

# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Remain in Me

Loving God,  
who rule over all  
grant that my gaze remain on you,  
and that the world not distract me.  
When I stray from you,  
may I recognize your love and return.

May your Spirit enlighten me  
so that I do not falter in the mission  
that you have set for me in the world.  
With a steadfast faith,  
May I seek to do your work.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Sunday, May 12, 2024 Not of the World but of God



*Today's readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20a, 20c–26; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20 (19a); 1 John 4:11–16; John 17:11b–19.* Just before his arrest, Jesus prayed that the Father would look after his disciples, for they would take on his work. Addressing the Father, he said, “Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”

Jesus sent his disciples to spread his message and bring more people to the Father. More than two thousand years later, Christians today continue the work of missionary disciples. The faithful have been sent into the world to be the living testimony of the love of God. Though sent into the world, we must remember that we do not belong to the

world. At baptism, God claimed us as his children, incorporated us into Christ, and freed us from the power of sin. God’s love has made it possible for us to look forward to eternal life. With Christ, we pray that we stay focused on the truth and are protected from the evil one.

The reading from the First Letter of John helps us understand that we make God known by loving one another. “No one has ever seen God,” John writes. “Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us.” Just as Jesus prepared disciples to go into the world, we prepare others through the love that we show. That love allows those we encounter to see a reflection of Jesus, which may lead to a conversion of heart.



## 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 from 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.*

