

St. Anthony of Padua
Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020

Sheep left unattended or corralled will wander off and get into trouble every single time. That is why the shepherd goes to such lengths to keep an eye on them. When left to our own devices, we, too, have this uncanny tendency to wander off and get into trouble of all kinds. When we allow the voices of temptation to drown out the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we are headed for trouble. Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves, and we need to heed his voice.

What an awesome event is described in today's first reading. Peter speaks plainly to the crowd as to their culpability in the death of Jesus. Some were no doubt agitators in the crowd the day Jesus was condemned and crucified. Others stood by silently and let it unfold. Let us not forget that 10 of the Apostles ran away! Only the youngest remained at the foot of the cross with Mary and several other women. But Peter told them to repent and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day. All the people repented for whatever role they may have played in Jesus' death, and the community grew by 3,000. Truly a gracious and blessed day in the life of the Church. The heavens rejoiced at the sight of such a glorious event.

This was not the work of Peter, of course. This was the Lord working through Peter. Jesus Christ is the gate protecting the sheep from robbers and thieves – Jesus, who came so all might have life and have it more abundantly. The crowds in the first reading heard their shepherd's voice in the words and actions of Peter. The Pharisees and others in the Gospel did not recognize their shepherd who was right in front of them.

Let us hear the Good Shepherd's voice this day. Let us help others hear his voice through our words and actions this day as well. For his voice leads us to life. The Easter season is the perfect

time to move from pain and suffering to glorious triumph in the risen Christ. May we always hear and heed the voice of the Shepherd.

(Faith Catholic)

SAINT ANTHONY OF
PADUA
PRAY FOR US!

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020

In the second reading today, Saint Peter provides one of the most beautiful, inspiring, and challenging definitions of what it means to be a Christian and part of the Church: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. As the Easter season continues, Christians everywhere rejoice that the risen Christ has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. We exercise our royal priesthood as a community of believers when we share our faith with others, inviting them to become part of God's chosen race.

This faith we share, this chosen race that unites us, is one that follows Jesus, who is the way and the truth and the life. It assures us that neither his story nor ours will end in death. The cross, once a symbol of torture, with Jesus' holy hands nailed to it, becomes a trophy. It is a key with which Jesus unlocks for us the gates of heaven and gains access for us the Father's house, where there are many dwelling places.

We are beginning our fifth week of the Easter season, and hopefully – at least in the Northern hemisphere – new life is beginning to burst around us in springtime fervor. Grays and browns are being replaced by greens and the subtle shades of other colors that will burst forth in time. Grass is beginning to grow; perennials are breaking through the dirt. Light is replacing darkness. Life is replacing death.

As the tilting and turning of the earth toward the sun brings new life to its lands, so we can visually understand how our turning of our hearts and lives to the Son brings new life to our lives and our souls. Solar energy gives the fauna and flora the energy to grow, to spread, and to

increase in number. The Holy Spirit gives us the grace to grow, to spread the Good News, and to increase in number and holiness for the sake of the Kingdom.

We are indeed a royal priesthood, initiated by our baptism, called out of the darkness – both metaphorically and seasonally – to share our faith. May we embrace our role and our hopes as easily as the springtime flowers respond to the rays of the ever-increasing sunlight. And may God's grace in this Eucharist nourish us as we tend to the landscape around us.

(Faith Catholic)

Prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

In the Gospel today Jesus says, if you love me, you will keep my commandments. This assertion is meant not for just his contemporary disciples; it is intended for all who choose to follow Jesus. And for the first half of the sentence to be true, the second half must be fulfilled.

Loving Jesus begins, as Saint Peter would later write, by sanctifying Christ as Lord in our hearts. Evidence that the early disciples understood what it meant to love Jesus is found in Philip's ministry in Samaria. When Philip went to this Samaritan city, he did not just proclaim Jesus as Messiah. He expressed his faith through his witness, and all who heard him saw the signs he was doing, believed. They believed because Philip did these works in Jesus' name – working with the Holy Spirit and imitating Jesus, who did perfectly the will of God.

If we love Jesus, then, we will continue to be, as Jesus was, a voice for the voiceless – the grieving, the abandoned, the persecuted. We will understand that Jesus' ministry of love did not end with his death, but continues through his body, the Church. Through baptism we enter into Christ's prophetic, royal, and priestly ministry.

This call to love Jesus by following his commandments to love and care for our neighbors is challenging. For this reason, Jesus did not abandon us to carry out this ministry of love without support. He sent his Spirit to abide with us.

It is comforting to know that we are not alone. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we become witnesses to the Resurrection and nourish the world with spiritual fruits. As Saint Teresa of Avila wrote, "Christ has no body on earth without us." So, if we do not speak and act for Christ, who will?

(Faith Catholic)

Stewardship for March, 2020

Sunday Collections \$20,117.00

Second Collections:

Black & Indian Missions	\$ 1,223.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,233.00
Catholic Relief Service	\$ 375.00
Missionaries of the Poor	\$ 1,931.00
Checks forwarded to MOP	\$ 1,825.00

STAY HOME

Coronavirus, COVID 19, pandemic, stay home order, quarantine, face mask, gloves, disinfectant, sanitizer, wash hands, social distancing, toilet paper are just of the words we been hearing the past few months.

Quarantine means 40. The number 40 in Scripture is significant. The flood lasted for forty days before the rainbow appeared. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. They experienced success and failures, fidelity and infidelity before they entered the Promised Land. The birth of a nation emerged, "You will be my people and I will be your God". Jesus was tempted in the desert for forty days. He came out victorious, steadfast in his resolve, "The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

What have we learn during this time of quarantine? Our situations and experiences vary considerably but what great good can we

draw from them? What new insights have we learn? What are our hopes?

“Is this item a necessity? I have learned to prioritize my needs and wants and saved along the way for what is truly essential.”

“I am still working but have learned to value my health by taking the time to walk and ride the bike in the neighborhood.”

“I am always looking forward to my daughter’s experimental cooking.”

“Spiritual communion is different. I yearn that one day we will be present together as a family/community to celebrate Mass.”

Jennifer, 51

“I am limited in my mobility and I have learned **PATIENCE**. I am grateful for my beautiful children who are looking after my needs. They bring groceries and leave it by my door and we exchange flying kisses together to let them know that “I love and appreciate what they are doing.”

“I grew in my relationship with God. Watching Mass and rosary everyday was a source of great consolation.”

Linda, 80

“I do not need more stuff... I learned to value and cherish the time with my family. Before the pandemic, we were always in a hurry to go from one activity to another. The slow pace afforded me to cook for my children and spent time playing with them. Family is more valuable.”

I experienced that there are still a lot of good people in our community who go out of their way to show kindness and respect, and share generosity.”

Nicole, 38

“I go to Mass every weekend and pray every day on television. This pandemic helped me to be more intentional in my relationship with God. God had helped me to see things in a proper perspective... to see what is more important.”

“I missed human interaction...”

Anne, 68

“Still blessed... What can I do to help the Saint Anthony?”

Tony, 67

“I missed Mass... I longed to receive Holy Communion and be with members of the community.”

Edward, 72

MASS INTENTIONS MAY 1ST – 15TH

Fr. Carlos will remember these scheduled prayer intentions, as well as all parishioners when he celebrates his private Mass every day. If you have any special requests please send them in ASAP to stanthonybayoublack@htdiocese.org so that they can be added to Father’s list.

Sat. 5/2 - Lois Authement (DA)

Sun. 5/3 – Donald Burnett (B 6/5)

Fri. 5/8 – Dale Lirette

Sat. 5/9 - Wayne Riche’

THE ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Email: stanthonybayoublack@htdiocese.org

Website: www.stanthonybayoublack.org

Facebook: [St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church - Bayou Black](https://www.facebook.com/St.AnthonyofPaduaCatholicChurch-BayouBlack)

PARISHIONERS: Please email the office to update your **mailing address, phone numbers, and email address**. We are doing as much as we can to keep you informed! If you can get this information to us it will be a big help! **It will help reduce cost if we can email you rather than have to mail letters out!** Thank you!

**COVID-19:
A PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY**

For all who have contracted coronavirus, We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance, We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers, We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.

Amen.