

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Most of us manage getting through our day without being bothered by the questions of the **meaning and purpose of life** itself: "what's the point of being here?" We are happy to leave these questions to the armchair philosophers and the self-appointed gurus. However there are times when we are forced to pause and ponder these questions because something happens that throws the routine of our life into question. Something happens that throws our life into a tailspin. Our little world suddenly becomes upside down. How so? For example the sudden death of loved one which leaves us in a large absence. Perhaps an illness or accident that leaves us incapacitated. Maybe an unexpected economic hardship which leaves us in financial dire straits. Or maybe a ruined personal relationship which leaves us heart broke. Maybe even a world pandemic which causes us anxiety, discouragement, fear and great suffering. When these things happen questions arise which become **our** questions. Things that we took for granted now look much different from before. Ventures and issues we previously thought were so important now begin to look insubstantial against the reality of our present loss. We ponder and ask: "where am I going, if anywhere? What direction do I take when my sense of direction seems to be disappearing?"

Any experience of profound loss always makes us question our **own direction in life**. In today's Gospel passage St. John shows us that it was no different for Jesus' disciples. In today's passage Jesus presents His final discourse as He informs His disciples that He will soon be leaving them and returning to the Father. Jesus' revelation fills the disciples with great anxiety and consternation: "How can we continue to be disciple when you leave us? How will we manage without your physical presence among us?" Jesus' farewell discourse assures His disciples that He has a plan in place for them. As Jesus unfolds that plan He reassures them that they will not be left alone without guidance or strength. Jesus then counsels His disciples not to be afraid for He is going to prepare a place for them. He will then return to take them back with Him. In response to Jesus' revelation the disciple Thomas voices the disciples' concerns: "what direction are they going to take in Jesus' absence? What is to be their **way** after He is gone?"

Jesus addresses His disciples concerns by pointing to Himself and stating enigmatically that: "I

am the **Way**, the **Truth**, and the **Life**." Jesus alone is the Gateway to God; He is the only access to the Father. Jesus is the **Way** by which one travels to the fullness of God. Jesus did not say, "I have a way" but "**I am the Way**." Only when we are united with Him can we reach the Father since Jesus and the Father are one. Jesus is the **Truth**. Not only does Jesus speak the **truth** but the fullness of **truth** is found in Him alone. Jesus is the **truth** about God and He is the **truth** about humanity. Jesus is the **Life**. He is the embodiment of **life** with God. Jesus is the **Life** and we have our life in Him. Only through the merits of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection can we gain access for eternal **life** with the Father.

Jesus challenges all of us to face the complexities and confusion of our world. Each daily challenge we face has a **purpose**. Jesus promises us that He **is** our **Way, Truth and Life**. If we put our faith and trust in Him then He will guide us through the complexities, challenges and difficulties within our lives. If we "Lean on Him" Jesus will give us the strength to carry on. The ultimate **purpose** of our life is to eventually enjoy **Eternal Life** with our God. The only way we can accomplish this is by listening to and following our beloved Jesus-the **Gateway to God the Father**. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat May 9	5:00 p.m	Jim Alt, George Donaldson
Sun May 10	8:30 a.m.	Kathy Sehlhorst, Gene Baderstcher
Sat May 16	5:00 p.m	Rhonda Staley
Sun May 17	8:30 a.m.	Fr. Cleo Schmenk

SUNDAY COLLECTION



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Readings for May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 8:5 – 8, 14 – 17

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15 – 18

Gospel Reading: John 14:15 – 21

