

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass intentions for May 9, 2021 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, 5 p.m. —
First Communicants

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. —
People of the parish

9:30 a.m. —
† Marie Ceru
By: Fran & Rodney Robey

Wednesday, noon —
People of the parish

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48—Peter said that in every nation, whoever fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. Thus he ordered that since the Holy Spirit had been poured out on some of the Gentiles, they should be baptized too.

Psalms 98:1-4—The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

1 John 4:7-10—Let us love one another because love is of God. Everyone who loves God is begotten by God and knows God, who loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.



John 15:9-17—Jesus says: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. I no longer call you slaves. I have called you friends. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.”

Dispensation

Catholics living in the diocese are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass until Pentecost weekend (May 22-23). While not required, participating in Mass online is encouraged until then.



In today's gospel, Jesus reminds us of an important part of faith. Some Christians place a great emphasis on the fact that THEY chose Jesus as their savior. But our Lord reminds us, that HE made the choice, not us. All that we can do is simply to be grateful for this one-sided decision and respond with love. We show our response by the loving acts that we practice. The gospel is not about choosing, it is about being chosen. Along with this choice comes the duty of loving others as Jesus loves them.

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Weekly readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-26,
34-35, 44-48
Psalm 98:1-4
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

Monday

Acts 16:11-15
John 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday

Acts 16:22-34
John 16:5-11

Wednesday

Acts 17:15,22—18:1
John 16:12-15

Thursday

Acts 1:18:1-8
John 16:16-20

Friday

St. Matthias
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
John 15:9-17

Saturday

Acts 18:23-28
John 16:23b-28

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Mark 16:15-20

Saintly Wisdom

“It is better to be
a child of God
than king
of the whole world.”

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

The Sacraments of Initiation

Sacraments are visible signs that make present the divine life dispensed on us through them. Christ gave us seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are the first three sacraments. They are the foundation of Christian life because they connect us more closely with the parish community. In them, we receive the Holy Spirit and his gifts.

- **Baptism**—In Baptism, we are welcomed into the Christian community, and our sins are forgiven. Where original sin separated us from God, Baptism unites us with God. Through Baptism, we die and rise with Christ. Every baptized person has a mark on his or her soul as a sign of this spiritual rebirth. We call this mark a sacramental character, and it marks a person as belonging to Christ. This sacramental character is indelible, or permanent, and therefore Baptism cannot be repeated.



- **Confirmation**—One effect of Confirmation is that it unites us more firmly with Christ. Confirmation also strengthens us to spread and defend the faith, to participate more deeply in the Church and to be good caretakers of the gifts we receive from God. It also increases in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit and helps us discern the will of God.



- **Eucharist**—The catechism calls the Eucharist “the source and summit of the Christian life.” The Eucharist nourishes our souls, feeding our spirits with the love of God and of our neighbor.



Parish Life

First Communion — First Communion was at the Saturday evening Mass this weekend. Those who received are Alex Mendez, Susie Villanueva and Fernando Zamora. Congratulations!

Baptism — Congratulations to Fernando (Jr.) and Alejandra Zamora, who were baptized this weekend (May 8). They are children of Fernando and Janeth Zamora.

Happy Anniversary! — Happy anniversary to Margaret and Edward Vines who will celebrate their 55th anniversary on Friday (May 14).

Sunday Mass Time — Beginning the weekend of May 29-30, St. Elizabeth Church will return to having only one Sunday Mass, and it will be at 9 a.m. The weekend of May 22-23 is the last weekend for 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Confirmation for Adults — A diocesan-wide adult Confirmation Mass will be celebrated with the bishop at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost), at the cathedral in Knoxville. Any adult (18 and over) who has had the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Penance but has not been confirmed is eligible. If you are interested, please contact Coleen Schneider at 202-6387 or coleenschneider@gmail.com by May 18.

Diocesan Mandate Changes

Bishop Richard F. Stika has announced the following changes in COVID-19 restrictions, beginning Pentecost weekend, May 22-23.

- The Sunday Mass obligation is restored.
- Social distancing in church is reduced to 3 feet.

“The requirement to wear a protective facemask during Mass will be lifted the weekend of July 31/Aug. 1,” Bishop Stika added, noting that “pandemic conditions could change in the next three months, and I must remain open to amending the requirements in this decree” if the pandemic worsens.