

**LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK OF  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND THE  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 29 – May 5, 2024**

**Monday, 4/29 † Saint Catherine of Siena,  
Virgin & Doctor of the Church**

7:30am: Communion Service

**Tuesday, 4/30 † Easter Weekday, Saint  
Pius V, Pope**

7:30am: Communion Service

9am: A.S. No Mass

**Wednesday, 5/1 † Easter Weekday, Saint  
Joseph the Worker**

7:30am: Communion Service

9am: A.S. No Mass

**Thursday, 5/2 † Saint Athanasius, Bishop &  
Doctor of the Church**

7:30am: Communion Service

9am: A.S. No Mass

**First Friday, 5/3 † Saints Philip & James,  
Apostles**

7:30am: Communion Service

9am: A.S. No Mass

**First Saturday, 5/4 † Easter Weekday**

7:30am: Communion Service

**Saturday, 5/4 † Vigil, SIXTH SUNDAY OF  
EASTER**

4:30pm: No Vigil Mass

**Sunday, 5/5 † SIXTH SUNDAY OF  
EASTER**

7:30am: Joseph Vanek by Wife, Pat

9am: A. S. Stanley Burke by Jan Duttlinger

11am: Elaine Jachim by Daughter, Mary Serge

**This week at SS. C & M & All Saints**

Thurs., May 2 – 2pm – Legion of Mary

Thurs., May 2 – 4pm – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sun., May 5 – 9:30am - Religious Education

(Last class)

**Father Terry will be on a pilgrimage from  
Thursday, April 25 thru Wednesday, May 8.  
There will only be Masses on Sundays at both  
parishes. Therefore, no Saturday Vigil Masses  
April 27<sup>th</sup> & May 4<sup>th</sup>. If you need a Priest, please  
call Peg at 574-896-2195 & she will do her best to  
secure one for you.**

Jesus, better than anyone else, understands what kind of trust it takes to achieve intimate, strong friendship. Today's Gospel is a love-letter from Jesus. God longs to have true friendship with his children.

He is honest with us about what a relationship with Him requires and gives. Remaining with Him requires pruning and it bears much fruit.

Who doesn't want to bear "much fruit" (John 15:8)? our parish seeks to abide in Jesus in this same way and you can help through your support of our *Catholic Services Appeal*. As you discern, abide in Jesus. Respond to how He, the vine, moves you, His beloved branch, help us bear fruit as a parish so we can yield a greater harvest for Him together.

In the devotional life of the Church, this weekend was the First Friday of the month and the First Saturday of the month. These observances can seem peculiar at first, as one convert responded, "Okay, this is the first Friday of the month. Next week is the second Friday of the month. What's the big deal?"

It's a great question. The two devotionals were once prominent in parish life, but over the past several decades, they've waned in popularity or even awareness.

The First Friday honors the Sacred Heart of the Lord Jesus, and the First Saturday honors the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady. The two hearts display the love God has for us and the love we are called to reciprocate to him and to those around us.

The First Friday is based on apparitions to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in the late 17th century. The First Saturday devotion is based on apparitions of Our Lady to Sister Lucia of Fatima in the early 20th century.

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

Indeed, by helping the poor we can "bear much fruit" and we find that with Jesus we can do everything.

**Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.**

*"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." -1 JOHN 3:18*

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk? Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

# Dear Padre

April 28, 2024

**Several months ago my son died in a tragic car accident. Life, work, family, and even religion seem so meaningless now. How can I find my way back?**

You have suffered a great loss. When you are able, you can choose to live in a way that will respect both your son's memory and your own ongoing life. Here are a few gentle steps that might help.

- Expect to feel numb at first. This is nature's way of helping you deal with your loss. Keep following the normal patterns of your life and, eventually, meaning will return.
- Allow your friends to help. "Sorrows shared are sorrows lessened."
- If you are sad, let the tears come! Even Jesus cried at the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:32-35).
- If you are angry, look for a healthy release. Focus the energy of your anger into productive work, even if it's just doing dishes or yard work.
- Use your experience to help others. While helping others, the Lord often reveals to us the meaning of our own losses.
- Don't be afraid to seek professional help. A therapist has the expertise to help you talk about your loss and cope with your grief.
- Pray for yourself, for your son, for all whose lives he touched, for all those who are grieving.
- After you have done everything you can, leave your loss in God's hands. The Lord will do for you what you cannot do for yourself. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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# Good News!

April 28, 2024

*Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)*

Acts 9:26-31 / 1 John 3:18-24 / John 15:1-8

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**The common myth is that we receive a new body every seven years** as cells die and are replaced. However, stomach cells are renewed every two days or so because of acids and enzymes. Skin cells are replaced every two to three weeks. Bone cells last about ten years, and our brain cells stay with us for our entire lives. In a sense, then, we might say that our bodies are pruned, part of us remaining long-term to nurture and sustain like the trunk of a tree, and part of us severed so that life may be renewed and continue on.

If so with our bodies, are not our spirits also pruned? There is a core part of who we are that wends its way throughout our lives. Yet that "who" has rough edges in need of being smoothed; barbs need to be dulled; and certain inclinations simply need to be severed. Spouses tend to prune one another, the grace of a loving marriage. Children sometimes keep parents honest. Life events may grind down our independence and self-sufficiency. Illnesses, aging, job loss, the death of loved ones—all forcing us to recognize that we are not in control of life. We are thus pruned, forced to surrender much of what we once thought we could control.

Where is God in all of this? If God is woven into the warp and woof of all life, then all the events and rhythms of life can draw us closer to God, pruning us into goodness and fruitfulness. ●

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## WHO IS YOUR SHEPHERD?

The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want,  
It makes me to lie down on the sofa.  
It leads me away from the Faith,  
It destroys my soul.

It leads me to the path of sex and violence for the  
advertiser's sake.

Even though I walk in the shadow of Christian  
responsibilities,  
there will be no interruption, for the TV is with me.  
Its cable and remote control, they comfort me.  
It prepares a commercial for me in the midst of my  
worldliness

And anoints my head with secular humanism and  
consumerism.

My covetousness runs over;  
Surely ignorance and laziness shall follow me all the days  
of my life,  
And I shall dwell in the house of wretchedness watching  
TV forever.

## Using Blessed Salt

Ways to bless salt and use it for spiritual purposes.

Blessed salt has a power that Christians in general are unaware of.

It is a sacramental protection that you can use in multiple ways in your life, and in the lives of others.

And it is available to everyone, even in the worst circumstances.

Here we will talk about everything you need to know about blessed salt, what it is for and how it is used, how to handle it, what prayers bless it and who can do it, even what type of salt to use. After knowing this you will have no doubts about everything that the blessed salt offers you.

It is easy to understand why we Christians bless water, because it is essential for life, you cannot live without drinking water, that is why we use it in Baptism, for example.

But we also bless salt, because it is an element of protection.

Salt has been used since ancient times to preserve food and other things from corruption, to season them, and was even used medicinally to prevent infection.

And from very early on it had a sacred and religious character, both among the pagans and among the Jews.

Hence, blessed salt is an element strongly associated with spiritual battle: protection against demonic influences. The demons hate it.

In the ancient world salt was a valuable substance, Roman soldiers were often paid in it, hence the word "salary." ("Sal" means salt.)

And in a related way, it symbolized immortality and preservation from spiritual corruption.

Also, salt is useless in itself, its goodness good as something else. For example, we don't eat salt by itself; we use salt to flavor and preserve other things.

And this is a metaphor for our spiritual life — and in fact, our entire life. "I have no meaning in the world without the point of reference of others." *[scroll for more]*

The Catholic understanding of what is human is that we only have meaning to the extent that we live our lives for others and for God, as salt finds its value in preserving or purifying other things.

And so salt is associated with hospitality, good humor, welcome, and love of neighbor, all things the devil hates.

Therefore, blessed salt is one of the sacramentals that Christians can use for protection and healing.

Let us remember that sacramentals are sacred signs that dispose people to receive grace.

So its effectiveness depends on the faith and devotion of the person who uses it. Although its power is not decreased to zero by the person's faith or disbelief, its power is proportionate to such Christian attributes.

Give a sinner a sacramental and the power of Heaven will work in his heart, perhaps not on our terms, but surely on those of God.

A typical case is the conversion of unbelievers through the use of the Miraculous Medal.

Well, salt is a sacramental just like a medal.

Today, the use of holy salt in the Church is especially for exorcisms, for baptism, the re-consecration of an altar, and the blessing of Holy Water in some circumstances.

And for what things can people of faith use blessed salt?

To create a spiritual barrier of protection in their homes and ward off evil spirits.

Blessed salt can be sprinkled on doors, entrances, under the bed, cabinets, mirrors, window frames, and corners of the room. Salt can be used when building a new house by sprinkling salt on the foundation of the house. Or it can be used to protect other property, such as a car.

It can also be placed in a small container and then stored in the bag or pockets.

And you can bless members of your family with it.

Many times a combination of water and salt is used, blessed by putting a grain of holy salt in the water and it is easier to sprinkle. *[scroll for more]*

The Archdiocese of Manila Exorcism Office shared this simple prayer to recite when using blessed salt to bless a home in general terms. The head of the family will exercise spiritual authority over the property by using the blessed salt with it:

"I seal this room, home or whatever, in the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior, (Sign of the Cross is made) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

This prayer also can be used to bless any specific property.

And the San Miguel Arcángel exorcist center recommends this prayer for specific protection against demons:

"Lord Jesus Christ, our God, (Sign of the Cross is made) bless and seal with Your Precious Blood this bedroom of your servant N (or the room is named). May I (or it or the person) be protected by Your grace from all the attacks of the adversary. For our protection, may we prepare with devotion to serve You tomorrow and every day. So that always faithful to You, Your servant (names one) may be counted among the blessed in the Kingdom, where You live and reign (the Sign of the Cross is made) with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen."

And then grains of salt are placed or water with grains of salt is sprinkled inside.

Also blessed salt can be used for cooking.

You can even sprinkle blessed salt in your kitchen.

A few grains in drinking water or used in cooking or as a seasoning for food are said to provide amazing spiritual and physical benefits.

Blessed salt can even be added to food when you go to eat somewhere else or when you buy ready-made food.

Even if you don't use it to prepare food, you can consume blessed salt before leaving home for protection and blessings.

You also can use blessed salt as spiritual protection while traveling.

It can be used in cars and hotels where you and your family stay, if you carry a small vial of blessed salt with you on the go.

But it is important not to be superstitious; you have to make use of the blessed salt without becoming paranoid. It is necessary to use a healthy and balanced approach with the use of blessed salt, as with any other sacramental.

Our faith must be centered in Christ.

Remember the blind man in John 9, whose sight was restored, not because of the mud and saliva with which the Lord anointed his eyes, but because he had faith in Jesus.

But if we admit we are in a spiritual war, why wouldn't we want to make use of the tools and prayers the Church equips us with to better protect ourselves?

And how do you get blessed salt so you can use it?

It is not bought but made.

You must get grain salt; it is preferable that it be pure salt, such as natural rock salt or sea salt, or kosher salt, which do not have chemical additives.

And it is presented in any quantity to a priest for blessing using the following official prayer of the Roman Ritual:

"Almighty God, we ask you to bless this salt, as you once blessed the salt sprinkled on the water by the prophet Elisha.

"Wherever this salt is sprinkled, drive away the power of evil and always protect us with the Presence of your Holy Spirit. Grant it through Christ our Lord. Amen." (There are also more involved prayers.)

When you go to ask a priest, please take the prayer with you so that he can read it, because he probably does not remember it by heart. And if we do not have a priest available, what do we do?

In case priestly mediation does not work, because you do not get this option, the faithful themselves can go directly to God.

The head of the family can perform it himself. But you must bear in mind that when a priest blesses, his blessing is not personal, but has behind it all the accumulated merits of the Church through the centuries.

On the other hand, when the blessing is carried out by a head of the family, the support behind it rests on the merits of the person only. (It is not formally "blessed," but prayed over.)

And how is blessed salt preserved?

It is placed inside a closed container so that it does not reduce in volume over time.