

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021

"I have called you friends"

What is the greatest act of love which one can give for the sake of another? Jesus defines friendship - the mutual bond of trust and affection which people choose to have for one another - as the willingness to give totally of oneself - even to the point of laying down one's life for a friend. How is such love possible or even desirable? God made us in love for love. That is our reason for being, our purpose for living, and our goal in dying.

Scripture tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8) - and everything he does flows from his immense love for us. He loved us so much - far beyond what we could ever expect or deserve - that he was willing to pay any price to redeem us from our slavery to sin and death. That is why the Father sent us his beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave up his life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. In this great exchange - the Father giving up his Son to death on the cross in order to give us abundant everlasting life and adopting us as his beloved sons and daughters in Christ (Romans 8:14-17).

Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment - a new way of loving and serving one another. Jesus' love was wholly directed toward the good of others.

Jesus calls his disciples his friends. Jesus not only showed his disciples that he personally cared for them and sought their welfare. He personally enjoyed their company and wanted to be with them. He ate with them, shared everything he had with them - even his inmost heart and thoughts. And he spent himself doing good for them. To know Jesus personally is to know God and the love and friendship he offers to each one of us.

The distinctive feature of Jesus' relationship with his disciples was his personal love for them. He loved his own to the end (John 13:1). His love was unconditional and wholly directed to the good of others. His love was also sacrificial. He gave the best he had and all that he had. He gave his very life for those he loved in order to secure for them everlasting life with the Father.

The Lord Jesus gives his followers a new commandment - a new way of love that goes beyond giving only what is required or what we think others might deserve. What is the essence of Jesus' new commandment of love? It is a love to the death - a purifying love that overcomes selfishness, fear, and pride. It is a total giving of oneself for the sake of others - a selfless and self-giving love that is oriented towards putting the welfare of others ahead of myself.

The Lord Jesus tells us that he is our friend and he loves us whole-heartedly and unconditionally. He wants us to love one another just as he loves us, whole-heartedly and without reserve. His love fills our hearts and transforms our minds and frees us to give ourselves in loving service to others. If we open our hearts to his love and obey his command to love our neighbour, then we will bear much fruit in our lives, fruit that will last for eternity. Do you wish to be fruitful and to abound in the love of God?

"Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Prayer of Ignatius Loyola)

SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE

Mass is being live streamed on our Parish YouTube Channel on Sunday morning beginning at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday at 7pm (preceded by the Rosary at 6:40pm).

The link to our parish YouTube channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCokoBfidkSQAZBuk3g-bhw?>

EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church on Fridays from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/exposition-of-the-blessed-sacrament-and-adoration-tickets-130608933837>

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week

MONDAY, MAY 10 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

TUESDAY, MAY 11 – 8:00 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Curtis Moses Large

+ Maria Lombardi

+ Donald Clarke

THURSDAY, MAY 13 – 8:00 A.M.

S.I. For married couples and those preparing for marriage.

FRIDAY, MAY 14 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Rocca Mansour

SATURDAY, MAY 15 – 5:00 P.M.

Intention Available

SUNDAY, MAY 16 – ASCENSION OF THE LORD

S.I. Parish Community



Your gift to ShareLife is helping!

“ShareLife-funded agencies have been helping thousands of people since the pandemic began. They quickly adapted their programs in light of safety and the changing needs of the people they serve.

“We can help alleviate the suffering of those whose lives have been upended by the pandemic. Let us say yes to Jesus' call to live the Gospel by providing for those in need.”

– Cardinal Thomas Collins

Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fr. Damian is inviting parishioners to join him for an "Ecumenical Novena to the Holy Spirit" in preparation for the Solemn Feast of Pentecost. Fr. Damian will live stream the Novena Prayers every day at 2:30pm on the Parish YouTube Channel beginning Friday, May 14th and concluding on Saturday, May 22nd. The live stream will be uploaded so you can do the prayers with your family at a time convenient for you later in the day if you wish. Please visit www.Pentecost.Cmaxtv to download your own copy of the novena prayers. Parishioners may print a hardcopy for private use at home but are asked not to share the novena digitally.

FORMED

Our parish now has a subscription to FORMED, a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. FORMED has content from over 60 apostolates, including Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, and the Knights of Columbus, with material that is professionally produced, engaging, and solid in its catechism. Best of all, this material is free to you.

There are 3 easy steps to Sign Up on FORMED:

1. Visit <http://signup.formed.org/>
2. Enter our parish code: L5K
3. Enter your name and email

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

Every weekend while the provincial “Stay-at-Home” order persists, Communion Services will be held on Saturday evening and on Sunday during the times when our regular Sunday Masses would normally be celebrated. Those with compromised immune systems or other health conditions are strongly encouraged to remain home. No public Masses are taking place at this time. The dispensation from the Sunday Eucharist remains.

Each Communion Service can only accommodate 8 people, in addition to an usher and the presiding priest or deacon. Registration is required in order to attend a Communion Service. Walk-ins are not permitted. Please register on our parish website as you have done in the past.

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is offered every Saturday from 4:00pm to 4:45pm in the Reconciliation Room of the church.

PRAYER GROUP VIDEO SERIES

Beginning Thursday, May 13, join Deacon Don and the Prayer group on Zoom from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, for a new video series. “Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told” is a dramatic 10-session journey featuring best-selling author and popular speaker Fr. Michael Gaitley. All are welcome. To get the Zoom link please contact Deacon Don at ddroberts828@yahoo.ca