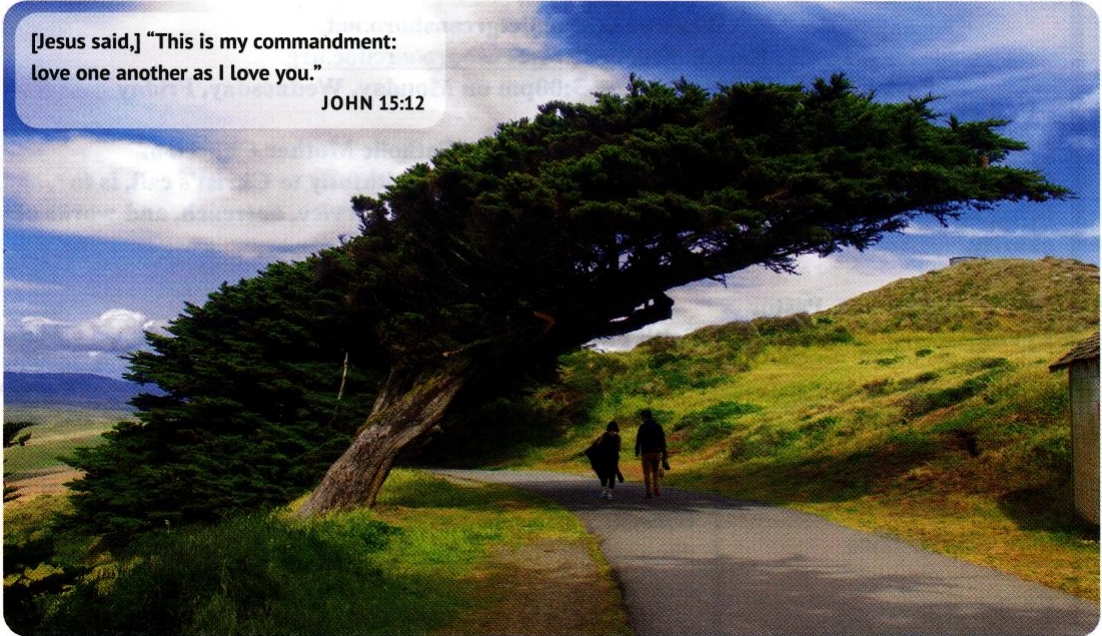




[Jesus said,] “This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.”

JOHN 15:12



We're Like Trees

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. ●

Reflect

Think of everyone with whom you have some difficulty and name a good quality of each one.

**Saint Benedict Catholic Church
336-272-0303**

Website: stbenedictgreensboro.net

Email: Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.

Rev. James Duong, Pastor

Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator

Weekend Mass

Sat. Miraculous Medal
Novena at 4:45pm
Mass at 5:00pm

Sun. 8am & 11am

Confessions

Weekday before 12:15pm
Saturday 4 - 4:30pm
and by appointment

Weekday Mass

Monday - Friday
Rosary at 11:45am

No MASS on Thursday

Weekly bulletin requests

must be in the Parish

Office by 12:00pm on

***Wednesday, ten (10) days in
advance of the weekend of
publication.***

PARISH REGISTRATION: Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS: If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

FAITH FORMATION: All classes from Pre-K to High School are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

RCIA: Please call the parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

MAY 5, 2024 - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

For all people:

That Christ move our hearts with reverence for human life
and help us defend the most vulnerable with gentleness.

MASS SCHEDULE

5/4 Saturday
5/5 Sunday

5:00 PM
8:00 AM
11:00 AM

5/6 Monday
5/7 Tuesday
5/8 Wednesday
5/9 Thursday
5/10 Friday

12:15 PM
12:15 PM
12:15 PM
NO MASS
12:15 PM

5/11 Saturday
5/12 Sunday

5:00 PM
8:00 AM
11:00 AM

INTENTIONS

+ Consuelo Buytrago
For the Parishioners
+ Petar Rosic

Eric Hofer – for conversion
Room at the Inn
+ Elizabeth D’Amelio

+ Teresa & Rita of Claude & Evelyn
+ Dsilva
Mother’s Day
+ Jean Ray
+ Robert Higginbothan
For the Parishioners



Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers

Kharll Skycer Villarin
Sgt. W.R. Williams III
Maj. Russel Henderson
Sgt. Bryanna Spade
Sgt. Kyle Spade

Sick and Shut-In

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers and at Mass:

Richard Collings, Martha Eakes,
Angie Kuklinski, Bonnie McIntyre,
Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Manny &
Laura Rodrigues, Anne Sopp, Vivian
Speetjens, John & Bunny Stuart,
Teresa Thu Tran, Beth Wilson, Brian
Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Jean Wilson

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory

\$ 3,302.00

THANK YOU

**** There will be a second collection today for the Maintenance Fund.**

MINISTER SCHEDULE: May 11 and 12, 2024

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 PM	Kim Garcia	Gloria Foley	Myra Vazquez
8 AM	Julia Ray	David Kolosieke	
11 AM	Bill McCutcheon	Ed Campbell	

REFLECTION



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?

LEAVE A LEGACY

Whatever time we have is a gift from God and we are asked to use it wisely, to serve God and others.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What sacrifice have I made this past week for someone I love?
What sacrifice can I make this coming week? What sacrifice am I willing to make for someone I hardly know?



PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL 2024**

ONE *Body in* **CHRIST**

DSA 2024 DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA)

We are now 14 weeks into the Diocesan Support Appeal campaign, and *as of today 35 of our parishioners have contributed*. We need each of you to help us reach our goal of \$28,753.00. Thank you.

PARISH DIRECTORIES are here! All parishioners may pick up their copy in the church. Anyone else who would like a directory should call the office.

PASTORAL COUNCIL is in need of new members. Anyone who would be interested in serving St. Benedict's in this way should contact Father Duc.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD is this Thursday. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation in the Diocese of Charlotte. We will celebrate the Ascension next Sunday, May 12.



MAY CROWNING: May is a month of special devotion to the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of Jesus. During May let us pray more to Our Blessed Mary asking for her motherly help, protection, intervention and blessing for ourselves, family and friends. Our May Crowning will take place during the 11 a.m. Mass next Sunday. May Crowning is a traditional devotion in which an image of the Virgin Mary is crowned with a wreath of spring flowers to recognize Mary as Queen of Heaven, Queen of Earth and Queen of Peace.

THE INTERNATIONAL-NATIONAL COMBINED COLLECTION will be taken on May 18 and 19. Your contribution will give you an opportunity to participate in the mission of the Church locally, nationally and internationally. Please give prayerful thought to your level of participation and respond generously. Envelopes for this collection are in our parish envelope packet.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come camp with us!

Join us on **June 27, 28 & 29** in the parish hall. Free for all children ages 4-13.

Deadline for signing up is May 19. Sign-up sheets are in both vestibules of the church.



This week let us say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Grady Prevette (5/5), Emiliana Vicard (5/7), Giuliana Ayer (5/8)



NC MARCH FOR LIFE – Join the 26th annual North Carolina Rally and March for Life in Raleigh, on Saturday, May 18. Parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte are encouraged to march as groups with an identifying banner representing the church, school, or community. The day-long

event kicks off with a youth rally at 12:45 p.m. at Halifax Mall, the grassy area behind the NC General Assembly building. Buses are planned from the Greensboro area. Please email FamilyLife@rcdoc.org with any questions.

QUO VADIS Attention Catholic young men ages 15-19! Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus has a great plan for you! You are invited to attend the 11th annual Quo Vadis Days camp to spend time with other young men your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having fun. QVD is led by priests and seminarians of the diocese and is supported by the diocesan Office of Vocations. Quo Vadis Days will be held from June 10 to 14 at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont. The cost of the camp is \$150. Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 29. Please visit the website: www.charlottediocese.org/vocations/quo-vadis-days or contact Father Brian Becker, Diocesan Promoter of Vocations, at bjbecker@rcdoc.org

DUC IN ALTUM The annual Duc In Altum vocations camp for young women ages 16-19 at Belmont Abbey College is scheduled for June 24-28! Do you know where your life is going? Do you have a desire to grow deeper after the role model of Our Lady? You are invited to attend the eighth annual Duc In Altum camp to spend time with other young women your age looking at the Lord's call in your life, while having fun and receiving the tools for a strong prayer life. DIA is led by priests and religious of the diocese and is supported by the diocesan Office of Vocations. The cost of the camp is \$150.

New this year! – a discernment day for girls ages 12-15, called “Talitha Koum,” also at Belmont Abbey College. Talitha Koum is a daylong retreat for younger women to grow in their relationship with Jesus and Mary and to spend time having fun with each other. The retreat will be held on Monday, June 24, also at Belmont Abbey College. The cost is \$25. Online registration for both camps is open until June 12. If interested, please visit our website: <https://charlottediocese.org/vocations/woman-religious/duc-in-altum/> or contact Sister Mary Jacinta at (704) 370-3248 or mjacinta@rcdoc.org



May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48 | 1 Jn 14:23 | Jn 15:9-17

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you ... If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love." We don't earn God's love - it is freely given to us. But only by loving God and others, and by keeping his commandments, do we *remain* in that love as our source of life and joy. It becomes the air we breathe, and the breath we exhale. Today's second reading and Gospel reassure us of the love of God, but also give us a few specifics for how to live in and remain in that love - self-sacrifice and prayer. We are to love one another as Jesus loves us, and we know what that looks like from his life: feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, forgiving one another, and more. Living in the way Jesus instructs is not simply completing a checklist of things to do, however. It's a way of life - to live in God's love and to demonstrate his love with our outward actions. When we do so, we are helping bring about the kingdom in a very real way. It's not complicated. We begin by acting in accordance with the truth that the person in front of us is loved by God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The message of the Gospel is countercultural and upends many convictions about what is true, good, and beautiful. What Jesus says can seem upside down to us, as it certainly did to the people of his time! Even the disciples, who walked with Jesus, didn't fully grasp all of what Jesus had told them until after he had been raised from the dead and appeared in their midst and shared food with them. And even after they understood, they didn't live it perfectly, nor do we. The things of this world we can mistakenly think are important get in the way of loving as we ought, and they shape our behavior and vision of the world. To counter that, we must focus in on what the Lord is saying and what that demands of us. What exactly that will look like in our lives is the provenance of prayer. Ask for God's help in loving all those we come across, even (and especially) those we may not particularly care for. He will answer our prayers and show us the way.

WITNESS Think of someone you know personally or whom you know of, who is particularly difficult to *like*. Create a plan to *love* them this week - either through praying for them, or interacting with them in a charitable, selfless way.

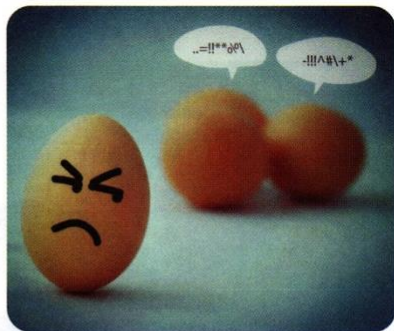
Dear Padre,

**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). ●



ANDRES SONNE / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / 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 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>
Acts 16:11–15	Acts 16:22–34	Acts 17:15,	Acts 18:1–8	Acts 18:9–18	Acts 18:23–28	Acts 1:1–11
Jn 15:26–16:4a	Jn 16:5–11	22–18:1	Jn 16:16–20	Jn 16:20–23	Jn 16:23b–28	Eph 1:17–23 or
		Jn 16:12–15				Eph 4:1–13 or
						4:1–7, 11–13
						Mk 16:15–20



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be; as they are, gratuitously....Not controlling, serving them. Opening our heart to others, this is love, to be trusting, giving ourselves to others.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 9, 2021