

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Happy Mother's Day



### WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

We cannot say we are Catholic and at the same time have superstitions. Catholic beliefs and superstitions are incompatible. Superstitions over time can become our strongest beliefs, ones that we act on, that guide our decisions, and that replace our Catholic beliefs. When we act on superstitions—if we live our lives according to superstitions (to any degree)—we are rejecting our faith.

A Catholic does not do things based on the advice of a fortuneteller or a psychic. Or the advice of a person with "special spiritual knowledge." This is something similar to the Gnostics of early Christianity who were found to be heretics and excommunicated. Their "special knowledge" in many cases was contrary to the faith and opposed to central Catholic beliefs. They refused to submit to Church authority, had no accountability, and there was no oversight.

Catholics do not do witchcraft or participate in activities that are witchcraft or anything resembling witchcraft. We do not believe in magic potions, magic cures, chain letters, pagan rituals, or any of the other spiritual scams that are out there.

In recent weeks I have become aware of members of St. Clement's parish who have been combining faith practices with superstition and pagan rituals. Some have tried to know the future or the location of someone through "seers," or have turned to pseudo-spiritual things and actions that are contrary to the faith. This is very spiritually dangerous, morally wrong, and sinful.

Members of our Hispanic community have sought out local fortune tellers, "medicine women" claiming to have healing powers or healing recipes, people with "special spiritual knowledge" and people claiming to be prophets. Each of these is contrary to our Catholic faith! Things we do not believe in! "Many false prophets will arise and deceive many." (Matt 24:11)

Some are buying special charms and other things for protection against evil spirits, choosing not to rely on God. These are idolatry! One is called the Deer's Eye charm, "a [magical protection](#) against the [evil eye](#)" that comes from Mexico. ([lucky mojo.com](#)) These are charm bracelets with an eye and often a picture of Jesus on the cross or Our Lady of Guadalupe. They are very spiritually wrong and are quite similar to witchcraft. They are especially harmful because they combine authentic Catholic things with superstition and pagan rituals.

The stores and places that sell these are committing serious sins. The people that make them are committing serious sins.

One grandmother recently washed and bathed a child with eggs to get rid of evil spirits. Again, this is: either superstition, possible witchcraft, and/or pagan ritual and is seriously spiritually wrong and contrary to the faith.

In God's eyes, these actions are a rejection of the faith.

"The first commandment forbids honoring gods other than the one Lord who has revealed himself to his people. It proscribes superstition and irreligion. Superstition in some sense represents a perverse excess of religion; irreligion is the vice contrary by defect to the virtue of religion. Superstition is the deviation of religious feeling and of the practices this feeling imposes. It can even affect the worship we offer the true God, e.g., when one attributes an importance in some way magical to certain practices otherwise lawful or necessary. To attribute the efficacy of prayers or of sacramental

signs to their mere external performance, apart from the interior dispositions that they demand, is to fall into superstition."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2110-11)

"Idolatry not only refers to false pagan worship. It remains a constant temptation to faith. Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God, whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money, etc." (2113)

"All forms of *divination* are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to 'unveil' the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings. . . They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone." (2116) These are considered serious sins against the First Commandment.

"All practices of *magic* or *sorcery*, by which one attempts to tame occult powers, so as to place them at one's service and have a supernatural power over others - even if this were for the sake of restoring their health - are gravely contrary to the virtue of religion. These practices are even more to be condemned when accompanied by the intention of harming someone, or when they have recourse to the intervention of demons. Wearing charms is also reprehensible. *Spiritism* often implies divination or magical practices; the Church for her part warns the faithful against it." (2117)

"A sound Christian attitude consists in putting oneself confidently into the hands of Providence for whatever concerns the future, and giving up all unhealthy curiosity about it." (2115)

### ✿✿✿ Prayer ✿✿✿

"In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I break and dissolve. . . every curse. . . spell. . . hexes. . . evil wishes. . . evil desires. . . and hereditary seals. . . I come against all satanic vows. . . pacts. . . satanic sacrifices and Voo Doo practices.

"I break and dissolve. . . all links with psychics. . . clairvoyants. . . astrologers. . . mediums. . . occult seers. . . satanic cults. . . fortune tellers. . . séances. . . Ouija boards. . . tarot cards and occult games of all kinds.



"Come Holy Spirit and fill this room. . . corner to corner. . . ceiling to floor. . . "St. Michael. . . St. Gabriel. . . St. Raphael. . . And all the HOLY ARCHANGELS. . . Come and fight this battle for

me." ("Prayer of Authority," Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol)



"2010" Weekly Budget.....	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected May 2 <sup>nd</sup> ...	\$6,251.15
<b>Difference</b> .....	<b>+\$ 901.15</b>
<b>Second Collections</b>	
Second collection May 2 <sup>nd</sup> "Arch. Hispanic Ministries".....	\$1,244.24
<b>Campaign '10 Pledges:</b>	
Total donations made (from pledges) as of 04/25/10.....	\$93,233.33
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> collection.....	\$ 0
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$93,233.33

### Next Week's Second Collection

Next week's Collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Through your generous donations, CCC is able to spread the gospel message in our community and all over the world. CCC funds the development of traditional and new media programs that inspire and minister to their audiences. To find out more about the work of CCC, please visit [www.CatholicCommunicationCampaign.org](http://www.CatholicCommunicationCampaign.org).

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

## May 9, 2010

### First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities.

### Second Reading: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

The angel showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

### Gospel: John 14:23-29

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.

### Living the Paschal Mystery

Living the paschal mystery is as demanding as loving with the same self sacrifice as Jesus and as easy as responding to God's indwelling as an intimate Friend who is always with us, never forsakes us, and at all times is there for us with care and strength. These Sundays before Pentecost when we celebrate the gift of the Spirit are so important for our daily Christian living: they remind us that as disciples we never have to feel like the whole task of living the gospel falls on our shoulders alone. God is always present, dwelling within us, to give us the strength we need to be faithful to Jesus' commands. Only in this way can our everyday lives be fruitful, can we keep Jesus' word as our own word. ~Living Liturgy

### Stewardship Thought

Today's reading from Revelation offers a vision of the City of God, the new Jerusalem. "But" the bishops' pastoral on stewardship reminds us, "that 'life to come' is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worth human purposes, which people foster now."

Saturday May 8, 5:30pm.....Pearl Turner (RIP)  
 Sunday, May 9, 8:30am..... Our Parish Family  
 Sunday, May 9, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family  
 Sunday, May 9, 11:30 am.....All Mothers(Thanksgiving)  
 Sunday, May 9, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) All Mothers (Thanksgiving)  
 Sunday, May 9, 7:00pm..... (Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family  
 Monday, May 10, 12:15pm.....Daily Mass  
 Tuesday May 11, 12:15 pm.....Daily Mass  
 Wednesday, May 12, 12:15pm.....Daily Mass  
 Wednesday, May 12, 6:30 pm.....Rosary  
 Thursday, May 13, 12:15 pm.....Communion Service  
 Friday, May 14, 7:00pm.....Prayer Group/ Adoration  
 Saturday May 15, 5:30pm.....Mother's Day Novena  
 Sunday, May 16, 8:30am..... Our Parish Family  
 Sunday, May 16, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family  
 Sunday, May 16, 11:30 am.....Mother's Day Novena  
 Sunday, May 16, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Alex Roel Vasquez Esquivel (RIP)  
 Sunday, May 16, 7:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family

### Congratulations to our May 1, 2010 First Communicants:



Dominic Bates, Bo Buis, Matthew Bouchard, Maria Sanchez, Odai Garrido, Cade Ford, Vivianne Funes, Jeremy Moso, Justin Carroll, Litzy Bello, Keagan McEwan, Sydney Hull, Anne Fogle Jones, Anthony Villalobos, Timmyh Nguyen, Cassandra Villalobos, Jose Alfredo Olivares, Ricardo Martinez, Jocelyn Villanueva, Moises Bello, Gabrielle Woodside, Jamie Olivares, Whitney McGuffey, Kailey Marra, and Adrianna Fernandez.

May they always receive the Body and Blood of Christ with the same vigor as on the day of their First Communion.

### SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments of Christian initiation. They ground the common vocation of all Christ's disciples, a

vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world. They confer the graces needed for the life according to the Spirit during this life as pilgrims on the march towards the homeland."

(1533)

"'Lead us not into temptation' implies a *decision of the heart*: 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. . . . No one can serve two masters.' (Matt 6:21, 24) 'If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.' (Gal 5:25) In this assent to the Holy Spirit the Father gives us strength. 'No testing has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, so that you may be able to endure it.'" (I Cor 10:13) (2848)

### UPCOMING CHANGES IN THE MASS



"The Vatican has given its '*recognitio*,' or statement of acceptance, of the proposed U.S. version of the new edition of the Roman Missal. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) now must decide when to authorize its use in dioceses and parishes in the United States.

"In the coming weeks, the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship will offer to Cardinal George its recommendation regarding the date of the implementation of the new translation. Once the final decision is made, Cardinal George will announce the date to the bishops. It is also expected that a suggested implementation timeline and process will be offered to the bishops for implementation within their dioceses." (USCCB News Release)

### Please pray for the people who are suffering:



Donna Thibault - respiratory illness, Barbara Smith- cancer, Marty McKinnon- ovarian cancer, Cayla Johnson-hydrocephalus, Joe Campbell-follicular lymphoma, Tonya Isham-tumor, Curtis Lunt-ill health, Melissa Silva-health, Juanita Rochester-cancer, Chuck Terry- prostate cancer, June Macejkovic-heart condition, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Ernie -leukemia, Maria Farias-breast cancer, Jeanne Walraven-health, Jean

Seitz-cancer, Angie Defalco-health, Erna Wyatt-health, Jim Rorer-special intention, Michael Llop-brain tumor, Erik Bigelow-special intention, Janice Miller-health, Jaden Bates-health, Roy Davies-safety, Chris Wable-health, Jim Wable-lung cancer, Marilyn Clayton-health, Ashlie Warren-health, Jenna Proctor-health, Jeff Elder-health, Serge Kastorsky-cancer, Terry Alan-bladder cancer, Lisa Clark-failed surgery, Betty Maddox-chemo, Donald Hicks-health.

**Dearly Departed...** Today we pray for the repose of the soul of Lou Brown, sister to Pete Fernandez. Lou lost her long battle with brain cancer on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. May she rest in peace with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16: Honoring Graduates at 11:30 a.m. (English) and 1:00 p.m. (Spanish) Masses

May 23: 5:00 p.m.: Confirmation Mass with Archbishop Gregory (bilingual)

**NOTE:** On this day there will be NO 7:00 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

May 28: 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: Parish Picnic at Calhoun REC Center

### Archdiocesan News

SUNDAY U presents CATHOLICISM 101: ESSENTIALS FOR THE JOURNEY beginning June 6, 2010 at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Sessions are Sunday mornings 10:00 - 11:45 am. Whether you are a cradle Catholic, a recent convert, or just interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, this is the series for you. For more info, call 404-267-3671 or email [evangelization@ctking.com](mailto:evangelization@ctking.com).