



CHRIST THE KING

BENTON, PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 5, 2024

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6TH SUNDAY
of Easter

LOVE INCARNATE

God is Love.

We hear this sentence uttered throughout the centuries. We affirm it as the definitive claim of Christianity. But what does this mean? The saying 'God is love' can sound and feel very abstract to the ears. What does it mean to say 'God is love'?

In order to understand what this concretely means, we can adhere to the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. In one of his encyclicals, he writes that being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.

This encounter, this event, is the Incarnation. The Word becoming flesh. Jesus Christ. Love itself in the flesh.

Our God is not a distant God. He wants to make His life known to us, and we need him to reveal himself if we are to know who he is. Logic and the sciences can inform us that God exists, but we actually need God in order to not just know that he exists, but to know who he is, what kind of God He is.

The early Church sought to articulate this event, this encounter, in a truthful manner. Some attempts were not successful. Many people in the early years of the Church sought to either diminish Jesus' humanity or his divinity. In other words, they tried to argue that Jesus was just a 'super human.' He was not really God. Others tried to argue that Jesus was not really 'human' - He just took the image of a human. Both of these are of course false.

Jesus is fully human and fully divine. He is a divine person with two natures - fully human and fully divine. But we can only understand this if we understand that God is love. Love is both in the flesh and beyond the flesh. It is not an emotion. It is an act of the will - it seeks the good of the other to its completion. To say that God is Love is to say that God by His essence wills our good. To say that God is in the flesh is to say that the love of God can be experienced in the flesh - through the Incarnation. 'God is Love' has become visible through Jesus.

We love God because He first loved us. Being Christian means that our decisive direction is to love, because we have experienced and encountered the event of being loved by the Father through His only-begotten Son. The direction leads to the inevitable conclusion of loving others. We look at other people not simply with our eyes and our feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend.

This is the direction that Peter takes in Acts of the Apostles. He realizes that God wishes to reveal Himself as love to not only his chosen people, but to all the nations. Peter comes to realize that the mission of the Church is to show the whole world this experience, this encounter with Infinite Love in the flesh.

That is our vocation as Church. After acknowledging this event of being loved by God, we are to go out and propose that experience to others - no matter who the individual may be. May we configure our lives to God like Peter, so that we may profess, through concrete living and example, that God is love.

Fr. Andrew - Homily from 2021

**STEWARDSHIP
APRIL 28**

Offering	\$1659.00
Rainy Day	\$75.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$405.00

Total \$2139.00

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER MEETING

THERE WILL BE A MEETING FOR ALL EXTRAORDINARY
MINISTERS ON SUNDAY, MAY 19TH, FOLLOWING
THE 9:00 A.M. MASS.

PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND!

**THE NEXT KNIGHTS
BREAKFAST WILL BE FOR
MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12TH,
AFTER THE 9:00 A.M. MASS.**

**WE HOPE TO SEE THE MEN
OF THE PARISH JOIN US IN
PREPARING & SERVING TO
HONOR ALL THE MOTHERS
AND WOMEN OF CTK.**



**RUMMAGE SALE, MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 24TH & 25TH**

**The Knights will be doing a rummage sale
Memorial Day weekend.
If you are clearing out sheds, garages, closets, attics,
etc. (Spring Cleaning), consider donating your
clean and serviceable items for the sale. We cannot
take delivery of your donations until the weekend
before the sale, so hold on to them until then. We
can help you with larger items.**

**We will need volunteers to help sort and stage items
for sale within the social hall. We also need
volunteers to conduct the sale Friday and Saturday.**

**Please let Ken know if you are able to help. You can
call Ken Houck at 570-951-2608.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 4
Jean Ritter by Lee Ann & Joe Boiwka

Sunday, May 5
Jack Eustice by Ann Eustice

Monday, May 6
Daniel Bauman by Lee Ann & Joe Boiwka

Thursday, May 9
People of the Parish

Saturday, May 11
Marilyn LaBonte by Joseph LaBonte

Sunday, May 12
Anna Zumchak by Judy & Sonny Womelsdorf
Deborah Shaffer (Birthday Blessing) by David Strazdus

**Mass intentions are available in memory of, or in honor
of a loved one. The donation for having a
Mass said for a personal request is \$10.00. You
can drop your request in the collection or contact
the parish office.**

LITURGICAL ROLES

Lector	Extraordinary Minister
May 5 - Pete Yastishock	May 5 - Patricia Sullivan
May 12 - Paul Haden	May 12 - Judie Scavone

Collection Stewards
May 5 - Mark & Patricia Sullivan
May 12 - Lee Ann & Joe Boiwka

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Remain in my love.

This Easter season, as the paschal mystery continues to unfold before us, Jesus focuses our attention on love being at the heart of discipleship. Jesus' words and actions were always rooted in his profound love for us. As disciples, we grow closer to Jesus and his mission by sharing God's love with others. In God's love, he is revealed.

In the first reading, Peter humbly speaks while the Holy Spirit falls upon those who are listening, resulting in more baptisms. In the second reading, John writes of our call to love one another. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to remain in his love. He calls them friends, no longer slaves.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

is scheduled to be administered by
Bishop Ronald Gainer next Saturday,
May 11, 2024
at 10:00 a.m. at St. Columba

The Sacrament of Confirmation is related to Baptism and, with the reception of the Holy Eucharist, fully initiates an individual into the Catholic community. In Baptism we are united personally to Christ's saving act. In Confirmation we are united more fully to the Church and her mission. Thus, Baptism makes us a Christian; Confirmation makes us a witnessing Christian. Confirmation gives a further outpouring of the Holy Spirit, confers the Isaiahan sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit, and empowers one to live the Christian life more fully.

In the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Sacrament of Confirmation is administered to eighth grade students.



CYE NEWS

Sunday May 5 - May crowning during 9:00
Mass

Sunday May 5 - Rite of Sending during
9:00 am Mass for

**James Thomas DROGO Hnylanski and
Tessa Grace KATERI TEKAKWITHA
Schumacher.**

They are being presented by their parents to
be sent to St Columba to be confirmed on
Saturday, May 11 at 10:00 by Bishop Ronald
Gainer.

Monday May 6 - Confirmation rehearsal at
7:00 pm at St Columba Church.

Sunday May 12 - No CYE classes. Mothers
Day breakfast provided by the Knights of
Columbus

Sunday May 19 - Cake reception for our
newly confirmed James and Tessa! CYE field
day. Fun and games for all!

UNBORN CANDLE DONATIONS

\$3.00/ week,
\$5.00/ 2 weeks or
\$10.00/ month
Month of May - Charlotte & Joe Casarella

BENTON FOOD BANK

For the month of May we will be collecting paper towels due by May 19. The Food Bank at the N4C's is the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE HDCCW 12TH ANNUAL WEEKEND RETREAT TO BE HELD AT MT. ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 14-16, 2024.

Our Retreat Committee hopes you are all healthy and we are looking forward to spending another spiritually uplifting weekend together!

Our Retreat Master this year is the Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Harrisburg. We are blessed and grateful that Bishop Gainer has agreed to lead our 12th Annual Weekend Retreat and look forward to a spiritually uplifting weekend. Bishop Gainer's theme for the Retreat is:

“Praying the Psalms: Come Reign or Shine”
(N.B. REIGN is not a misspelling)

Bonnie Onomastico, Retreat Chair, 717-860-0700
vonomastico@comcast.net

Jeanne Warren, Registration Chair, 717-503-9429
warrenrjs@aol.com

Forms are on the table at the entrance of the Church

QUO VADIS DAYS

Are you wondering what God's plan is for your life? Do you need guidance in your discernment? Join us for Quo Vadis Days, a discernment retreat for men ages 15-25. Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recreation and sports, discernment talks, and great food are all included in this weeklong camp. Quo Vadis Days is June 23-27 at Mount Saint Mary's University and Seminary. Cost is \$100 per person. Register by June 14 to attend. Details and registration can be found at <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/quo-vadis-days/>. Questions? Please contact the Office of Vocations at (717) 657-4804, ext. 282 or email vocations@hbgdiocese.org.

SAINT COLUMBA/CHRIST THE KING IS A “NEXT GENERATION PARISH”

Please pray for the success of our Envisioning Team during this pivotal time in the history of our parish. Over the next four years, we will:

- Assess our greatest opportunities and strengths
- Develop a plan to move into the future
- Cultivate a deeper missionary spirit within the community.

Together, our parish will come together in faith to forge a renewed path that brings hope and Christ's love into our community.

Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

Intentions of the Holy Father, All Priests including: Fr. Mowery, Fr. St. Hilaire, Fr. Sola

Maureen Beck, Lorena Bennet
Sue Berger, Christina Capriola
Russell Castrogiovanni
Cobert Family, Ryan Dell
Anne Eustice, Farwell Family
Vivian Whitenight Hynick
Bob & Margaret Kalie, Galen “Rick” Keller
Joseph LaBonte, Mary Ann Levan
Mary Ellen Neal, James O’Boyle
Dorothy O’Handley, Nancy Oman
Rich Scavone, Jackie Scherer
Judy Serra, Mark & Patricia Sullivan
Lena Tunaitis, Verbyla Family
Mike Vertucci, Marisa & Ted Whitenight
Don Wilce, Josephine Wilson
Nancy Wisbar, Sonny Womelsdorf
Mary Ann Zevency



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Just as the origins of Lent have to do with accompanying people in the final stages of preparation for baptism at Eastertime, so does the structure of the Easter season help the newly received Catholics take root in the community. This is the season of “mystagogy,” which means “reflection on the mysteries.” This means that new Catholics are remembering the sacraments by which they become one with us, and are sorting out the implications for their everyday life. They can understand the excitement of Cornelius and his family in the first reading, filled with the Holy Spirit, and so eager to begin their new life that they overwhelm St. Peter. The second reading and the Gospel today likewise help our new brothers and sisters explore their new life as an experience of God's tender love.

Long ago, our tradition named these newly baptized adults and children the “neophytes,” from Greek words meaning “newly planted.” Newly planted in the garden of faith, they look to us to provide the fertile soil in which their new life can take root and grow. You can help. If you have “neophytes” in your parish, a card or note of welcome, or warm words of congratulation, are still timely. It's Easter!

ASCENSION OF THE LORD, THURSDAY, MAY 9TH - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MASS WILL BE AT 6:30 P.M.