

## The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, May 17

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Live Stream Mass at 9:00am

Monday, May 18

### **Monday of the Sixth Week of Easter**

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Tuesday, May 19

### **Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Easter**

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Wednesday, May 20

### **Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Easter**

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Thursday, May 21

### **Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter**

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Friday, May 22

### **Friday of the Sixth Week of Easter**

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Saturday, May 23

### **Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter**

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Sunday, May 24

### **The Ascension of the Lord**

Live Stream Mass at 9:00am

## Stewardship of Treasure

**Offertory Collection** 5/4 – 5/10

Sunday Offering (3 wks combined)	\$ 8,146.00
Easter Sunday	\$ 975.00
Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 350.00
Coffers	\$ 0.00
Online Offertory Giving	\$ 3,344.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 12,815.00</b>

### **Other Collection**

Repair & Maintenance (Online also)	\$ 641.00
Mass Intention	\$ 33.00
Funeral Donation	\$ 50.00
Others (Gallery, Outreach, etc.)	\$ 410.00

**Total** **\$ 13,949.00**

## Living the Liturgy

- We see signs of new life all around us during this season. Pope Benedict has called us as Catholics to become more aware in our care and stewardship for the environment. How does your family or church act as a good steward for the environment? Do you recycle and reuse? Do you pass along things you no longer need? How else can you take the responsibility to heart?
- In the reading from Acts, the early Church is extending Christ's message to the Gentiles, reaching outside of the community of the Jews. Does God call you to bring the Good News to people or places that are outside of your comfort zone?
- Read Psalm 66. Create a prayer like this psalm, proclaiming the deeds God has done for you. What would you say?

## Sharing Faith

- The Spirit is meant to be a force that nurtures yet challenges. How is the Spirit prodding or leading you?
- What gifts does God invite you to offer to others through your life, work, ministry, or service?
- Read Psalm 66. Create a prayer like this psalm, proclaiming the deeds God has done for you. What would you say?

**ALL WEEKEND AND DAILY  
MASSES ARE CANCELED  
UNTIL May 31<sup>st</sup> (inclusive).  
Follow us on Facebook as we  
Live Stream our Masses**

*[Jesus said] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you" (John 14:15 –17).*

# May 17, 2020 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

*Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 | Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 | 1 Peter 3:15-18 | John 14:15-21*

The words in a thesaurus entry for *advocate* are plentiful and rich: believer, sponsor, supporter, and backer. An advocate is also one who offers encouragement and favor. These are exhilarating words for followers of Jesus Christ. There is someone who as we attempt to follow and live our lives as disciples will aid us in this work, offer support and encouragement and act by our side.

The work that disciples are called to fulfill is the work of the Father that Jesus began by proclaiming the kingdom of God. Jesus tells his followers they are to keep his commandments and that the Advocate will be the Spirit of truth. But a warning is there. Just as the truth that Jesus preached was rejected by some, so, too, this truth will be unacceptable. But followers will be able to remain faithful with the Advocate's help if they obey God's commands. God's love and compassion will surround the faithful as they bear witness to this same love and faithfulness of God to the world.

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### **Next Sunday's Readings: "The Ascension of the Lord"**

*Acts 1:1-11 | Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 | Ephesians 1:17-23 | Matthew 28:16-20*

## From the Desk of Fr. Pascual

My Beloved Parishioners of the Cathedral Basilica,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy in the Risen Lord!

***"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14: 15***

Easter season is close to an end. For the past days and weeks, we relished the fruits of this great season of faith. Jesus Christ who suffered, died and rose from the dead shares with us the gift of salvation. By defeating sin and death, life is given a new meaning and direction, that is, living in the presence of God. But to live in the presence of God entails not just knowing about what He did for us but also keeping His commandments. Every Christian need to know and learn what these commandments are, ponder on them and live it out in word and deed. For one who truly believes in Jesus also lives the way how He lived.

Jesus showed the depth of His love on the cross. We can recall His words, "*no one has greater love than to lay down one's life for his friends.*" If we do not know this by now, then we are still blinded by our own self-righteousness and not really knowing Him wholeheartedly. For a person who does not know how to love like Jesus is one who has not truly kept His words in his or her mind and heart. All that He did for us is His way of establishing a relationship with us. And to respond to this relationship is to be faithful and abiding to all that He taught and follow Him.

We cannot dismiss that our world today still continues to live in hate and indifference. We are often swayed by this culture because we focus too much on what we want and not what Jesus wants. Our standard of living and loving is based on self-interest and emotional gratification. Christ continuous to invite us to love Him by keeping His commandments so that we can transform the broken world we live in. So that by keeping His commandments, we can live in peace and joy. All these can happen if we respond to Jesus' love. And this is the fruit of what it really means to know Him and to follow Him.

In the midst of what we are experiencing today, with the coronavirus pandemic, there is so much uncertainties on how we can live our lives. We are challenged every single day. For us, as Catholics, our heart's desire had been so intense of our longing to receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist, and the celebration of the Sacraments. Although we are limited to do, it should not limit us to keep loving Him and following Him by loving and caring the people around us. If we are able to and go beyond what we can do, to help the needy, the hungry, the abandoned during these difficult times. We can also pray fervently for anyone and everyone, and maybe, just maybe, after we are allowed to go out of our homes, for work, for school, for Church and visits to friends and families, we will be able to be reconciled to the people who may have hurt us and ready to forgive from the heart.

Your friend in the Lord,

Fr. Pascual