

# HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY

Stonington & North Stonington, Connecticut

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another." - Jn 15:16-17

# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.  
(Acts 10:45-46)

## PSALM:

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (Ps 98)  
Or: Alleluia.

## SECOND READING:

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.  
(1 Jn 4:8)

## GOSPEL:

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15:13)

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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 5, 2024

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/  
1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—  
16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/  
Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 16:16-20  
*Ascension:* Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23  
or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday: *Ascension:* Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/  
Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20  
*Seventh Sunday of Easter:* Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/  
Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 (19a)/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

## LIVE-STREAM MASS FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PATRICK

The 9:00 am Sunday Mass is live-streamed from the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on their webpage:  
[www.cathedralofsaintpatrick.org/Resources/Live-Stream](http://www.cathedralofsaintpatrick.org/Resources/Live-Stream)



*Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

The Jewish believers who accompanied Peter to the house of Cornelius were "astonished" that Gentiles who had faith in Jesus also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been surprised by what God has done in your life?

### SECOND READING

John teaches us that the essence of God is love and we are called to love one another. Who might you work on loving this week?

### GOSPEL

Jesus taught his disciples that loving him and loving each other brings "complete joy." What brings you joy in your life?

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## MASS INTENTIONS

### MAY 4—SATURDAY VIGIL: 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

4:00 pm St. Michael: † Richard and Gene Boumenot  
*Requested by their family*

5:00 pm St. Patrick: Parishioners  
 St. Thomas More: † Frank and Evelyn Mitchell  
*Requested by Maureen Karsten*

5:30 pm St. Mary: † Nancy and Angelo Bruno (Memorial Anniversary)  
*Requested by Joseph and Diane Bruno*

### MAY 5—SUNDAY: 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:00 am St. Michael: † Jada LaBoy and George Cintron  
*Requested by their loving family*

8:00 am St. Mary: Parishioners

8:30 am St. Michael: † George and Lucy Maguire  
*Requested by their daughter*  
 St. Patrick: † John Palembas  
*Requested by Loretta Palembas*

10:00 am St. Michael: † Raymond and Mary Corbin  
*Requested by Ernie Richard*

10:15 am St. Patrick: † Janet Chapman  
*Requested by the Daughters of Isabella*

11:45 am St. Michael—High Mass (*Latin*): † The Arruda and Vicente Families  
*Requested by the Vicente family*

### MAY 6—MONDAY: WEEKDAY

7:00 am St. Michael: † Adam Rowland  
*Requested by his father*

8:00 am St. Mary: † Helen Andreone and John McEnaney

12:05 pm St. Patrick: † Lori Nasuti  
*Requested by Charlene Corkhill*

### MAY 7—TUESDAY: WEEKDAY

7:00 am St. Michael: † NY Gunning Family

8:00 am St. Mary: † Constance Avallone  
*Requested by her daughter*

12:05 pm St. Patrick: Intentions of Virginia Cruz  
*Requested by a parishioner*

### MAY 8—WEDNESDAY: WEEKDAY

7:00 am St. Michael: † Jose Eduardo and Manuel Pacheco  
*Requested by their aunt*

8:00 am St. Mary: † Grace and Ray Cline  
*Requested by their daughter, Bunny*

### MAY 9—THURSDAY: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

7:00 am St. Michael: † Richard Kunzweiler  
*Requested by the Cunningham family*

8:00 am St. Mary: † Maria Aldina Simao  
*Requested by the Our Lady of Fatima Society*

11:00 am St. Michael: † Connie Kmetz

12:05 pm St. Patrick: Intentions of All Souls in Purgatory  
*Requested by a parishioner*

6:00 pm St. Michael: † Lawrence Mazzocchi  
*Requested by his wife, Mary*

7:00 pm St. Patrick: † Mark Nelson  
*Requested by the Holder family*  
 St. Thomas More: † TBD

### MAY 10—FRIDAY: WEEKDAY

7:00 am St. Michael: † TBD

8:00 am St. Mary: † Antonio and Laurinda Sardo  
*Requested by their daughters*

12:05 pm St. Patrick: † Anne Dame  
*Requested by Joan Balestracci*

### MAY 11—SATURDAY: WEEKDAY

7:00 am St. Michael: † Tracey Bowden

### MAY 11—SATURDAY VIGIL: 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

4:00 pm St. Michael: † Joseph F. Bonomo, Sr.  
*Requested by his children*

5:00 pm St. Patrick: Intentions of this Year's Confirmation and Communion Candidates  
*Requested by a parishioner*  
 St. Thomas More: † Lori Kapolowicz  
*Requested by Cathy Holdridge*

5:30 pm St. Mary: † Connie Teixeira  
*Requested by the Vicente family*

### MAY 12—SUNDAY: 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:00 am St. Michael: † Maria DeGiacomo and Her Family  
*Requested by her daughter*

8:00 am St. Mary: † Joseph McKernan and Michael McKernan  
*Requested by their family*

8:30 am St. Michael: Parishioners  
 St. Patrick: Parishioners

10:00 am St. Michael: † Henry and Victoria Richard  
*Requested by Ernie Richard*

10:15 am St. Patrick: † Cecilia Centak  
*Requested by Yvonne Masakowski*

11:45 am St. Michael—High Mass (*Latin*): † Bill Phillips  
*Requested by Janette Phillips and family*

**Saint Mary  
Stonington**

22 Broad Street

**Sunday Mass**

5:30 pm (Saturday), 8:00 am

**Weekday**

8:00 am Monday—Friday  
except Thursday



**Saint Michael  
Pawcatuck**

60 Liberty Street

**Sunday Mass**

4:00 pm (Sat.), 7:00 am,  
8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:45 am  
(Traditional Latin Mass)

**Weekday Mass**

7:00 am Monday—Saturday

**Confessions**

3:00—3:45 pm Saturday



**Saint Thomas More  
North Stonington**

87 Mystic Road

**Sunday Mass**

5:00 pm (Saturday)



**Parish Office and Mailing Address:**

60 Liberty Street  
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

860-599-5580 phone • 860-599-8079 fax

[stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:stmichaelpawcatuck.com)

Very Rev. Dennis M. Perkins, Pastor  
[frperkins@stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:frperkins@stmichaelpawcatuck.com)

Rev. Jeffrey R. Ellis, Parochial Vicar  
[frellis@stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:frellis@stmichaelpawcatuck.com)

Anita Kapolowicz, Secretary  
[akapolowicz@stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:akapolowicz@stmichaelpawcatuck.com)

Amy Bennett, Bookkeeper  
[abennett@stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:abennett@stmichaelpawcatuck.com)

Crystal Wilcox, Director of Religious Education  
[cwilcox@stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:cwilcox@stmichaelpawcatuck.com)

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Barbara Arent, Keelin Arseneault, Dale Barile,  
Jason Bennet, Michael Botello, The Botello Family,  
Lauren Brant, Michael Brennen,  
Michael Burrough, Ginger Colman, Gwen Coughlin,  
Russell Coupland, Robbie Damask, Douglas Delaney,  
Rev. Giles Dimock, Carly Domer, Alfred Fratoni,  
John Fratoni, Barbara Fuller, Gerry Gianutsos,  
Thomas Harrison, Karen Hess, Margaret Hickey,  
Francesca Kinnecom, Martha Kowack, Paul Kowack,  
Helen Lauterio, Ledyard Lewis, Sean Madden,  
William Martley, Nathan Medeiros, George McCullen,  
Keith McGrath, Torin McKenna, David Motherway,  
Joseph Pacheco, Nancy Pampel, Glenda Panciera,  
Maria Parkinson, Brenda Pavo, Michael Quick,  
Ernie Richard, Kendra Richard, Raoul Roy,  
Judy Schiller, Barbara Smith, Brandon Smith,  
and Kimberly Theodore

*Please pray for those who serve our country.*

**STEWARDSHIP**

**ST. MARY • ST. MICHAEL • ST. THOMAS MORE**

**April 28, 2024**

Weekly Offertory	\$ 11,180.95
EFT	\$ 938.33
Seminarian Fund	\$ 128.00
St. Bernard High School	\$ 20.00
Kitchen and Steeple	\$ 12.33
Easter Retired Priests	\$ 1.00

*Thank you for your generous support.*

**Electronic Funds Transfer**

For your convenience, the churches of St. Mary, St. Michael and St. Thomas More offer the option of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for your weekly offering. For more info, email Amy Bennett at [abennett@stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:abennett@stmichaelpawcatuck.com).



Keep up to date with parish information through Flocknote. To register **simply text MILO to 84576** or contact Anita in the parish office at [akapolowicz@stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:akapolowicz@stmichaelpawcatuck.com) or 860-599-5580.

## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

at ST. MARY CHURCH



**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

**7:30pm Mass of Our Lady of Fatima**  
**8:30pm Candlelight Procession**

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**10:30am Mass**  
**Rosary & Benediction to follow**

**Please note: There will be no 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's on Saturday, May 18th.**

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for the Maria Assunta Society scholarship may be obtained from guidance counselors at the following high schools: St. Bernard, Stonington, Westerly, Grasso Tech and the Prout School. Forms are also available by calling Anita at the rectory at 860-599-5580 or by emailing [akapolowicz@stmichaelpawcatuck.com](mailto:akapolowicz@stmichaelpawcatuck.com). **Application deadline is May 24th.**

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus Nina Council #43 holds regular meetings on the second Monday of every month. **The next meeting is on Monday, May 13th, at 6:00 pm in the St. Mary Church Hall.** Please call Grand Knight Kevin Batzle at 860-861-2679 or Deputy Grand Knight Jim O'Boyle at 860-535-2222 for further information.

## MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

**THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024**

7:00 am	St. Michael Church
8:00 am	St. Mary Church
11:00 am	St. Michael Church
6:00 pm	St. Michael—High Mass ( <i>Latin</i> )
7:00 pm	St. Thomas More Church

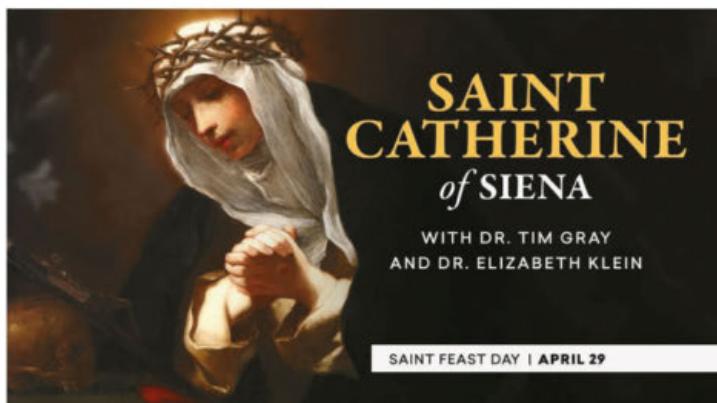


**Congratulations to All Who Received their Confirmation on Saturday, April 27, 2024**

Liam Francis Austin	Hannah Brigid Fyke
Jack Andrew Balestracci	Gianna Patricia Giovanelli
Dahlyla Monica Belanger	Kairi Mary Grant
Jaiden Joseph Bickham	Rocco Peter Hoadley
Aidan Thomas Boscoe	Sophia Sophia Hoinsky
Edward Joseph Brown	Lauren Catherine Koswaski
Natalia Philomena Caradimos	Shelby Catherine Mayo
Leila Cecilia Cherenzia	Rori Brigid Murphy
Devon Brendan Christian	Owen Erasmus Nicholas
Ella Kateri Tekawitha Cochran	Molly Bridget Niedbala
Sawyer Sebastian Collard	Noelle Nicholas O'Gara
Aiden Thomas Deary	Alexandra Teresa Placencia
Lauren Agnes deCastro	Byron Francis Stillman V
Lucas Patrick Denslow	Jonas Maximilian Kolbe Taylor
Luke James Dowrey	Anthony John Teixeira
Fiona Katherine Doyle	Medoro Thomas Trombino
Rowan Anthony Duhig	Yolanda Francis Trombino
Sean Anthony Durham	Evan Francis West

## ROSARY AND BENEDICTION

The Our Lady of Fatima Society will pray the rosary on Sunday, May 12th, at 4:00 pm at St. Mary Church.



**FORMED** | THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

### Who is St. Catherine of Siena?

In light of St. Catherine of Siena's feast day, join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Elizabeth Klein, as they celebrate this holy woman: a nurse and mystic with papal influence who became a doctor of the Church.

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH HAS A FORMED SUBSCRIPTION. TO SIGN UP, GO TO: [FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP](https://FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP). ENTER YOUR EMAIL AND NAME, AND ENTER ZIP CODE 06379 FOR OUR PARISH.**

Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.





## Saint Patrick Church

32 East Main Street, Mystic, CT 06355

Office: 860-536-1800

[stpatickmythic.org](http://stpatickmythic.org)

### Sunday Mass:

5:00 pm (Sat. Vigil), 8:30 am and 10:15 am

### Weekday Mass:

12:05 pm Monday — Friday except Weds.

### Holy Hour of Adoration:

7:30 pm — 8:30 pm Mondays

### Confessions:

4:00 pm — 4:45 pm Saturdays

5:00 pm — 6:00 pm First Monday of month

Rev. Kevin M. Reilly, Pastor

Sonya Manley, Parish Secretary

[secretary@saintpatrickmythic.org](mailto:secretary@saintpatrickmythic.org)

Richard Georgetti, RCIA Coordinator

Elizabeth Limkemann, Organist

Richard Schumacher, Choir Director

## STEWARSHIP

April 21, 2024

Offertory \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,865.00

EFT \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,595.00

Capital Campaign Paid to Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$4,066,226.90

Capital Campaign Gift & Pledge Totals \_\_\_\_\_ \$4,664,479.17

*We are grateful for your generous support!*

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus Council 1943 wants to thank everyone that participated in last month's food drive, 300 pounds of food was collected. The K of C will be holding this month's food drive on **May 11th** for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. The drop-off point for food and cash donations will be the Brookside Building at 43 Hatch Street in Mystic from the hours of 10am to 2pm. If you can't get to the drop off point, please call Thomas Collins at 860-917-3475. We **HELP** People!

Confessions will be held Monday, May 6th, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

Thursday, May 9th, is the Ascension of the Lord and a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be held at 12:05 pm and 7:00 pm.

## Wedding Banns, 2024 Weddings

*A promise to marry exists between:*

Patrick Moynihan and Olivia Conroy

James Desmarais and Megan Granfield

Brenden Gayowski and Maria Tobin

Alexander Nakano and Abbey Stackpole

Leo Moran and Madison Stepnoski

Robert Harris and Therese Messina

Matthew Luca and Nicole Everett

Jordan Kowalski and Elizabeth Fabbri

Matthew Goulet and Kathleen O'Hara

Luke Yeager and Samantha Bautista

William Oliver Arana and Grace Ann Mills

Matthew Bonner and Kaitlyn Patel

Matthew A. Wzykowski and Hanna Gagnon

John Dinucci and Bernadette Connors

David W. Yeager and Leila Streb

*If anyone has a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place, please call the St. Patrick Rectory.*

## CONFIRMATION

**Congratulations to All Who Received their Confirmation on Saturday, April 27, 2024**

Greyson "Michael" Battisti	Peter "Peter" Levanto
William "Francis" Erb	James "Christopher" Logan
Daimon "Joseph" Flax	Nicholas "Sebastian" Logan
Joseph "Michael" Goulart	Joshua "Dominic" McBain
Jacob "Francis" Gram	Nolen "Sebastian" Neale
Cohan "Patrick" Hinche	Nicole "Agnes" Plasencia
Liam "Michael" Kelly	James "John Paul" Waters

May the grace they received pour forth from them to everyone they meet.

## DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

The **Daughters of Isabella** is a Catholic women's organization that promotes *Unity, Friendship, and Charity*. We invite all women from this parish and surrounding parishes. The Daughters of Isabella will meet on Mon., May 6th, 7—9pm in the Parish Center. For more info, **Patricia Menno-Coveney** at 860-287-7393 or [mencove@gmail.com](mailto:mencove@gmail.com).

## ORATION AND RECITATION NIGHT

Last Thursday night, we held our annual Oration Contest and Recitation Night.



St. Michael School eighth grade students have been participating in the oration contest since 1982. It provides an opportunity for our eighth graders to exhibit their skills in both logic and rhetoric. Memorization and recitation are important skills stressed in a Classical Curriculum and are strategies utilized to teach children how to think and how to speak clearly. The contest is one of the high points of the eighth-grade year and students remember it for many years to come.

The topic of this year's Oration Contest was: *Great American Historical Landmarks*. This topic was researched, written, and fully memorized by all our 8th Grade students. They first presented their oration speeches during the school day to Mrs. Messina and Mrs. Babcock as preliminary judges. This year, four students were chosen as finalists to compete in the Oration Contest held at St. Michael Church.

A few years ago, we combined the Oration Contest with Recitation Night. So, the second part of the evening showcased students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8, reciting poetry, bible verses and speeches. During the weeks leading up to this very special night, students practiced very hard on their presentations, and all did an amazing job! I was amazed at their poise and confidence.

Why do we ask our students to participate in recitation? No, it's not to torture them. (Although our middle school students may try to tell you otherwise.) Recitation is a valuable and important aspect of classical education. It helps students develop excellent rhetorical skills and it challenges their fear of speaking in public. And did you know ... that the number one fear in the world is the fear of public speaking, also known as glossophobia. It's true! I googled it.

Congratulations to our Oration Contest winners!  
Honorable Mention: **Connor Anderson**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place:



## Saint Michael SCHOOL at WEST BROAD

131 West Broad Street  
Pawcatuck, CT 06379  
860-599-1084 phone • 860-599-8079 fax  
[stmichaelschoolct.com](http://stmichaelschoolct.com)

*St. Michael School, a ministry of the Catholic Churches of Stonington and North Stonington, is committed to engaging students in a program of Christian formation characterized by a challenging and enriching Catholic Classical Curriculum in a nurturing environment.*

Amy Babcock, Principal  
[ababcock@stmichaelschoolct.com](mailto:ababcock@stmichaelschoolct.com)  
Beth Lawrence, Secretary  
[blawrence@stmichaelschoolct.com](mailto:blawrence@stmichaelschoolct.com)

For information or to arrange a visit, please contact:  
Amy Babcock, Principal—860-599-1084



**Samantha Giorno**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Adelaide Trichter**; and our 2024 St. Michael School Oration Contest First Place Winner: **Lani DelBarone**.

Thank you to our judges: **Corinne Rossi, Wayland Currie, Henry Fiore, and Victor Reck**.

God Bless,  
Amy Babcock, Principal

# SAINT OF THE WEEK

## St. Cyril of Jerusalem



St. Cyril of Jerusalem (c.315-386) was born and raised in Jerusalem. He was educated in the Faith and had a love of Scripture at an early age that guided him toward the priesthood.

After he was ordained a priest by the bishop of Jerusalem, he went on to serve as a

catechist for those newly baptized in his congregations. The writings he produced during the early years of his priesthood have gone on to help give the modern Church a clear example of how the Church of the East did things during those first few centuries of Christianity. They included teachings on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, prerequisites for Baptism, the Eucharistic liturgy, and more.

During the fourth century the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ, was threatening to tear the young Church apart. It was during this time that Cyril was ordained Bishop of Jerusalem and accused by his contemporaries of Arianism. They exiled him from his homeland on three different occasions, but he was ultimately acquitted of the accusations both in his own time and a thousand years later when he was named a Doctor of the Church in 1822.

Once back in Jerusalem, he and a bishop named Gregory, who would become St. Gregory, attended the Council of Constantinople, where the Nicene Creed was officially adopted. During this time, he publicly accepted and promoted the word “consubstantial,” the word the Council of Nicaea chose to describe Christ’s divinity and the relationship between God the Father and the Son.

His life reminds us that even a prominent theologian of the Church can suffer pain from controversy. Despite this, he never gave up and went on to be recognized as a Doctor of the Church.

St. Cyril, pray for us!

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# WHY DO WE DO THAT?

## Question:

**My neighbor is just beginning to explore the Catholic faith but was raised agnostic. I grew up believing in God, praying, and attending Mass. How does one start from scratch as an adult to develop a relationship with God?**

## Answer:

Start on a personal level! How did you and your neighbor become friends? How did you begin to discuss such a personal topic as faith? Communication, spending time together, and getting to know each other are essential to forming the bonds of a relationship. Personal prayer is essential to our relationship with God. We can't be close to someone we don't know! Invite your friend to explore the stories of Jesus in the Bible. Introduce them to the lives of the saints, especially ones you think they might be interested in.

Your neighbor might also have questions about the Catholic faith that you don't know how to answer. If your friend hasn't yet enrolled in RCIA classes, invite them to Mass at your parish. Introduce your friend to the faith formation director to make a connection. Personal support can be helpful as well, especially if few of your neighbor's current friends are practicing their faith. Connect your neighbor to other people in your parish living their faith well. The good examples of other faithful people could help your neighbor to feel welcomed and supported. Our Church is vibrant and alive!

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## LIVE THE LITURGY

Christ's love for us is radical — it changed the whole world. It will not be easy to love as Christ loved, but this is the mission for which we have been chosen by God. So let us love one another. Let us change the world. @LPI

# GOSPEL MEDITATION

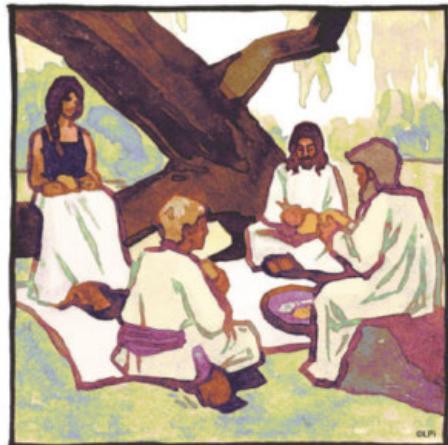
Once a man came to the Vatican and asked to see Pope John Paul II, claiming that they had been friends in Poland. When told of the man, the Pope said, "He is mistaken about our friendship. I don't recall ever having suffered with him." As it turned out, the man had never known the Pope. Now, I'm not sure if the story is totally factual. But doesn't the juxtaposition of *suffering* with *friendship* sound exactly like JPII? He understood that the deepest and most lasting friendships are forged in the fires of shared suffering. No suffering, no friendship. Amazing.

This week we hear Jesus say to the apostles and to us, **"You are my friends if you do what I command you"** (John 15:14). In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command — to love, to lay down our lives for others — will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens our friendship with Him. His suffering is ours; ours is His. We have become friends of God.

This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus? How might he be sharing his suffering with you, in the lives of those around you? Be attentive to that, and you'll find that you are indeed a friend of God, because you've suffered together a great deal.

— Father John Muir

©LPI



# (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

## As I Love You

This week my children were learning about energy. We set up an experiment with toy cars — one was placed in front of another, and a third was pushed into the two stationary ones.

The forward motion caused the front car to move, but not much. "Most of the energy goes into the car in the middle, not the car on the end," my daughter concluded.

I asked her why she seems to have so much energy, and I seem to have so little.

"Because you're old," she replied confidently.

Most days I feel like that first car, barreling at life with all my energy and love and good intentions, only to have it almost entirely absorbed by the proverbial middle car. It's so easy to be discouraged. The devil so badly wants us to feel discouraged.

But the law of love is not unlike the law of conservation of energy. Love is neither created nor destroyed. It is only transferred from one form to another. And yes, sometimes it certainly seems like it disappears. It appears to get lost between my hands and the plate of dinner that goes uneaten or evaporates off of my lips as words I fear are never heard. It is spat upon as a commandment the world would prefer I do not keep.

But we are not called to simply love one another — to love when it seems effective and productive and appreciated. We are called to love as Christ loved: recklessly, selflessly, and yes, even without logic. We are called to love with a love that doesn't give up and is never withdrawn. A love that doesn't fear death or the world's hatred. A love that stands willing to argue, to be reviled, to be dismissed.

We are called to be that first car, hurtling ourselves against a world that isn't ready to accept or understand us. And we trust that, even when we can't see how, the love that seems to disappear simply changes forms.

*"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."* — John 15:12

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPI

*"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you."*

*This I command you: love one another."* — Jn 15:16-17

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Eugene Gencarelli, Jr.



Steve Valavanis, Owner  
Office 860-536-7633  
Cell 860-857-1034  
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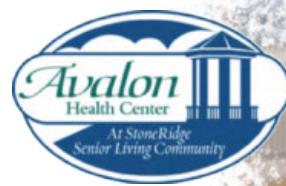
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