

GOOD NEWS

May 10, 2009, Fifth Sunday of Easter

God is glorified when we bear fruit. What does that fruit look like? Today's readings offer rich and sobering descriptions.

The first letter of John asks how we know we belong to the truth. By summing up the heart of the Gospel, it addresses hearts that are troubled. Believe in Jesus Christ and love others as he commanded us.

The command to love is so familiar that we risk losing touch with its challenge and power. We're tempted to reduce it to feelings. Are we tempted to see Christian life as a general, fuzzy sense of goodwill toward others? I feel sorry for those in need, and I feel good that I believe in Jesus. Is that it?

In Acts of the Apostles, the feelings of the apostle Paul are not addressed. But we might guess how he is doing. He shows up in Jerusalem to join the disciples of Christ, and they are afraid of him. Plus, he just left Damascus, where he was one step (one basket ride through a hole in the wall, actually) ahead of a plot to kill him. It takes Barnabas's stepping in to even get Paul a hearing with the others. Paul's sense of love is a tough minded commitment to the One who called him. He's drawn to the others called-a tough, mixed, opinionated, strong, argumentative, committed group.

How can we tell we are bearing fruit? Should we feel persecuted? If we anger others, is that a sign of the strength of our faith? Will we need help from someone else just to get started?

The Spirit of God is given to us to figure out the place we belong between the risk of commitment to Christ and the heart that doesn't condemn (1 John 3:21).

Dan Finucane

Readings for the week of May 10, 2009

Sunday:	Acts 9:26-31/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
Monday:	Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday:	Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17
Friday:	Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday:	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

IN THE CHARITY of YOUR PRAYERS, please remember the souls of Richard Cook, father of Noreen Sciullo and David A. Kasuba, son of Susan Kasuba. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace..

ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?

Catholic Engaged Encounter is an opportunity for Christian couples to prepare for a lifetime commitment. If you desire a loving, faithful, permanent and life-giving marriage, consider attending a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend. This marriage preparation program presents a comprehensive, up-close and personal look at marriage. For more info, please call George and Pat Ziringer at 724-335-4966. The next scheduled weekends will be held in Greensburg on June 26-28, and Nov. 6-8.

St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Freeport, will hold a parish mission on May 9 to 13, 7-8:15 p.m. with Fr. Victor Karis and Joseph Butz, C.Ss.R. The mission will focus on a different liturgical theme: The Bible; The Cross; The Easter Candle; The Eucharist. There is no charge and if you would like more info or directions, please call 724-295-2281.

Trip to Nashville ~ the St. Edward Church Sunshine Club in Herminie is planning a trip to Nashville TN on July 19-22, cost is \$509. Call Dee Holmquist at 724-446-7772 for info and reservations by May 27.

The Vandergrift Festa Italiana committee, meeting on Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m., Bari Social Hall. All officers and members are requested to please attend. Let's make our 6th year Festa another great banner year!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD May 2 & 3

Sunday Collection.....	\$7,497.05
Children's Collection.....	3.00
Loose Collection.....	318.45
Utilities.....	151.00

May the Lord bless you for your financial sacrifice to your Parish.



Prayer for Mothers

A long time ago God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and said, “Can a mother forget her infant? Even should she forget, I will never forget my own.” (Is. 49:15).

No mother forgets her own child, and God used that wonderful image to show the intensity of love that God has for us. On Mother’s Day we celebrate the depth of human love. The women who brought us into the world are honored with flowers, cards, brunch or dinner, maybe some chocolates or other sweet gifts. Mothers go through a lot as their children grow up, worrying about their children’s health, their progress in school, their choice of friends, and in many cases providing for their needs until they can make a life of their own. It seems odd that we give only one day a year to those who have given their lives for our growth. “Can a mother forget her infant?” Not at all! We can’t forget our mothers either.

DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL ~ our total as of this week is \$52,235.00 Thanks to all for helping to reach this year’s financial goal. Many thanks to the 350 parishioners who have generously responded. A reminder that outstanding pledges/gifts received henceforth will remain at St. Gertrude Church for restoring the stained and Rose windows. Please return the forms ASAP so that we can successfully bring this year’s campaign to a close.

If you have a concern about sexual abuse of a child or young person by anyone in a parish or diocesan position—clergy, volunteer or paid staff—please contact Bishop Brandt’s delegate for matters of sexual misconduct. He may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 221.



Wedding Banns
Matthew DeBiasio
 &
Danielle Schrecengost

MEMORIAL CANDLES

In memory of **Ann Pocetti** by the family
SANCTUARY LAMP

In memory of **Peter Aiello** by his wife **Mary & family**

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS who are hospitalized, invalids or seriously ill at home: Joseph Filo, Mary Quarato and all the sick who need our prayers.

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

On Tuesday, May 12, the Rosary Altar Society will meet in the church at **5:15** p.m. We will then participate in the recitation of the living rosary beginning at **5:30** p.m. The rosary will be followed by a May Crowning at the fountain. Everyone is welcome.



THE ST. VINCENT de PAUL Conference of St. Gertrude's will once again be accepting clean, used clothing for our spring trip to West Virginia to help the needy in that area. You may deliver these items to the back of the church, Monday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. If this is inconvenient, please call Ed at 412-916-0575 for pick up. We will be delivering the clothing to West Virginia the first week of June. Thanks for helping us with our twinning project.



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**CHURCH HALL ~ SUNDAY
 DOORS OPEN ~ 5:15 P.M.
 PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILY &
 FRIENDS!**

Mass Intentions For The Week



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Saturday, May 9, Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter
4:00 p.m. †Dominick & Laura Roberto

Sunday, May 10, Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. †Domenic & Saveria Gallo
10:30 a.m. Living & Decd. of our Mother's

Monday, May 11, Easter Weekday
8:30 a.m. †Joseph Stonevice

Tuesday, May 12, Easter Weekday
8:30 a.m. †Rocco & Maria Martone (An.)

Wednesday, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima
8:30 a.m. †Raymond Schrum (An.)

Thursday, May 14, Mathias, apostle
8:30 a.m. †Dec'd Petrarca Brothers & Sisters

Friday, May 15, Easter Weekday
9:00 a.m. †Edward Wuyscik (An.)
10—12 N. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, May 16, Easter Weekday
8:30 a.m. †Elsie & Bill Quarato
2:00 p.m. Wedding: Matthew DeBiasio &
Danielle Schrecengost
4:00 p.m. †Tony & Mary Peila

Sunday, May 17, Sixth Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. For our Parish & Rosary Society
10:30 a.m. †Edivige, Frank & Louis Carricato

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May 16 & 17

4:00 p.m. ~ Austin Feydt & Jordan Kiebler
8:00 a.m. ~ Nicole Shannon & Emma Lloyd
10:30 a.m. ~ Kaitlyn Sciuillo & D. DelleDonne