



## The Other Side of Love

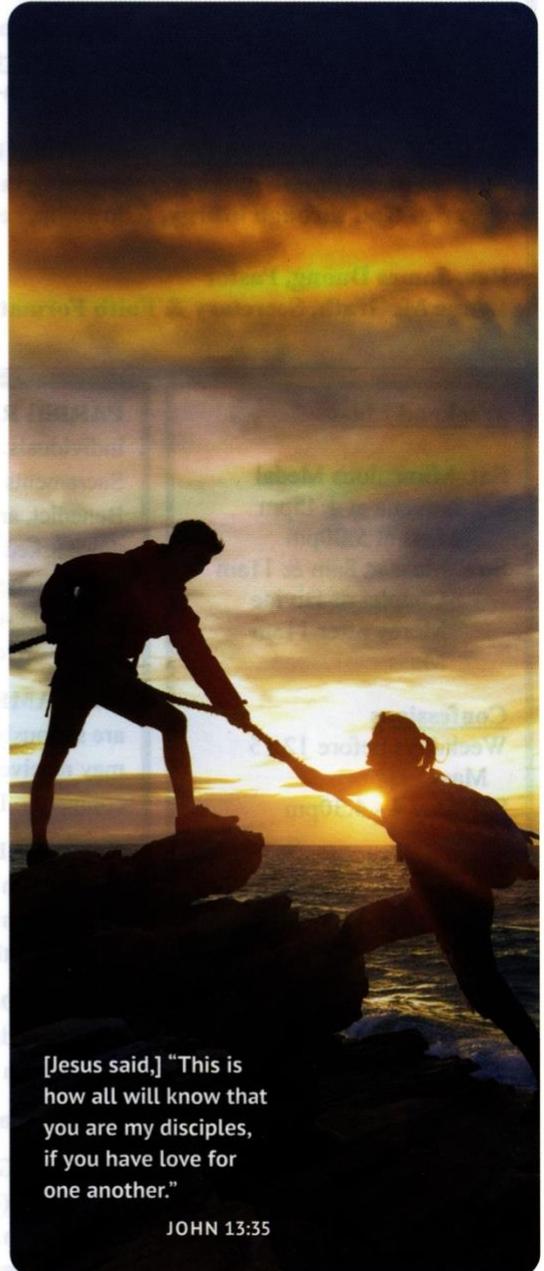
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**e have an instinct to love; this is something woven into the foundation of human life. It's also a godly instinct, for anything embedded into the human spirit with such intensity must surely be of God. In fact, it is how God is creating a new heaven and a new earth, thereby making all things new as is written in the Book of Revelation. So intense is that inclination to love, we read in the first letter of John that God is love.

While our culture tends to romanticize love, the reality is that, all too often, if we are seriously committed to loving someone, it can also be a lonely effort. Love is not always romantic or satisfying. At times, it can be demanding and even harsh. One day, when I was meeting with an engaged couple in preparation for their marriage, I asked them, as I often do, for their definition of love. Usually, couples are tongue-tied when I ask that question. They know they're in love, and, to them, that seems to be enough. This time, however, the young groom-to-be did not hesitate. He said that love is caring for someone even when they are unlovable—an insightful definition, for it is precisely during such times that we need someone's love. It is the weakest moments of life that are in need of rebuilding, the loneliest moments of life that are in need of someone reaching out a hand, and the darkest moments of life that are in need of light. When that happens, creation is made new. ●

### Reflect

**What is my definition of love?  
How do I live it?**



[Jesus said,] "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

JOHN 13:35

**Saint Benedict Catholic Church**

**336-272-0303**

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**Website: [stbenedictgreensboro.net](http://stbenedictgreensboro.net)**

**Email: [Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org](mailto:Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org)**

**Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm on Wednesday and 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.** Mass at 8am & 11am

Chaplet of Divine

Mercy after 11am

Mass

**Confessions**

Weekdays before 12:15

Mass

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

**Weekday Mass**

Rosary at 11:45am

Mass Monday - Friday

12:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

after Mass

**NO MASS on Thursday**

***Bulletin requests must be in the Parish Office by noon 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 or in the hospital or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to you/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.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 18, 2025

For those who are dying:

That they be treated with respect, care,  
and Christian love that reflects the gift of their lives.

### MASS SCHEDULE

### INTENTIONS

5/17	Saturday	5:00pm	For the Parishioners
5/18	Sunday	8:00am	David & Jaye Baesler
		11:00am	+ Msgr. Joseph Showfety
5/19	Monday	12:15pm	Room at the Inn
5/20	Tuesday	12:15pm	Joan Dondero
5/21	Wednesday	12:15pm	+ Marija Kuljanic
			+ All the Souls in Purgatory
5/22	Thursday	NO MASS	
5/23	Friday	12:15pm	+ Glenn Ray Johnson
5/24	Saturday	5:00pm	Russo & Woods Families
5/25	Sunday	8:00am	+ Gregory Brown
		11:00am	For the Parishioners

+ denotes deceased

#### **Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers**

Khiem Villarin  
Kharll Skycer Villarin  
Sgt. W.R. Williams III  
Maj. Russel Henderson  
Sgt. Bryanna Spade  
Sgt. Kyle Spade  
April Ducote  
Aaron Gaither  
Phillip Kiniery  
Christopher Simmons  
Kris Guffey  
Jennifer Kmiecinski

#### **Sick and Shut-In**

Please remember our brothers and sisters  
in your prayers and at Mass: Lynn Clay,  
Richard Collings, Virgil Dotson, Janice  
Drasler, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards,  
Kimberly Oliver, Barbara Parsons,  
George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel,  
Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny &  
Laura Rodrigues, Stefano Rosic, Kim  
Snyder, Vivian Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin  
Jr., Teresa Thu Tran, Roberta VanPelt,  
Frank Williams, Susan Wilson, Brian  
Wilson, Jean Wilson

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory ....	\$ 2,105.00
Maintenance Collection ....	\$ 340.00

**THANK YOU!**

## MINISTER SCHEDULE: MAY 24 AND 25

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	John Foley	Gloria Foley	Emily, Jelyssa	Amy Nutt
8 am	Trudy Menzzento	Raul Garcia	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	Bill McCutcheon	Laura Rosic	Ava	Choir

## REFLECTION



In today's Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples - and us - a new commandment: "Love one another." Good stewards who spend their time and talents in service to others are well on their way to fulfilling this commandment.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

As Christian stewards, we share the responsibility of making our church a true community of faith and a vibrant source of service to the larger community. That includes providing financial support for today's needs – and building a firm financial foundation for tomorrow. Planned giving provides an opportunity – in several different ways – to give a gift that forever perpetuates our Catholic faith. Through your gift you will help St. Benedict's meet the spiritual needs of generations to come. To learn more, contact Gina Rhodes at 704-370-3364 or [gmrhodes@rcdoc.org](mailto:gmrhodes@rcdoc.org)

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Who is entrusted to me in love? What have I done to reinforce and strengthen that bond between us?



# PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN  
SUPPORT  
APPEAL** 2025

Reflecting God's Light

**THE DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA) 2025** is underway. We are all called to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters both here in our parish and in the diocese. **The target for St. Benedict's is \$31,234.** To date, 24 families have donated or pledged. Thank you!

**HOLY EUCHARIST TO THE HOMEBOUND** is offered for parishioners who are unable to attend Mass. If you, or a member of your family, are sick, in the hospital, or in a nursing home, please call the parish office at 336-272-0303 to have Communion brought to you.

**SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend, May 17 and 18, is for the International/National Combined Collection which supports numerous ministries including Catholic Relief Services, Collection for the Holy Land, for the works of the Holy Father, Catholic University of America, and Catholic Communications Campaign. Thank you for your generosity.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY** St. Benedict's is looking for a parttime organist/pianist, mainly for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. If interested, or know of someone who might qualify, please contact Father Duc at 336-272-0303 or [Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org](mailto:Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org).

**CONGRATULATIONS!** to Kayla Miller who has graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill, and Baxter Miller, who has graduated from UNC-Charlotte. They are the children of Allen and Lynn Miller.

## **A JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE 2025**

Fr. James Duong at St. Benedict Parish in Greensboro,  
Fr. Tien Duong at St. Francis Assisi in Franklin,  
Fr. Tri Duong at St. John University in New York,  
invite you to join them on a 12-day pilgrimage to ITALY...  
... to visit PADRE PIO, St. FRANCIS, St. CLARE, St. BENEDICT...  
... to have a Papal audience with Pope Francis...  
... to visit JUBILEE DOORS at 4 major basilicas...  
... and Our Lady of Medjugorje.

For further information, please call Fr. James Duong at 336-272-0303  
or [djduong@rcdoc.org](mailto:djduong@rcdoc.org) or check here for details: [trip.nativitypilgrimage.com/np4256](http://trip.nativitypilgrimage.com/np4256)



This week we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Barbara Laskow (5/17), Salvador Espitia (5/17), Nakia Simpson (5/17),

John Babiarcz (5/19), Manuel Rodrigues (5/20), Geri Petit (5/20),

Maria Espitia-Garcia (5/22)



## Faith Formation News



Today is the last day of Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Enrichment. Have a safe and happy summer!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025** will be the week of June 23 - 27 for all youth grades pre-school through seventh grade.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**TEENS: WHERE ARE YOU GOING IN LIFE?** Explore how God is calling you at these vocation summer camps!

- Young men (ages 15-19) – June 16-20 (deadline to apply June 2)
- Young women (ages 16–19) June 23-27 (deadline to apply June 9)
- Young women (ages 12-15) one-day, June 23 (deadline to apply June 9)

All are held at Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC. For details:

[www.charlottediocese.org/vocations](http://www.charlottediocese.org/vocations) or (704) 370-3353.

**EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE EXHIBITION**, a self-guided tour, will take place next Saturday, May 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pennybyrn Community Center, 109 Penny Road, High Point. This exhibition, which is an opportunity to delve deeper into the Catholic belief in the true and real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, has been verified and approved by the Vatican. English and Spanish versions will be on display.

**GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY** is in need of volunteers for their Client Choice food pantry. Volunteers work one day a week for a 3-4 hour shift sorting produce and canned goods, stocking shelves and assisting clients. Afternoon volunteers are most needed. For more details: [ledford@guministry.org](mailto:ledford@guministry.org) or 336-271-5959.



May 18, 2025

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

Acts 14:21-27 | Rev 21:1-5a | Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

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

Today's Gospel occurs shortly before Jesus gives his Last Supper Discourses in the Gospel of John. Judas has betrayed Jesus, and now the Lord speaks to his inner circle for one of the last times before his arrest. "I will be with you only a little while longer," he says. At these words, I imagine a hush falling over the group. Rattled by Judas' strange actions and alarmed by the Lord announcing his impending departure, the disciples' eyes must have darted about as they held their breath, awaiting Jesus' words. "I give you a new commandment," he says. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." In a word, Jesus summarizes his teaching: love as God loves. He is using these last moments to exhort his disciples to be as he is. We know it won't be easy – it will involve sacrifice and suffering – but the Holy Spirit is present with us to guide and advocate for us on our journey.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Have you ever experienced a season of suffering and wondered, "Have I done something wrong?" When we meet resistance on the narrow path, it can make us question our choices, ourselves, and sometimes even God. Let today's first reading be a boost of confidence on your journey; remember that your suffering does not imply a misstep. "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," Paul and Barnabas exhort the disciples (and us). It is natural to grow fatigued, especially when we encounter hardships. This is one reason why the Lord desires that we never journey alone. By God's perfect design, humans require companionship, from other humans and from the Creator himself. In the reading from the Book of Revelation, John the Apostle hears a loud voice saying, "God himself will always be with them as their God." Though the road may be peppered with pain, and the trials overwhelming, may we never forget that our God is very near!

### **PRAY**

Today's readings reveal themes of perseverance in faith, radical love, and the stunning reality that the Lord is *truly present* to us. As we pray with these Scriptures, consider asking yourself: *What areas of my life feel distant from the Lord's presence? How can I open these areas up to receive his light and his love?* Take time to talk to the Lord in prayer about these things. When you do, make sure you leave space and silence for him to speak.

# Dear Padre,

***I have gay/homosexual friends and coworkers. How do I respond appropriately when they announce they got married or are engaged, as we Catholics do not believe in same-sex marriage?***

Context and perspective are always useful and necessary. It is also important to remember that your beliefs can often conflict with another person's belief system. It does not change the truth of what you believe, but it can be sobering. When you offer someone congratulations, it does not mean you are giving your approval or acceptance. It just means you are engaging in respectful social protocol. Let's assume that most people are mature enough to understand the difference between acceptance and protocol. Confusion arises when some people insist that you cannot be "both/and," as they reduce everything to "either/or." With this kind of perspective, life is a battle to be fought rather than an opportunity to live a life of graciousness and thanksgiving that invites us to celebrate. Be respectful. Be gentle. Be loving. Be compassionate. Each of those virtues speak much louder than judgment, rigidity, and a posture that proclaims, "I am better than you." ●

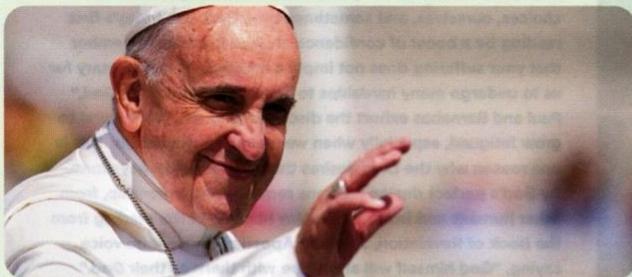


PHASANI / Pexels

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / Dear Padre.org**

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***We have heard what Jesus told his disciples before leaving this world.... He told us what it means to be a Christian: "Even as I have loved you, so you must love one another" (Jn 13:34). This is the legacy that Christ bequeathed to us, the ultimate criterion for discerning whether or not we are truly his disciples.***

**HOMILY, ROME, MAY 15, 2022**

#### Monday

May 19  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 14:5-18  
Jn 14:21-26

#### Tuesday

May 20  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 14:19-28  
Jn 14:27-31a

#### Wednesday

May 21  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 15:1-6  
Jn 15:1-8

#### Thursday

May 22  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 15:7-21  
Jn 15:9-11

#### Friday

May 23  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 15:22-31  
Jn 15:12-17

#### Saturday

May 24  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 16:1-10  
Jn 15:18-21

#### Sunday

May 25  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29  
Rv 21:10-14, 22-23  
Jn 14:23-29