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# FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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FEBRUARY 5, 2023



## THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**First:** Isaiah 58:7-10

**Second:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

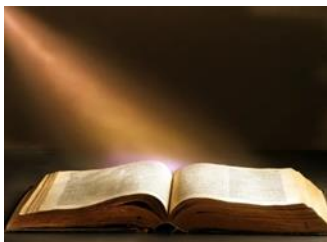
**Gospel:** Matthew 5:13-16

**FOCUS:** *Your light must shine before others.*

In both the Old and New Testaments, the secret to knowing the love of God is revealed: Share and love as God loves. God wants everyone to know the peace and joy we experience because he loves us and lights our way. He didn't give us his love to keep; we must share it with others. The mystery is: The more we share his love and light, the more we know how loved we are.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In the first reading, Isaiah tells the Israelites that their light shall break forth like the dawn when they remove oppression, lies and malicious speech from their midst while they also care for the hungry, the naked and the homeless. In his Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul says he relies on the power of God to announce the mystery of Christ crucified. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. They must shine before others; their good deeds will glorify God.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**5 p.m.:** Kenneth Oboyski and Carmela Marino

**10 a.m.:** The Ryan, Borst & Costello families  
and Dorothy Ingrassia

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT: FR. AUGUSTUS TOLTON

Fr. Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) was the first Roman Catholic priest in the United States publicly known to be black when he was ordained in 1886.

John Augustus Tolton's early childhood coincided with the Civil War. His father, Peter Paul Tolton, escaped slavery to join the Union Army while his mother, Martha, remained the maid of her owners. Marth was baptized a Catholic because her owners were Catholic, and Tolton was raised Catholic.

In 1862, he and his family found the courage to escape slavery by bravely crossing the Mississippi River into Illinois. According to one report, when they reached freedom, Tolton's mother turned to him and said, "John, boy, you're free. Never forget the goodness of the Lord." Perhaps that was the moment when he decided to give his life to God.



Even though racial conflict haunted Tolton most of his life, he remained devoted to service in the Catholic Church, encouraged by supportive priests and nuns. He learned to speak fluent English, German, Italian, Latin, Greek and African dialects. He became an accomplished musician and had a beautiful voice. Unfortunately, no American seminary would accept a black man, but with continued support, Tolton was able to spend six years studying for the priesthood in Rome.

During the Easter Vigil in 1886 in Rome, Tolton, then 31, was ordained. He was directed to return to the United States to serve the black community, and thus became the first black American priest in this country. He devoted himself to his people, regardless of color, and became lovingly known as "Good Father Gus." His was a quiet approach, an unheard of ministry to black and white together, and he was, unfortunately, resented for it.

Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago and current chair of the USCCB Subcommittee on African American Affairs, calls Fr. Tolton "a bright light in a dark time."

"The touching story of Augustus Tolton reminds us of the glaring social deficits of a former time. Much has improved but much still remains to be done ... The good Lord allowed his witness only a short stay here. (Fr. Tolton died at the age of 43.) However, Tolton reminds us of the courage we have within our hearts to continue to work for racial and ethnic solidarity while eradicating all forms of hesitancy and intolerances."

In 2010, Cardinal Francis George announced the Augustus Tolton Cause for Canonization for Sainthood, and Pope Francis' 2019 decree deemed Tolton "Venerable," which formally means he lived the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance at a heroic level, thus advancing the Cause for Sainthood.



## 'WORKS' TO LIVE BY

The **Corporal Works of Mercy** are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others. They are acts of love that respond to the basic physical and material needs of humanity.

- **Feed the hungry.**
- **Give drink to the thirsty.**
- **Clothe the naked.**
- **Visit the imprisoned.**
- **Shelter the homeless.**
- **Visit the sick.**
- **Bury the dead.**

Unlike the Corporal Works of Mercy, which require taking action, the **Spiritual Works of Mercy** have more to do with our words or internal disposition toward others. They are a guide to how to help our neighbors in their spiritual needs.

- **Instruct the ignorant.**
- **Counsel the doubtful.**
- **Admonish the sinner.**
- **Comfort the sorrowful.**
- **Bear wrongs patiently.**
- **Forgive all injuries.**
- **Pray for the living and the dead.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**January 22-29: Totaled \$ 5,796.35**

Envelopes: \$ 2,808.00 – Online: \$ 2,988.35

**THANK YOU!**

## WeSHARE TIP

Online donors can elect to cover the processing fees charged to the church. To do so, recurring donations have to be canceled and then set up again.

Sal Lucido is available to assist with this as well as helping any contributors new to WeShare. He can be reached at (845) 692-6587 and will be available in Deacon John Hall after Mass this Sunday.

## LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m.: 82

10 a.m.: 158

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

✓ **Ash Wednesday is February 22.** Mass with the distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Saint Paul's Youth Ministry will meet after the evening Mass for pizza and prayer.

✓ "No Greater Love," **the Passion of Christ in drama, song and dance**, will be performed by the Xavier Company at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Bloomingburg.

✓ **A Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection for Liturgical Ministers**, "The Paschal Mystery and the Presence of Christ," has been set for 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, ushers and parish musicians are invited to gather to reflect on Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection and its meaning for their lives, their ministry and their parish communities.

**More information and registration:**

DayofPrayer2023.eventbrite.com

**Questions:** liturgy@archny.org

**LEGO Build-off**  
 Sunday,  
 February 12th  
 11:30AM-1:30PM  
 Invite your family & friends.  
 Make a team or build solo!  
 Snacks Available  
 LET'S GO!  
 Questions? - Email us at  
 saintpaulsym@gmail.com

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