



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020



ATTENTION

**All scheduled masses and events are cancelled due to the ban.
As a Parish Family we pray for all who are affected by COVID-19.
The Church & Rectory will remain closed until further notice.**

**If you had a mass scheduled or offered the Bread and Wine or Sanctuary Candle for a loved one,
for this week or the upcoming weeks, please call the rectory to reschedule to a later date.
We apologize for the inconvenience.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"I will give you another Advocate"
(John 14: 15-21)

Without a doubt, the fears of the pandemic that we continue to experience do not allow us to see the color of the flowers and the beauty that nature presents us in this spring season. The greening of the trees, today more than ever, has to remind us that God is the one who creates and recreates. The Easter season encourages us to remember that each of us has been reborn to a new life through baptism. Today's Gospel reminds us that Jesus remains in us and not only that but also the Holy Spirit is with us. Therefore, today is the time to rejoice intensely because God, the Creator, is manifested not only in the coloring of the flowers but in each one of us. The Risen Lord is manifested in everyone who needs the strength of his Spirit to live in hope. For this reason, with the readings of this day and anticipating the feast of Pentecost, let us ask God with the whole Church: "Risen Jesus, give us your Holy Spirit."

As the Easter period progresses and like the first community of believers, we are called to become aware of the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Last week we saw that Philip was chosen for the mission of preaching and serving the poor together with the apostles; this week we see him traveling from Jerusalem, where Christians were persecuted, to Samaria. Felipe carries the joy that a faithful life produces. He is witness to the union of Jews and Samaritans in the faith of Jesus Christ. Along with this new witness to the Gospel, the figures of Peter and John also appear as a testimony to the solidarity between the group of 12 and the new disciples. In some way the unity of the community is a reflection of the uniqueness of God whose presence is manifested in each of the baptized.

Jesus promises his disciples that he will not leave them alone in today's Gospel. He will send another *Advocate* to be with them always. The original word "*paralyte*" can be translated not only as an intercessor but as the lawyer who is willing to defend all those who are in danger and face great tribulation. So today more than ever we need to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. It is the same Spirit that defends us both from our own fears and from the fears that external situations provoke and that we are unable to control. Let us not be sorry to cry out to the Spirit of Life that the Risen Jesus gives us to guide us in the moment of anguish and need.

As believers we do not hesitate to affirm that Jesus is the first intercessor that God the Father sent us for our salvation. We heard in the Gospel last week that Jesus was telling his disciples that he was going up to heaven to prepare a place for them. This Sunday Jesus tells each of his disciples that this place is closer than they think. "On that day you will understand that I am in the Father and that I am in you and you in me" (John 14:20). Jesus has chosen us as his dwelling place where he wants to remain. Jesus is with us and we are able to recognize him in our brothers and sisters.

Let us enjoy and be happy.

Fr. Hernán, S.J.

Weekly Remembrances

**Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle
Memorial Candle**



~ For the safety & well being of
the People of our Parish Community
~ † For all the lives lost to
~ the COVID-19 Virus

**"And I will ask the
Father, and He will
give you another
advocate to help
you and be with
you forever."**

John 14:16



SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

May 17: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20
1 Peter 3:15-18

May 24: The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 1:17-23



KEEP CONNECTED WITH YOUR PARISH THROUGH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
Fr. Hernán and Fr. Marc and Fr Luis Mario are offering virtual Masses and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament through our Facebook page.

Connect and follow us to see these transmissions in your homes. Search "olmcsi" and send a friend request.
Masses on Sundays; 10:00 am (English); 11:30 am (Spanish)
Masses from Monday to Friday; 12:00 pm (Spanish); Thursdays 11am (English)
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at 7:00 pm (Spanish)

LIVE-STREAMING MASS & PARISH SUPPORT - We want to thank you for all your concern and prayers for one another during this difficult time of the Coronavirus. The cancellation of public masses until further notice has been most challenging for all of us and I encourage everyone to join in spiritual communion with the faithful through televised masses on different cable stations and live streaming from our Facebook page (schedule listed above) and the live streaming site at St. Patrick's Cathedral at this link <https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>. Needless to say, the parish will be facing financial setbacks in the days ahead. Your weekly contributions are essential for the good of the parish. Your sacrificial giving is of great importance with meeting the cost of maintaining our parish. **Please Support Our Parish:** As we are all forced to make unprecedented adjustments to address the coronavirus crisis. Our church remains open for critical/essential needs but can only do so with your support. You may log onto the parish website to view the bulletin, see any new developments, review any CCD information and to register for OnLine Giving at www.olmcsi.org. From my heart, thank you for everything you do for us at OLMC-SB-SMA Parish. May Jesus bless and protect our whole parish, and all our relatives and friends.

REGISTER for ONLINE GIVING - WeShare allows parishes to receive online gifts and give their parishioners a safe and easy way to do so. You are able to set up recurring donations and manage your online giving accounts. If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Customer service number 1-800-950-9952 or weshare@4lpi.com.

- Visit our church website and click Give Online. (Parish Website: olmcsi.org)
- Select the collection or event of your choice.
- Setup your donation or payment.
- If you wish you may choose Click Recurring Donation, then enter your donation amount and frequency.

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

THANK YOU! We are short for words to thank you enough for your good heart. We pray for you earnestly from the bottom of our heart that you and your family be blessed in every way with good health, peace and prosperity. May the good Lord keep us all in the palm of His hands and make His face shine upon us.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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 in 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.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION - It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF STATEN ISLAND - Catholic Charities of Staten Island provides help through Food Pantries, Senior Centers, and Case Management Services for eviction prevention & housing stabilization, utility stabilization, emergency food resources, and public benefits. For more information, please call 718-447-6330 x 2892. For help with Drug or Alcohol Addiction, please contact Carl's Recovery Center at 718-412-1851 (option 1).

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of traveling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands properly. And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.