

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2020



“HOMILY: JOHN 14:1-12”

Dear Friends:

This scripture from the Gospel of John is one of the best available for funerals and wake services. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to not let your hearts be troubled. Jesus tells us to have faith in God, have faith also in me. He then speaks of His Father’s house and how He is going to prepare a place for us. He then promises He will come back and take us to Himself, so that where He is we also may be.

I always found this scripture so inviting. The way I interpret it is that at the end of our life, our Lord will come personally and escort us to heaven, the Father’s house. Many of us look to the end of our days on earth with anxiety and fear. This image of Jesus being with us at that moment is reassuring, to say the least. Remember what He said: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

These difficult days are filled with fear. Everyone is concerned about doing the right thing so as to avoid any kind of risk. We are afraid. We need the peace of Jesus now more than ever. Jesus Christ wants to give us peace. Throughout the Gospels, Christ tells us to not be afraid. This gospel of John seems, to me, to be the clearest message of peace that we can get anywhere. The fragility of life is real. It seems more real now than at any other time. We know that life is fragile. We need now to hear the words of our Redeemer telling us that He will be with us, really with us, at the moments that we really need Him.

There is something also valuable in the latter part of the Gospel reading. Philip asks Jesus to “show us the Father.” Jesus replies that if you have seen Him, you have seen the Father. Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation, the ultimate “revealing” of the Father. Many people say “I can’t see God therefore I can’t believe in Him.” But we all can see God through Jesus. If you want a closer relationship to God, get a closer relationship to Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us He is the “way.” Jesus is really the way for us now more than ever.

Fr. Wilson

UPDATE ON THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK - Our Weekday and Sunday Masses as well as our Religious Ed Program will remain cancelled until further notice. Immaculate Conception Church will be open for private prayer and confession is available on Saturdays from 3:45 to 4:15 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception.

With respect to the Sunday weekly offering envelopes, I understand that these troubling times make financial commitments difficult. However, if you are able to continue your weekly donations, you can drop it off at the Rectory (4 Lavelle Rd.) in the mail slot located on the lower right side of the door, at the parish office or place it in the mail. As always, I am thankful for your support. Please let us remember one another in our daily prayers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : Gerhard Herron, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Joseph Licurse, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Ralph Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Arietta Carroll, Cecilia Cummings, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marjorie Arni, Teal Burns, Jane Bly, Jennifer Boice, Nora Miller, Allen McPeck, Diana LaCurto, Genevieve Minischetti, Anita Nichols, Kathleen McGuire, Loretta Heller, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Christine Darby, Peter Hill, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Margaret and Roger Gregoire, Kyleigh Cummings, Caroline McEnroe, Kristin Paraszti, Patty Cassidy, Stephen Bida, John McKee, Kathleen Herron, Roseann Roux, Catherine DiRe, Michael Gaddis, Baby Gemma Dadone and Joe Gatto.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED IN OUR PARISH: George Hazel, Harrison Hardisty, Laura Jean Porter, Maureen Tyree, Pat Argentina, Linda Sartori and Fr. John Bida.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION for 2020-2021 - As our Religious Education Program has been cancelled since Sunday, March 15th, due to the coronavirus, our Registration for 2020-2021 could not be handled as usual. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, this year the Registration for our Religious Ed Students will have to be done primarily by mail. Letters were sent out to each of our families on April 15th. We ask that you register your child/children by **June 15th**, as books and supplies need to be ordered. If you know of anyone who has a child entering first grade, please ask them to call the office at 373-8193 and we will mail them a registration form. Our program helps parents pass on the Catholic faith to their children which is so very important.

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**MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER**

Loving God, you wrap your arms around your people and show your everlasting love in the same way a mother loves her children.  
We are grateful for the love you have taught us through the mothers in our lives:  
    our own mothers who brought us into this world,  
    the mothers of friends who have welcomed us into their homes and families,  
    our grandmothers, who took time for us,  
and the mothers who have helped us even though we were not their children.  
    Bless all the mothers of the world today.  
    May they know the fullness of love they have shared  
    and be blessed every day of their lives.  
    Amen.

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SUNDAY MASS - Please see your Television Guide for the Easter Sunday Masses being offered on EWTN, Catholic Faith Network, Heart of the Nation (Channel 82) at 8 am and WPIX (Channel 11) from St. Patrick's Cathedral.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION - The Pine Plains Council of Churches annually offers a scholarship to a graduating High School senior who is actively affiliated with one of the four Churches in Pine Plains. Applications are available from Fr. Wilson and must be returned no later than May 18, 2020.

2020 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - As of May 1st, our parish has received **\$23,345.00** in pledges/gifts from **63** families. Our parish goal is **\$42,000**. I sincerely ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time donation in an amount you can afford. Not all offerings are equal, but all sacrifices are..

SUNDAY COLLECTION - This past week, we received \$5,295.00 in donations. Your generosity amazes me. I am so thankful to all of you who continue to support our Church during these difficult financial times. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families with good health.

WHY IS MARY PICTURED WITH A BLUE MANTEL IN MANY PICTURES? In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant was covered in blue (or "violet") fabric for traveling (Numbers 4:5-6). God's Presence would "rest" on the Ark as a king sits on his throne (Exodus 25:22).

When Mary agreed to be the Mother of Jesus (i.e. God), she became his living "resting place." In art, Mary's blue mantle signals she is the new Ark of the Covenant.

Blue indicates Mary's royal status. Jesus is the King of Heaven making Mary the Queen Mother. In Biblical times, the mother (not the wife) of the king was the queen. She wasn't as powerful as the king, but her intercession with him had significant influence.

Mary is not God, but her intercessory prayers for us are powerful because she is Jesus' mother. When we consider that Mary is also our mother by grace, her blue mantle invites us to entrust our concerns to her. Rather than an obstacle to Jesus, Mary leads us directly to him by a sure, safe path. (*Growing in Faith*)