

Saint Patrick Basilica Parish – Notes for Sunday, May 9th 2021

Rector's Message

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Today, the Second Sunday of May, we celebrate Mother's Day. Let us pray for our mothers, those who are still with us and those who have passed from this life, that they may know the joy of their children advancing well in life, including the life of faith. Let us also be mindful of those women who seek to be mothers but have not been able to conceive. May the Lord grant them the grace of a child, or the grace to be able to live their maternal gifts in other ways which are fruitful in the lives of their families and of their communities.

As we continue the Year of St. Joseph, we celebrated on May 1st St. Joseph as the Patron of Workers. On their website – cccb.ca – the Canadian bishops provided the following prayer, "Model of Workers":

Silent and well-known
Carpenter in Nazareth,
Model of workers,
by the work of your hands,
you gave your contribution to the work of the Creator,
you earned your living
and you provided for the needs of the Holy Family.
Intercede for all workers, in the difficulties of their daily lives,
especially for the unemployed, in their anxieties for tomorrow,
so that, through the guidance of God,
the great Architect and Builder,
they all may use their strength and their talents
to make visible his Kingdom, his new Creation,
to offer a concrete service to society
and to earn wages worthy of their efforts.

On May 16, our Church celebrates World Communications Day. We are invited to reflect upon the media of social communications and how these influence our lives. The media can promote values that lead to a more fully human society. The media can also be used to help promote the Gospel. The faithful have a duty to support and promote worthwhile presentations on media and reject those which promote values contrary to spiritual growth. We have all been aware, over the past year and more, how much misinformation is transmitted through the means of the Internet which provides a global platform for so many. Let us pray for wisdom and prudence in discerning what is truthful and beneficial for ourselves and for our communities. (Source: Ordo, p. 237)

Father Kevin

Meditations on Holy Mass

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

9 May 2021

First reading: Acts 10.25-26, 34-35, 44-48 CCC 761, 781; 1226
The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

Second reading 1 John 4.7-10 CCC 458, 516; 614, 620
Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Gospel: John 15.9-17 CCC 1824; 142
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

In the first reading, St. Luke teaches that God's love for us is universal in scope. "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have done?" God's love is a self-sacrificing love ("agape") that led Christ to his Cross. In his Gospel, St. John repeats this theme, recalling the words of Our Lord, "You are my friends if you do what I command you." Keeping the commandments is, with God's grace, available to every human being. In the second reading, St. John reminds us that God loved us first and that his love is both selfless and inclusive. God "sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him." To follow Christ is to answer his call to keep his commandments, to the point of self-sacrifice. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Before Mass: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. Alleluia. (First Vespers)

After Mass: I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. Alleluia. (Lauds)

Later in the day: This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. Alleluia. (Second Vespers)