

Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast.” And none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they realized it was the Lord.

JOHN 21:12

The Abundance

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Twenty-five years ago, when Carl was about eighteen years old, he asked me how he would know when he had truly fallen in love. How would he know that it wasn't simply infatuation or passion and that she was the right person? Today, Carl tells me that I said something to him about recognizing that if you have to ask the question, it probably isn't love; it is probably the woman who best captures the most attractive aspects of all the women he has ever dated, liked, or loved.

For the next twenty years or so, Carl never seemed to find that love he was seeking—until one day, it happened. He fell in love and got married. Five years later, I asked Carl if it was indeed love. He said he believed it was, even though during those years of empty seeking, he thought true love would never come to him. He also said he's convinced that it was the hand of God that brought them together. Of that, he has no doubts.

In its own way, Carl's story is really the story of Peter and his friends going fishing and finding nothing all night long. Then, at dawn, a voice from the shore suggests that they try the other side of the boat. Lo and behold, an abundance appears where there had been only emptiness. That's when Peter and his friends realize, “It is the Lord!” For us, too, we have those moments when we recognize God's hand in our lives. ●

Reflect

Is there a hole in my life that's waiting to be filled? Where am I looking?

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Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

REFLECTIONS

Finding Spiritual Clarity

In his book, **Riding the Dragon**, author Robert J. Wicks relates the following story:

My mother asked me to prepare her two front barrels for summer plants. I knew this meant weeding out the old dry spring plants and adding new fertilizer to the soil.

I did what I thought was a good job, and proudly announced in a loud voice, "I'm finished."

She came up beside me and poked her garden stick into the barrels. She smiled, nudged me, and in a lilting voice teased, "Well, my heavens, you're like a hen; you've only just scratched around on the surface."

When I looked at her with a question on my face, she put her arm around me, pointed to the soil, and advised, "Dig down deep and shake up the soil. In this way, you will allow the air through and you will be getting the fertilizer to mix down deep in the soil where it's needed."

Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and alms-giving are intended to accomplish in our spiritual lives what deep digging and 'shaking up' the soil was intended to do in the above story. But what we generally do, in a quite human fashion, is superficially stir things up, moving them around and then declaring that we have been transformed. We think we are finished with regard to awakening our spiritual life. But what happens? We find soon enough that we have not gone far enough to really matter; we find ourselves slipping back into old habits.

Lent is past and we are gliding through the blissful days of Easter joy; but it is still time for digging deeply and shaking things up in our soul. The spiritual transformations undertaken, and even accomplished during Lent, are intended as a trial run for life itself, for all of life, for all of our days.

Discipleship is not some trick of the imagination nor a one-time-does-it-all task. Rather it is a life-time commitment to recognize God present in our lives through the action of the Holy Spirit and a firm intention to maintain a rigorous discipline of spiritual endeavor.

Don't give up yet – keep digging deeply and stirring up that spiritual soil! There is new growth to come if we prepare for it!

From Father Ken



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Entering the third week of Easter and the first full week of May, I was challenged to **value time** and contemplate how quickly time seems to go by the older we get. I am sure many of you have thought about this as you have gotten older and have observed how time seems to be a blur. **The secret is to value each moment we are given and share the time we are given with others.**

Today will never come again.
Be a blessing. Be a friend.
Encourage someone. Take
time to care. Let your words
heal, and not wound.

Recently I read a book by Monsignor Charles Pope. The book is titled: **The Hell There Is**. In it Msgr. Pope states that many Catholics underestimate the power of Hell and the possibility that we may end up there. He notes that 21 of the 38 parables in the Gospel are about Hell (often spoken of as Gehenna). Nobody loves you more than Jesus, yet no one spoke of Hell more than Jesus. Further in his book, Msgr. maintains that it is possible for people to go to Hell because people are free to choose God or to reject God. All of us are distracted by minor worldly things and souls are being lost as a result. What is at stake is the spiritual battle for Heaven, and against Hell.

We still have a need for Altar Servers and Lectors at daily Masses. If you have an interest in being involved in these Ministries, contact Cat in the Chapel office.



A Cross Catholic Priest will be celebrating Mass next weekend on May 10th and May 11th. Please consider supporting this ministry in aiding the people most in need. Your past contributions have been a blessing to the Cross Catholic Outreach mission.



We extend our thanks to Sue Foertsch who updates the sign at the entrance to the Chapel and Apartments. Each week she changes the sign by posting a biblical message that relates to the Gospel reading at Mass. The sign is an inspiration and reminder to stay on our journey of faith through the week.



The Rosary is prayed each Saturday and Sunday during May in honor of Our Blessed Lady. Before Saturday Vigil Masses, it is said at 4:30 PM and on Sundays it is prayed at 9:30 AM prior to our 10:00 AM Mass. Please join us.

In closing I came across an interesting article in the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will newsletter that may apply to some of us. A Benedictine sister went to confession. After verbalizing her sins, the mystical priest hearing her confession looked intensely at the sister and said: **Sister I see two more sins in you.** The Sister asked: **What are they?** The Priest responded: **Why don't you trust God? You also are very self reliant! You also condemn yourself but it is not true. You are beautiful because Jesus lives within you, through your baptism, through your Confirmation, and through the Eucharist. You are Jesus to others.** Sister was struck right to the heart. Self-reliance and self condemnation had become a habitual soundtrack in her mind.

May Christ's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*God Give You Peace.
Mike Pierson*



*Feed my lambs ... Tend my sheep ... Feed my sheep.
FOLLOW ME.*

Mass Intentions

May 4, 2025	SFV Catholic Chapel Community
May 5, 2025	Repose of the Soul of Mark Keating By Deacon Howard Herring
May 6, 2025	Father Bob Strittmatter
May 7, 2025	Repose of the Soul of Jim Schwartz By Mary Schwartz & Schwarz Family
May 8, 2025	Repose of the Souls of Robert & Angeline Frank By Bob & Karen Frank
May 9, 2025	Special Intentions of Ann & Jay White By Deacon Herring
May 10, 2025	Funeral Mass for Alice Mair (Rosary 9:30 AM; Mass 10:00 AM)
May 10, 2025	Repose of the Soul of Francis Patrick Gavin (5:00 PM Vigil Mass)

Dear Padre,

I committed some grave sins many years ago, and I have been to confession to confess and be absolved, but I still feel guilty. Do I need to confess again?

Absolutely not. There is no need to confess your sins again. This is not required, and it may indicate a lack of faith in the power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thankfully, the sacrament does not require perfection. It does not require any additional action on your part other than to be open to the movement of the Spirit of God.

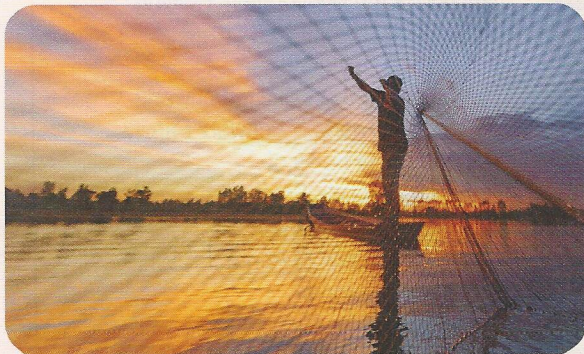
Forgiveness is a gift from God. It is not something you merit. It is not something you earn. And there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive. Rather, it is a blessing you accept gratefully, thankfully, and with a profound knowledge and respect for the mercy of God at work in your life. To confess your sins again and again does nothing except make you feel more guilty. It is a way of punishing yourself; a futile attempt to try to earn what has been freely given. A better use of your time and energy would be to discover a way to remind yourself, not of guilt or imperfection, but of the love God has for you. It is indeed awesome and amazing, as the song so accurately celebrates: “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.” ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:8–15	Acts 7:51–8:1a	Acts 8:1b–8	Acts 8:26–40	Acts 9:1–20	Acts 9:31–42	Acts 13:14, 43–52
Jn 6:22–29	Jn 6:30–35	Jn 6:35–40	Jn 6:44–51	Jn 6:52–59	Jn 6:60–69	Rv 7:9, 14b–17 Jn 10:27–30



SARAVUTPICS / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Brothers and sisters, when our nets are empty in life, it is not the time to feel sorry for ourselves, to take our minds off things, to return to old pastimes. It is time to begin again with Jesus, it is time to find the courage to begin again, it is time to put out to sea again with Jesus.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 1, 2022