

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

OPENING PRAYER: Loving God, thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit to guide us, teach us, comfort us and convict us of sin. Help us to be more aware of and responsive to your Spirit's presence and activity in our lives and in the world. May the Holy Spirit be with us now as we gather together to break open your holy Word. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, "Listen with the ears of your heart."
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today's passage. Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN - John 14:15-21

The Advocate.

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.ⁱ

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate* to be with you always,^k

17 the Spirit of truth,* which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.^l

18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live.^m

20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.ⁿ

21 Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."^o

Notes

* [14:16] Another Advocate: Jesus is the first advocate (*paraclete*); see 1 Jn 2:1, where Jesus is an advocate in the sense of intercessor in heaven. The Greek term derives from legal terminology for an advocate or defense attorney, and can mean spokesman, mediator, intercessor, comforter, consoler, although no one of these terms encompasses the meaning in John. The Paraclete in John is a teacher, a witness to Jesus, and a prosecutor of the world, who represents the continued presence on earth of the Jesus who has returned to the Father.

* [14:17] The Spirit of truth: this term is also used at Qumran, where it is a moral force put into a person by God, as opposed to the spirit of perversity. It is more personal in John; it will teach the realities of the new order (Jn 14:26), and testify to the truth (Jn 14:6). While it has been customary to use masculine personal pronouns in English for the Advocate, the Greek word for "spirit" is neuter, and the Greek text and manuscript variants fluctuate between masculine and neuter pronouns.

* [14:18] I will come to you: indwelling, not parousia.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. When did you become aware of the Holy Spirit within you? How did your life change?
2. How do you experience the Paraclete or the Holy Spirit?

Commentary

Jesus promises the 'Paraclete' to his disciples, ('Paraclete' literally means 'alongside of'). Its 14 secondary meaning has to do with speaking, exhorting, begging, consoling, encouraging, instructing. In John, the Paraclete witnesses (15:6), teaches (14:26), encourages (16:6) guides (16:13) and proves wrong (16:8-11). Notice Jesus says, "I will give you another Paraclete." Jesus is the first one. The Paraclete is the "Spirit of Truth" who will remind the Apostles what Jesus taught, and help them to understand what he taught. In various situations, the Spirit will help Jesus' disciples in different ways, e.g., if a disciple is in court, the Spirit will act as his inner defense attorney. In dealing with the world, the Spirit will act as his prosecutor. The Spirit is the very presence of Jesus within us Jesus has not orphaned us; rather, he is within us in a new way. The Spirit is a new presence of Jesus. The Spirit is our companion playing different roles at different times. For example, when we are sad, he is our comfort; when we are confused, he will guide us. This Spirit cannot be recognized without eyes of faith or without a heart of love. If we lack these qualities, the presence of the Holy Spirit will remain concealed from us. True knowledge of Jesus is always linked to loving Jesus.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom
Wednesday, May 6 6:30 – 8:00pm

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: May 6, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618
Passcode: 280607