



ST. AGATHA – ST. JAMES PARISH

“Forming a community of missionary disciples.”

April 28th, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear friends!

“Remain in me, as I remain in you.” The Lord Jesus repeats this again and again throughout today’s Gospel. The Lord is expressing how intimately close He wants to be with us. He wants to be in complete communion with us, to abide with us in every moment of our lives. Jesus is inviting us into a personal relationship with Him in every time and every place so that He can share His own blessed life with us.

We tend to forget how vital this relationship is. We get distracted by the daily concerns and anxieties of life like exams, bills, or future plans. Believing we can accomplish it all ourselves, we become self-reliant forgetting the Truth that Jesus proclaims to us today: “Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing”. Do we trust the Lord’s love for us—that He is willing our ultimate good—so that we can “bear much fruit”? Do we humbly recognize our own littleness and inability to do anything without the loving grace of God?

O how freeing this is! For us to attain that which we seek we need only to abide with Our Lord Jesus. We do not have to achieve certain things or be someone we’re not to attain the eternal joy, peace, and happiness we seek. We simply need to remain in a deep, intimate relationship with Our Lord and allow Him to remain with us on the throne of our hearts, humbly recognizing our deep need and dependence on Him. We follow Christ as disciples and abide with Him. When we abide with Him, we receive a spirit of adoption revealing our deepest identity as His beloved child. Only then can we approach Our Father as a child and “ask for whatever [we] want and it will be done for [us]”, thus glorifying Him and bearing much fruit.

God Bless,
Claudio Hewgley

WORSHIP AID

Entrance: O Christ the Great Foundation — 646

1. O Christ the great foundation On which your people stand
To preach your true salvation In ev'ry age and land:
Pour out your Holy Spirit To make us strong and pure,
To keep the faith unbroken As long as worlds endure.
2. Baptized in one confession, One church in all the earth,
We bear our Lord's impression, The sign of second birth:
One holy people gathered In love beyond our own,
By grace we were invited, By grace we make you known.
3. Where tyrants' hold is tightened, Where strong devour the weak,
Where innocents are frightened The righteous fear to speak,
There let your church awaking Attack the pow'rs of sin And, all their ramparts breaking,
With you the victory win.

Text: Timothy T'ingfang Lew, 1891-1947, alt., ♠ Christian Conference of Asia

Reading Acts 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

Refrain: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.
The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your hearts live forever!"
R. Alleluia.
2. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD all the families of the nations shall bow down before him. **R. Alleluia.**
3. To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust. **R. Alleluia.**
4. And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him. Let the coming generation be told of the LORD that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has shown. **R. Alleluia.**

Reading II | 1 Jn 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the

truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

Gospel Verse

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Nicene Creed:

See Hymnal

Preparation Altar: On the Journey to Emmaus — 445

1. On the journey to Emmaus with our hearts cold as stone - The One who would save us had left us alone. Then a stranger walks with us and, to our surprise, He opens our stories and he opens our eyes.
2. And our hearts burned within us as we talked on the way, How all that was promised was ours on that day. So we begged him, "Stay with us and grant us your word." We welcomed the stranger and we welcomed the Lord.
3. And that evening at the table as he blessed and broke bread, We saw it was Jesus aris'n from the dead; Though he vanished before us we knew he was near - The life in our dying and the hope in our fear.
4. On our journey to Emmaus, in our stories and feast, With Jesus we claim that the greatest is least: And his words burn within us— let none be ignored— Who welcomes the stranger shall welcome the Lord.

Text: Luke 24:13-35; Martyr Haugen, b.1950 Tune: COLUMCILLE, Irregular; Gaelic, arr. by Martyr Haugen, b.1950 © 1995, GIA Publications, Inc.

Note for Communion: All those who are properly prepared may come forward to receive Communion and should consume it in the sight of the minister. If you are unsure or non-Catholic, we encourage you to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymn: Laudate Dominum — 528

Laudate Dominum, Laudate
 Dominum Omnes Gentes, Alleluia.

Text: Psalm 117, Praise the Lord, all you peoples; TaizÉ Community, 1980, © 1980, Les Presses de TaizÉ, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls."

Recessional Song: We will serve the Lord — 652

1. Wealth can be an idol built of gleaming gold, bringing dreams of paradise, futures bought and sold. Some will choose to gather it, all that they can hoard, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord! As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord, we will serve the Lord, we will serve the Lord!
2. Pleasure is a siren, promising the flesh brief relief from emptiness, a hiding place from death. Some will choose to chase it, until it leaves them bored, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord! As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord, we will serve the Lord, we will serve the Lord!

Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952, ♪ 1986, North American Liturgy Resources. Published by OCP Publications.

Stewardship Corner

Collection	2024/4/21	2023/4/16
Total Collection	\$ 1,956	\$ 2,364
Cash / Envelopes	\$ 830	\$ 1,304
Online Giving	\$ 1,126	\$1,060

VENMO: @saints-aj or scan the QR code.
 "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:1



Mass

SUN | 9:00am, 11:30am 5:30pm

MON-FRI | 12:05PM

WED-FRI | 5:30PM

TUE | 6:30PM

SAT Vigil Mass: 1st: Filipino, 7pm; **2nd:** Spanish, 5:30pm; **3rd:** Korean, 5:30pm; **4th:** Intercultural, 5:30pm

Confessions are available 30 minutes before each Sunday Mass or by appointment

Mass Announcements

1. **Free Spiritual Therapy** is being offered at the Parish & Newman Center every Wednesday. You can sign up for a 30-minute session between 1-5pm at www.thespiritualmft.com.
2. Our **Baccalaureate Mass** for seniors & graduates will be held on Saturday May 18th at 5:30pm for Penn & Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30pm for Drexel. Check out the QR codes in the bulletin or our emails to sign up!



3. The **Newman Semi-Formal** will be held this Friday, May 3rd at the Philo in Center City. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door. Penn and Drexel students can meet at the Newman Center at 6:15pm for photos and group departures.



Ongoing Groups

- **Parish Rosary Group** | Wed, 6PM | Patrick Travers (ptravers@saintsaj.org)
- **Hiking Group** | Saturday | Patrick Travers (ptravers@saintsaj.org)
- **Nazareth Group for Married Couples** | Last Thursday of the month, 7PM & **Nazareth Parenting group**: 2nd or 3rd Saturday of the month, childcare provided | Christina Urday (ccamarata97@gmail.com)
- **Young Adult / Graduate Students Group** | Wednesday, 6:30PM Mica Udani (aliveyoungadults@saintsaj.org)
- **Undergraduate Bible Study** | Penn: Tim Broderick (timothy.broderick@focus.org) Drexel: Rebecca Richards (rebecca.richards@focus.org)
- **Athlete Ministry** | Penn: Molly Bent (mbent@saintsaj.org) | Drexel: Katie Creamer (katherine.creamer@focus.org)
- **Latino Group** | Evelyn Nazario (evelyn.nazario@focus.org)
- **Communion for Homebound (Sundays)** | Patrick Travers (ptravers@saintsaj.org)
- **Mass Readings Reflection Group** | Carmen Sanchez (csanchez@saintsaj.org) | Sunday's 10:15am

Contact Info

For more information about office hours or staff visit: www.saintsaj.org or call (267) 787-5000

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- Alan El Haj, **Adult Ministry** | (alanscv@saintsaj.org)
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