



SIXTH SUNDAY OF **Easter**

MAY 9, 2021

**This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.**

John 15:12

LOVE IS REAL

Love. Songs and books, plays and artistic masterpieces have been created to convey the truth that love is real. As Christians, we know that love is of God. In laying down his life, Jesus pours out God's selfless, sacrificial, undying love. Jesus opens the door to a new relationship between God and humanity, that of friendship, of intimate closeness. Jesus calls us to show this same love for others, knowing that in doing so, we fulfill God's will. As the account of Peter, Cornelius, and all in his household attests, this great love of God cannot be contained by our preconceived notions of the way things are in the world.

THE CALL AND CAUSE OF LOVE

Love calls and causes us to do great things, more than we might believe we are capable of. While some are called to give their lives as martyrs, most of us find ourselves called to lay down our lives in smaller ways in the midst of everyday life. Parents lose sleep in the early moments of their baby's life, and again as their teens mature and gain independence. Adult children change their plans to care for aging parents. We hear the call of love as we become attentive and respond to the needs of the poor, lonely, sick, and vulnerable. Love causes us to turn our lives around, to strive to become more Christ-like in our words and actions. Peter followed this call of love when he entered the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. He was likely as astounded at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as were the believers who accompanied him, yet love caused Peter to see beyond the accepted boundaries of religion and race, seeing instead evidence of the Lord's great love at work.

THE JOY-FILLED WAY OF LOVE

Following the Lord calls us to sacrifice for the sake of others, giving our attention, time, and resources in order to share Christ's care and compassion. Jesus shows us that giving of self, pouring ourselves out in love for another, is a joy-filled way of life. Joy is more than a feeling and is deeper than happiness. Joy comes with the assurance that Christ is with us when our lives mirror the life and way of our Master. Joy is a sense of fulfillment in knowing and sharing Christ's love. When we reach out in love, Christ's joy fills our hearts. Strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, we find the grace to follow Jesus' command to love one another.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We have a unique episode in the Acts of the Apostles today. A whole roomful of people are baptized with the Holy Spirit before they are baptized with water! The verb used—"the Holy Spirit 'fell' on them" (Acts 10:44)—is characteristic of the way the Spirit works throughout the book of Acts: powerful and surprising. Though this "baptism" is not the normative way the New Testament describes baptism, it is still a good reminder today that the Holy Spirit is not controlled by whether or not we pour water, but rather that our sacramental signs reveal the presence of the Spirit at work among us. And we have a double reinforcement of how this work is accomplished from a Letter and a Gospel bearing John's name. It is love, self-sacrificing and self-giving love, that manifests the Spirit of Jesus in our midst. It is love that is the greatest of commandments. The Spirit is manifested equally through those who live in that love. - Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING — The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles also (Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48).

Psalm — The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power (Psalm 98).

SECOND READING — God is love (1 John 4:7-10) or 1 John 4:11-16.

GOSPEL — No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:9-17) or John 17:11b-19.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b;
Jn 15:26 — 16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14;
Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23 or
Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20 (for

Ascension); otherwise Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20

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

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10;

Jn 16:23b-28 **Sunday:** Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; Ps 103:1-2, 11-

12, 19-20; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19; or,

for Ascension, Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9;

Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13];

Mk 16:15-20

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Sixth Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

Monday: St. Damien de Veuster; St. John De Avila

Wednesday: Ss. Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras;
Eid al Fitr (Islamic observance) begins at sunset

Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord

(unless transferred to Sunday);
otherwise Our Lady of Fatima

Friday: St. Matthias

Saturday: St. Isidore; Armed Forces Day

FEAST OF FAITH - The Creed

Following the readings and the homily, we stand together and say or sing the Creed, our profession of faith. The Creed is a solemn statement of belief, a "rule of faith" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 67). It states the core of what we believe about God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The language of the Creed is knotty and difficult at times, precisely because its purpose is to express with precision what we believe about God. The Creed that we pray most often, the Nicene Creed, came out of the earliest ecumenical councils: Nicea in 325 and Constantinople in 381. It originated in a time of great controversy about the divinity of Christ, and thus the longest section of the Creed relates to Christ, truly human and truly God.

The Creed is both communal and personal: it is "we," but it is also "I." In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, it is only after listening to the teaching of the Church and professing faith in the Holy Trinity that the candidate is admitted to the sacraments. So it is every Sunday. We listen to the word, we profess our faith, and then we come to the altar.—*Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

OUR SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Please inform our Pastor, Fr. Leonard when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized. Call 816-471-3696 or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com
Edith Bolder Holmesdale Care Center, Home, Jeanette Hamilton Evans, Home, Carlos Nix, Home, Lavel McCullough, Home, Rosa Birch, Home
Sandra Cloyd, Home, Kevin Brown, Home, Jackie Countee, Home, Sharon Shackelford-Allen Home, Earnestine Nard, Home, Earl Greene,
Home, Michael Mize, Home, Flora Waddell, Home, Delores Bazy, Home, Home, Vera Brown, Home, Ovell Thomas, Home, Joann James, Home,
Dorothy Wyatt, Home, Terese Spears Chambers, Home, John Johnson, Home, Vauncille Bartlett, Home, Mary Ann Grayson, Home, Herman
Lovett, Home, Donald and Mable Parson, Home, Home, Ray Myers, Home, J.P. (Josh) Franshaw, NKC Hospital



Today we are celebrating Mothers Day. When we think about our mothers, what comes into mind? We **think of love**. In actual sense if you want to understand the real meaning of love just look at a mother. A mother loves her child simply for who the child is. There is no question of the child earning his mother's love. But mother's love is not only unique between a woman and her child. Their love is transcendental; their love goes beyond themselves, their love is a sacrament. Most of us will agree that we first experienced true love through

our mothers. For Mothers are able to love unconditionally like God does. They are able to love a child without expecting anything back. For a child can do nothing to earn their mother's love. And that is true for us, there is nothing we can ever do to earn God's love. In actual sense a mother's love points back to God. There's an old Jewish proverb that says, "**God could not be everywhere, so He made mothers.**" Mother's are the visible love of the invisible God. In a special way I would like to thank all the Mothers of St. Monica for their great example of faith in our community and their resilience in faith and prayer.

God bless you and Happy Mothers' Day!

Fr. Leonard