



The Other Side of Love

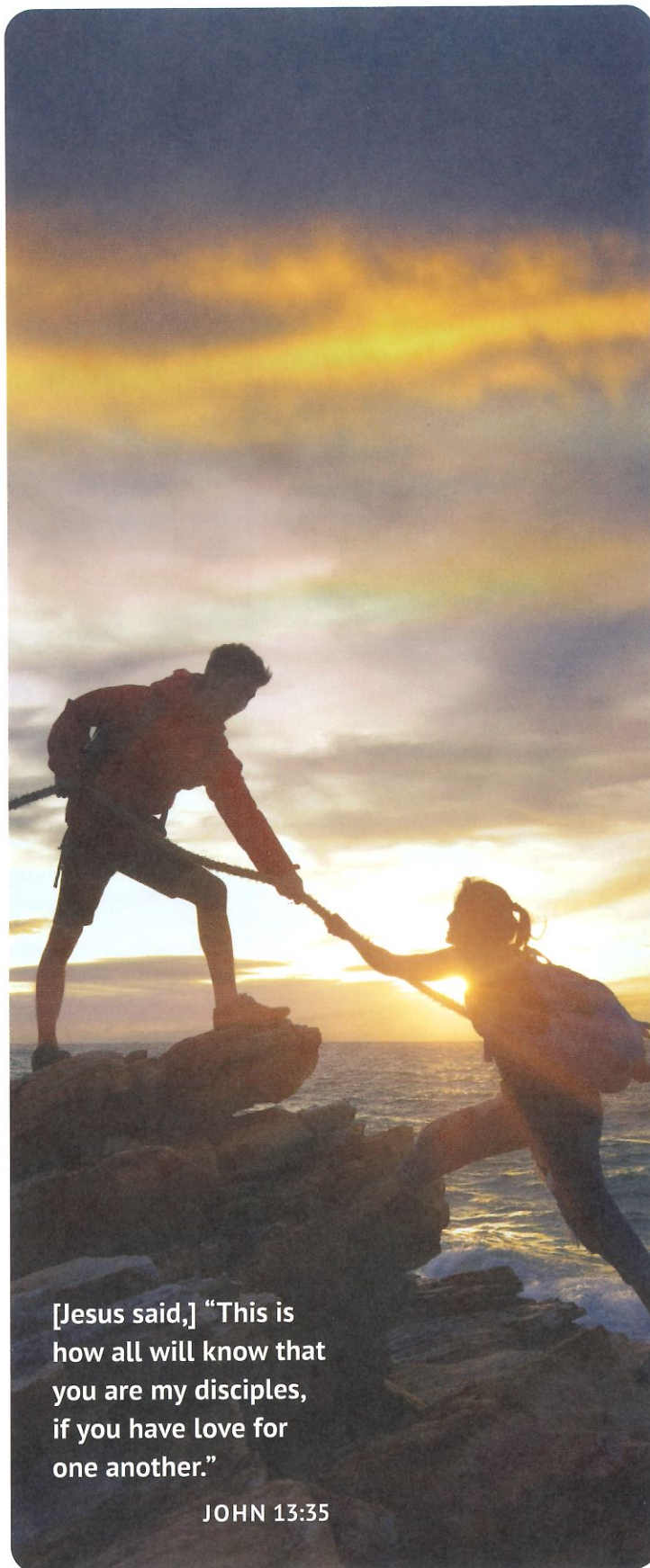
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We have an instinct to love; this is something woven into the foundation of human life. It's also a godly instinct, for anything embedded into the human spirit with such intensity must surely be of God. In fact, it is how God is creating a new heaven and a new earth, thereby making all things new as is written in the Book of Revelation. So intense is that inclination to love, we read in the first letter of John that God is love.

While our culture tends to romanticize love, the reality is that, all too often, if we are seriously committed to loving someone, it can also be a lonely effort. Love is not always romantic or satisfying. At times, it can be demanding and even harsh. One day, when I was meeting with an engaged couple in preparation for their marriage, I asked them, as I often do, for their definition of love. Usually, couples are tongue-tied when I ask that question. They know they're in love, and, to them, that seems to be enough. This time, however, the young groom-to-be did not hesitate. He said that love is caring for someone even when they are unlovable—an insightful definition, for it is precisely during such times that we need someone's love. It is the weakest moments of life that are in need of rebuilding, the loneliest moments of life that are in need of someone reaching out a hand, and the darkest moments of life that are in need of light. When that happens, creation is made new. ●

Reflect

***What is my definition of love?
How do I live it?***



[Jesus said.] "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

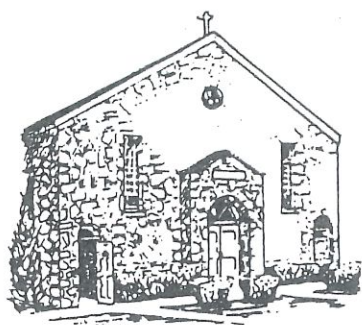
JOHN 13:35

Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

Rev. William Pifher

419-446-9288



Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel
Pat Eisel
Ray Hollstein
Mike Burkholder
Traci Maginn
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday

PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

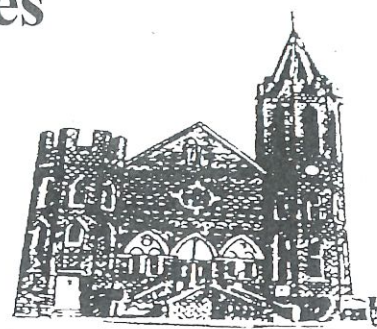
CRE

Mary Bird

OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online)

stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy



St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150
email-stpeter@rtexpress.net

Religious Ed

Deb Herring

Parish Council President

Stephen Bernath

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions **starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.**
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon.** Please either call, email at OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

5th Sunday of Easter

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

BFF'S

Last BFF will be today after Mass. Come and enjoy breakfast, friends and fellowship. See you in the Fall

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Evan Beauregard as he graduates from Fayette High School. "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope." – Jeremiah 29:11

THANK YOU

Thank you to all Our Lady of Mercy Catechists for a very Blessed Religious Education season, Mary Bird, CRE, Barb Bruggeman, Co-CRE, Mike Burkholder and Ron Eisel. "Enlighten them in regard to the decisions and regulations, showing them how they are to live and what they are to do." – Exodus 19:20

THE CHOSEN

Season 1 episode 5, "The Wedding Gift" will be viewed on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 7 p.m. Please bring a comfy chair, beverage (non adult) and a friend. Snacks will be provided .

ROSARY – MAY MARY'S MONTH

Please join us for the Rosary that will prayed on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. – "Say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and the end of war." – Our Lady of Fatima

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

Altar Rosary Society will meet on June 1, 2025 after Mass in the basement

SILENT FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

We will meet on Sunday, June 8, 2025 after Mass in the basement.

ASK HER - SIMPLE WORDS TO JUMPSTART YOUR CONVERSATION WITH MARY

By Jane Tufant Harvey

"Ask Her...to inspire you to believe in the best of someone when no one else will."

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 3

1087 + When one day I resolve to practice a certain virtue , I relapsed into the vice opposed to that virtue ten times more frequently than on other days. In the evening, I was reflecting on why, today. I had a lapsed so extraordinarily, and I heard the words: **You were counting too much on yourself and too little on Me.** And I understood the cause of my lapses.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY NEWS

---Saturdays until Sept. 27 2025 – Fayette Farmers Market 9 a.m. – Noon @ Opera House parking lot

---May 21 – Fayette Community Meal – 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Fayette Methodist Life Center

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email or call Our Lady of Mercy office. Email olomprayerchain@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Privacy Issues for Parish Office:

IMMEDIATE FAMILY – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.



Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, was elected the 267th pope May 8 and took the name Pope Leo XIV.

KINDLY JOIN BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS FOR A

MASS FOR THE POPE

*in thanksgiving for the election
of his Holiness Pope Leo XIV*

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025 6:00PM

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral
2535 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo



Diocese
of Toledo

Saints of the Day

(www.morningoffering.com)

Week of May 18 – May 24

Sunday, May 18 – St. Felix of Cantalice - St. Felix of Cantalice (d. 1587) was born to a pious peasant family in Italy. He grew up tending sheep and was hired out to work for a farmer at the age of nine, which he did for twenty years. He evidenced signs of holiness and spent his free time in prayer. He had a friend read him the lives of the saints from which he drew much inspiration. Felix eventually joined the Capuchin Franciscans and served in Rome as the Order's official beggar. Although he could not read, and received no formal study, he had great influence over the Roman people because of his piety and the labors he undertook to convert even the most hardened sinners. Felix also encouraged those he met to lead greater lives of virtue, regardless if they were dignitaries or peasants. Men who lived scandalous lives retreated from his presence, lest he convict them of their sins. St. Felix's special apostolate was among the children of the city to whom he gave religious instruction with childlike humility and simplicity. He was a contemporary and friend of St. Philip Neri, who declared Felix to be the Church's greatest living saint. St. Felix served in this way for 42 years. He was beatified immediately after his death, becoming the first Capuchin Franciscan ever canonized. His body rests under an altar dedicated to him in the church of the Immaculate Conception in Rome. His feast day is May 18.

Monday, May 19 – St. Ivo of Kermartin - St. Ivo of Kermartin (1253-1303) was born to a noble family in Brittany, France. He studied civil and canon law, philosophy, and theology. He went on to practice law for many years in both the civil and ecclesiastical courts. He graciously defended the poor without charge, and visited them in prison as they awaited trial. He also worked to settle matters out of court to save litigants money and time. For these good works he became known as "Advocate of the Poor." St. Ivo also practiced a life of asceticism; he wore a hairshirt under his clothing, fasted regularly, and became a Franciscan Tertiary. These spiritual disciplines aided him in his practice of virtue in the courtroom: he fought the State in court on behalf of the rights of the Church, and became a diocesan judge who was unable to be tempted by bribes. St. Ivo eventually resigned from practicing law and joined the priesthood. He used the funds from his years practicing law to build a hospital for the poor, and he fed them with the harvests of his land. He became a miracle-worker during his life, feeding hundreds from a single loaf of bread. St. Ivo is the patron saint of judges, attorneys, lawyers, orphans, bailiffs, advocates, and canon lawyers. His feast day is May 19th.

Tuesday, May 20 – St. Bernardine of Siena - St. Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444) was born to a noble family in Siena, Italy. As a young man he witnessed the bubonic plague raging mercilessly through the city, and volunteered to care for the sick in the local hospital. At this time he also spent much time praying and fasting to know God's will for his life. He discerned a call to Holy Orders and the religious life, and joined the Franciscans at the age of 22. He lived in solitude for over a decade before being sent to preach in the streets, which he did with incredible skill, so much so that he became the most renowned preacher of his day. He traveled on foot to strife-torn cities, attacking sin and paganism and encouraging all to a life of faith and virtue. Huge crowds numbering in the tens of thousands would come to hear him preach in the public square. His fame and effectiveness as a preacher caused the pope to compare him to St. Paul the Apostle. Bernardine was especially known for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and for promulgating devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. It was he who devised the IHS symbol over a blazing sun as a monogram and logo for the Holy Name of Jesus (in Greek) to replace the public display of insignias of rival family tribes which disturbed the peace. This symbol of Christ began appearing in churches and on public buildings, even to this day. He also served as the head of his Franciscan community. When he began there were 300 friars; when he died there were over 4,000. St. Bernardine's feast day is May 20th.

Wednesday, May 21 – St. Eugene de Mazenod - St. Eugene de Mazenod (1782-1861) was born in southern France to a noble family. When he was eight years of age his family was forced to flee the turmoil of the French Revolution and seek political asylum in Italy. Leaving their possessions behind, the family struggled financially as they relocated from city to city. A sympathetic priest took it upon himself to educate Eugene and stir in him a love for God. The family returned to France when Eugene was twenty. They were distressed to find a dramatically altered society, and their social status no greater than ordinary citizens. The family was also plagued with in-fighting which culminated in divorce, a rarity at the time. While Eugene's father remained in Italy, Eugene's mother fought to regain the family's former possessions. She also attempted to force Eugene to marry a wealthy heiress. St. Eugene, deeply affected by how the Revolution had decimated the Church in France, decided to enter the seminary instead. After his ordination he sought out other zealous priests and together they went as missionaries into the countryside villages, calling themselves the "Missionaries of Provence," which was later approved by the pope as the "Oblates of Mary Immaculate." St. Eugene went on to become the Bishop of Marseilles. He did much work in restoring his diocese by building and repairing churches, doubling the number of priests, and bringing in religious communities. He also

(St. Eugene de Mazenod – cont.)

worked to weaken the government's monopoly on education, and supported the rights of the Holy See. Eugene de Mazenod is the patron saint of dysfunctional families. His feast day is May 21st.

Thursday, May 22 – St. Rita of Cascia– St. Rita of Cascia (1381-1457) was born in Italy during an era of violent strife between cities and warring family tribes. As a child she repeatedly requested to enter the convent, but instead her parents arranged her marriage to a rich, ill-tempered, and violent man. He became physically abusive, yet she met his cruelty with kindness and patience. During her eighteen years of marriage she bore two sons whom she loved deeply. After many years of persistent prayer she eventually won her husband over to greater civility and kindness. When he was murdered, her sons plotted a bloody vendetta against the culprits. St. Rita labored to guide her children into forgiveness, without success. She earnestly prayed that God would change her son's murderous intentions, or allow them to die rather than commit a mortal sin. God heard St. Rita's prayers, and soon both of her sons became ill and died. St. Rita was then free to join the convent, however, she was rejected due to her family's connection with the local violence. She finally obtained entry only after much prayer, humility, patience, and perseverance. St. Rita's life in the convent was marked by heroic charity and penance as she closely united herself and her life of deep suffering to Christ. While praying before a crucifix, St. Rita mystically received a thorn in her forehead (stigmata) from Jesus' Crown of Thorns. St. Rita is the patron saint of impossible causes, difficult marriages, and abuse victims. Her feast day is May 22nd.

Friday, May 23–St. William of Rochester - St. William of Rochester (d. 1201), also known as St. William of Perth, was born in Perth, Scotland. He was a wild youth who matured into a devoted man of God. He became a baker, and out of his charity he would always set aside bread to feed the poor. One day, while walking into the church for Mass, he found an abandoned baby boy on the church steps. He adopted the child, raised him, and taught him his trade. Years later St. William made a vow to visit the sacred sites of Our Lord's life on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, along with his adopted son. The two set out on their journey. While traveling through England his son deceived him, slit his throat, and stole the money he had saved for their pilgrimage. William's abandoned body was discovered and mourned over by a mentally deranged woman. She made a crown of flowers and placed it on the head of William's murdered corpse, then afterwards put the garland on her own head. Upon doing this, she was immediately cured of her mental illness. The local monks learned of this miracle and carried William's body to the Rochester cathedral to give him the proper burial of a saint. His shrine later attracted many pilgrims. St. William of Rochester is the patron of adopted children. His feast day is May 23rd.

Saturday, May 24 – St. Simeon Stylites the Younger - St. Simeon Stylites the Younger (521-596 A.D.) was born in Antioch in ancient Syria (present-day Turkey). Like his namesake and predecessor, Simeon was drawn from a young age to a life of penance and austerity out of his great love for God. His mother was considered a saint. As a young boy he attached himself to a monastery of hermits. Their spiritual director, John, lived night and day at the top of a tall pillar, or "style", within the monastery enclosure. The holy hermits who lived in this manner, separated from the world on top of a pillar, were called "stylites." Simeon the Younger imitated John and lived on a smaller pillar erected near his larger one. Simeon continued to live in this way on three different pillars, each one higher than the next, from boyhood until his death. His final pillar was 12 meters high. During his life he was ordained a deacon and a priest. Disciples gathered around him and would climb a ladder to receive Holy Communion from his hands. He worked many miracles during the course of his life. Hearing of his great sanctity, people came from distant countries for his blessings, cures, prophecies, and spiritual advice. After his death his pillar remained a place of pilgrimage, the ruins of which still exist today. His feast day is May 24.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MAY 18, 2025



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. May 18	8:30a.m.	OLM	Jannette Tidwell Edward Joseph Britenriker, Jr.
	10:30a.m.	SP	Frank O & Mary Smith Rod Britenriker, Susan & David Saaf
Tues. May 20	6:30 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. May 21	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. May 22	9:00 a.m.	OLM	For the People
Fri. May 23	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. May 24	4:30 pm	SP	John Van Pelt Al Holland
Sun. May 25	8:30a.m.	OLM	Rosemary Pontius, Giovanni Stella, Andrew Lichtenwald
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

---Wednesday's until June 11 – The Chosen at 7:00 p.m. OLOM basement
 ---May 22 & 29 Rosary at 7 p.m.
 ---May 18 Last BFF after Mass
 ---May 18 – Graduation Mass
 ---June 1 Altar Rosary meeting after Mass in basement
 ---June 8 – Silent Festival Committee meeting after Mass in basement

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for May 11, 2025

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (18 envelopes)	\$ 1,475.41
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 94.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 177.59)

OTHER COLLECTION

Votives	\$ 5.00
Maintenance	\$ 40.00
Fayette Local Ministries	\$ 5.00
Lenten Rice Bowls	\$ 31.05

TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other)	\$ 1650.46
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NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	May 25, 2025
Greeters/Gifts	Ron & Pat Eisel
Proclaimer	Pat Eisel
Servers	Will Maginn
Ushers	Phil & Tami Baker
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Phil Baker Michelle Miron Joanna Marry

Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

PROCLAIM – to announce or declare publicly or officiously

And when they arrived they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. – Acts 14:27

Dear Padre,

I have gay/homosexual friends and coworkers. How do I respond appropriately when they announce they got married or are engaged, as we Catholics do not believe in same-sex marriage?

Context and perspective are always useful and necessary. It is also important to remember that your beliefs can often conflict with another person's belief system. It does not change the truth of what you believe, but it can be sobering. When you offer someone congratulations, it does not mean you are giving your approval or acceptance. It just means you are engaging in respectful social protocol. Let's assume that most people are mature enough to understand the difference between acceptance and protocol. Confusion arises when some people insist that you cannot be "both/and," as they reduce everything to "either/or." With this kind of perspective, life is a battle to be fought rather than an opportunity to live a life of graciousness and thanksgiving that invites us to celebrate. Be respectful. Be gentle. Be loving. Be compassionate. Each of those virtues speak much louder than judgment, rigidity, and a posture that proclaims, "I am better than you." ●



PIXABAY / PEXELS

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / Dear Padre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We have heard what Jesus told his disciples before leaving this world.... He told us what it means to be a Christian: "Even as I have loved you, so you must love one another" (Jn 13:34). This is the legacy that Christ bequeathed to us, the ultimate criterion for discerning whether or not we are truly his disciples.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 15, 2022

Monday

May 19
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:5-18
Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday

May 20
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:19-28
Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday

May 21
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:1-6
Jn 15:1-8

Thursday

May 22
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:7-21
Jn 15:9-11

Friday

May 23
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:22-31
Jn 15:12-17

Saturday

May 24
Easter Weekday
Acts 16:1-10
Jn 15:18-21

Sunday

May 25
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Rv 21:10-14, 22-23
Jn 14:23-29