

7th Sunday of Easter

MAY 16, 2021



Reading I: Acts 1: 15-17, 20a, 20c-26

The election of Matthias to succeed Judas restores the Apostolic band to its original 12 members. The qualifications for the new man included being a witness of the resurrection.

Reading II: I John 4: 11-16

The love of God can only be known through Jesus, whom the Father has sent. We know this by way of the Spirit's indwelling.

The Gospel: John 17: 11b-19

Jesus' departing prayer is His wish for the Apostles to be one. Granted, they will experience the hostility of the world, as well as the temptations of "the evil one." Still, they are to be in the world, but not of it.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Rose & Mariano Cannone, Nancy Wood, Charles Quinn and Janet Stinson

10 a.m.: Frances Hernandez, Nicholas Sanabria, Ramona DePierri and Stephen Sanabria

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Saturday, May 8: **49** in the church/choir.

10 a.m. Sunday, May 9: **61** in the church/choir;
13 in the hall. Total: 74.

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 2-May 9: **Totaled \$ 7,109.32**

Envelopes: \$ 3,069.00 – Online: \$ 4,040.32

THANK YOU!



the
CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
Sharing God's Gifts

We are in the home stretch! As of May 7, \$40,069.74 toward our goal of \$43,000 has been received/pledged by 145 families. Thank you.

SIMPLE DAYS, PROFOUND LIFE

Uncle Ed, the bachelor brother of my mom's and the closest I ever had to a grandfather, lived with us. I remember him as a humble and gentle soul.

Of the many memories I have, what stands out are the trips to the Big City via a bus and then on the EI that traveled above West Philadelphia. Uncle Ed would get us into the first car so I could stand at the front door and pretend to be the engineer. Those trips fell under the general rubric of getting a haircut from Jimmy the Barber, my uncle's friend, in his South Philly shop.

Along the way to the barber's chair was a stop at the Woolworth's lunch counter where my uncle would have a meal, but yours truly would attack a hot fudge sundae in one of those vase like glass dishes that required a long-handled spoon to get the last drop.

The trip home included a stop at the now vanished Hanscom's bakery. I was allowed to choose at least one item for the family, brought home in one of their trademark creamsicle-colored boxes.

I present you this to highlight my uncle's generosity, which came to represent for me kindness and concern for others. It was what I would later label as a Eucharistic way of life.



These reveries came flooding into my mind as I pondered the tender moments recorded in the section of John's Gospel that we read this weekend. Jesus is at His compassionate best - and a leader. Note how He prays for His band of 12 rough-and-ready men who He will soon be physically leaving. His chosen friends were this motley crew, even though at times the bond had been temporarily fractured. And as a group, they had by now lived through denial and treason from within, witnessed His terrible end and were now surprised and consoled by His resurrection.

But here He was, praying for them, pondering their future, with all the hazards of living in a world where they would be misunderstood, perhaps even hated. I believe it is essential, both for our safety and our sanity, to acknowledge the love God has for each of us, coupled with a compassion unparalleled. We all have our challenges, heartaches and setbacks. But nothing this life can dish out should ever cause our connection with Him to fracture.

The Easter season that closes this weekend is the source of my optimism and our common hope. We ought to remind ourselves often that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:17).

I pray you have an Uncle Ed, who also lives in response to that truth. To quote an anonymous thinker: "The prayers a man lives on his feet are just as important as those he says on his knees."

God love you and give you His peace,

- **Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**

FIRST EUCHARIST

Not even rainy weather could cast a shadow on this beautiful day in which 12 children made their First Holy Communion.

We applaud our families for their support, our catechists for their dedication and our children on this most holy occasion:

Riley Coleman

Madison Conklin

Giuliana Coppola

Lucas Faso

Jace Glielmi

Gwendolyn Loennecker

Michaela Mataraza

Melanie Schoonmaker

Sophia Sterbenz

Morgan Sustack-Bedell

Veronica Tangredi

Mason Wecera

We are grateful to Fr. Paul Denalt for allowing us to use Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church to maximize the number of guests. For several, this was the first time back in church, and some commented how good it was to see people again and to participate in this special Mass, which included the children doing the readings.

And perhaps a positive side to these times is that we are more cognizant of just how adorable and precious our children truly are!



*"When we work hard, we must eat well. What a joy,
that you can receive Holy Communion often!*

It's our life and support in this life –

Receive Communion often,

and Jesus will change you into himself."

- Saint Peter Julian Eymard

A CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are continuing to share resources for insight into current social-justice issues from a Biblical/Church perspective. The following article was published last week in the National Catholic Reporter: "Indigenous people's lives depend on their lands, but threats are growing worldwide." Visit:

www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/indigenous-peoples-lives-depend-their-lands-threats-are-growing-worldwide

Or for one-click access to this and all the other reflections, go to www.stpaulsbullville.org; then click "Read More" under the Social Justice heading on the home page.

DELIGHT IN NEXT BOOK CLUB PICK

Up next before summer break is the first volume in "The Hawk and the Dove" series by Penelope Wilcock, which bears the name of the series. Although light reading, it's also inspirational and thought-provoking.

The narrator tells stories handed down in her family as far back as the 1400s, which are intertwined with those of brothers living in a medieval monastery. The author writes a love story about God and man, and the love between brothers in Christ.

Chapters 1-3 will be discussed via Zoom at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 25. Contact the office for more info.

TIME TO RETURN TO COLLEGE?

Dominican College has set a **Virtual Information Session** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. **May 19** for those interested in undergraduate – including accelerated online programs - and graduate degrees. Learn about admission requirements and meet faculty on Zoom.

Register at adult.dc.edu to receive your login details or call 877-427-7452 for more information.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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