



**St. John's Parish**  
Roman Catholic Church

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# AM I CAPABLE OF LOVING MY ENEMIES?

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 18, 2025

Today's Gospel takes us to the Upper Room to have us listen to some of the words that Jesus addressed to the disciples in the "farewell discourse" before his Passion. After washing the feet of the twelve [Apostles], he says to them: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (Jn 13:34). But in what sense does Jesus call this commandment "new"? Because we know that already in the Old Testament, God had ordered members of his people to love their neighbour as themselves (cf. Lev 19:18). To those who asked him which was the greatest commandment of the Law, Jesus himself would reply that the first was to love God with all your heart and the second, to love your neighbour as yourself (cf. Mt 22:38-39).

What then, is the novelty of this commandment that Jesus entrusts to his disciples? Why does he call it a "new commandment"? The old commandment of love became new because it was made complete with this addition: "as I have loved you", "love one another as I have loved you". The novelty lies wholly in Jesus Christ's love, with which he gave his life for us. It is God's universal love, without any conditions or limits, which reaches its culmination on the cross. In that moment of extreme abasement, and in that moment of abandonment to the Father, the Son of God showed and gave to the world the fullness of love. Thinking back to Christ's passion and agony, the disciples understood the meaning of his words: "As I have loved you, so you too must love one another".

Jesus loved us first. He loved us despite our frailties, our limitations and our human weaknesses. It was he who ensured we become worthy of his boundless and never-ending love. By giving us this new commandment, he asks us to love one another, not only and not so much with our love, but with his, which the Holy Spirit instills in our hearts if we invoke him with faith. In this way — and only in this way — can we love one another not only as we love ourselves but as he loved us, that is, infinitely more. Indeed, God loves us much more than we love ourselves. And thus, we can spread everywhere the seed of love that renews relationships between people and opens horizons of hope. Jesus always opens horizons of hope. His love opens horizons of hope. This love makes us become new men, brothers and sisters in the Lord, and makes us the new People of God, that is the Church, in which everyone is called to love Christ and to love one another in him.

The love that was manifested in Christ's Cross and that he calls us to live is the only force that transforms our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh; the only force capable of transforming our heart is Jesus' love, if we too love with this love. And this love makes us capable of loving our enemies and forgiving those who have offended us. I will ask you a question; each of you can respond in your heart. Am I capable of loving my enemies? We all have people — whether 'enemies' I do not know — but who do not get along with us, who are on "the other side"; or some have people who have hurt them.... Am I capable of loving those people, that man, that woman who hurt me, who offended me? Am I capable of forgiving them? Each of you can respond in your heart. Jesus' love shows us the other as a present or future member of the community of Jesus' friends. It spurs us to dialogue and helps us to listen to one another and to mutually get to know each other. Love opens up toward the other, becoming the foundation of human relationships. It renders us capable of overcoming the barriers of our own weaknesses and prejudices. Jesus' love within us creates bridges, teaches new paths, triggers the dynamism of fraternity. With her maternal intercession, may the Virgin Mary help us to receive from her son Jesus the gift of his commandment, and from the Holy Spirit, the strength to put it into practice in everyday life.

*POPE FRANCIS — May 19, 2019*

# ADVICES OF POPE LEO XIV ON HOW TO COMMUNICATE

Brothers and sisters, In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed: "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt 5:9). This is a Beatitude that challenges all of us, but it is particularly relevant to you, calling each one of you to strive for a different kind of communication, one that does not seek consensus at all costs, does not use aggressive words, does not follow the culture of competition and never separates the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it. Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others. In this sense, the way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say "no" to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war.

We are living in times that are both difficult to navigate and to recount. They present a challenge for all of us but it is one that we should not run away from. On the contrary, they demand that each one of us, in our different roles and services, never give in to mediocrity. The Church must face the challenges posed by the times. In the same way, communication and journalism do not exist outside of time and history. Saint Augustine reminds of this when he said, "Let us live well and the times will be good. We are the times" (Discourse 80.8).

As you know, communication is not only the transmission of information, but it is also the creation of a culture, of human and digital environments that become spaces for dialogue and discussion. In looking at how technology is developing, this mission becomes ever more necessary. I am thinking in particular of artificial intelligence, with its immense potential, which nevertheless requires responsibility and discernment in order to ensure that it can be used for the good of all, so that it can benefit all of humanity. This responsibility concerns everyone in proportion to his or her age and role in society.

For this reason, I repeat to you today the invitation made by Pope Francis in his message for this year's World Day of Social Communications: let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred; let us free it from aggression. We do not need loud, forceful communication, but rather communication that is capable of listening and of gathering the voices of the weak who have no voice. Let us disarm words and we will help to disarm the world. Disarmed and disarming communication allows us to share a different view of the world and to act in a manner consistent with our human dignity. Thank you all and may God bless you! (12 May, 2025).

**St. Agatha Parish Homecoming Celebration:** We warmly invite you to join us on June 8th at St. Agatha Parish (1839 Notre Dame Drive, St. Agatha) for this special event. It will be a joyful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and celebrate the rich history of St. Agatha Parish. Were you baptized or married here? Did your children attend St. Agatha School? **The celebration will begin with Mass at 11:00am**, followed by lunch and a reception in the parish hall until 3:00pm. Enjoy reminiscing with friends, looking through old photos, and viewing the display showcasing the history of our parish. Please join us for this celebration of faith, friendship, and community. Everyone is welcome!

## ENGLISH SCHEDULE

### *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Saturday, May 17 **5:00 PM**  
+Karl Friedrich

Sunday, May 18 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, May 20 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, May 21 **11:00 AM**  
+Dolores Sedlmeir

Thursday, May 22 **11:00 AM**

Friday, May 23 **11:00 AM**

### *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Saturday, May 24 **5:00 PM**  
+Dolores Sedlmeir

Sunday, May 25 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

## MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

### *V Domingo de Pascua*

Sabado 17 de mayo **7:00 PM**  
+Beatriz Vanegas de Páez

Domingo 18 de mayo **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 20 de mayo **12:00 PM**

Miercoles 21 de mayo **12:00 PM**  
Cumpleaños Andrés Quintana

Jueves 22 de mayo **12:00 PM**

Viernes 23 de mayo **12:00 PM**

### *VI Domingo de Pascua*

Sabado 24 de mayo **7:00 PM**  
+Beatriz Vanegas de Páez

Domingo 25 de mayo **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial