Mission Statement

St. Matthias Parish is committed to becoming a prayerful community by celebrating the Sacraments together, and supporting the parish and one another by sharing the time, talents and treasures God has given us. Through prayer and good works we will strive to grow in peace and unity with God and our community.

6th Sunday of Easter

“Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.” - Jn 14:21


“GOD WRITES HIS NAME ON THE SOUL OF EVERY MAN.”

—ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN
CALCULATING LOVE

Have you ever Googled the word “love”? If you did, you may have come across something called the Love Calculator. It is a website where you can supply two names, and the percentage chance of a successful relationship is calculated. Curious, I entered my name and my wife’s. Twenty percent! I hope my wife doesn’t read this!

I then decided to add my name and God. A whopping thirteen percent! Then for the last attempt, I put in my name and Jesus. A very disappointing zero percent! Am I that unlovable? Of course, then I read the small print at the bottom of the page: “Please note that this site has no serious intention whatsoever.” Shocking!

The truth is, the modern world increasingly seems to have no real idea what love is or how to determine when love is real. That makes the seemingly simple words of Jesus about loving God and your neighbor very complex indeed. How can you love God with your all your heart, soul, and mind when you have no idea what the act of loving means? And then, what constitutes loving a neighbor? To make it more complicated, Jesus commands you to love them like you love yourself. I bet you can agree with me that there are a lot of people out there who do not even come close to loving themselves. Knowing what love is in modern times is just not that easy. How is a well-meaning person able to find out the true meaning of love?

You don’t know what true love is? I think you do. Turn your eyes to that crucifix hanging in your church, home, or office. The answer was given over 2,000 years ago, and the image remains for the entire world to see.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I HAVE BEEN GOING TO MASS FOR YEARS AND HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED: WHY DO WE MAKE THE THREE SIGNS OF THE CROSS BEFORE THE GOSPEL?

Certainly, many people go to Mass or other devotions, doing and saying things out of habit or reverence and not really understanding the reasons behind some of these things. But everything we do has a meaning or purpose that helps us to worship better, proclaim our beliefs, or focus the attention of the people on something that has a greater importance or significance. A review of the meaning of various gestures and practices can help us have a deeper appreciation for what we do.

There is a little prayer that goes with the three crosses before the Gospel: “May the words of the Holy Gospel be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart.” In standing to hear the Gospel, we acknowledge that Jesus is present, and the words of the Gospel are addressed to us. All of the gestures and special postures we adopt before the Gospel are intended to help us prepare for hearing the Word as well as act on it. The incense, the Alleluia, the deacon or priest, and the special dialogue and announcement that introduces the Gospel help us focus our attention on the Good News we are about to hear. The three signs of the cross show our desire and good intention to hear and live the Gospel.

MAY 17, 2020
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Pope Francis encourages us to Pray the Rosary
Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing. In his prayer intention for the month of May 2020, Pope Francis asks everyone to pray for permanent deacons, who live their vocation in and with their families. Deacons are not second-level priests. They are dedicated to the service of the poor, who carry within them the face of the suffering Christ. They are the guardians of service in the Church. Let us pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church. source: www.vaticannews.va

Tom Quinn, Creighton reflects: In this sixth week of Easter we continue to let the joy of the Easter Season deepen in us. Perhaps we ask bigger questions. Perhaps we let the good news of the gift of new life enter into those places where we struggle. We are listening to the story of the early community's recognition of the presence of the Holy Spirit with gentiles. And, we hear the rest of Jesus' last words to his disciples at his last supper with them. In the fifteenth chapter of John's gospel we read some of the deepest things Jesus says directly to us. We can hear him now, with the faith of the resurrection and gift of the Holy Spirit. This is a week when we can begin to long for and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is easy to despair, especially in these difficult times. It is important to believe that our God will never leave us. His love is always evident if we open our hearts to it. We must have faith, cling to the truth, and let God give us the strength to persevere. We, too, will find the power to “testify”, to bear witness, to the Lord.

Steve Scholer, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, Creighton, shares: Imagine if your pastor started the homily by asking for a show of hands of who in church has been baptized. Almost everyone would probably have their hand held up high and waving it. Now imagine if the next question you asked was for a show of hands of those who are imbued with the power of the Holy Spirit. Would there be the same sea of raised hands, or would there be a few held high, a few hands at shoulder level and lots of tentative hands slightly tilted upward but still on the lap? Where would your hand be? Up high and waving? Or, are you like the Samaritans who had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus but the Holy Spirit had yet to descend upon? Maybe Peter and John knew full well the struggles those recently baptized into the faith would have in discerning God's will for them, and hoped that by introducing the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans, they would be more receptive to God constant presence in their hearts, minds and souls. Some possible markers to look for in determining if the Holy Spirit is in you can be found in Galatians 5:22, which says, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Are these attributes that describe how you not only interact with God but with those you love? What about how you interact with those you don’t know and, yes, how you interact with those you would sometimes prefer not to know? During your Examen of Consciousness pay special attention to how the Holy Spirit is present in your thoughts, words and deeds. Give thanks for all the gifts you have received and recognize when you have fallen short of what is expected from someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit. But most importantly during your Examen, look forward to the day to come and the gifts you will not only receive but the gifts you will give to others. Think of your interaction with others and your giving and receiving of the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Maybe you will realize that you have a little bit more Holy Spirit in you than you give yourself credit.
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