

Parish News...

This week we have 10 students who will be confirmed in the Holy Spirit this Thursday May 19th. Keep them in your prayers this week so they may be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



The St. Pio Prayer Group Meeting is on the first Friday of each month. All are welcome Call Gazak 315 507 2735 for questions.



Eucharist Devotion: An hour of Eucharist Devotion every Thursday after 12:10am. Prayers, Litany, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and time for private prayer

As a reminder, please TURN OFF all cell phones while attending Mass or leave in your vehicles.

Drive thru-Chicken BBQ @ Pulaski Park -New York Mills May 15th from Noon to sold out -Cost \$12.00



CONFIRMATION STUDENTS 10th Grade: Direct Prep class is this Sunday May 15th @ 12:15pm Mas Required attendance for Confirmation.

Confirmation Practice is this Wednesday @ 5pm. Students and sponsors are required to attend Please bring a dish to pass.

While classes are over till September, families should continue to attend Masses to strengthen your children's faith and understand what their faith is in the Eucharist.

Registration 2022-2023. It is important to remember that the Sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation is a 2-year required program. Those making First Communion are to attend 1st and 2nd grade and Confirmation is 9th & 10th grade. If anyone has any questions, please reach out to me directly.

If any family wishes to be removed from the weekly mailing, please email me directly

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday @ 3:15 pm prior to Mass and the 1st Thursday of the month after the 12:10 Mass

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4pm

Sunday 7:30 AM, 8:30AM, 10AM Polish Mass and 11am

Let's remember that as Catholics, it is important to attend Sunday Mass. At Mass we are able to stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship.



5th Sunday of Easter

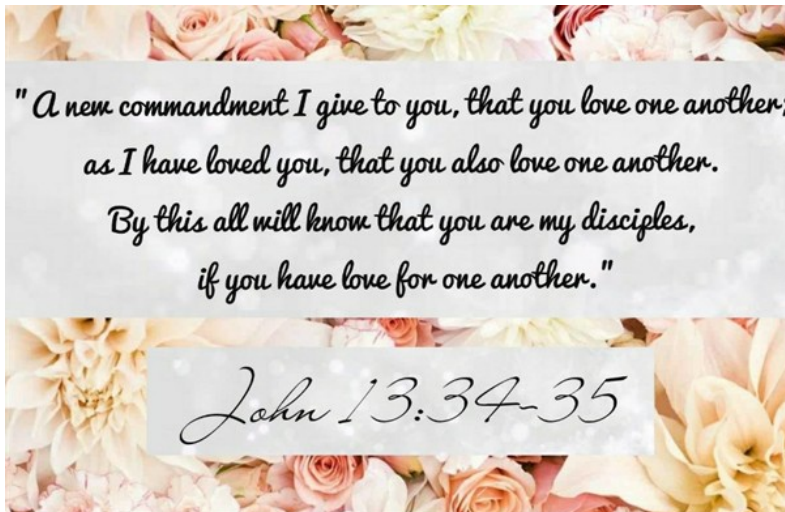
Sunday Readings

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

Responsorial Psalm: 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13

Second Reading: Rev 21:1-5a

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35



This week's reflection starts with opening prayer, reflection and questions about this week's Gospel. How does this Gospel Reading Impact your Catholic Faith? It may be long but I found it powerful

. Opening Prayer

Lord, help me to understand what it means to love, to understand that love is not a sentimental feeling but an action. Give me the grace to spend time with you and your disciples in this post-resurrection season learning how you loved them, and how in turn, they loved others after you were gone. Give me the generosity of spirit to think of others beside myself and to show them the compassion Jesus showed Peter, John and the rest of humanity.

Companions for the Journey

From "Living Space", a service of the Irish Jesuits:

In the Gospel Jesus speaks of the foundation and heart of his teaching and message. These are his parting words to his disciples before he goes to his passion and death. What is this message? Is it to be faithful in keeping the Ten Commandments and leading a moral life? Not exactly. Does he warn us to be sure to be in church every Sunday and to go to confession regularly? Not

really. Does he tell us to use all our energies in loving God? Surprisingly, perhaps, no!

What he does tell us is to love other people—and to love them as he has loved us. This, he says, is a “new” commandment. The Hebrew Testament told us to love God with our whole heart and soul and so on; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus has added a new element in telling us that the true test of discipleship is to love other people in the same way that he has loved us. And we might remember that these words lead the way to the “greatest possible love” that a person can show, that is, by letting go of one’s very life for others. This Jesus will very dramatically portray the terrible suffering and degradation which he will submit to out of love for us, out of love for ME.

The only valid test: To incorporate that level of love in my life will surely call for a new way of thinking, of seeing, of behaving and of interacting with other people. And it will be the test, the only valid test, of whether I truly love God as well. Is this really the way, is this the frame of mind in which I live my normal day? Or rather, let me say, is this the way we—who dare to call ourselves Christians—live our normal days?

For it is clear that the disciple of Christ is not primarily an individual person but an inter-person. I am defined as a disciple not by how I individually behave, by my personal moral life, but by how I interact with other people. The solitary Christian is a contradiction in terms because the Christian is only to be measured by the way he/she loves and that love, by definition, involves other people. I am my relationship.

What is love?: The word “love”, of course, can lead to misunderstandings. The word is used by us mainly in contexts which imply deep affection, emotional attraction and a good feeling when the beloved is around or even just thought of. That is not quite the meaning of the word in this context. The word that is used by John in this passage is *agape* (pronounced ‘aga-pay’ (Greek: ἀγάπη)). This is not, strictly speaking, love in the mutual or romantic sense. Rather, it implies a reaching out to others in a caring attitude for their wellbeing, irrespective of whether there will be a similar response by the other.

It is the compassion that Jesus shows for the sinner and the evil person. It would be difficult for me to love a Hitler, Stalin, a serial rapist killer or child abuser in the first sense. It would have no meaning and Jesus does not expect me to create such an artificial attitude.

Loving enemies: On the other hand, in terms of deep caring for the good of another, I can certainly “love” Hitler, Stalin, the murdering rapist or any other person who causes me difficulties, who I believe has hurt me or failed me or who simply behaves in a way which I cannot accept as good. This is what makes it possible for me to “love” my “enemies” and to pray for them and to wish God’s blessings on them so that they may change their ways (not to suit me but for their own wellbeing and bring them back into harmony with God’s way). It is why the true Christian disciple does not in fact have enemies. This is what Jesus is doing in praying for forgiveness for those who were nailing him to the cross. He loves them then not as close friends obviously, but as people who truly needed enlightenment about what they were doing not just to him but to themselves. Jesus cared, he had a deep sense of agape at that moment. In the First Reading, from the Acts, we see another form of agape on the part of two early missionaries, Paul and Barnabas. They went through all kinds of hardships and misunderstandings so that the message and vision of Jesus might be communicated to as many people as they could reach. And to those who were already Christians they gave support and encouragement to persevere in their Christian convictions. In this sense, then, can people say of me that I am a truly loving, caring and forgiving person? A redeeming person, a person who makes hurt people whole again? It is all that Jesus, on the threshold of his suffering and death, asks of me and nothing else. It is not impossible, it is not hopelessly idealistic, it does not require massive willpower and self-control. What it does require is a change of attitude, of the way I see the world, others, myself. It is through this constant love-centered interaction among each other that the “new earth, the new heaven and the new Jerusalem” can begin to come into existence. It is in our hands. And we have a perfect example in Jesus our Lord. As disciples of Jesus, imbued with his message of agape, loving in the way that he loved us, we are called to do the same—to give support to our fellow disciples and to share our faith and our love with as many people as possible.

I might reflect today on the ways I personally fail to be a loving, caring, compassionate and understanding person. Who are the people I really love and care for? Who are the people I cannot bring myself to love and care for—and why? Who are the people I never even think of loving and caring for—and why? Do I only love the people of my own race, my own class, my own religion? Do I care for anybody outside the circle of my family and immediate friends? Do I love and care for my family members? Whom do I regard as my friends and why? Do I love and care in any tangible way for people who need my care—however indirectly—even though I do not know them and they can give me nothing in return, e.g. the poor, the addicted, the exploited and marginalized in my own and other societies? Finally, do I really love myself? A great deal of our difficulty in extending love and especially forgiveness to others is our own insecurity, the fragility of our egos, which can be so easily hurt. Only those persons who are fully convinced that they are themselves lovable can reach out comfortably and unconditionally to love others.

Reflection Questions

- Have you ever been in a life situation (marriage, having a child, divorce, serious illness, losing someone you love, graduating from school, moving to a different location far away etc.) that made you feel as though you were leaving one phase of your life and entering another?
Was it difficult?
Were you sad about leaving some folks you loved behind? Did you stay close to them anyway?
- Has anyone you loved moved on to a new situation which took him or her away from you physically or emotionally? Did you feel sad, lonely, abandoned?
How did you manage to stay close? Was the effort one sided? How does that work?

- How do you think Jesus felt when Judas left the group in order to betray Jesus? What is the “darkness” that Jesus might have experienced, knowing that He had “lost” Judas? How could he continue to love Judas?
- Have I ever felt I had to be rich or beautiful or accomplished in order to be recognized or loved?
- Have you ever had anyone in your life whom it was difficult to love? Have you ever been difficult to love at times in your life?
- How does it feel to contemplate that God makes a dwelling with the human race (Revelation reading)?
- How do you describe “love”? Can you love someone you don’t actually like or admire? What do you think is the difference between love and affection? Is your idea of love a feeling that is reciprocated? How do you deal with having your attempts at love rejected by someone?
- We witness the love of Jesus by who we are, by what we do with our lives and how we treat others. In what ways is my life a witness to the love Jesus talks about?
In what ways can I improve?
- Have you ever had to employ tough love with a friend or relative?
- Someone said that love without justice is sentimentality. Do you agree or disagree?
- Jesus (Luke 8) said: “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?” Father Bausch said love is not repaid, is passed on. Can you think of an instance where you passed on to another love that was freely extended to you?
- When is love tough?

- Love in community has its own set of challenges: Choosing the collective good over individual good Loving those you don't like Forgiving those who hurt you or others Being an active witness of this community love ("See how they love one another") Actually doing justice Which of these do I find the most difficult to live out?

A Meditation in the Franciscan Style/Action:

Has anyone in my life been a mirror of God's love for me? Have I ever told that person how much his or her unconditional love means to me? Have I ever withheld love from someone who clearly wanted my love? What was the reason—I disapproved of his actions, or her personality irritated me or I simply saw that it gave me power over another? What do I do now?

A Meditation in the Ignatian Style/Imagination:

Imagine that you are one of the disciples, and it is becoming clear that Jesus will not be with you for very much longer. How do you feel about having him go out of your life at this point? What are the things you want to say to him? What do you want to ask him? Are you comforted by the word

Literary Reflection:

Read the Following poem by Thomas Centolella. What does it say to you about Jesus' exhortation to love one another?

"In The Evening We Shall Be Examined On Love"

-St. John of the Cross

And it won't be multiple choice,
 though some of us would prefer it that way.
 Neither will it be essay, which tempts us to run on
 when we should be sticking to the point, if not together.
 In the evening there shall be implications
 our fear will turn to complications. No cheating,
 we'll be told and we'll try to figure the cost of being true
 to ourselves. In the evening when the sky has turned
 that certain blue, blue of exam books, blue of no more
 daily evasions, we shall climb the hill as the light empties

and park our tired bodies on a bench above the city
and try to fill in the blanks. And we won't be tested
like defendants on trial, cross-examined
till one of us breaks down, guilty as charged. No,
in the evening, after the day has refused to testify,
we shall be examined on love like students
who don't even recall signing up for the course
and now must take their orals, forced to speak for once
from the heart and not off the top of their heads.
And when the evening is over and it's late,
the student body asleep, even the great teachers
retired for the night, we shall stay up
and run back over the questions, each in our own way:
what's true, what's false, what unknown quantity
will balance the equation, what it would mean years from now
to look back and know
We did not fail.

(from Lights & Mysteries)

Closing Prayer

Lord, there are so many in this world who need the kind of love Jesus showed his disciples: the lonely, the ill, the poor, the depressed, those suffering from war and violence in their lives. Help me to move from sentimental pity to actually putting my feelings into action, Open my eyes to those in my life who are in need of my generous, and maybe even sacrificial, love. Help me to reach out to those outside my own circle of friends and family to address the vast needs of a world broken by hate and greed. Help me to **be** your love in my world.



With the Faith Formation Program ended for 2021-2022, here is a great way to continue your children's faith based upon the Gospel reading of the week. Each week there will be a download activity for the families.

Theme: Love one another as Jesus loved you.

Scripture

John 13:31-35

Get Ready: Gather props for roles that kids will be able to identify, such as an artist, a firefighter, a fisherman, a musician, and a teacher. If you don't have a partition, hang a bed sheet that you can walk behind to switch roles.

Do This:

SAY: I've prepared a fun game for us to play today. It's a guessing game. Here's how we play. I'll put on a costume and pretend to have a specific role or job, and then you'll have to guess who I am. Ready?

Choose a role and then perform actions the person might perform if they were in that role. Take props from behind the partition to add to your persona until the kids guess who you are.

Once the kids have guessed correctly, ask them how they knew who you were.

Let kids take turns repeating the same process with new roles, while the other children guess who they are. Allow them to use the props for other roles they think of, as well.

This game makes me think of our Bible passage for today. Jesus was teaching His friends, the disciples. He was getting ready to go to heaven and He wanted them to be ready, too. He told them, "You can't go where I'm going. But when I leave, I want you to love others as I have loved you. Then they'll know you're My disciples."

Like in our game, you knew I was a [remind children of a role you played] because I [remind children of the actions you did and what you looked like].

Jesus says when we love others like He loved others, they'll know we're His friends. Would you like people to know you're Jesus' friend? We'll think more about that today.

PRAY: God, we want others to know we're Jesus' friends. Help us to love others like Jesus loved. In Jesus' name, amen.

As we continue the Easter Season, this week's Prayer for us to have courage to live as Jesus did and follow Him

Jesus, Way of Life,
give us courage
to live as you lived,
to walk in your way,
and to trust
that following you
will indeed lead to life,
now and forever.
Amen.





Formation for Ministry/Deacon Formation Information Sessions. Is God calling you to learn more about your faith and serve the church? Come and see how Formation for Ministry and Deacon Formation can help you answer that call.; June 5, St. Anthony/St. Agnes, Utica; Sessions are 1:00-3:30.

Register at bit.ly/2022InfoSessions or formationforministrysyr.org or call 315-470-1491.

From Christ the King Retreat House:
Join us for a special week-long retreat with Jim Krisher.

DRAWING HEAVILY ON SCRIPTURE AND THE INSIGHTS OF SAINTS LIKE IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA AND JOHN OF THE CROSS, AS WELL AS MORE RECENT HOLY MEN AND WOMEN LIKE THOMAS MERTON AND EVELYN UNDERHILL. JIM WILL TALK ABOUT HOW WE MIGHT SHARPEN OUR AWARENESS OF THE APPROACHES OF GOD IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES. HOW DO WE DEVELOP SUCH A CONTEMPLATIVE STANCE, SUCH AN OPENNESS TO DIVINE LOVE? RETREAT BEGINS ON SUN. JULY 17 AND CONCLUDES ON FRIDAY, JULY 22. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CTKRETREAT.COM. SEE FLYER BELOW FOR MORE INFO.

Have a Blessed and Safe Week.

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