

## May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Fifth Sunday of Easter



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

#### Saturday, May 1

9:00am *Mother's Day Novena* (1)

#### Sunday, May 2

8:00am

10:00am *Mother's Day Novena* (2)

12:00pm † *Mario Ernesto Maida Bermudez*

#### Monday, May 3

9:00am *Mother's Day Novena* (3)

#### Tuesday, May 4

9:00am *Mother's Day Novena* (4)

#### Wednesday, May 5

9:00am *Mother's Day Novena* (5)

#### Thursday, May 6

9:00am *Mother's Day Novena* (6)

#### Friday, May 7

9:00am *Mother's Day Novena* (7)

#### Saturday, May 8

9:00am *Mother's Day Novena* (8)

### From the Desk of the Pastor ....

It must have taken a lot of courage for St. Paul to tell his story to the community he had persecuted. Barnabas stood between them as a mediator to help reconcile one to the other. Only through love and forgiveness could the Church make progress in faith and peace.

John knew that the Church was made up of "little children", brothers and sisters who bickered and squabbled with one another. Despite our differences, we can be certain that God is with us to heal and forgive. Jesus used the metaphor of a vine to illustrate how we live in him. A branch can produce nothing of itself. If cut from the vine, it is good for nothing but fuel for the fire. When the branch is connected and integrated to the vine, it can be fruitful. If the vine is to be healthy and productive, the barren branches must be pruned. Even the vigorous ones must be trimmed so that their yield may increase. This means that we must be like Paul and the early Church. We must be willing "to acknowledge that we are not perfect, that we make mistakes, that we have our faults"; we must be willing to ask for forgiveness. By the same token, we must be willing "to forgive". When both sides join hands in peace, our lives and communities will bear much fruit, and we will reap the harvest of justice we have sown.

### PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Sunday masses are celebrated at 8am & 10am in English and 12noon en espanol

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS 2021

They will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday **May 15, 2021 at 10am.**

Please keep all our students in your prayers as they prepare for the sacrament.

#### THANK YOU!

My dear brothers: Greetings of joy and hope to all of you

Having celebrated Easter this year, I guess many of us have seen a glimmer of hope unfold before us. Efforts made to augment the vaccine outreach to all has become a game changer of sorts to us. Being sheltered in place for over a year has not been easy on anyone.

Thanks be to God, today we can adopt incremental steps towards building almost 'ground Up' strategies to stabilize our lives and going forward, claim some sort of normalcy in our day-to-day living. I believe this is the post pandemic opportunity, God offers to all of us, in our lives, something ever new in more ways than one can imagine.

This is also a moment to acknowledge our heartfelt gratitude to God and to our families and community: we have witnessed in and around us, the sacrifices of so many from among us who went out of their way, way beyond what one would expect, responding to 'call' and duty' in extraordinary and unprecedented times, to come out from their 'comfort zone', put in their precious time, open up and share their treasure and strive to apply their talents in order to help the helpless, lift up the fallen and reach out to those in need. That is so Human and American ingrained in our minds and hearts. God Bless them all!

Let us not forget those on the front lines who day in and day out, risked their own personal lives and that of their loving families to minister to the sick and the dying. They struggled to bring **HOPE** when that almost became a rare commodity to be found around.

It would not be difficult to remember the hard work, sacrifices and adjustments people made with their own schedules to help bring a little sunshine in the lives of people around.

Perhaps we can look around in our own Parish Church community of faith and the community around us and say: **We could not do without you!**

At St. John the Evangelist Parish, we continue to make efforts to inspire and encourage one another to slowly and steadily return to God and join the community of faith in prayer. **We invite you to join us in our ongoing efforts as volunteers to rebuild our Parish ministries. Please contact Mike Bennett, Mary Alfonso or Rodrigo Castillo after masses if you would like to volunteer.**

I thank our brother knights for their continued commitment and sacrifice to keep a prayerful watch in the Church kept open every Sunday for prayer and reflection.

We strive to return to our full Schedule of Masses and devotional exercises in thanksgiving to God and for one another.

**Come and join us!**



### SECOND COLLECTION

Today's Second Collection is for the **Reserve Fund** of St. John the Evangelist. This account was established to help fund the on-going major maintenance and needs of the Parish of St. John. Thank you for your continued generous support.

Few of us, even when we meditate on the image of the vine and branches, stop to really think about how God "prunes" us. For some there is the danger of thinking that we are already producing fruit for the kingdom, in deed and truth as John says, perhaps raising a family, being active in our parish, and so on. But even those branches which are bearing fruit, the Gospel tells us, can be pruned to produce still more. As long as we remain in Christ we will continue to bear fruit and, when the will of the Father determines it is time to prune us, the strength of the true vine must enable us to endure it.