

St. Mary's Catholic Church

6th Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

If we were going to give a name to this Sixth Sunday of the Easter season, we might call this Sunday “**Love Sunday**” since love is the main theme in today’s Scripture readings. Our readings describe the real love that exists within the Holy Trinity and remind us of the real love that God has for us and the love that we should have for one another. God’s love for us is unconditional and everlasting. The love we should have for one another is **not** some warm fuzzy feeling or emotion. Rather our love should be a conscious act of the will, a decision, and a commitment to act for the benefit of another no matter how we feel about them.

I am sure we can all admit that it is easy to love God and other people in the abstract. In the classic words of the comic strip Peanuts character Lucy: “I love mankind; it’s people that I can’t stand.” It is easy for us to love God, our family members, neighbors, classmates and co-workers when they don’t disappoint us or mess up our plans. It is easy to love God and others as long as they don’t challenge us or take us out of our comfort zone. It is easy to love God and people when they give us what we want or desire. However, today’s Scripture readings command us to love God and one another without any conditions, limitations or qualifications. Our readings challenge us to love God and one another without judgement, measurements or expectations of a return.

Today’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostles records a huge step in the apostles’ fulfillment of carrying out Jesus’ command to bring His Gospel message of love to everyone. This story is about the baptism of the centurion Cornelius and isn’t merely another conversion story. Rather, it is the definitive **answer** to one of the first dilemmas facing the early Church: whether a pagan could become a Christian without first accepting Judaism and following its strict customs and laws (circumcision and dietary). Jesus’ earliest disciples were all brought up in the Jewish religion and tradition before they accepted the Christian faith. The Jews believed that God only gave His blessings and privileges to them and other nations were outside that pale. However, the apostle Peter had a vision in which God revealed to him that God’s word and love is for **all** people. Therefore a person could become a Christian without accepting and following Jewish traditions and laws. In entering the home of the pagan Cornelius and baptizing him and his household, Peter boldly witnesses to and loudly proclaims this message of God’s love for all people-Jews and Gentile pagans.

The teaching about love is the heart of today’s second reading from First Letter of John. The author of this Letter stresses two fundamental truths and realities of our Christian faith. First, God is love and God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus into the world so that we might have life through Him. Such love is God’s most gracious gift to us.

Continued...

Weekend Masses

| | | |
|------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Sat May 8 | 4:00 p.m | Jim Alt + Kathy Sehlhorst |
| Sun May 9 | 8:00 a.m. | Fr. Cleo Schmenk + Fr. Chris Bozar |
| Sun May 9 | 10:00 a.m | Gene Badertscher |
| Sat May 15 | 4:00 p.m | John + Nathan Siefker |
| Sun May 16 | 8:00 a.m. | Special Intention |
| Sun May 16 | 10:00 a.m | In Thanksgiving |

SUNDAY COLLECTION

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Adults | \$4,205.00 | Loose \$118.00 |
| | Total | \$4,323.00 |
| | 50 envelopes returned = 25% | |



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

Assignments for May 15 & 16, 2021

Money Counters: Nick Recker, Tonya Meyer

4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Karen Phillips

Ushers:

Lector:

E.M.: Tricia Herrmann

Servers: Carson and Ty Meyer

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers: Chuck Niese

Lector: *Volunteer*

E.M: Amy Marcum

Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers:

Lectors:

E.M.: Michelle Risner

Servers: Elizabeth Honse

Readings for May 16, 2021

Ascension of the Lord

1st Reading: Acts 1:1 – 11

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17 – 23

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:15 – 20

St. Mary's Catholic Church

6th Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021
