

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016 – END OF THE SEASON OF EASTER

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

Get fired up

It is fitting that flames are shaped like tongues—because the Good News is meant to spread like wildfire! In the sacrament of Confirmation when you receive the Holy Spirit, as the disciples did at Pentecost, you're empowered, emboldened, impassioned, set ablaze with the fervor (or fever!) to do God's work. The Holy Spirit now dwells in you but, like a house on fire, can't be contained. Take it out in the open, the way the disciples did, to preach the teachings of Christ to the whole world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Day: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Romans 8:8-17; John 20:19-23 (63).* "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."



MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016

Make this a time for peace

That clanging sound you just heard is the gate of the Easter season swinging shut behind us. We're now back in Ordinary Time, which can be a little disorienting. If Advent is about waiting, Lent about repenting, and Easter about rejoicing, then what is the rest of the church year about? Ordinary Time is the "green" season, and green means life in nature and in liturgy. We dedicate 34 weeks of the year to the wide-open possibilities of living and growing in grace, a time of hope and holiness. Today, cultivate peace where you are.

TODAY'S READINGS: *James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29 (341).* "The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace."

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016

Love the person you don't like

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, Pope Benedict XVI wrote that the Eucharist "gives rise to a service of charity towards neighbor, which consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know." Today is the feast of Saint Paschal Baylon, who helped people grow in strength and tolerance by increasing devotion toward the Eucharist. Pope Leo XIII proclaimed him the "seraph of the Eucharist," patron of eucharistic congresses and eucharistic associations. He is usually depicted in adoration before a vision of the Eucharist. Receiving Communion brings us into union with all in the community who do so, even if we are not on the best of terms with them all. Something to keep in mind next time you're at Mass.

TODAY'S READINGS: *James 4:1-10; Mark 9:30-37 (342).* "Whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016

FEAST OF JOHN I, POPE AND MARTYR

Patron of the unjustly imprisoned

Pope John I had the misfortune of being pope at a time when the church was beholden to the power of emperors. He found himself caught between two feuding emperors, King Theodoric the Great and Byzantine Emperor Justin. Caught between a rock and a hard place, he made an effort to secure the peace, but when opposing parties prefer enmity, peacemakers are cast aside. Theodoric had him imprisoned, and he died in 526 of ill treatment. People continue to be wrongfully imprisoned in our own day. Visit The Innocence Project to see how one group is helping the falsely convicted gain their freedom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40 (343).* "For whoever is not against us is for us."

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2016

Make an investment that pays

Pope Francis learned the value of cooperation from his father, an accountant. "It goes forward slowly," he told his son, "but [cooperation] is sure." The trust earned when we work together goes much further than any profits. If we only see numbers, we lose the heart of our humanity, we abandon mercy, and we sacrifice people for profit. "An economy of exclusion and inequality . . . kills," Pope Francis warns. Considering how decisions impact people and not just profit margins is a difficult task, but it is imperative. We must invest in one another: That's how the economy of mercy works.

TODAY'S READINGS: *James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50 (344).* "Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another."

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016

FEAST OF BERNARDINE OF SIENA, PRIEST

Bonfire of the vanities

Bernardino preached all over Italy and helped ignite a religious revival in the early 15th century. He also ignited objects seen as temptations, such as mirrors, cosmetics, fine clothing, playing cards, musical instruments, books, and artwork in spectacles known as bonfires of the vanities. The method may have been misguided but the question is worth pondering: How much of our time and treasure is devoted to serving others and how much to serving self? You don't need a bonfire to shed light on your priorities.

TODAY'S READINGS: *James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12 (345)*. "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment."

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016

FEAST OF CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

A new saint enrolled today

We speak now of "the Americas," aware that the United States is not the only America. Such awareness can deepen our faith as we learn about saints such as Christopher. He was martyred along with 21 diocesan priests and three laymen struggling against an anti-Catholic Mexican government during the 1920s. From his cell he cried: "I forgive with all my heart those responsible for my death, and I ask God that the shedding of my blood serve the peace of our divided Mexico." May our own lives also serve the cause of peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: *James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16 (346)* "Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."



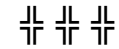
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TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH

DAILY RENEWAL FOR BUSY CATHOLICS



THE SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

For May 15 – 21, 2016



*Invest just five minutes a
day,
and your faith will deepen
and grow
—a day at a time.*

NOTE: THESE REFLECTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE EVERY WEEK. YOU MAY PICK UP A PRINTED COPY FROM THESE PLASTIC FOLDERS, READ THEM ONLINE ON THE OLV WEB PAGE (WWW.PARISHESONLINE.COM/FIND/OUR-LADY-OF-VICTORY-CHURCH-44278), OR HAVE THEM E-MAILED TO YOU EACH WEEK BY SENDING AN A MESSAGE TO MMATUSZ@OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET AND SAYING "ADD ME TO THE TAKE FIVE LIST". LET US KNOW IF YOU'VE REGULARLY USED & ENJOYED THESE REFLECTIONS.