

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the  
Challenges of Loving Service***

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**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 17, 2020**

***Make your own reflection, prayers and your  
own homilies!***

**1<sup>st</sup> reading, Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17**

**Philip** was one of the original seven deacons appointed by the apostles. He was designated as an evangelist by the early church, the only one in Scripture to be called.

With this journey to **Samaria**, the long-separated Jews and Samaritans were brought together as fellow believers because of God's desire to unify the church. If the Samaritans had **received** this special anointing of **the Spirit**, immediately when they believed, they would have found Christ without finding fellowship with the Jewish believers. The Acts era was a never-to-be-repeated time of transition in the life of the church.

Baptism and the gift of the Spirit are curiously separated in this account, not to weaken Philip's efforts, but to accent the bond between his work and the work of the apostles. In later accounts the gift of the Spirit comes in ways other than the imposition of hands by the apostles.

**2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 1 Peter 3:15-18**

Christians cannot confidently **be ready to give a defense** ("explanation or answer") unless they have immersed themselves in God's Word. They should know their faith and practice well enough

to be able to point others to Jesus with their answers.

If God's people live according to His Word, they will not suffer as **evildoers** but for their **good conduct**. People may slander a Christian, but revilers should never be proven right in their accusations.

Peter summarizes the gospel message in four phrases: Christ **suffered**, was **put to death**, and was **made alive by the Spirit** (the Resurrection) ... for us, **that He might bring us to God**.

**Baptism** is a public sign that one has identified completely with Christ for salvation. Some Christians in Peter's day who feared persecution may have avoided baptism precisely because it was so public and therefore risky. But Peter encourages them to associate themselves with Christ in this way – not because baptism saves anyone but because it is an **answer**, a pledge, a profession of the believer's inward spiritual reality.

With the power of His risen life, He gives us strength in our struggles and leads us to God.

**The Gospel John 14: 15-21**

**Jesus Promises another Helper**

Jesus was not saying that **whatever** Christians ask for, they will get. Believers must ask **In Jesus' name**. The purpose of prayer is **that the Father may be glorified** – these are the prayers that get answered. As James says, Christians must learn to say, "If the Lord wills" (James 4:15).

Jesus promised to not leave His disciples as **orphans**; He would send **another Helper** ("one who comes alongside"). In the Holy Spirit, Jesus would permanently be present with His followers. Jesus would leave the disciples soon and be crucified and buried. But He would come to them again – alive. After seeing the risen Christ, these men would **know** the truth about Jesus and their relationship with Him. **Because I live, you will live also**.

Love for Christ is demonstrated by keeping His **commandments**. Obedience flowing from love is very different from obedience performed out of obligation. **"You are in me and I in you."**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

**For Pregnancy Support:**

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**MASS INTENTIONS May 16 - 22**

**Saturday** + Calvin Andrew Stafford Jr.

**Sunday** + Summer Reeves

**Monday** Parishioners

**Tuesday** + Alexis Oliver

**Wednesday** Doctors and people of hospitals

**Thursday** The Oliver family

**Friday** + Constantino Silva

**Please pray the Rosary together in your HOME and make your home the domestic church! Please to pray for the families and our Country!**

**With praise and gratitude to Almighty God the Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey joyfully announces the Ordination of**  
**David Andrew Allen**  
**Abraham E. Barrera Pelayo**  
**Jason Dupit Taganahan**

**To the Holy Order of Deacon**  
**Friday, May 22, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Due to the current observance of social-distancing, we can only invite you to join us via livestream at:**

**[www.dioceseofmonterey.org](http://www.dioceseofmonterey.org)**

**Or**

**Diocese of Monterey Vocations**

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**"Greetings to Our Friends at Christ Child from Ann and Dick Wells. We are up in Placerville area now. We miss you and you are in our prayers."**

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**PRAYER REQUESTS: Can be emailed to christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com**

**Dr. Faheem Younus from Marylanders:** During coronavirus pandemic, leave denial, leave panic. Coronavirus is now a pandemic. As an infection disease expert who helped manage SARS, H1N1 and Ebola, I suggest that between the extremes of denial or panic, there is a place called preparedness; we should live there. Let's tackle denial first. Social media posts question why we should care about the novel coronavirus when car accidents kill 30,000 American every year and influenza kills even more. Car accidents are not contagious. They don't threaten us with an exponential spread like coronavirus. Yes, influenza kills anywhere from 12,000 to 61,000 American every year but there are major differences between the two: Influenza virus has been around for centuries, we understand it, and our bodies have varying degrees of immunity against influenza.

In contrast, coronavirus is a novel agent; our bodies have no immunity against it. Unlike influenza, there is no vaccine or treatment for it. Coronavirus is nearly two times more transmissible and 10 to 20 time more lethal than influenza.

But we should not panic either. By panic, I mean losing sleep over sold-out hand sanitizers. Or cleaning every doorknob and countertop with disinfectants. Or wearing facemasks in shopping malls and airplanes. Or spreading disinformation. Fear, it seems, is more contagious than the virus itself.

Knowing that traditional strategies still work against this novel quells my fear... "I don't live in denial or panic," you say, "I live in hope." But hope is not a strategy. Hoping for a magic treatment or a timely vaccine is naïveté. New drugs and vaccines typically need months and years in clinical trials to measure safety, efficacy and side effects. Granted, the government and pharmaceutical industry are working at an unprecedented pace...