

Sacred Heart – St. Louis Parish

14 May 2020

Thursday of the Fifth Week of Easter - *Saint Matthias, Apostle*

“It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, alleluia.”

(readings are from the Easter weekday)

Reading 1: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Psalm 113: **The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

Gospel: John 15: 9-17

Homily for Thursday of the Fifth Week of Easter

Today in the Church we celebrate a feast day in honor of St. Matthias. He was the one chosen, selected by lot, to take the place of Judas, the one that betrayed Jesus. In our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles today, we encounter the scene where Judas' replacement is chosen. Judas chose his own path. Matthias chose his own path as well and that path was to follow Jesus and be chosen to be one of the twelve.

We, too, have chosen to follow Christ, to be one of his disciples. Our names have been written in the book of life and we have all been marked repeatedly with the sign of the cross. This sign marks us, so that all know we belong to Jesus. Being a disciple means that there

are certain requirements that we have to follow. These are commands. We encounter a command in the gospel today. We are commanded to love one another.

When we are commanded to do something, it is not simply a recommendation. It is not something that we may choose to do if we so feel like it or if we are in the right mood on a particular day. It is something that we have to do all the time. Often, it can take us a lifetime to integrate the ability to follow these commands into our lives. Often, we may not always do so perfectly. Often we fail, but Jesus is there to forgive us and to help us take up the task once again.

Today, let us especially strive to follow the command to love one another, especially during this time when we need love, patience, understanding in our world, and especially as we begin to open up some of our businesses and other aspects of our lives. It is going to take time, we have to be patient, we have to be kind and loving and understanding to all around us. Not everything is going to be able to open at once. Not everyone will be able to get a haircut at the same time on the opening day of hair salons. You might have to wait some extra time in line for your favorite ice cream, but as we wait in love, when we do get the haircut or the ice cream or whatever it is that we have been longing for, it will be that much better.