

Begotten By Love: By Scott Hahn

God is love, and He revealed that love in sending His only Son to be a sacrificial offering for our sins.

In these words from today's Epistle, we should hear an echo of the story of Abraham's offering of Isaac at the dawn of salvation history. Because Abraham obeyed God's command and did not withhold his only beloved son, God promised that Abraham's descendants, the children of Israel, would be the source of blessing for all nations (see [Genesis 22:16-18](#)).

We see that promise coming to fulfillment in today's First Reading. God pours out His Spirit upon the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, as they listen to the word of Peter's preaching. Notice they receive the same gifts received by the devout Jews who heard Peter's preaching at Pentecost—the Spirit comes to rest upon them and they speak in tongues, glorifying God (see [Acts 2:5-11](#)).

In His love today, God reveals that His salvation embraces the house of Israel and peoples of all nations. Not by circumcision or blood relation to Abraham but by faith in the Word of Christ, sealed in the Sacrament of Baptism, people are to be made children of Abraham, heirs to God's covenants of promise (see [Galatians 3:7-9](#); [Ephesians 2:12](#)).

This is the wondrous work of God that we sing of in today's Psalm. It is the work of the Church, the good fruit that Jesus chooses and appoints His Apostles for in today's Gospel.

As Peter raises up Cornelius today, the Church continues to lift all eyes to Christ, the only one in whose name they can find salvation.

In the Church, each of us has been begotten by the love of God. But the Scriptures today reveal that this divine gift brings with it a command and a duty. We are to love one another as we have been loved. We are to lay down our lives in giving ourselves to others—that they too might find friendship with Christ and new life through Him.

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pray for the intercession of the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance"

But May altars and crownings aren't just "church" things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray.

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue. Why?

Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there are.

No, we do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor.

SAINT JOSEPH, BRIMFIELD - SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD



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6th Sunday of Easter — May 5th 2024

"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." - JOHN 15:12-13

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. Does your giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?

St. Joseph

Sat. May 4th	9:00am Holy Souls in Purgatory 3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions 5:00 pm Denny Porter+
Sun. May 5th	10:30am Celine Estes+ and Family
Mon. May 6th	8:00 am People of St James
Tues. May 7th	8:00 am Paul Gilles+
Wed. May 8th	8:00 am Special Intention (TH) 5:00—6:45pm Adoration and Confessions
Thurs May 9th	8:00 am Dorothy Klitzing+
Fri. May 10th	8:00 am Msgr John C Collopy+
Sat. May 11th	3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions 5:00 pm People of St. Joseph
Sun. May 12th	10:30am Pete Schaub+

"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now." - St. Teresa of Calcutta

St. James

Sunday Confessions
7:30 — 7:55 am

Sun, May 5th 8:00am
Murdock Family
Offered by
Ann Murdock

Sun, May 12th 8:00am
People of St. James Parish

St Joseph

Lector

Sat. May 4th
Sun. May 5th

Kelch
7th & 8th Grade—May Crowning

Sat. May 11th
Sun. May 12th

Burns
Wilbur

Please consider Volunteering to Lector
For more info Ask Father Verrier



CCD—K- 6th Grade

9:00am—10:15am Harrison Hall

May 5th ~ Last class



Confirmation—Grade 7-8

May 5th—7th& 8th
Grade
Mass at St Joseph

ST JOSEPH SPRING BEEF RAFFLE



- Raffle will be for 2 chances to win: each prize is 1/4 beef with processing included.
- Tickets are one for \$20 or three for \$50
- Tickets will be available for purchase starting this weekend.
- Drawing will be Sunday May 19th after the 10:30am Mass.
- Proceeds are to benefit the Building and Grounds Fund

Please consider volunteering to help sell tickets after Masses and/ or take a packet of tickets to sell.

Questions: contact Peg Boettcher, Colleen Kirkland or Liz McCoy

Beef Donated by Lillian's Pasture Raised Beef

The Saturday of Pentecost weekend, pastors will receive an email with Bishop Lou's final decisions regarding parish closings, mergers, building status, and priest moves. The pastors will announce Bishop Lou's decisions at all the masses that weekend (May 18 19) and then Sunday afternoon those things will be released to the public. We will all wait until then to discover the full impact that Growing Disciples will have on our parishes of St. Joseph and St. James and all our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese. Included is an insert today is an update on the Growing Disciples initiative and a Novena for Preparation for our Diocese. Please pray will us.

Invest in Kids

Empower Illinois and the Catholic Conference of Illinois are trying to get the Tax Credit Scholarship Program restored this May. If that were to happen, fundraising could begin soon to fund scholarships for next school year. In order to maximize the chances of that happening, they need your help! Please call and email your legislators using this link: <https://p2a.co/ztkofpi>

"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. This I command you: love one another." - Jn 15:16-17

Financial Stewardship Jesus' commandment is that His disciples love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives if necessary. What gifts of myself – my skills and talents, my time and resources – will best demonstrate my love for God's people?

Sunday Totals:

April 28th

St Joseph \$3,056.00

St James \$502.00

Mission of the Month of May West Virginia Passionists



Thank You

We have completed another year of CCD classes! Many, many thanks to the families and our children who participated in this year's program. Special thanks, also, to our amazing team of catechists and teen helpers. This year's staff includes Amy Chastain, Julie Burwell, Karla Wilbur, Bridget McKown, Kristina Porter, Jovi Chastain and last but not least our fabulous Director of Religious Education, Nicole Shuster. May God continue to bless all of you!



Millions of Monicas is a new ministry in the Diocese of Peoria for women to pray together for their children who have left the faith. This is not a support group or a self-help group. We simply meet once a month and pray together for each other's loved ones in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, aunts, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.

1st Tuesdays 7:00pm St. Mark Parish 113 W. Bradley Ave. Peoria, Phone 309-673-1263 with any questions

4th Tuesdays 7:00pm St. Thomas the Apostle Parish 904 E. Lake Ave. Peoria Heights, IL Phone 309-688-3446 with any questions

For more information visit www.millionsofmonicas.com

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus tells us to love each other as He has loved us. We Americans tend to have an emphasis on independence that can lead us to isolation from our neighbors not only physically but emotionally and spiritually. While independence is a good thing, it can be problematic if taken too far. No man is an island and God made us for each other. I often like to ask individuals if the communities they spend time with are making them the person that they want to be. Is your community making you a better spouse, parent, and Catholic? If not, it might be a good time to reevaluate how you spend your time with others. In this week's Gospel, we hear the story of the man who considers himself to be above the people around him while the tax collector knows that he is in need of mercy and grace. The reality is that we are all like the tax collector in that we need these things not only from God but from the people around us. I was surprised at the irony recently when I looked up the origin of the phrase, "Pull yourself up by your bootstraps." It turns out that it is from a late 1800s physics textbook illustrating the impossibility of lifting oneself off the ground by the bootstraps. This phrase is often used to mean that we need to try harder on our own to accomplish things. However, this is not possible. We need to support and be supported by the people around us. This week, consider spending time reflecting on and evaluating your community as well as consider ways that you can support and be supported by the people in your life.