

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

<u>Churches</u>: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / Confessions: Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 1:30pm, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 11:30am Gift Shop Hours: Mon - Wed - Fri 9:30am - 1:30pm & Sun 6:30am - 2:30pm

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org May 12 2024 | 12 de mayo 2024

The Ascension of the LORD

Reading | - Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11 | Psalm - 47:2-3,6-7,8-9 | Reading 1 - Ephesians 1:17-23 | Gospel – Mark 16:15-20Primera Lectura - Hechos de los Apóstoles 1:1-11 | Salmo - 46:2-3,6-7,8-9 | Segunda Lectura - Efesios 1:17-23 | Evangelio – Marcos 16:15-20

MISSION STATEMENT

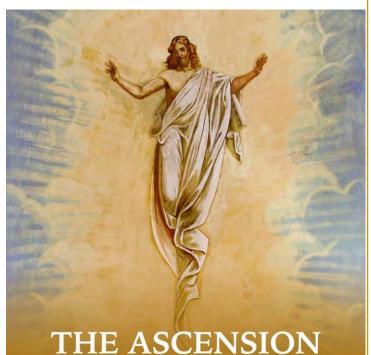
Today we celebrate Christ's ascension into heaven and his commissioning of the disciples to carry on his mission in the world. First we hear Luke's description of those events in the opening verses of the Acts of the Apostles. Next we hear words of encouragement and guidance from the Letter to the Ephesians. Finally we hear Mark's account of the Ascension, foretelling the mighty words and acts the Christian community would do in Jesus' name.

Together these scriptures give us a vision of the mission of the church of Jesus Christ - a mission statement of sorts. Like mission statements in our parishes and corporations, this mission statement can help us set priorities and focus our activities. It can guide and support us as we strive to continue Christ's messianic mission on earth. © *Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.*

Our Pastoral Council would like your input . . .



Use this QR Code for the online survey OR take the survey with one of our Pastoral Council members after Mass.



OF THE LORD

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." - Mk 16:15-16A

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings 1st Reading/Primera Lectura: Acts (Hechos) 2:1-11 Psalm/Salmo: 104(103):1,24,29-20,31,34 2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: 1 Corinthians (Corintios) 12:3-7,12-13 Gospel/Evangelio: John (Juan) 20:19-23

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at **saintmichaelparishkona.org.** To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.

66

You will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth."

(Acts 1:8)

Holy Bible

May 12, 2024

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mk 16:15-20

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

It's easy for me to get impatient with the Lord - to wonder why he makes me wait for an answer to a prayer or, worse, why his answer may be no. However, when I look back at the lessons of the Bible, it becomes clear that God works on his timetable, not mine. That same message comes through in today's first reading. The apostles ask Jesus whether he will be restoring the kingdom to Israel, and he is clear in his answer: "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority." And then, after saying this, he ascends to the Father. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus has left his disciples again. But instead of leaving them to weep and mourn - as happened after his death - this time, our Lord left them with a mission. They were to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." They did, faithfully, and they traveled far and wide. Armed with the gift of the Holy Spirit which they received at Pentecost, they baptized countless people as they shared the Good News about Jesus and his gift of salvation.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

After Jesus gives the disciples the command to go out and preach the Gospel, he says that "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." He offers salvation for those who believe in him. And he says that the disciples, and us, will be his witnesses in the world. Sacred tradition tells us that Andrew and Philip preached in Asia Minor while Bartholomew and Thomas spent time in India. Others are said to have gone to Palestine, Persia, and Ethiopia. All died a martyr's death – except John who had been entrusted with the care of our Blessed Mother. We are his witnesses today, and we are also commissioned to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel. Today, as we celebrate his ascension into heaven, let us allow ourselves a moment to gaze upward and behold Jesus' power and glory. Let the Ascension renew our commitment to do the work he has asked us to do, and remind us of his presence here with us in all that we do.

PRAY We know the mission Jesus has given us and we know we have the Holy Spirit to help us carry it out. For prayer this week, meditate on Paul's words to the Ephesians and ask the Lord for "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of [our] hearts be enlightened, that [we] may know what is the hope that belongs to his call."

Life of Stewardship

We often cite Jesus' quote from today's Gospel of Mark: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This was not a suggestion from the Lord. It was quite frankly a command, and it is one which still holds for each of us. Being an evangelist, being a disciple, being a steward is not a matter of choice for those of us who are Catholic and Christian. It is something the Lord expects of us.

Often, we may like to spend time debating how to do that, but that does not lessen the fact that it is something we are supposed to do. We need to acknowledge that even the original Apostles and followers of Jesus did not do that immediately. We learn that they stayed in Jerusalem for some time, and it seemed to be only when the Church and its followers were persecuted that they began to reach out and truly share the "Good News."

Once Christians accepted that charge from the Lord, they did indeed take the Word of God to all corners of the earth. Look at the Church today. It is incredible how this Church has grown from one Man/God and a small group into what it is today. That does not, however, get us "off the hook."

As much as we may argue about how to carry out this command from Jesus, the fact remains that our very lives need to stand as a representation of what it means to be a Christian, what it means to "love one another," what it means to live and to work as a disciple of Christ.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship

Parish News Catholic Communication Campaign Collection

Next week our special collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. Envelopes are provided in this week's bulletin. This campaign engages and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Diocese of Honolulu to fund local communications efforts Your support helps spread the gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/ccc.

Let's Honor Our Graduates!

It's that time of the year again! We would like to honor our graduates from Preschool, Elementary, Intermediate, High School, College and Trade School. **Parents...please send graduation photo and name** to Edwina at efujimoto@rcchawaii.org and stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org.

Friendly Place Lunches Ministry

Our ministry provides a hot meal every Monday for our unsheltered neighbors at the Friendly Place here in Kona. There are several ways you can help! Prepare a meal, help to serve the meal, or make a donation to help with the cost of preparing a meal. Please help us serve our neighbors in need.

Our Pastoral Council Needs Your Help!

Our Pastoral Council is developing our next three-year plan. Please share your thoughts and let us know what's in your heart. This is a stewardship parish which means every member contributes to directing and taking part in our Church's existence and function. Help make our Church a place that feeds your spiritual needs and ever growing relationship with Christ so you can better know, love, and serve Him.

The survey can be found on our website at saintmichael parishkona.org. A QR code is on the cover of the bulletin for your convenience. Pastoral Council members will also be conducting in person surveys after Mass during the month of May.

Knights of Columbus Council 13227

The next KOC meeting is on Monday, May 13 at 5:45pm in the Grace Parish Center. All visiting Knights as well as prospective new members are welcome to join us. For more information or to join the KOC Council, please email David Aragon at hauoli718@gmail.com.

Also, the Knights will be serving coffee and donuts after the 7am and 9am Masses on Sunday, May 12. Please stop by to say hello and learn about the activities they have planned to help our community.

Young Adult Group starts on May 16th

Beginning May 16th, young adults **(ages 21-35)** are invited to gather at Grace Parish Center on **Thursdays from 6-7pm**. The first series will include reading through *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* by Fr. Jacques Phillipe. No prior reading is required and books will be provided. For more info, please email Cole or Juliann at stmichael archangel@rcchawaii.org.

Memorial Day Cemetery Clean-Up

Please save the date! We will have our Memorial Day Cemetery Clean-Up at St. Michael's, Holualoa & St. Paul's starting at 7:30am on Saturday, May 25. Please bring your gardening tools, hat and gloves. Bottled water and snacks will be provided. **TO FAMILIES WITH LOVED ONES BURIED AT OUR CEMETERIES:** Please help us to clear broken and damaged items from the gravesites. Effective June 1st, no flowers, trees, or bushes can be planted at the gravesite. This will eliminate damage to the gravesites from overgrown roots. Potted plants, live cut flowers, artificial flowers not more than two feet in height are still allowed. Please refrain from using breakable glass or ceramic containers. Mahalo!

To Our Parish Members

The **presence of children** is a gift to the Church and they are a **reminder** that **our parish is growing**. Please **welcome** our children and give a **warm, supportive** smile of **encouragement** to their parents.

To Families with Small Children:

RELAX: God put the wiggles in your little ones. No need to suppress it! **SIT CLOSE AND EXPLAIN**: Sit towards the front where it's easier to see and hear. Quietly explain the parts of the Mass. **PARTICIPATE**: Your child learns by imitating you. Sing, pray, and respond. Your child will fol-low your lead! **WANDER**: If you need to leave Mass, feel free to step outside, but please be sure to come back! Your St. Michael's Parish Ohana is happy you are here!

Stewardship of Treasure

Apr 29th - May 5th, 2024

ONLINE GIVING	\$	6,645.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFF	FERINGS \$	11,574.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$	7,357.34

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,018,896.22** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments. *Mahalo* for your continued generosity.

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH MAY 2024 MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: \$10,831.00 MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: \$1,724.18

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in 'Ohana in Christ to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit **saintmichaelparishkona.org** and click our **ONLINE GIVING tab.** Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

Grades K-5

Fraction Faith Formation classes will begin again in September.

Faith Formation

Registration forms are available online. -Margaret Essex, Cathechist

Faith Formation / Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

Have a great summer! There are so many resources available online, contact me for digital links. Text 808-895-7015 or email efujimoto@rcchawaii.org. Keep watch for any upcoming retreats or fun days during the summer.

- Edwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

The OCIA class will meet for mystagogy every Sunday after the 9am Mass until Sunday, May 19th.

Children's Rosary

St. Michael's Children's Rosary Club meets on the last Sunday of each month. Please join us! This is a great way for children to recite their prayers and also to start praying together as a family. **Our next meeting will be after the 9am Mass on May 26**. We will pray one decade of the Rosary at the grotto followed by a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

The Ascension of the LORD

When I was a kid, my parents took me to the circus, and I was mesmerized by the acrobats. I recall one show in which the trapeze artists would swoop down just above the ground and then launch up into the air, flinging their bodies seemingly to the top of the tent, all at dizzying speeds. It wasn't just

their height but their dangerous proximity to the ground that thrilled me.

Perhaps that's a little how St. Mark wants us to feel as he describes the Ascension of Jesus. He tells us that Jesus "sat down at table with them" and then, just a few lines later, "he ascended into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God." He dies, he rises! He sits down, he ascends! What do these divine acrobatics teach us?

The depth and height on display are a show of his love for us. When Jesus "sat down" he "upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness of heart." He dangerously swoops down into our lowly place of fragmentation, disbelief, and death. When he ascends, he confirms their preaching with signs of powerful healing. The height of heaven is the place from which God brings wholeness, faith, and life. The point is the Ascension of Jesus is not about his departure. It is about the feat by which he unites the heavens and the earth, the highest and the lowest.

We are meant to relive this spiritually dizzying experience in every Mass, when Jesus sits down with us at his Eucharistic table and then offers himself up to the Father with and for us. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls: welcome to the great tent of the Church! Feast your eyes on the divine and human acrobat whose saving feat is the great thrill of our lives. -*Father John Muir*, ©*LPi*

Treasures From Our Tradition

Today we celebrate Christ's ascension into heaven and his commissioning of the disciples to carry on his mission in the world. First we hear Luke's description of those events in the opening verses of the Acts of the Apostles. Next we hear words of encouragement and guidance from the Letter to the Ephesians. Finally we hear Mark's account of the Ascension, foretelling the mighty words and acts the Christian community would do in Jesus' name.

Together these scriptures give us a vision of the mission of the church of Jesus Christ - a mission statement of sorts. Like mission statements in our parishes and corporations, this mission statement can help us set priorities and focus our activities. It can guide and support us as we strive to continue Christ's messianic mission on earth. - *Rev. James Field*, © *Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.*

Everyday Stewardship - Commissioned and Sent

Have you heard the Good News? If you're reading this, chances are you probably have. You've heard the good news that God became man and that Jesus suffered, died, and rose for you, me, and everyone in between. Do you know you're part of it?

This week, we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. When Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave specific directions to his Apostles. "Go and make disciples of all nations." They listened! They made disciples, who made disciples, who made disciples, who made disciples, on down the centuries. And here we are! So what's next? The truth is that we're all commissioned and sent. It

REV. KONELIO FALETOI Pastor and Vicar Forane of the West Hawaii Vicariate

> **REV. ROYD MWEEMBA** Parochial Vicar

REV. CARLITO "JOEY" RANJO. JR. Parochial Vicar

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> DAVE BATEMAN Finance Council Chair

SHARMAYNE NAONE Stewardship Committee Chair & Safe Environment

ROBERT LEOPOLDINO / DON DAVID Capital Campaign Committee Chairs

> **TJ MOSES** Parish Life Coordinator

WALTER BACXA Music Ministry

RENE LEMUS Music Ministry & Spanish Baptism Ministry

CAROLINE SMITH / LOUELLA BRANCO Funeral Ministry

> **PAULETTE ADAMS** Wedding Coordinator

MAYRA RAMIREZ Spanish Wedding Coordinator

> BILL CULHANE Food Pantry Ministry

THELMA BACXA Community Outreach Ministry

CAROLYN LIVINGSTON Gift Shop Manager SUSAN KEEN

Business Manager skeen@rcchawaii.org

JANICE LACRO Administrative Assistant stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org happened at our baptism, when we were made sharers in this sacred mission of Jesus. Who will make the next disciples? I hope it's vou! - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - The Ideal Candidate

The Ascension always makes me think of what a job listing on Indeed.com would look like for the position of Disciple of Jesus Christ. "An exciting opportunity for the go getter who loves a challenge. Multilingual skills a must. Animal handling experience preferred. The ideal candidate will have a strong stomach and an enthusiasm for travel."

In all seriousness, I find the Ascension a little depressing, a little intimidating. This day forces me to confront how few are the qualifications I possess to carry out the Great Commission.

Proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Hold on - do I have to talk to people? I don't even really like calling my friends on their birthdays. Can I send a text instead?

Go into the whole world. All of it? Everywhere? Even the places where it's really, really humid? Could I possibly schedule a Zoom call? Speak new languages . . . pick up serpents ... drink any deadly thing ... Okay, full disclosure: I have never even been camping. I don't think I'm the right fit for this job. Thank you for your consideration, but you can lose my resumé.

Of course, I know that in the year 2024 God does not expect me to pick up a serpent to proclaim the Gospel. But He might expect me to do something far more stomach churning. He might expect me to talk about Him in public, in front of strangers. He might expect me to take a stand against something that I know is sinful, even though it means I lose every friend I have. He might expect me to say "no" when everyone wants me to say "yes," or "yes" when everyone wants me to say "no." He might expect me to be different. He will expect me to be different.

But on the Ascension, I also remember this: it's okay. No one who ever did the work of God was the ideal candidate. They were all scared. They were all ill-equipped. Every single one of them. They did it anyway. And despite the weakness and hesitancy of my mortal flesh, despite everything that seems logical, despite the recommendations of any hiring committee this temporal world might make - I can, too. - Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPi

"I am with you always, until the end of the world." - Matthew 28:20

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MAY 11TH

• 4pm - Manuel Alvarez, Anniversary of Death

SUNDAY, MAY 12TH ASCENCION OF THE LORD

- 7am Robert Sanborn, Jr. Rest in Peace
- 9am Rich & Ellen Janevicius, 40th Wedding Anniversary
- 1:30pm JP Urgino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm Diane Pittman, Rest in Peace

MONDAY, MAY 13TH

- 7am Robert Sanborn, Jr., Rest in Peace
- 5pm Pam Stanbrough, Rest in Eternal Peace

TUESDAY, MAY 14TH

- 7am Necitas Revilla. Rest in Peace
- 5pm Aunty Melvine Kuali'l, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH

7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, MAY 16TH

- 7am Adelaida Luguin Martinez, Rest in Peace
- 5pm Theresa Mahi, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH

- 7am Necitas Revilla, Rest in Peace
 - 5pm Mrs. Margaret Duran, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH

• 7am - Necitas Revilla, Rest in Peace

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771.** If you'd like to request a specific day and Mass time, *please call well in* advance of the date to secure it.

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..." —Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9 - 9:45am at Immaculate **Conception Church Parking Lot.** May 12, 2024 • 7th Sunday of Easter • Year B

Called to Remain

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26 Choosing Matthias
- 1 John 4:11-16 God is love
- ► John 17:11b-19 Prayer for all believers

Today we read from the letter of 1 John and the Gospel of John. In the first letter, John makes the simplest of all statements: "God is love." He reminds his readers that we are called to remain in love, just as Jesus has been calling his disciples to do during the last few Sunday Gospel readings. The theme continues: we are to remain in Jesus, Jesus remains in us, and Jesus remains in the Father. Some translations use the word "abide" instead of remain, but the meaning is the same. We are to stay centered and grounded in Jesus who is love because God is love.

How do we know if we are remaining or abiding in Jesus? All we have to do is honestly ask ourselves, "Are we speaking, acting, and living with love?" If so, then we are following Jesus' supreme

command to love one another. If our word or actions are not loving,

then we are not living in God.

Jesus knew that it is difficult to always choose love because we live in a world where sin is a reality. There is darkness and evil, and Jesus acknowledges that. In his prayer in the Gospel today, he doesn't ask that God take us out of this world. The point isn't to have things made easy for us, but for God



"If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us." **Sheepish Question:** How can I be sure God's spirit within me can

breathe easy?

to give us what we need to be in this world without being "of the world." It is yet another call to remain and rest in God, not in the things of this world. Jesus sends us out into the world so that we can transform it with love, not so that it will transform us.

Questions of the Week

Do you know anyone who is not a Catholic or a Christian but still behaves as a follower of Jesus would because he/she is rooted in love? How do you see God at work in that person?

Have you ever had the experience of feeling that you are in this world yet not of this world? How so?

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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Our Advocate

Lord Jesus,

you who ascended into heaven, grant that we too may see the Father and rejoice with him in eternal life. As you sit at the right hand of the Father, look tenderly at your followers on earth. May the Holy Spirit give us the strength to continue the mission of spreading the Good News to all we encounter. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 12, 2024 Never Alone

Today's readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 1:17–23 or Ephesians 4:1–3 or 4:1–7, 11–13; Mark 16:15–20. On Jesus' final day on earth, the disciples might be expected to be sad. They also might be confused about what will occur. Jesus did not attempt to clear their confusion; his intent was to set them on their mission. To the disciples' concern over whether Jesus would restore the kingdom of Israel, he replies, "It is not for you to know. . . . You will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth." Still, they needed to be stirred to action by the angels who asks, "Why are you standing there looking at the sky?" The Gospel depicts the disciples as being more confident. After hearing that they are to "go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel," the disciples went forth and preached everywhere." In the reading from Ephesians, we hear that the holy ones will be equipped "for the building up of the body of Christ." By our baptism, we have been given a responsibility to continue the building up of the kingdom of God on earth. This week reflect on your role in spreading the Gospel. Are there ways that your parish can help equip you for the mission that is yours? Consider joining a faith formation session or a Bible study group.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 13 Do Not Despair

As we begin this last week of Easter, allow Jesus' words in today's Gospel to echo in your heart: "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." It is easy to say not to be afraid, but that is part of human nature. If we truly trust in God, however, fear should not paralyze us. God is with us. Pray for the spirit to illuminate your heart and fill you with courage in your faith journey. *Today's readings: Acts 19:1–8; Psalm 68:2–3ab, 4–5acd, 6–7ab; John 16:29–33.*

Tuesday, May 14 Continuing the Ministry

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends," Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel. The depth of God's love that is revealed in Jesus' suffering and death is a model for the love that Christ's followers should exhibit. Examine your sensitivity to the needs of others. Are you willing to reach out, or have you noticed that you are less sensitive to another's suffering? As we become bearers of the message of Christ, may we be living testimony for the world. *Today's readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20–26; Psalm 113:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; John 15:9–17.*

Wednesday, May 15 Beware of the Wolves

As Paul prepares the Church at Ephesus for his leaving, he warns the presbyters that wolves will come "to draw the disciples away." This concern that we hear in today's reading from Acts continues today. Wolves can come in the form of false messiahs or as distractions. Consider the attention that you give to obtaining the latest gadgets or fashionable apparel. Who or what distracts you from the life God has called you to? Pray to God to keep distractions from disturbing your focus. *Today's readings: Acts 20:28–38; Psalm 68:29–30, 33–35a, 35bc–36ab; John 17:11b–19.*

Thursday, May 16 Go to Rome

Jesus had shown the disciples that there would be consequences to following him. In Acts today, we read that Paul, who had persecuted Christians before his conversion, is being persecuted for his testimony. The imprisoned Paul does not protest when the Lord tells the disciple that he will continue to bear witness in Rome. Spreading the Gospel sometimes requires leaving our comfort zones. God might call us to unexpected people and places. *Today's readings: Acts 22:30, 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a, 5, 7–8, 9–10,11; John 17:20–26.*

Friday, May 17 Do You Love Me?

Simon Peter is all of us. How many times have you sinned or walked away from God and returned truly sorry? In the hours before Jesus was crucified, Peter denied our Lord three times. Still, Jesus sought out Peter to ask, "Do you love me?" and to give him the responsibility to "feed my sheep." Can you imagine if Jesus asked if you love him? Do you understand that your baptism gives you a responsibility to spread his Word? Jesus forgives our sins and entrusts us with his mission. *Today's readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 21:15–19.*

Saturday, May 18 Keep Your Focus

The disciples were people like you and me with faults and gifts. They could become distracted with their vocation and inquire about what the future holds for another. When Peter asked about the disciple whom Jesus loved, our Lord replied, "What concern is it of yours? You follow me." In our parish communities, people can be distracted by what is not their concern. Take care to be attentive to your role and vocation. *Today's readings: Acts* 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5, 7; John 21:20–25.



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