



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021



SATURDAYS 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS 10:30AM MASS
Watch it live!!

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WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAYS AT 5PM
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

DAILY MASSES:
TUES & THURS 8AM

RECONCILIATION:
SATURDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM

HOLY HOUR:
WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7PM

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FURTHER NOTICE.**

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 8

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of
Immaculate Conception Parish

5:00pm: Angelina Sidari
Antoinette "Annie" Duley
Illa Dachs

Sunday, May 9

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
Marie "Dolly" Venturi

Monday, May 10

8:00am: Gaspare DeLuca

Tuesday, May 11

8:00am: Margaret Vena
Gaspare DeLuca

**Wednesday, May 12**

8:00am: Mary Ellen Wolf

Thursday, May 13

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of
Immaculate Conception Parish

Friday, May 14

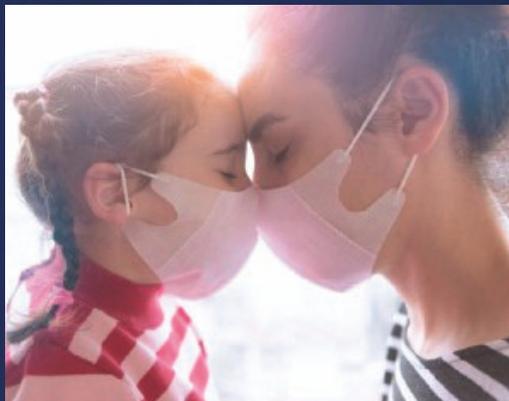
8:00am: Joaquin Rosales

Saturday, May 15

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of
Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish

Sunday, May 16

10:30am: Otto Cortesi
Gretchen Callahan
Sonya Lamarr

**2021 MOTHER'S DAY APPEAL**

The face of need is mothers and children.
The face of hope is you.

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Father Mike's Homiletter – May 9, 2021 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Psalm 98:1-4; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

Happy Mothers' Day! Today we celebrate those who nurture, train, feed, educate, praise, reprimand and love us into being our best selves. Mothers do many unnoticed things to make their children's lives happy, healthy and constructive. They do them when they themselves are tired, sick, bored, sorrowful, or laughing. Though I'm sure it feels like a very demanding job at times, motherhood is a vocation, not a job. One that is also shared by many women who may not be biological mothers, but who bring a motherly mind-set to those who need it. For all the mothering we have received over our lifetimes, today we give thanks. Wish all the mothers you know a happy day today – and say thank you!

Our first reading today brings Peter to the home of a Roman centurion. Peter had been in Lydda, raising a woman named Dorcas from the dead. He had a couple of disturbing visions, in which he saw something like a huge sheet lowered to earth, containing all the animals of the earth – some which Jews regarded as unclean. Peter was invited to eat of this plenty. Just after this, three men sent by a centurion, Cornelius, arrive and ask him to come to Joppa because Cornelius wanted to hear more about Jesus. Now Cornelius was very good to the Jewish community and they held him in high regard. He was described as a "god-fearer": a term which the Jewish community used for those who were not Jews, but who respected the Jewish way of life. These "god-fearing" people saw value in the monotheistic nature of Judaism, and the moral values that it held – essentially, the Ten Commandments. They often went to the synagogue, though they might not observe Jewish dietary and other laws. So, Cornelius was a good man. And a confident one, because he expected Peter to accept his invitation and come – he had assembled all his family and even some friends.

This is where our first reading brings us in: Cornelius welcomes Peter, ready to honor him, but Peter reminds him that he, Peter, is just a human being, the same as Cornelius. Peter begins sharing the good news, and the words are barely out of his mouth before the Holy Spirit comes upon the hearers – they begin speaking in tongues. The Jews who had accompanied Peter were surprised – they hadn't yet realized that the mission was also to non-Jews. Yet, rather than treat the new way as an exclusive club, they recognize that they cannot overrule the Spirit. All of Cornelius' household was baptized, and Peter suddenly realized that the vision he had of all the animals in the sheet symbolized that all are welcome in Jesus' fold.

Our second reading has John explaining that God is love, and that we know this because He sent His only Son to give us life. In our Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that He loves them in the same way the Father loves Him. That alone is a pretty tremendous statement! But there is more - He urges them to remain in His love – as He remains in the Father's love – and the way to do that is to keep His commandments, just as He has kept the Father's commandments. This might bring up images of a laundry list of do's and don'ts, but the next instruction seems quite simple: Love one another as I have loved you. Jesus goes on to say He has appointed the disciples to go and bear lasting fruit. (Remember, this is still part of the vine-and-branches lesson.)

But digging a little deeper, we see that Jesus also says, "I...chose you." St. Paul says the love of God is revealed by the fact that God sent his only Son into the world so we might have life. Jesus tells the disciples they are "appointed...to go and bear fruit that will remain...." Jesus is entrusting His mission to the disciples – and ultimately, that's supposed to be us! A little more analysis, and we can recognize that we are being told that if God took the initiative in loving us and if we are supposed to love the way God loves, then we too should take the initiative in loving others. We can't wait to decide if we like them, if they share our tastes, if we think they are worthwhile – these are God's people, and we are supposed to love them in the same unconditional way that God loves us.

The messages this week are pretty powerful – we need to take the initiative to love as Jesus loved – without condition, with the open mind and heart Peter displayed in baptizing Cornelius and his household. And the reward - this is how we remain in the love of the one who calls us "friends" – the God who is love.

Peace be with you!
Father Mike

Food for Thought...

Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?

-St. Gerard Majella,
Patron Saint of Mothers



After Mass this Sunday from 11:45am to 12:15pm, parishioners can drive by to get a carnation and prayer card in celebration of Mother's Day. Louie Vignocchi, our Deacon, will provide a special blessing to all who come by.

In the spirit of this Day, please consider driving a family member or friend who cannot attend Mass in-person to this event.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Registration for the 2021-2022 PREP year is now posted on the parish website. Don't miss out on the early bird registration incentives!



The learning and teaching that took place during Zoom was incredible! We have an amazing team of students and catechists. **Come join us** as we learn about our faith and prepare for the sacraments *in person* this fall.

Any questions please contact our Director, Barb, at PREPOffice@icparish.org.

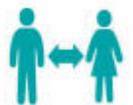
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HANDS



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YOUR FACE



KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE

PREP KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

Some of our PREP Kindergarten students met in the courtyard on Monday, May 3rd for an impromptu in person graduation. These students will return as 1st graders in the fall as they begin Year One of their sacramental preparation toward Reconciliation and First Communion.

Our half hour together started with dark skies and the threat of rain. It ended with blue sky! It was a special and magical time for all. So many smiles were obvious, even through the masks!



Mrs. Grant, our Kindergarten Catechist, passing out diplomas.



Father McMahon joined us and visited with the children. The children prayer the Our Father flawlessly. They also shared what they learned and liked best about their classes this year. Our youngest students were Zoom troopers!



The silly faces were a highlight when class would end each week. We couldn't resist one last "silly face" moment. Father McMahon joined in on the fun!



Our final blessing with Father as the skies cleared for us!



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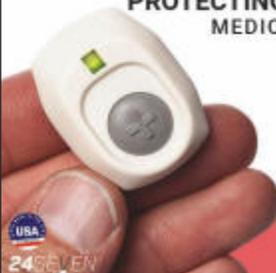
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The following students received the sacrament of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation Mass on Wednesday evening, May 5, 2021.

Please hold this fine group of young adults in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their Catholic faith in high school and beyond.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
2021 Confirmation class

Raenier Samonte Ampon

Isabella Adriana Contreras

Sofia Andrea Contreras

Jackson Tyler Casimir Droll

Miles Michael Peralta Gans

Luis Gomez

Ava Heimgartner

Audrey Bernadette Madison Johnston

Charles Michael Luke Kellogg

Jameston Thomas Killeen

Declan John McDonough

Margaret Mary Elena Moreno

Luca Vincent Joseph Piagentini

Anne Louise Regalago

Michael Robert John Wiswald