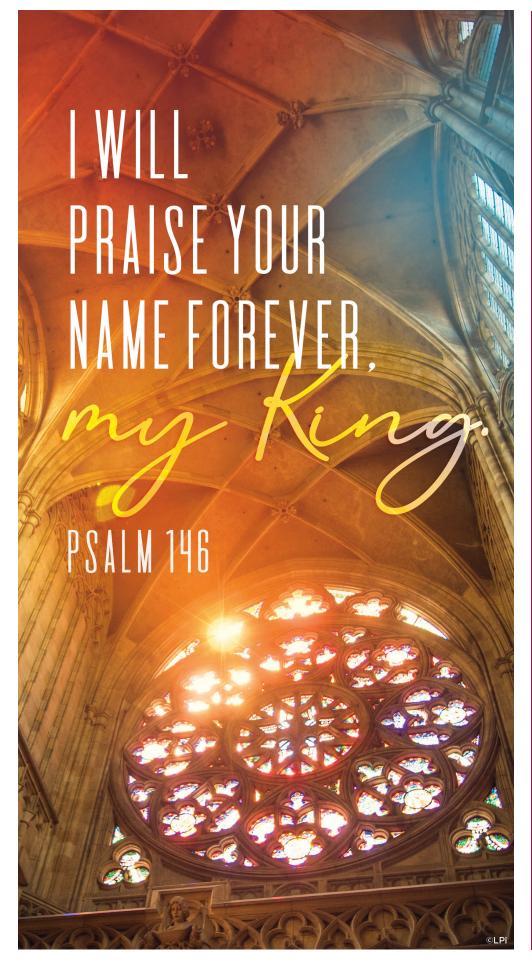
As Jesus discussed his impending death with the disciples, he presents them with "a new commandment: love one another." In what ways are you challenged by this commandment?





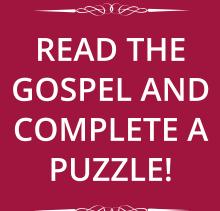






"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - *In 13:34-35* Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass

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SHARING THE GOSPEL

Jesus gave his disciples a new rule. He told them they had to love each other, just like he loved them. What did Jesus mean? Jesus was very patient with his friends. He forgave his friends when they let him down. Jesus comforted his friends when they were afraid. Most of all he helped them grow closer to God.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to love my friends like Jesus did.

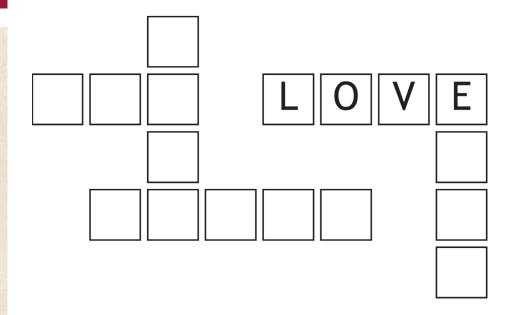
MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will follow Jesus and forgive those who have hurt me.

KIDS CORNER

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

You must love each other.







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