



FIRST READING: Acts 8:5 - 8, 14 - 17

•With great success, Philip went to Samaria to proclaim the Christ and work miracles. When the apostles heard about Philip's work, they sent Peter and John to pray that the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:15 - 18

Jesus "suffered for sins once." He was put to death as far as fleshly existence goes but received life according to the spirit.

GOSPEL READING: John 14:15 - 21

Jesus assured the disciples that He would not leave them orphaned but would ask the Father to send "another Advocate" to be with them always. Jesus said that He would still reveal Himself to those who love Him.

In the Gospel today we will hear Jesus speak of another Advocate given to us by the Father, the Spirit of truth. Our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles records the coming of that same Spirit into the early Christian community in Samaria. As we hear these readings today, let us reflect on the ways that we too have not been left as orphans and enjoy the presence of the Spirit here in our community and in our lives, helping us to keep God's commandments and share the Good News.

<u>ALLELUĬA</u>!

MASS INTENTIONS

ALLELUIA!

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: God's healing and deliverance for Holy Family parishioners.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Tyrone R. Hodge rb His mother, Cleopha Rawlings.

10:00 AM: God's guidance and protection for Duane Motta, II rb Yvonne Brutus.

6:00 PM: God's continued blessings for the Haitian Community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. May 22, 6:00 PM: *St. Rita of Cascia* Birthday blessings for Carmen White rb Her family.

Tues. May 23, 7:00 AM: *St. John Baptist Rossi* God's blessings and guidance for the children and grandchildren of Jennifer Johnson rb Jennifer Johnson.

Wed. May 24, 7:00 AM: *Blessed Marie Leonie Paradis* Birthday blessings and God's guidance for Louis Alcendor rb His grandmother.

Thurs. May 25, 7:00 AM: *St. Bede the Venerable* God's blessings, guidance and protection for Pamela Charles.

Fri. May 26, 7:00 PM: *St. Philip Neri* God's guidance and protection for Abigail Peters rb Her family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION: This week's second collection goes towards **Catholic Communication Campaign.** Next week's second collection will go towards **Catholic Education.** As always we thank you for your generosity.

BISHOP'S APPEAL: Thank you to all who have already contributed to the Bishop's Appeal 2017! We need more help in order to reach our goal. Please give a brochure to a friend. Our schools, Catholic Charities and Evangelization efforts need everyone's support! For your convenience, you may choose to make a pledge now and spread your donation over several months. Donations may be made in the form of cash, check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to "Diocese of St. Thomas." Please see the brochure for further information. "Love what Jesus loves. Jesus loves the poor."

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for **birthday blessings and protection for Carmen White requested by her family.** You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Please note that <u>Saturday, May 20, 2017</u>, was the last class for CCD until September 2017. Thank you to all our teachers and volunteers who worked with our students for the past year. We pray God's continued blessings and guidance on each of you and your individual family and we look forward to working with you in the next school year. Once again, thank you.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS LUNCHEON: The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Court 2049 will be celebrating its 45th anniversary this *Sunday, May 21, 2017*, with a luncheon at Holy Family Church, Columban Hall. This luncheon will give recognition to their sponsors and past Regents for their commitment to the Catholic Daughters and their ideal. The honorees are, *Alicia Doute, Angelita Jennings, Marlene Adams, Madonia Blake, Barbara Davis, and Carmen Grant.* Donation: \$45.00.

<u>BREAKFAST SALE</u>: The Dominica Association of St. Thomas will host a breakfast sale in Holy Family parking lot on <u>Saturday 27th May 2017</u>. This event is scheduled to commence at 7:00 a.m. and end at noon.

FOOD FOR THE POOR: Next weekend we will collect non-perishable items for our less fortunate brothers and sisters within our community. As always, we thank you for your generosity and may God continue to bless you and your family abundantly. Once again, thank you.

FAMILIES FOR CHRIST: Family Sunday is every first Sunday of each month starting with Families for Christ meeting at 9:15 a.m. in Lower Columban Hall followed by family mass at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. Interest volunteers please contact Sheryl Griffith at 352-348-6979. Please be guided accordingly.

FATHER'S DAY BUFFET LUNCHEON: The St. Joseph Workers will be honoring three (3) fathers at their 11th Annual Father's Day Buffet Luncheon on <u>Sunday, June 18, 2017</u>, at Holy Family Columban Hall at 1:00 p.m. The honorees are Arden Shillingford, Anthony Legrand and John Donaie. Donation: Adult \$45.00 and <u>children under age 12 pay \$25.00</u> at the door. Please save the date.

FATIMA CELEBRATIONS: The Children of Mary invites everyone to a series of celebrations celebrating the hundredth year of Our Lady's appearance to the children in Fatima. The celebration began on <u>Saturday, May 13, 2017</u> at 5:00 p.m. with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and devotions to Our Lady and mass at 6:00 p.m. The celebrations continue on the 13th of each month until **October 13, 2017**. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

LITURGY AND WORD

Jesus tells us, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." A resolute and uncompromising obedience to God's commandments leads us to God who loves us unconditionally. When we are ready to love him from our hearts the rewards are great: the Father will show his love to us and the Son will love us and show Himself to us. The one who believes and obeys Christ's word is loved by him. With a view to keep alive the love we have for God and get us rooted into it, Jesus offers us his Holy Spirit to be with us forever. The Holy Spirit is God's Breath of Life and abides in the life of every follower of Christ. Jesus declares that if his disciples love him, they will keep his commandments. In John, Jesus gives only a single commandment: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (13:34-35). This is reiterated again when Jesus says: The commandment of love becomes real and experiential when it is lived in its totality. A total living of the commandment of Jesus and a complete obedience to it will happen only when the Spirit of the Lord is present and active in us. Upon his departure, his disciples are given the Spirit who enables them to be the sharers of God's love. And this happens not just to the first disciples, but all those who would come later, those who never saw the historical Jesus. Everything they were taught and experienced is available to the same degree and intensity to each of the followers of Jesus even today. The intimate relationship between the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit invites us to become part of that unique relationship. We are not merely called to stand aside and admire the unity and relationship the Trinity enjoys but we are called to participate and share in the same. Jesus wants us to abide in him and love him. It is when we abide in him and he abides in us we are enabled to love him and keep his word. And when that becomes a reality, the Father, the Son the Holy Spirit will love us and will come to us to make their home with us.

Jesus also assures us, "I will not leave you orphaned." In the ancient world, orphans were in desperate need of a support system. Like widows, orphans were usually poor, neglected and vulnerable. Their daily well-being

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Every week the report on stewardship will include our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In gratitude to God, we give of our first fruits to help fulfill God's mission of love here on earth.

Attendance: Last Weekend: 614

Last Weekend's collections FIRST COLLECTION: <u>\$6,165.72</u>

SECOND COLLECTION: Bishop's Appeal: <u>\$908.00</u>

Our Bishop's Appeal contribution now amounts to \$19,876.00, 50% of our goal of <u>\$40,000.00</u>. As always we thank you for your continuous contribution towards our Bishop's Appeal. Once again, thank you.

LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

was precarious and their future was uncertain. Jesus assures his disciples they will not be deserted. The disciples of Jesus will never be cut off from him who gives them eternal life. They will still be connected to their source of meaning, joy and hope. The saying, "The only thing really worth fearing is life without God" (Quinn Caldwell) teaches us that we only need to open our hearts to God's love and care and he will do the rest.

It is the Spirit who strengthens us, comforts us, guides us, and inspires us to love and live the commandment of God. It is because the Spirit has already been given to us that, in the midst of our journey of life, we are able to live the promises into fulfilment. The mission of the Church is to be a community of people who love Christ and keep his commandments. Loving and commandment-keeping are two sides of the same spiritual coin, revealing both affection and obedience. If we can hold them together, then we'll be in a position to receive the Holy Spirit. Hence the purpose of our life is to love Christ, keep his commandments and receive the Holy Spirit of God and live in his abiding presence.

