

During this unprecedented time in our world's history, we offer you the following material for your praying and reflecting on God's Word.

Introduction - May 15, 2022

Today's Gospel are Jesus' words spoken before his death and resurrection. It begins with the announcement that Jesus will leave them and that he, the Son of Man will be glorified. Jesus will be glorified in his death on the cross and in his Resurrection, and the disciples will glorify Jesus in the love they show. The love they show is different from the law of love for God and neighbour given in the Old Testament. This 'new' type of love is expressed in lives of service and sacrifice as shown by Jesus himself. Jesus tells the disciples that all will know that they are his disciples because of this kind of love they show for one another. Christian love is the hallmark of Christianity. We see it lived in the witness of the martyrs. We see it in the example of the lives of the saints. We see it in the holy women and men who live and love daily, making small and large sacrifices for others.

Lectio Divina with the Sunday Gospel

Lectio Divina means 'divine reading'. It is a way to pray using the holy scriptures in a step-by-step process. Gather the entire family around and make the sign of the Cross. Light a candle.

Leader: "Holy Spirit, you inspired the authors of Sacred Scripture to write what you wanted us to know for the sake of our salvation. Inspire us now to hear those words not only with our ears, but our hearts, so that we might know your saving Word for us today."

- Have one person **read** the scripture slowly, out loud and have a few moments of silence afterwards. (It may be helpful for everyone to have a copy of the reading).
- **Read** the scripture again out loud and choose a single word or short phrase that touches, speaks or surprises you. Share with everyone.
- **Read** the scripture out loud one more time and discuss what is happening directly in the text.
- **Meditate** on what God is doing now in our lives through this text.
- **Respond** to what God is doing through prayer.
- **Contemplate** on what God is asking of me through this text and how to use these words as a gift for others through my actions.
- After a period of silence, end with the Sign of the Cross.

(see over)

The Holy Gospel for May 15, 2022

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Before the festival of the Passover,
Jesus knew that his hour had come
to depart from this world and go to the Father.

Having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end.

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said,
“Now the Son of Man has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him.

If God has been glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself
and will glorify him at once.

Little children, I am with you only a little longer.
I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(see over)

Family Activities

- ❖ Gather up some advertisements that show a “New and Improved” product. Display them as you come together as a family. Give some time for everyone to look at the ads. What is the common factor? They all claim that the products are better than the original. You are promised a more superior product or experience. Everyone is interested in new and better. Today’s Gospel talks about a new kind of love - a better kind of love. Jesus tells us this new kind of love is shown not only when things are easy but when things are difficult - when it is hard to love. We love not only those who love us back. It is a love of sacrifice. It is a love of service. It is the kind of unconditional love that Jesus shows.
- ❖ St. Gianna exemplified, 'Love is a choice'. It is not a feeling that overcomes you for no reason. It is a choice to love or not. It is an intentional act. We decide to love others and wish good will upon them. Jesus commands us to do so. This is what Christian love looks like. What examples of Christian love did you show or were shown this week?
- ❖ Today’s Gospel reading comes knowing full well that Judas was about to betray Jesus for money, causing his suffering and ultimately, his death. Because Jesus knew that the end of the story would not be this, he was able to see the betrayal as a means of his Glorification. Jesus’ eyes looked toward Heaven and what he would accomplish instead of focusing on the hurt. Reflect on how you have acted in the face of betrayal? Hurt, sadness, maybe even anger are normal feelings. Next time this happens, focus on how we can change our attitude knowing that we are united with Christ in our suffering. The final conclusion is that when we are mistreated by another, we are given the opportunity to Glorify God and build his Kingdom by showing forgiveness, compassion and mercy.

Prayer:

Blessed are You, Lord God, Ruler of all places and times.

You sent your Son into this world to reveal your love by his sharing in our human life, living among us, ministering to others, teaching and instructing them, and serving their needs.

As a final demonstration of love, he willingly accepted death, death on the cross, in order to give you glory and praise. As he prepared for his death, he commanded his disciples to do as he did – to love one another.

We thank You for allowing us to share in the ministry of your Son and to proclaim your Good News by our loving those whom you have placed along our paths to you. Continue to breathe your Spirit into our lives so that we can bring a newness to the ministry you give us.

**And to you, your Son, and your Holy Spirit,
may all glory, honour, and praise be given, now and forever.**

Amen.