

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



As You Love Us

Gracious God,
you make all things new.
You dwell with us,
promising to bring us to a place
of peace, comfort, and joy—
to everlasting life!
Help us
to proclaim this Good News,
to strengthen the spirits of those
around us,
and to encourage them to persevere
in faith.
Grant us the wisdom, courage,
and perseverance
to love one another
as you love us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Behold, I Make All Things New



Today's readings: Acts 14:21–27; Psalm 145:8–9, 10–11, 12–13; Revelation 21:1–5a; John 13:31–33a, 34–35. Jesus tells us that we will be known as his disciples by the way we love others. Our daily acts of service bring the presence of God to those around us. What a gift and a challenge to accept! This Sunday, spend time reflecting on those who have manifested God's love to you. Who in your life has shown you God's compassionate love? What have you learned from them? Say a prayer in gratitude for the ways they have glorified God. Make it a point to reach out to thank them.

In today's second reading from the Book of Revelation, we hear that "God's dwelling is with the human race."

Though we know this, it can be easy to miss the many ways God is present to us in our day-to-day lives, particularly as we experience hardships. In those difficult moments, we can take comfort knowing that God promises to wipe every tear from our eyes. God is with us as we experience death, mourning, wailing, and pain. God promises us everlasting life. How can you call to mind God dwelling among us when you are struggling? We are called to share the promise of everlasting life with those around us. This week, how can you glorify God and lovingly open the door of faith to others?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 19 Glory to God

After Paul heals the crippled man at Lystra, the crowds mistake Paul and Barnabas for gods. Paul and Barnabas exclaim that they are, in fact, not gods, but humans proclaiming the Good News: that they “should turn from these idols to the living God.” Sometimes we can mistake God’s work in our lives for something that is not God; we may idolize ourselves, someone in our community, or something else entirely when we should be recognizing God’s goodness. Spend time in prayer reflecting on the ways God has bestowed goodness on you. *Today’s readings: Acts 14:5–18; Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 15–16; John 14:21–26.*

Tuesday, May 20 St. Bernardine of Siena

St. Bernardine, a Franciscan priest, was known for his exceptional preaching. He traveled on foot, preaching from town to town. Bernardine is credited for creating on a blazing sun the symbol that is synonymous with the Holy Name of Jesus: IHS (the first three letters of Jesus’ name in Greek). He died while traveling on foot to preach. *Today’s readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

Wednesday, May 21 St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions

St. Christopher Magallanes and the twenty-five martyrs we honor today lived under an extremely anti-Catholic government in Mexico. Christopher Magallanes organized catechetical centers, schools, and orphanages in rural areas. The martyrs died serving as a part of the Cristero movement, dedicated to spreading the Good News even while it was a crime to be baptized or celebrate the Mass. Today, pray in gratitude for the ability to practice your faith. *Today’s readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

Thursday, May 22 St. Rita of Cascia

From a young age, St. Rita desired to become a nun. Her parents, however, arranged for her marriage to a man who proved to be abusive and unfaithful to her. After eighteen years of marriage, St. Rita’s husband died in a brawl. Shortly after, her two sons also died. While Rita tried to join the Augustinian nuns, she was rejected three times because she was a widow. Eventually, the Augustinians welcomed her. She became known for her prayerfulness, care for sick nuns, and austerity. St. Rita of Cascia is the patron saint of difficult situations, mainly in the context of marriage. Today, join her in prayer by saying a prayer uplifting married couples to God in your community. *Today’s readings: Acts 15:7–21; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2–b3, 10; John 15:9–11.*

Friday, May 23 Love One Another

Jesus commands us to love one another as he has loved us. It is because we have been chosen and loved by God that we are called to love others (and have the strength to do so). Resolve to love those around you by performing acts of service. Choose one person to serve each day in the coming week. What act(s) of service might show your love for them? How can you share Christ’s love with them? *Today’s readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10 and 12; John 15:12–17.*

Saturday, May 24 Chosen

Jesus says that he has chosen us, we were created to follow him! Following Jesus will not always be easy: today we are reminded that “the world . . . hated [Jesus] first.” If we are persecuted or disliked for spreading the Good News, we must remember that Jesus is with us. Today, say a prayer in gratitude for Jesus’ companionship and guidance. Reflect on the ways he has been with you as you have discerned your role as his disciple. *Today’s readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*