



[Jesus said,] "This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you."

JOHN 15:12



We're Like Trees

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A while back I decided to plant two saplings that were about ten feet tall along the property line of the parish home where I lived. Some time after I planted them, I noticed that one was leaning in one direction and the other a bit in the opposite direction. *Strange*, I thought, *for it seemed that when I planted them they were staked with rope and stood straight.* So I bought some six-foot fence posts and tied the trees to them, thinking that as they grew they would straighten themselves. Not so. After three years the trees seemed to insist on growing their own way, one leaning into the wind and the other a bit twisted. It seemed the only solution was to love them the way they were.

It is so with the people in our lives as well. Sooner or later we find ourselves needing to love them with their idiosyncrasies and foibles and perhaps even their sinfulness. We may try to reshape them, but ultimately it is usually to little avail. They have been created by God, after all, and if God has chosen us—as the Gospel suggests—then God also has chosen us to love them as they are, and perhaps to love them into all that they can be. Ultimately though, God does the pruning, the reshaping, not us. We participate in that process by caring for them and bringing good to them, always in the image of Jesus. ●

Reflect

Think of everyone with whom you have some difficulty and name a good quality of each one.



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Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



Sunday, May 5th - First Communion at HT 8:30 am

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of May 6, 2024

Monday	5/6			† No Mass
Tuesday	5/7	9:00 am	STM	† Catherine Hunter
Wednesday	5/8	5:30 pm	HT	† Gladys & Ivan Hassler
Thursday	5/9	9:00 am	HT	† Roy & Molly Chapman
Friday	5/10	9:00 am	STM	† For the Souls in Purgatory

Mass Intentions for the weekend of May 11 - 12, 2024

Saturday	5/11	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Liz Olivero
Sunday	5/12	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Wes & Rita Hoscheid
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† For the Parishioners

The Ascension of Jesus - Our Joy and Hope

The Feast of the Ascension takes place ten days before Pentecost; this duration of time takes on a special anticipation of the gift of the Holy Spirit. However, for most Catholics in the United States, this feast is transferred to the following Sunday, including churches in the Diocese of Peoria.

The story of Jesus' ascension is told in the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-11). After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers during the ensuing 40 days and prepared them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. He commissioned His followers to spread the good news to the ends of the earth, and promised His Spirit as a helper and advocate.

After this promise, "He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9). His followers were left behind, looking up at where He went, and then two figures appeared and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen Him going into heaven."

Jesus' ascension reminds us of our own destiny. Jesus came and joined our human condition, and was resurrected and ascended into heaven, so this pathway is now open to us. The feast today reveals to us our destiny as followers of Jesus: eternal life in union with God. We remember what happened to Jesus 2,000 years ago so that today we might have hope that sustains us in our Christian journey of discipleship.

On this feast of the Ascension of our Lord, let us have hope in our own exaltation and persevere in discipleship!
(Excerpted from "faith.nd.edu")

Growing Disciples Update:

We want to provide you an update regarding Bishop Tylka's discernment process as part of the Growing Disciples initiative. He is reading, listening to, and praying about all the feedback he is receiving. In the meantime, we want to share with you how he plans to announce his decisions.

On the weekend of May 18 and 19 (Pentecost weekend), each pastor will read a letter from the Bishop at every Mass. The letter will include information specific to each parish and will be shared at all the Masses this weekend.

Between 5pm and 6pm on Saturday, May 18, the diocese will be making the information public regarding all parish changes and priest announcements on its website (growingdisciplescdop.org). That website will also include a glossary of terms, a section on Frequently Asked Questions, and a personal message from the Bishop. The website also currently includes materials to help guide you in praying a Novena before the announcement on Pentecost weekend. Please join us in praying this Novena for the nine days leading up to Pentecost for the people of the Diocese of Peoria. We will begin together on May 10th. Through these prayers, we will reflect on our history and legacy in the region. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the faithful will be empowered to go make disciples in our new, mission-driven, sustainable structure of parishes.

First Communion

Today our second graders are making their First Communion at Holy Trinity Church during the 8:30am Mass. Our First Communicants are: Brynleigh Bickett, Scarlett Clayton, Charlee Gillan, Emery Pijanowski, Charlotte Pyszka, Easton Pyszka and Kynlee Stewart.

As we congratulate them for having successfully embraced this important stage in their Catholic faith, we also pray that their love for Jesus in the Eucharist grows stronger in their heart. We also take this opportunity to thank Michelle Bickett for getting our communicants well prepared.

LATEST OFFERING'S

APR 28TH WEEKEND

HT - \$ 939.00

\$5 CEMETERY

SP - \$ 479.00

STM - \$ 1,034.00



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. MAY 11TH

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST. THOMAS MORE

IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

Please clarify for me what the Church considers as "gossip." Is it that bad?

Human beings have the great gift of speech. We continually talk to one another and we talk about one another. Gossip, at its most basic level, is just idle talk. It is neither good nor bad. But it is a tool we can use to build up another human being or tear a person down.

Gossip is sinful when we use our words to unjustly hurt the reputation of another or to judge another person rashly. The two words that the Church uses to describe this evil side of gossip are "detraction" and "calumny." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that detraction is "without objectively valid reason, disclosing another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them." Calumny occurs when a person, "by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (CCC 2477).

To judge whether your own gossip is good or evil, simply ask yourself: Do the words I am saying help others or hurt others? Am I building them up or tearing them down? Hopefully, as a Christian, you are committed to the commandment of Jesus we hear in today's Gospel: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). ●



ANDRESSONNE / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>
Acts 16:11-15	Acts 16:22-34	Acts 17:15,	Acts 18:1-8	Acts 18:9-18	Acts 18:23-28	Acts 1:1-11
Jn 15:26-16:4a	Jn 16:5-11	22-18:1	Jn 16:16-20	Jn 16:20-23	Jn 16:23b-28	Eph 1:17-23 or
		Jn 16:12-15				Eph 4:1-13 or
						4:1-7, 11-13
						Mk 16:15-20



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be; as they are, gratuitously....Not controlling, serving them. Opening our heart to others, this is love, to be trusting, giving ourselves to others.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 9, 2021