

"LORD, GIVE ME YOUR PEACE, GIVE ME YOUR HOLY SPIRIT" SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 25, 2025

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy, bidding his disciples goodbye during the Last Supper, Jesus says almost as a sort of testament: "Peace I leave with you". And he adds immediately, "My peace I give to you" (Jn 14:27). Let us reflect on these short phrases.

First of all, peace I leave with you. Jesus bids farewell with words expressing affection and serenity. But he does so in a moment that is anything but serene. Judas has left to betray him, Peter is about to deny him, and almost everyone else to abandon him. The Lord knows this, and yet, he does not rebuke, he does not use severe words, he does not give harsh speeches. Rather than demonstrate agitation, he remains kind until the end. There is a proverb that says you die the way you have lived. In effect, the last hours of Jesus' life are like the essence of his entire life. He feels fear and pain, but does not give way to resentment or protest. He does not allow himself to become bitter, he does not vent, he is not impatient. He is at peace, a peace that comes from his meek heart, inhabited by trust. This is the source of the peace Jesus gives us. For no one can leave others peace if they do not have it within themselves. No one can give peace unless that person is at peace.

Peace I leave with you: Jesus demonstrates that meekness is possible. He incarnated it precisely in the most difficult moment, and he wants us to behave that way too, since we are the heirs of his peace. He wants us to be meek, open, available to listen, capable of defusing tensions and weaving harmony. This is witnessing to Jesus and is worth more than a thousand words and many sermons. The witness of peace. As disciples of Jesus, let us ask ourselves if we behave like this where we live: do we ease tensions, do we defuse conflicts? Are we too at odds with someone, always ready to react, explode, or do we know how to respond non-violently, do we know how to respond with peaceful actions and words? How do I react? Everyone should ask themselves this.

Certainly, this meekness is not easy. How difficult it is, at every level, to defuse conflicts! Jesus' second phrase comes to our aid here: my peace I give you. Jesus knows that on our own we are not able to keep peace, that we need help, that we need a gift. Peace, which is our obligation, is first of all a gift of God. In fact, Jesus says: "My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you" (v. 27). What is this peace that the world does not know and the Lord gives us? This peace is the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit of Jesus. It is the presence of God in us, it is God's "power of peace". It is He, the Holy Spirit, who disarms the heart and fills it with serenity. It is He, the Holy Spirit, who loosens rigidity and extinguishes the temptations to attack others. It is He, the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to forgive, to begin again, to set out anew because we cannot do this with our own strength. And it is with Him, with the Holy Spirit, that we become men and women of peace.

Dear brothers and sisters, no sin, no failure, no grudge should discourage us from insistently asking for this gift from the Holy Spirit who gives us peace. The more we feel our hearts are agitated, the more we sense we are nervous, impatient, angry inside, the more we need to ask the Lord for the Spirit of peace. Let us learn to say every day: "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". This is a beautiful prayer. Shall we say it together? "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". I didn't hear it well. One more time: "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". And let us also ask this for those who live next to us, for those we meet each day, and for the leaders of nations.

May Our Lady help us welcome the Holy Spirit so we can be peacemakers.

CWL Meeting Reminder: The next general meeting for the Catholic Women's League will be on May 27 at 7pm in the parish hall. Newcomers are always welcome and hope to see you there.

The St. John's Catholic Women's League would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support our soup social for Development and Peace. We were able to raise and donate \$500 because of your support. God Bless You!

ENGLISH SCHEDULE Sixth Sunday of Easter

| Saturday, May 24 +Dolores SedImeir | 5:00 PM | |
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| Sunday, May 25 For All Parishioners Living & Deceased | 9:00 AM | |
| <u>Tuesday, May 27</u> | 11:00 AM | |
| <u>Wednesday, May 28</u> | 11:00 AM | |
| <u>Thursday, May 29</u> | 11:00 AM | |
| Friday, May 30 +Dolores SedImeir | 11:00 AM | |
| Ascension of the Lord | | |

| <u>Saturday, May 31</u> +Pauline Craig | 5:00 PM |
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| Sunday, June 1 For All Parishioners Living & Deceased | 9:00 AM |

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL VI Domingo de Pascua

| <u>Sabado 24 de mayo</u> +Beatriz Vanegas de Páez | 7:00 PM |
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| Domingo 25 de mayo Por la Comunidad Parroquial | 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM |
| <u>Martes 27 de mayo</u> | 12:00 PM |
| <u>Miercoles 28 de mayo</u> | 12:00 PM |
| <u>Jueves 29 de mayo</u> | 12:00 PM |
| <u>Viernes 30 de mayo</u> +Maria Elena Quan | 12:00 PM |

Ascensión del Señor

| <u>Sabado 31 de mayo</u> | 7:00 PM |
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| <u>Domingo 1 de Junio</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial | 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM |

ST. MARY'S CHURCH PRESENTS



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL wbuchholtz1051@rogers.com