



May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 14:21-27 | Rev 21:1-5a | Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today's Gospel occurs shortly before Jesus gives his Last Supper Discourses in the Gospel of John. Judas has betrayed Jesus, and now the Lord speaks to his inner circle for one of the last times before his arrest. "I will be with you only a little while longer," he says. At these words, I imagine a hush falling over the group. Rattled by Judas' strange actions and alarmed by the Lord announcing his impending departure, the disciples' eyes must have darted about as they held their breath, awaiting Jesus' words. "I give you a new commandment," he says. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." In a word, Jesus summarizes his teaching: love as God loves. He is using these last moments to exhort his disciples to be as he is. We know it won't be easy – it will involve sacrifice and suffering – but the Holy Spirit is present with us to guide and advocate for us on our journey.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Have you ever experienced a season of suffering and wondered, "Have I done something wrong?" When we meet resistance on the narrow path, it can make us question our choices, ourselves, and sometimes even God. Let today's first reading be a boost of confidence on your journey; remember that your suffering does not imply a misstep. "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," Paul and Barnabas exhort the disciples (and us). It is natural to grow fatigued, especially when we encounter hardships. This is one reason why the Lord desires that we never journey alone. By God's perfect design, humans require companionship, from other humans and from the Creator himself. In the reading from the Book of Revelation, John the Apostle hears a loud voice saying, "God himself will always be with them as their God." Though the road may be peppered with pain, and the trials overwhelming, may we never forget that our God is very near!

PRAY

Today's readings reveal themes of perseverance in faith, radical love, and the stunning reality that the Lord is *truly present* to us. As we pray with these Scriptures, consider asking yourself: *What areas of my life feel distant from the Lord's presence? How can I open these areas up to receive his light and his love?* Take time to talk to the Lord in prayer about these things. When you do, make sure you leave space and silence for him to speak.

Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions: (Sat) 4p – 4:45p

As I Have Loved You

The love that we receive from the Lord is the force that transforms our lives. It opens our hearts and enables us to love. For this reason, Jesus says—here is the second element—“as I have loved you, so must you love one another.” That word “as” is not simply an invitation to imitate Jesus’ love; it tells us that we are able to love only because he has loved us, because he pours into our hearts his own Spirit, the Spirit of holiness, love that heals and transforms. As a result, we can make decisions and perform works of love in every situation and for every brother and sister whom we meet, because we ourselves are loved and we have the power to love. As I myself am loved, so I can love others. The love I give is united to Jesus’ love for me. “As” he loved me, so I can love others. The Christian life is just that simple. Let’s not make it more complicated with so many things. It is just that simple.

– Pope Francis’ homily on 5th Sunday of Easter

Eucharistic Procession through the Diocese of San Jose

Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025

From Mission Santa Clara

to Our Lady of Peace

Led by Bishop Oscar Cantú.

For more information:

Scan QR code, or visit

www.caminodecalifornia.org/



Catholic Charities Appeal - May 18

Each year during “May Appeal,” our diocesan parishes support the important work of Catholic Charities in our Santa Clara County.

Thank you for your support.

WEEKLY OFFERING - MAY 11

-Total: **\$6,361** (\$4,894 + online: \$1,467).

-YTD Sunday: \$283,973. Budget: \$286,000.

-Priest Retirement Fund: **\$3,301**.

-Christian Initiation: **\$500**.

-Flower Fund: **\$200**. Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 17	Sat	05 pm	Frank Pereira +
May 18	Sun	07 am	Isabel Pereira (L)
		09 am	Arthur Albert Fichter III +
		11 am	Ian Wong (L)
		05 pm	Louise Harpham (L)
May 19	Mon	08 am	Clarence Nunes +
May 20	Tue	08 am	Jennie Brazzano +
May 21	Wed	08 am	Philu & Joachina D’Souza +
May 22	Thu	08 am	Joseph Fiorentino (L)
May 23	Fri	08 am	Muriel Rodriguez +
May 24	Sat	09 am	Walter & June Whelan +

Pope Leo on 3 Pillars of Church Mission

In his address to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See on Friday, May 16, a week after his election, Pope Leo noted three pillars of the Church’s missionary activity and foundation of the Holy See’s diplomatic engagement: peace, justice, and truth.



The first word, peace, he described not as the mere absence of war, but as a demanding and active gift, “the first gift of Christ”. True peace, he continued, must begin in the human heart, through humility, careful speech, and the rejection of both pride and vengeance. This, he continued, refers to words as well, since “not only weapons can wound and even kill”.

With this in mind, Pope Leo XIV emphasized the indispensable role of religious freedom and inter-religious dialogue in cultivating peace. He called for a renewal of multilateral diplomacy and a decisive halt to the arms race, echoing Pope Francis’ final Urbi et Orbi message, in which he warned, as he often did, that “no peace is possible without true disarmament.”
(To be continued next week)



Pope Leo XIV Inauguration

Sunday, May 18, 2025 @ 12am Pacific Time

The Inauguration of the Petrine ministry of Pope Leo XIV highlights the bond with the Apostle Peter and his martyrdom, which nurtured the nascent Church of Rome, and the significance of the “Petrine” episcopal insignia conferred upon the Pope: the Pallium, a white woolen band, and the Ring of the Fisherman.

Mass of Thanksgiving for Pope Leo

Join Bishop Oscar Cantú to pray in thanksgiving for the election of Pope Leo XIV
Monday, May 19, at 7:00 pm
at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph.

Quo Vadis Retreat

June 18-20, 2025

Location: to be announced

A junior high and high school retreat for young Catholic men seeking to deepen their faith and listen to God’s call in their lives.

- Are you a Catholic young man in 9th – 12th grade?

- Are you open to following Jesus Christ and

interested in what that might mean in your own life?

- Are you willing to grow deeper in your faith?

If you answered yes to all 3, then we invite you to sign up (QR code).

