

Dear Padre,

If the Catholic Church recognizes baptisms from other Christian denominations, why not confirmations?

Baptism signs us with an indelible mark. It defines our character and can never be repeated. A baptism is always held to be valid if a person is baptized with water using the Trinitarian formula (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1256). If a priest is unsure of the validity of a person's baptism, he would baptize the person conditionally, recognizing the earlier baptism if it happened and was valid. The minister of baptism is usually an ordained minister, but in necessity anyone can baptize, including a non-Christian, if the person intends what the Church intends.

Confirmation also leaves an indelible mark, as does holy orders, and they also cannot be repeated. What makes confirmation different from baptism is that the minister of confirmation is ordinarily the bishop because this expresses the apostolic unity of the Church (CCC 1312). If someone had been confirmed in a Church that has apostolic succession, their confirmation would be considered valid, and the person wouldn't be reconfirmed.

Most Christian churches have a common understanding of what the sacrament of baptism is, but while other churches might have communion, confirmation, and ordination, their celebration of those sacraments may not include all the requirements necessary for the Catholic Church to consider them valid. ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
DearPadre.org

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective
Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 15 Easter Weekday Acts 16:11-15 Jn 15:26-16:4a	May 16 Easter Weekday Acts 16:22-34 Jn 16:5-11	May 17 Easter Weekday Acts 17:15, 22-18:1 Jn 16:12-15	May 18 Easter Weekday Acts 18:1-8 Jn 16:16-20	May 19 Easter Weekday Acts 18:9-18 Jn 16:20-23	May 20 Easter Weekday Acts 18:23-28 Jn 16:23b-28	May 21 Ascension Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23 Mt 28:16-20



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[The Holy Spirit] is the Gift of God; he is God himself, who helps us to be free people, people who want and know how to love, people who understand that life is a mission to proclaim the wonders that the Lord accomplishes in those who trust in him.

REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 17, 2020

CNS PHOTO/JAMES RAMOS, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD/MONDAY

Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 / 1 Peter 3:15-18 / John 14:15-21



Apron Strings

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There are moments when we realize the baton has been passed to us, and now we must conduct the symphony of our lives. One such moment may be when both parents have died. "They" say we never fully grow up until that occurs, for from that time on we can no longer go home. I know of a daughter who received a gift from her mother when the daughter moved out on her own. Inside, the daughter discovered a pair of apron strings, a symbol of her break with home. At various times, life hands us a bountiful serving of responsibility as we commit to a vocation, or for many, become parents for the first time. On such occasions, the future may weigh heavily upon us.

This week's Gospel is a farewell speech of sorts. Given to the Twelve on the night before his passion and death, Jesus promises he will not leave us orphans and that the Spirit will be given to us to do what we must do.

There have been any number of times when life has unfolded for me into new circumstances and life roles, occasions often filled with anxiety and sometimes even fear. I usually found I could deal with such realities by asking myself what would be the worst that could happen, and if it did, could I handle it? Every time, I found myself realizing I *could* handle the worst. Importantly, the ability to do what needs doing always seems to flow from God's Spirit that is given to each of us. If our faith in God is alive in us, our spiritual apron strings are never severed. ●

Reflect

Has the Spirit of God ever helped you face a daunting responsibility?

[Jesus said], "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth."

JOHN 14:16-17A





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Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5/13/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Debbie Frederick

E.O.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

5/14/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Luke Woodrow, Cade & Jace Berning

Reader: Kyle Berning

E.O. HC: Maria Enriquez, Rosa Cardenas

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

5/20/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

Reader: Gwen Waechter

E.O.HC: Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

5/21/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Volunteers

Reader: Mike Broeckelman

E.O. HC: Teresa Beltran, Karen Burden

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 13	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, May 14	9:00 a.m.	Leon Martinez
Monday, May 15	No Mass	David Hoang
Tuesday, May 16	No Mass	David Hoang
Thursday, May 18	No Mass	David Hoang
Friday, May 19	No Mass	David Hoang
Saturday, May 20	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, May 21	9:00 a.m.	Suellen Bergkamp

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

MAY 14— 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (Ps. 66:1)

In the second reading today, St. Peter reminds us, “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence.” (1Peter3:15-18) My friends, living a life full of love and goodness and generosity is only made possible because of our loving God --- a God who is not at a distance, but is one who dwells with us and in us through his Spirit. It is this living God who can transform us in ways we can’t imagine, transform us into men and women who resist our urges to lash out, to get even, to judge, to ridicule, to get angry at every little thing. It is in our willingness to open ourselves up to this outpouring of grace that we get a completely new “default” position, a new attitude, a new way of being. This is not something “extra” added to discipleship, not something we can simply discard if we so choose. Rather, it is as essential to a life of faith as are our beliefs. In fact, it’s the only evidence of faith. So let’s pledge to be and committed to being a little kinder, a little more patient, a little more forgiving and gentle and merciful. If we all did that --- imagine what the world might look like. God doesn’t have to imagine it. He imagines it all the time. May each of us do our part to make it a reality.

Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for May 7, 2023: Envelopes: \$820 Loose: \$176; Online Giving: \$1304.32; Total \$2300.32
Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under + 539.15
CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$27370.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

MOTHER’S DAY Happy Mother’s Day to all the wonderful Mothers! Mothers are God’s blessings to the world and the greatest gift in a person’s life. May the Almighty God pour down his many blessings upon all loving mothers.

CONGRATULATIONS to Margaret Jo Speer! **The Christian Community of St. Anthony Catholic Church in the Diocese of Dodge City joyfully welcomes you into full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church.** We would like to thank the sponsor, parish companions, and family members who accompanied Margaret on her faith journey.

PARISH BREAKFAST—MOTHER’S DAY Please join us for breakfast in honor of Mother’s Day –Sunday 5/14 right after Mass hosting by our Knights.

ANNUAL RETREAT Fr. Peter will be attending his annual retreat at the Conception Seminary—Missouri from 5/15 to 5/19 . In case of emergency or needing a priest for a Sacrament, please call Fr. Peter at 620-408-5538 so that he will find a priest.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK Whom in my parish or in the wider community do I feel called to serve? How can I serve them and bring them on our journey to the Lord?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (from Fr. John Hardon’s Catholic Prayer Book) Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do. Give me your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me only know your will. Amen .

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (John 14:15-21)

One commandment This passage continues the “farewell discourse” in which Jesus tries to prepare his disciples for his death. In this passage he speaks about his commandments, but the only commandment he gives in this Gospel is love one another (13:34). Jesus demonstrates how exactly people ought to love each other by washing the feet of his disciples (13:1f) and then allowing himself to be crucified. Self-giving love is the basis of the communion between Jesus and his Father: God entrusted the salvation of the world to his Son, and his Son, in turn, glorified his Father by perfectly fulfilling that work. Sacrificial love is, therefore, the basis of our communion with Jesus, the Father, and each other.

Advocates The Greek word John uses to refer to God’s holy Spirit is paraclete. The word in Latin is advocate. The term had a legal connotation. A defendant could call upon a wealthy friend or acquaintance to speak on his behalf during a trial. Because Jesus has given testimony about himself throughout this Gospel, he is the first Advocate. He promises to send another. This Spirit of truth will... 1. guide Jesus’ followers in their understanding of Jesus and his life-giving mission 2. help Jesus’ followers offer their own testimony about Jesus in the face of a sometimes hostile world 3. bring believers into communion with Jesus, and through Jesus into communion with God

The world In his Gospel John uses the term the world in a particular way. The world has so turned away from God that at times it is even hostile to God. Jesus repeatedly encounters this hostility as he tries to testify to the salvation he brings from his Father. Because the world does not accept the truth about Jesus (v.17), it will be unable to see him when he appears to his disciples after the crucifixion (vv.18-20). (oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK - (Acts 8:5-8,14-17)

Just as Jesus did Philip is one of the seven men commissioned by the apostles. Here he fulfills the prophecy of the risen Jesus to be his witnesses throughout Judea and Samaria... (Acts 1:8). Philip is an excellent witness: he proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah, and he heals and expels evil just as Jesus did. Part of the ministry of Jesus was to bring about reconciliation and peace. Once the Samaritans accept Jesus as their Messiah, they become one with the followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, and centuries of division are overcome.

From Jesus to the Gentiles One of the reasons Luke wrote was to assure Gentiles that God included them in his plan of salvation. One way he demonstrates this is by portraying continuity between the ministry of Jesus and the ministry of Jesus’ followers. 1. Philip acts as Jesus did, which he could only do if he had the Spirit of Jesus within him 2. When Peter and John lay hands on the Samaritans, the Spirit becomes manifest, making the Samaritans’ conversion official Having shown that God incorporates Samaritans into salvation, Luke will next tell the story of how God is saving the Gentiles, too.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God’s will, than for doing evil.” 1 PETER 3:17
The old line says “if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.”Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly.Then disaster strikes, we don’t get the result we anticipated or an unforeseen problem arises.Many times we may respond negatively and ask, “Why me?I did everything right!”Here’s the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance.Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.
“Es mejor sufrir por hacer el bien, si así lo quiere Dios, que por hacer el mal”.1 PEDRO 3:17
Un viejo dicho dice “si quieres hacer reír a Dios, cuéntale tus planes”.Muchos de nosotros somos diligentes para planificar y asegurarnos que las cosas progresaran sin contratiempos.Entonces sucede un desastre, no obtenemos el resultado que habíamos esperado o se presenta un problema imprevisto.¿Muchas veces respondemos negativamente y nos preguntamos, “¿Por qué a mí?Si lo hice todo correctamente”.Ese es el caso - la adversidad nos humilla y nos recuerda que dependemos de Dios y no de nuestra propia autosuficiencia.Tenga la seguridad, Dios tiene reservado un plan mejor para usted. (www.archstl.org)

Question: Do Catholics believe in fate?

Fate's an interesting word. It derives from the Latin *fatum*, "that which has been spoken." It's been described as the handwriting on the wall or the inevitability of life's course. When we meet the love of our lives, we may feel this encounter was meant to be. Or we may sense that our vocation, discovered early, was the only career track or direction we were destined to walk.

Truly we're not in control of many factors governing our lives. In some ways we can describe ourselves as pre-determined: our place of origin, race, genetic code, moment of history, and so on. Elements that profoundly affect our course aren't ours to choose, including the unavoidability of death.

So, on the one hand, our faith tells us we're free choosers and co-creators of our destiny. Yet in other ways, we recognize volition isn't the whole story. We plan, but plans may be undone by outside forces. It's no wonder some folks surrender to a suspicion that scientific randomness is the true force that governs history; or, that most or all of what happens to us is already "in the cards" or predestined. Even people of faith may shrug and speak of "God's will" as if God is the divine face of fate, fixing our state of life just as it is.

What does the church teach about all this? The key word for Catholics is *providence*, not fate. The biblical word is often translated as God's plan, design, or order, but providence is not to be confused with a prewritten history. God's plan, as the sacred stories make abundantly clear, is that creation flourishes and the human community enters into its fullness. This fullness is described as *shalom*, a word meaning peace, justice, happiness, and goodness. *If there's a divine design, it's not that we should tread on an immutable path, but that we follow the path that leads to ultimate joy: union with God. God's goal for all creation is the road to salvation, a "new creation."*

Providence is the authority governing and illuminating this path. Teachers instruct and prophets may warn, but we won't always attend to their direction. Providence doesn't force us down a chute of decision, but is rather a divine intention we can always trust. Perhaps Julian of Norwich expressed it best: "All will be well, and all manner of things will be well." The happy ending awaits. Alice L. Camille.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

What keeps us faithful

Catholics tend to be leery of words like "testimony" and "witness" when it comes to the business of sharing our faith with others. We may prefer to keep our profession of faith in a more formal key: say, with a group recitation of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. Many of us may feel ill-equipped to give a defense of the faith in the debate style known as apologetics. Yet each of us should be prepared to give the reason for our hope to anyone who asks. What keeps us faithful? And how does what we believe influence who we're becoming? (Prepare the word)

SEXTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA

Qué nos mantiene fieles

Los católicos tendemos a desconfiar de palabras como "testimonio" y "testigo" cuando se trata de compartir nuestra fe con los demás. Es posible que optemos por mantener nuestra profesión de fe en un tono más formal: por ejemplo, recitando en grupo el Credo de los Apóstoles o el Credo de Nicea. Muchos podemos sentirnos poco capacitados para hacer una defensa de la fe en el estilo de debate conocido como apologética. Sin embargo, cada uno de nosotros debería estar preparado para dar la razón de nuestra esperanza a cualquiera que pregunte. ¿Qué nos mantiene fieles? ¿Y cómo influye lo que creemos en lo que nos estamos volviendo?