

## Our Lady of the Desert



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**Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,**  
**Administrador Parroquial**

**Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial**  
**Confesión el Sábado:**  
Por cita en (Español y Inglés)

**Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima**  
**Virgen Maria—3:20pm**

**Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.**

**Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima**  
**Virgen Maria— 9:40am**

**Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.**

### **Liturgia en los Días de la Semana**

**Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli**

**Lunes: Adoración 7:30am y Misa a las 8:00am**

**Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:**

Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

**Viernes:**

**Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am**

**Misa en Honor de Virgen María**



## May 5th, 2024

**Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator**  
**Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar**

**Confession on Saturday:**

By appointment English/Spanish

**Saturday Rosary:** With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 3:20pm

**Saturday Mass (Vigil):** English -4:00 p.m.

**Sunday Rosary: With** Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary—9:40am

Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am

**Liturgy of the Weekdays**

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

**Monday: 7:30am Adoration & Mass 8:00am**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:**

**Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am**

**Friday:**

**Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass**  
**In Honor of the Virgin Mary**

Reflection for Sixth Sunday of Easter : Year B  
Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 5, 2024  
Fr. Stephen Yusko

Readings: Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48 • Ps 98:1, 2–3, 3–4 • 1 Jn 4:7–10 • Jn 15:9–17 [bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/050524.cfm](http://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/050524.cfm)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another . . .” In our readings on this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we hear much about Our Lord’s commandment to love. Yet this seems a strange thing to modern ears: a commandment to love. For many in our society today believe that love is simply a feeling, an inclination caused in us by encountering someone or even something outside of us. And so, some may ask, “How can we be commanded to love?” More than this, though, even if we can will ourselves to love, what kind of love is Jesus commanding us to give?

Are we to love one another as one may love their favorite movie, or their favorite sport or their favorite drink? I think we all would agree that Jesus is not commanding us to love one another as one might love *The Lord of the Rings*, or the New York Yankees, or a smooth glass of Macallan. We love these things for the pleasure they give to us, not for the good we wish to give to them. We do not love them for their own sake, as if they were ourselves.

Okay, are we to love one another as we may love our pets? Though one may and likely should love his pet more than he loves that smooth glass of scotch, it would be wrong and disordered if he were to love it more than other people, especially his wife or his kids. Pets are not persons, and they are certainly not our children — even if our children sometimes act like our pets — and so, we ought not treat them as such. Consequently, Jesus is not commanding us to love one another as we love our pets, as this kind of love falls far short of the mark.

What about the love that we have for ourselves? Are we to love one another with this love? Given that Scripture gives this to us as the second greatest commandment, this must be our answer, and yet, many of us know that it is tragically possible for a person to hate his or herself. Consequently, there must be an even greater love than the love of self to which Jesus is calling us to love one another. What is this form of love?

Well, let’s listen to Jesus: “love one another as I have loved you.” Yes! We are to love one another with the same love with which Jesus loved us, and with which the Father loved Him. In other words, we are to love with the love of God. A love that is unselfish; a love that is disinterested; a love that looks outward toward the other; a love that understands that the person before you is made in the image and likeness of

God, and so, should be loved, not used; cherished, not discarded; a love that asks what good can I give, rather than what good can I get. Every human being desires to be loved, yet every human being also desires to love. To pour oneself out for the other without counting the cost; to lose oneself in loving so as to find themselves in love, even to the point of loving to its most eminent degree — to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

We are to love one another with the love of God, then. A love that is supernatural, and that loves not only friends, but also those who have the potential of becoming our friends, that is, we are to love even our enemies. As Jesus said, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt 5:44).

We have seen that we are to love one another with the love of God; however, our original question lingers: How can we be commanded to love? More specifically, how can we be commanded to love with a love that exceeds our natural capacities? Pope Benedict XVI helps us to answer this question when he states in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* that we can be commanded to love with God’s own love because it has first been given to us. As St. John tells us in our second reading: “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins.”

You see, love is not merely a feeling, but is in the will. As such, no matter the situation or our emotional response to it, we can always will to love. As St. John of the Cross said, “Where there is no love, put love, and you will find love.” More than this, though, as Christians, who have had the love of God “poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom 5:5), we are now enabled by God’s grace to love as God loves, and thus, to fulfill the commandment of the New and Eternal Covenant, to “love one another, as I have loved you.” Such was the experience of St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Mother Teresa, Ven. Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, and the countless other witnesses of God’s love, and such can be your experience if you but ask for it and carry it out in your own lives.

*Fr. Victor is scheduled*

*To be at “Our Lady of the Desert”*

*the 4th Sunday of every month. (Dates are subject to change)*



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Once a man came to the Vatican and asked to see Pope John Paul II, claiming that they had been friends in Poland. When told of the man, the Pope said, “He is mistaken about our friendship. I don’t recall ever having suffered with him.” As it turned out, the man had never known the Pope. Now, I’m not sure if the story is totally factual. But doesn’t the juxtaposition of *suffering* with *friendship* sound exactly like JP II? He understood that the deepest and most lasting friendships are forged in the fires of shared suffering. No suffering, no friendship. Amazing.

This week we hear Jesus say to the apostles and to us, **“You are my friends if you do what I command you”** (John 15:14). In Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command — to love, to lay down our lives for others — will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens our friendship with Him. His suffering is ours; ours is His. We have become friends of God.

This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus? How might he be sharing his suffering with you, in the lives of those around you? Be attentive to that, and you’ll find that you are indeed a friend of God, because you’ve suffered together a great deal.

— *Father John Muir*

## Readings for the week of May 05, 2024

### Sunday:

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

### Monday:

Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a

### Tuesday:

Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11

### Wednesday:

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15

### Thursday:

Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 16:16-20

### Ascension:

Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20

### Friday:

Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23

### Saturday:

Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. (Acts 10:45-46)

### Psalm:

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (Ps 98)

Or: Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. (1 Jn 4:8)

### Gospel:

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15:13)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Christ's love for us is radical — it changed the whole world. It will not be easy to love as Christ loved, but this is the mission for which we have been chosen by God. So let us love one another. Let us change the world.

## Observances for the week of May 05, 2024

- Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter
- Thursday:** The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation in some U.S. dioceses)
- Friday:** St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
- Next Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day; Mother's Day



## Saint of the week

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was a bishop in the fourth century. His teachings on the Eucharist, among other topics, secured his place as a Doctor of the Church. Though his ministry was marked by estrangement, exile, and ultimately, reconciliation, he never lost his faith!

## Prayer of Love

God the Father,  
You created me in love.  
Jesus, your love for me compelled you to come to earth to die for me.  
Holy Spirit, love between God and Jesus, now you surround me with the love of the Father and the Son.  
Help me to live out this reality, today and always.  
Amen.

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### As I Love You

This week my children were learning about energy. We set up an experiment with toy cars — one was placed in front of another, and a third was pushed into the two stationary ones.

The forward motion caused the front car to move, but not much. “Most of the energy goes into the car in the middle, not the car on the end,” my daughter concluded.

I asked her why she seems to have so much energy, and I seem to have so little.

“Because you’re old,” she replied confidently.

Most days I feel like that first car, barreling at life with all my energy and love and good intentions, only to have it almost entirely absorbed by the proverbial middle car. It’s so easy to be discouraged. The devil so badly wants us to feel discouraged.

But the law of love is not unlike the law of conservation of energy. Love is neither created nor destroyed. It is only transferred from one form to another. And yes, sometimes it certainly seems like it disappears. It appears to get lost between my hands and the plate of dinner that goes uneaten or evaporates off of my lips as words I fear are never heard. It is spat upon as a commandment the world would prefer I do not keep.

But we are not called to simply love one another — to love when it seems effective and productive and appreciated. We are called to love as Christ loved: recklessly, selflessly, and yes, even without logic. We are called to love with a love that doesn’t give up and is never withdrawn. A love that doesn’t fear death or the world’s hatred. A love that stands willing to argue, to be reviled, to be dismissed.

We are called to be that first car, hurtling ourselves against a world that isn’t ready to accept or understand us. And we trust that, even when we can’t see how, the love that seems to disappear simply changes forms.

*“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”  
— John 15:12*

*- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

My neighbor is just beginning to explore the Catholic faith but was raised agnostic. I grew up believing in God, praying, and attending Mass. How does one start from scratch as an adult to develop a relationship with God?

#### Answer:

Start on a personal level! How did you and your neighbor become friends? How did you begin to discuss such a personal topic as faith? Communication, spending time together, and getting to know each other are essential to forming the bonds of a relationship. Personal prayer is essential to our relationship with God. We can’t be close to someone we don’t know! Invite your friend to explore the stories of Jesus in the Bible. Introduce them to the lives of the saints, especially ones you think they might be interested in.

Your neighbor might also have questions about the Catholic faith that you don’t know how to answer. If your friend hasn’t yet enrolled in RCIA classes, invite them to Mass at your parish. Introduce your friend to the faith formation director to make a connection. Personal support can be helpful as well, especially if few of your neighbor’s current friends are practicing their faith. Connect your neighbor to other people in your parish living their faith well. The good examples of other faithful people could help your neighbor to feel welcomed and supported. Our Church is vibrant and alive!

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