

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

**The Lord has freed his people, Alleluia!**

## Masses For The Week

**Sun 05 Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
 08:00 am +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)  
 +Francisco Ramirez (Maggie Inocencio)  
 +Francisco & Juanita Mancha (Mancha Family)  
**Thr 09 The Ascension of the Lord**  
 12:05 pm NO MASS – Priestly Convocation

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

*“The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.” Cornelius, a Roman soldier, falls at the feet of Peter, not because of Peter’s natural goodness, but because Jesus had chosen and appointed Peter to bear fruit. “The Lord makes his salvation known” through the love borne by the apostles. Cornelius symbolically lays down his life for his friend Peter, who will soon replicate that gesture in martyrdom. “Let us love one another, because love is of God.”*

### The Sanctuary Candle



**This Week will be Burning in Memory of**  
 +Diana G. Reese (Celia Crowder)

# Good News!

May 5, 2024  
 Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)  
 Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48 / 1 John 4:7–10 / John 15:9–17  
 FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A while back I decided to plant two saplings that were about ten feet tall along the property line of the parish home where I lived. Some time after I planted them, I noticed that one was leaning in one direction and the other a bit in the opposite direction. *Strange*, I thought, *for it seemed that when I planted them they were staked with rope and stood straight*. So I bought some six-foot fence posts and tied the trees to them, thinking that as they grew they would straighten themselves. Not so. After three years the trees seemed to insist on growing their own way, one leaning into the wind and the other a bit twisted. It seemed the only solution was to love them the way they were.

It is so with the people in our lives as well. Sooner or later we find ourselves needing to love them with their idiosyncrasies and foibles and perhaps even their sinfulness. We may try to reshape them, but ultimately it is usually to little avail. They have been created by God, after all, and if God has chosen us—as the Gospel suggests—then God also has chosen us to love them as they are, and perhaps to love them into all that they can be. Ultimately though, God does the pruning, the reshaping, not us. We participate in that process by caring for them and bringing good to them, always in the image of Jesus. ●

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**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH**  
 Olga Gonzalez, Cristina Zarate, Mina Aldaco, Mario Garcia, Ramona Alaniz, Edna Flores, Ana Maria Finley, Mary G. Finley, Margarita Inocencio, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cassiano, Dotty Guffey, and Rodrigo Medina.



### MOTHER'S DAY MASS REMEMBRANCE



Pick up your *Mother's Day Mass Remembrance* envelopes located in the entrances of the church. Please deposit them in the collection basket. Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 12, 2024. Remember to include living and/or deceased.



## Blue Mass

TO HONOR THE WORK OF ALL PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONS

The Diocese of Laredo will be celebrating the Annual Blue Mass at San Agustín Cathedral on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 12:00 pm, noon. The Annual Blue Mass honors men and women in law enforcement who admirably fulfill their duty to serve and protect our community. Everyone is invited to attend!

### CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Next week please give generously during the second collection, which supports Catholic Communications.

**Last Sunday's Collection**  
 Envelopes: \$ 1,227.00  
 Loose: \$ 65.00  
 Children's Envelopes: \$ 1.00

**Total Sunday Collection: \$ 1,293.00**

**Total Expenses Last Week: \$ 1,984.55**

# Dear Padre

May 5, 2024  
**Please clarify for me what the Church considers as “gossip.” Is it that bad?**

Human beings have the great gift of speech. We continually talk to one another and we talk about one another. Gossip, at its most basic level, is just idle talk. It is neither good nor bad. But it is a tool we can use to build up another human being or tear a person down.

Gossip is sinful when we use our words to unjustly hurt the reputation of another or to judge another person rashly. The two words that the Church uses to describe this evil side of gossip are “detraction” and “calumny.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that detraction is “without objectively valid reason, disclosing another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them.” Calumny occurs when a person, “by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them” (CCC 2477).

To judge whether your own gossip is good or evil, simply ask yourself: Do the words I am saying help others or hurt others? Am I building them up or tearing them down? Hopefully, as a Christian, you are committed to the commandment of Jesus we hear in today’s Gospel: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

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