

May 3, 2015 Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

May is a glorious month. Not only because nature is blooming, but also because it is the time of First Communion and Confirmations in our parish. These sacraments and the preparations for them imprint on our children the ability to hear the call of the Good Shepherd. Hopefully this ability will remain forever. I never fully understood the meaning of last week's Gospel until I actually heard shepherds calling their own sheep to them. In some places there is a common grazing ground for all the sheep. They are distinguished from one another by a small distinctive mark e.g. paint on their wool. However, it makes it easier for a shepherd to gather his own sheep if he has trained them to come to him by teaching them to follow his unique vocal signal. "They hear his voice, his call".

What better way to describe what parents do when they go to church with their children. They are teaching them to hear the call of God. The sacraments: Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Confession are the way that they are being imprinted with the awareness of the presence of the Trinity in their lives.

St. John was puzzled by the fact that so many did not hear the call of Jesus. Why do some hear it and others don't? In our world we no longer live in communities where once everyone automatically believed the same faith. It is a pluralistic world-many different beliefs, philosophies, and ways of life. We have to work much harder to hold onto our Catholic way of looking at life. All the more important to teach our children to hear the call of the Good Shepherd.

Speaking of nature blooming! Our two gardens looked spectacular last Sunday. It is the result of over 600 bulbs being planted last autumn. Looking at the beauty of the flowers and then hearing our bells of St. Mary's ring out an Easter hymn, I felt like I was experiencing a little bit of Paradise on South Broadway.

Two suggestions to help care for our planet earth, pick up trash lying in the street (this is easy). Don't use the store's plastic bags when you go shopping for food. Bring your own non-plastic grocery bags (this is difficult).

COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, April 26, 2015 was \$3,272.00

The Second Collection this Sunday May 3, 2015 will be in Support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

Mother's Day Remembrance Plaque:

Please remember to pray for all the mothers on our Mother's Day Plaque in the back of the Church.

Fifth Sunday of Easter:

As we gather today in Christ's name, we can reflect on the fact that ours is but one of many, many communities throughout the world that are gathering today in the same way. Indeed, Christ is the true vine and there are many branches. As we continue today, perhaps our prayer can be that each of the branches grows stronger on the vine, and that all might grow closer together as we share Christ's mission on this earth.

In the first reading, Acts 9:26-31: Paul arrives in Jerusalem. He boldly proclaims the gospel to all who will listen.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 22: "I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people"

In the second reading, 1 John 3:18-24: John urges us to love one another and believe in Jesus as Son of God in the flesh. When we do so, we remain in God and God in us.

In the Gospel, John 15:1-8: Jesus describes the intimate mutual relationship between God, Jesus and the community in terms of a vine grower, the vine and the branches.

Today's Focus; A Vertical and Horizontal God:

Though we may think of our relationship with God as being only up and down between the two of us, in Christ we are also intimately connected to God through those around us.

Question of the Week: What role does my relationship to other Christians and to the community of the Church play in my relationship with God?



Praying with the Word: Lord, keep us close to you, for without you we can do nothing: but united to you we will bear much fruit in the harvest of your kingdom.

We need to care for the earth so that it may continue, as God willed, to be a source of life for the entire human family.



Religious Education News: there will be no Religious Education Classes on Saturday May 9th and May 16th.

❖ First Holy Communion:

Saturday May 23, 2015 at 10:00am Rehearsals for 1st Holy Communion will be on Friday May 15, 2015 at 7:00pm

❖ Confirmation:

Wednesday May 27, 2015 at 7:00pm

Rehearsals for Confirmation will be on Friday May 22, 2015 at 7:00pm for both Sponsors and Candidates.

Retreat: there will be a retreat for the candidates for Confirmation on Thursday May 21, 2015 from 9:30am to 3:00pm