May 6, 2018 • Sixth Sunday of Easter

In the Gospel for the Sixth Sunday of Easter we are met with an extraordinary challenge: Jesus commands us to “love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). The letter from John echoes this command. Of course, we are to love those in our family, those we work with, those we like. But the scriptures make clear that we are also to love those we never notice, those we purposely avoid, and even those we are tempted to despise. In this Sunday’s selection from the Acts of the Apostles Peter shows us how far God’s love extends, and how far our love should extend in response. Peter realizes that God no longer “shows partiality” to the Jews, sharing divine love exclusively with them. Christ has revealed that God’s love extends to all people, and so should ours.

“GOD IS LOVE” Today’s scriptures tell us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and that “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34). Jesus showed us that God’s love for humanity extends to the ends of the earth. No longer can one group claim to deserve or receive the love of God more than another. No one is worthy of God’s love, and yet, it is available in abundance to all. The scene described today in the Acts of the Apostles is sometimes called the “Gentile Pentecost.” The conversion of Cornelius is a momentous shift for the first Christian community, and Luke makes clear that it is the work of the Holy Spirit. What might otherwise have remained a small Jewish sect was to become a world religion, announcing the good news of God’s saving love for every person on earth.

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER” In response to God’s abundant love Jesus commands us to “love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). What might that kind of love look like? What would happen if we followed the example of the Jewish Christians who gave up their age-old disdain for the Gentiles and welcomed them as equals? Perhaps a rural parish would welcome migrant workers into the community. Neighbors would join together to repair each other’s homes. Food and clothing would be shared with people in need. A couple might adopt orphaned siblings; a mother reconcile with her homosexual son; a father confront his daughter about her addiction. A lawyer might defend someone who had no money; a soldier risk his life for the cause of justice and peace. Again this week the Gospel challenges us to “bear fruit that will remain” (John 15:16)—the fruit of love. When we truly love, others know we never notice, those we purposely avoid, and even those we are tempted to despise. In this Sunday’s selection from the Acts of the Apostles Peter shows us how far God’s love extends, and how far our love should extend in response.


6th Easter FOR 7-13 MAY 18

Monday:......... Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1-6b; Jn 15:26; 16:4a
Tuesday:........... Acts 16:22-23; Ps 138:1-3; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:...... Acts 17:15, 22; 18:1; Ps 148:1-14; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:....... Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 16:16-20
Friday:.......... Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 16:20-23
Sunday:....... Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8; Eph 4:1-13; Mk 16:15-20

ST. WILLIAM’S MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday: 5:00 pm; 6:15 pm
Sunday: 11:30 am
RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 4:00 pm (in Durant), or any other time upon request.

ST. PATRICK’S MASS SCHEDULE:
Sunday 8:30 am
COMMUNION OF THE SICK: Per Arrangement
MARRIAGE: Registration/interview 6 months prior to date

DEVIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES: (in Durant)
Couples Group: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:00-8:30 pm
Altar Society Meeting: 1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Parish Council Meeting: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Mass and Adoration (Pot Luck Dinner): 1st Friday, 6:00 pm

SPANISH SERVICES: (in Durant)
Adoration: 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm
Spanish Mass: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Saturday, 6:15 pm
Bilingual Mass: last Saturday each month, 5:00 pm
First Reading — The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles also Psalm 98 — The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power Second Reading — Let us love one another, because love is of God Gospel — This is my commandment: love one another as I love you Communion Chant — Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Prayer for New Parish Hall Building Project

Lord, in your kindness and mercy, guide St. William Catholic Church into the future. We ask with humble hearts that the hardships of building our new Education Building/Parish Hall may result in love for You, love for each other and strengthen our growth, unity and charity. As we raise our hearts to You, bless us with a clear understanding of the path toward the Formation of our Christian Faith for the present and future of our parish community.

Lord, bless our efforts, bless our Parish Community. Grant to us your gift of Faith, Hope, Love, Peace and Joy. We ask this in the name of the Lord, Amen


ORACION POR NUESTRO NUEVO SALON

Señor, por tu bondad y misericordia, guía a la Iglesia Católica de San Guillermo hacia el futuro. Te pedimos corazones humildes. Que las dificultades de construir nuestro Nuevo Centro Educativo y Salon Parroquial resulten en amor para ti, amor entre nosotros y fortalezca nuestro crecimiento, unidad y caridad. Al levantar nuestros corazones hacia ti, bendicenos con un claro entendimiento de el camino correcto hacia la formacion de nuestra Fe Cristiana por el presente y futuro de nuestra comunidad parroquial.

Señor, bendice nuestros esfuerzos, bendice a la comunidad de esta Parroquia. Concedenos tus dones de Fe, Esperanza, Amor, Paz y Gozo. Te pedimos esto en el nombre del Señor, Amen

Inmaculado Corazon de Maria, Madre de Jesus, ruega por nosotros. San Jose, Santo Patron de los Constructor, Patron de la Iglesia Universal, ruega por nosotros. Todos los Apostoles, Santos y Martyres, rueguen por nosotros. Santo Tomas de Aquino, Santo Patron de los Estudiantes, ruega por nosotros. San Guillermo, ruega por nosotros. Padre Stanley Rother, Martir y servidor de Dios, ruega por nosotros.

Weekly Offering

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<tr>
<td>St. William</td>
<td>$928.00</td>
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Weekly Collection

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<td>New Parish Hall</td>
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<td>St. Catherine</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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Gift Case will be open following Masses. See the ushers.
The Good News

Easter Season Celebration: Let's pray for all candidates who joined the Catholic faith during Easter Services throughout the world through the Sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Communion, and Reconciliation. May God strengthen their faith and commitment and fill them with courage and fortitude.

Happy Birthday Father Valley, Saturday, May 5th. He request all of the parishioners' valuable prayers for his continued physical and spiritual well-being. God bless everyone.

First Communion, Sunday, May 6th, 11:30 am Mass: Especially pray for all the Communicants. Thanks and appreciation to Amy Ramos for instructing them.

Family Visit: Fr. Valley will be back in India after May 8th to visit his family members and his superiors. While he is away from the parish, Rev. Charles Buckley, OSB, will be celebrating the weekend Liturgical Services and Sacrament of Reconciliation. No Weekday Masses. In case of emergency and in need of a priest, contact Jack Accountius @580-920-0673 or Marilyn Hitchcock @580-920-4655.

Second Collection, Birthright, May 12-13th: Please be generous in supporting this worthwhile cause. Thank you for your generosity in advance.

Happy Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13th: Don't forget to get your mother something to celebrate the day or please remember her in a special way. Pray that God bless all mothers.

Thanks and Appreciation: to Will Grote, his dad Glen, their family, all volunteers, and organizing committee for a successful completion of the Calf Fry Festival Fundraiser this year at the Bryan County Fairgrounds. Special thanks to all our parishioners who helped promote the event and worked to make it a great event. The total raised: $31,651.00.

Parish Election Results: New members are Melissa McBride, Gina Pilgreen, and Clint Morrison elected to two-year terms. They'll be joining Ginger Lewis, Lisa Seager, and Francisco Carolina Montes during the September meeting to take their place on the Parish Council. Thanks to all outgoing members: Jack Accountius and Ruben Ramos.

Choir Loft Safety and Security: A gate has been installed in the stairway for the protection of our youngest parishioners and our new sound system. Please do not go to the choir loft without an adult present if you are under 15 years old, and please don't touch the sound equipment. Thank you.

Memorial Bricks: Write anything on a brick. Fr Valley request every Parish family purchase a $200 brick in their name. Ginger Lewis, Teri Gilbert, or Marilyn Hitchcock are accepting forms or you can bring it whenever you decide.

New Parish Hall & Existing Bldg Maintenance Fund contributions are welcome & greatly appreciated. Use green envelopes in church pews, write name and amount (for bank checks, put Parish Hall Bldg Fund in memo space).

Coming Events in Bulletin: Please email Don your announcements. Tell the sponsors you appreciate them. Take extra bulletins for your friends and invite them to attend a Mass with you.

Parish Babysitting (Ed Bldg), Sundays, 11:30 am-12:30 pm: so you can attend Mass with devotion and attention.

St. Catherine is Open Wednesdays, 1-3:30 pm, 1015 N. First: Volunteers are needed at 9:30 am to bag groceries and also on Tuesdays at 10:30 am, for food deliveries except for the 1st week of each month. Call Marilyn @920-4655.

In ancient Rome, the beautiful month of May was dedicated to the goddess Flora, the patroness of flowers and new life. May 1 was considered the beginning of abundant growth, and a day for public festivals aimed at expelling winter. Even after Christianity took hold, the customs of the pagan feast lingered behind. Long ago, there was a thirty-day devotion to Mary, sometimes called "Lady Month," which began on August 15. By the eighteenth century, the custom of assigning devotions to months of the year was developing. June, was the month of the Sacred Heart, and October was for the Holy Rosary. Beginning with the Jesuit Order in Rome and spreading throughout the world, May has been celebrated as the month of Mary, the Blessed Mother, for more than two hundred years. That was a welcome remedy to some enduring pagan practices, such as maypole dancing and the crowning of the May Queen. Some historians say that in ancient times the May Queen was actually a human sacrifice. Devoting May to Mary is undoubtedly a better thing to do.

*What is Pastor A's cooking like? Put it this way... Happy are those who are NOT called to his support.

*I don't feel so bad having this steak seeing you eat that burger on a Friday in Lent."