



## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another." - Jn 15:16-17

Illustration from the Laboratory for Mass, 2007, 2008, 1993 CCC

1993

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**  
**235 North Front St. New Bedford, MA 02746**

## **MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**

### **Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>—Sixth Sunday of Easter**

4:00 p.m. +Helena Bodzioch  
Req. Daughter, Ann

### **Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>—Sixth Sunday of Easter**

10:00 a.m. +Dominik Ficek  
Req. Grazyna & Peter Barcz

For all who have been commended to  
our Mother's Day Novena of Masses

### **Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>—Easter Weekday**

7:30 a.m. For all who have been commended to  
our Mother's Day Novena of Masses

### **Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>—Easter Weekday**

7:30 a.m. For all who have been commended to  
our Mother's Day Novena of Masses

### **Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>—Easter Weekday**

7:30 a.m. For all who have been commended to  
our Mother's Day Novena of Masses

### **Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>—Ascension of our Lord**

5:30 p.m. For all who have been commended to  
our Mother's Day Novena of Masses



### **Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>—Ascension of our Lord**

7:30 a.m. For all who have been commended to  
our Mother's Day Novena of Masses

### **Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>—St. Matthias**

7:30 a.m. For all who have been commended to  
our Mother's Day Novena of Masses

### **Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>—Easter Weekday**

7:30 a.m. For all who have been commended to  
our Novena of Mother's Day Masses

### **Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>—Seventh Sunday of Easter**

4:00 p.m. For all who have been commended to  
our Novena of Mother's Day Masses

Sisters and Brothers of Our Parish Family,

George Washington once said, *"All I am, I owe to my Mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her."* Years later, Abraham Lincoln spoke similar words when he said, *"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother."* I pray that everyone who is reading this can echo these sentiments.

What relationship can ever replace a Mother's love? The guidance and influence that flow from a Mother's love for her children are invaluable. Thus, motherhood is among the highest of all vocations.

While today's media provide various role models of motherhood, they are often unrealistic and even inappropriate. So where might today's Mothers find a real model of motherhood?

Every Mother who wishes to be true to her calling needs only to look to the woman who became the greatest Mother of all, the one whom God called to be the Mother of His Son. Blessed Mother, in obedience to God's will, lived out her vocation every day of her life. She is the true model of motherhood.

On this beautiful day dedicated to our Mothers, it is also important for us to reflect on the reality that God is Love. The Holy Spirit has given us, through the Sacrament of Baptism, the gift of love. Through a life lived in a Christ-centered way, we encounter the Holy Spirit, who gives us the ability and the power to love more each day.

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will fill the hearts of all mothers and enable each one to live out her sacred calling to motherhood with an ever-deeper and generous love.

A Blessed Mother's Day!

Father Conrad

**ON MOTHER'S DAY**, may our dear Lord bless you, dear Mothers, and may our Blessed Mother always be your inspiration and guide. May the happiness, blessings, and love you have given to your family be returned to you in overflowing measure.



**OUR MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA OF MASSES** will be celebrated each day this week for all those special Mothers who have been commended to the graces and blessings of these Masses.

Unless legitimately unable, it is appropriate that everyone who submitted names be present at these Masses to actually **pray for** your Mother.

**CHOOSE LIFE!...** This observation is especially relevant on Mother's Day: "Children, and those who are dependent due to disability or age, offer us the ability to grow in patience, kindness, and love. They teach us that life is a shared gift." Who knows this better than a Mother?

**A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION—Our Lord's Ascension into Heaven—**will be celebrated this Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Our Holy Day Masses** will be celebrated Wednesday afternoon at 5:30 and Thursday morning at 7:30.

**OUR FRIEND, MAYSOON KHAIR**, will be with us again next weekend with a wonderful array of beautiful handcrafted religious items from the Holy Land. These items will be available for your shopping pleasure before and after Mass.

All purchases will help provide Christian education for special-needs children in Bethlehem and support for the more than 100 Christian families in that Moslem-dominated city, who depend on the sale of their crafts to support their families.

**THE 80<sup>TH</sup> CATHOLIC APPEAL** presents once again the opportunity for us to participate in the diocese's ministries to provide shelter for the homeless, comfort for the sick and the sorrowing, education in the Faith, campus ministry, etc., etc.

*"Time to Gather; Time to Heal; Time to Love"* enables us to witness from our homes to the tens of thousands who benefit from the many apostolates serving the needs of so many throughout our Diocese.

We are all invited to make our gift or pledge today by mailing it to the Catholic Appeal (if you've misplaced your envelope, more are available in the church vestibule) or online at [givefrdiocese.org/2021](http://givefrdiocese.org/2021)

**Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48**

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being."

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?" He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 98**

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.  
or R. Alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done wondrous deeds;  
his right hand has won victory for him,  
his holy arm. R.

The LORD has made his salvation known:  
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.  
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness  
toward the house of Israel. R.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation by our God.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;  
break into song; sing praise. R.

**1 John 4:7-10**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,  
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia.

**John 15:9-17**

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."



May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

1 Jn 4:7–10

Jn 15:9–17

## God's Call

**T**he story about Cornelius shows that God's call is not restricted by our likes and dislikes. Cornelius was a Roman, a citizen of the nation that was occupying Israel. More than that, he served in a military that exercised harsh control over the inhabitants of the land. A man like this would not have been loved by the Jews of the day. However, Cornelius recognized Peter as a representative of God, and his fundamental faith opened him to the gift of the Holy Spirit. All those who were listening to Peter's words were then baptized. They were then one with the community of believers.

Faith, baptism, and incorporation into the community of believers are offered to Jew and Roman alike. They are offered today to those who are members of our own religious, racial, or ethnic groups and those who are not; those who are socially or politically vulnerable, and those with power. The issue is not who does God favor, but who favors God.

The Gospel story reinforces this point. It insists that God's love for us is the foundation of everything. We are told: "Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). God's love is all-inclusive. So should our love be all-inclusive. If God's love is for all, it follows that we are all favored by God—all chosen and cared for by him. This includes even those who might be our political adversaries, or who might exercise exacting authority over us, or who cherish different religious ideas. Imitating God's love requires that we will goodness to others—even those with whom we disagree or who have caused us harm.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- \* Pray that you might be able to accept the goodness of people with whom you disagree socially, politically, even religiously.
- \* You belong to a believing community. Think of how this has strengthened your faith.



[Jesus said,]  
"Love one another  
as I love you.  
No one has greater  
love than this,  
to lay down  
one's life for  
one's friends."

JOHN 15:12–13

AEROGONDOZ/SHUTTERSTOCK

# Dear Padre,

## How does a priest keep the confession of a grievous sin by someone he knows from affecting their personal relationship?

**O**ne of a priest's most sacred responsibilities is the confidentiality of the confessional. This confidentiality encompasses everyone—even the priest and penitent outside the confessional. A priest is not allowed to discuss the confessed sin with the person outside the confessional unless permission is granted for further counseling.

The confessor is also forbidden to use any knowledge gained through the sacrament of reconciliation to restrict the penitent. For instance, if a pastor's bookkeeper confessed he was embezzling money, the pastor could not use the knowledge acquired in the confessional to fire the person.

Priests generally try to forget the specific sins parishioners confess to us, and it really isn't that difficult. Contrary to what many think, a parishioner's sins do not rush into my mind when I speak to him or her.

We have all sinned, done things we are ashamed of, things we wouldn't want anyone to know about, things we wouldn't want others to define us by. This knowledge and the grace of the sacrament help us look past the mistakes of others and recognize Christ within them.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/SEAN GALLAGHER, THE CRITERION

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Reconciliation itself is a benefit that the wisdom of the Church has always safeguarded with all her moral and legal might, with the sacramental seal....It is indispensable for the sanctity of the sacrament and for the freedom of conscience of the penitent...that the sacramental conversation will remain within the secrecy of the confessional.*

ADDRESS TO APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, MARCH 29, 2019



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## Calendar

### Monday

MAY 10

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:11-15

Jn 15:26-16:4a

### Tuesday

MAY 11

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:22-34

Jn 16:5-11

### Wednesday

MAY 12

Easter Weekday

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1

Jn 16:12-15

### Thursday

MAY 13

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:1-8

Jn 16:16-20

### Friday

MAY 14

St. Matthias, Apostle

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Jn 15:9-17

### Saturday

MAY 15

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:23-28

Jn 16:23b-28

### Sunday

MAY 16

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Eph 1:17-23

or Eph 4:1-13

or 4:1-7, 11-13

Mk 16:15-20