

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Table of Contents

May 1, 2026.....	3
May 2, 2026.....	9
May 3, 2026.....	15
May 4, 2026.....	20
May 5, 2026.....	25
May 6, 2026.....	30
May 7, 2026.....	35
May 8, 2026.....	41
May 9, 2026.....	46
May 10, 2026.....	51
May 11, 2026.....	56
May 12, 2026.....	61
May 13, 2026.....	67
May 14, 2026.....	72
May 15, 2026.....	78
May 16, 2026.....	83
May 17, 2026.....	88
May 18, 2026.....	93
May 19, 2026.....	99
May 20, 2026.....	104
May 21, 2026.....	109
May 22, 2026.....	114
May 23, 2026.....	121
May 24, 2026.....	128
May 25, 2026.....	135
May 26, 2026.....	139
May 27, 2026.....	144
May 28, 2026.....	149
May 29, 2026.....	154
May 30, 2026.....	159
May 31, 2026.....	163



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 1, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, May 1st, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 13:26-33

26 'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you godfearers, this message of salvation is meant for you.

27 What the people of Jerusalem and their rulers did, though they did not realise it, was in fact to fulfil the prophecies read on every Sabbath.

28 Though they found nothing to justify his execution, they condemned him and asked Pilate to have him put to death.

29 When they had carried out everything that scripture foretells about him they took him down from the tree and buried him in a tomb.

30 But God raised him from the dead,

31 and for many days he appeared to those who had accompanied him from Galilee to Jerusalem: and it is these same companions of his who are now his witnesses before our people.

32 'We have come here to tell you the good news that the promise made to our ancestors has come about.

33 God has fulfilled it to their children by raising Jesus from the dead. As scripture says in the psalms: You are my son: today I have fathered you.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11

6 'I myself have anointed my king on Zion my holy mountain.'

7 I will proclaim the decree of Yahweh: He said to me, 'You are my son, today have I fathered you.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give you the nations as your birthright, the whole wide world as your possession.

9 With an iron sceptre you will break them, shatter them like so many pots.'

10 So now, you kings, come to your senses, you earthly rulers, learn your lesson!

11 In fear be submissive to Yahweh;

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, John 14:1-6

1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me.

2 In my Father's house there are many places to live in; otherwise I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you,

3 and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you to myself, so that you may be with me where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going.

5 Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

6 Jesus said: I am the Way; I am Truth and Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 1, 2026

1. In our first reading appointed for today's Holy Mass, as we continue in the Easter season, we keep listening to the Apostle Paul's sermon in the Synagogue. Notice how he begins, "My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you god fearers, this message of salvation is meant for you.

What the people of Jerusalem and their rulers did, though they did not realize it, was in fact to fulfil the prophecies read on every Sabbath."

Paul's goal is to win the listeners over, so that they open their hearts to receive the Gospel, and encounter Jesus Christ in the same way that he did on his way to Damascus. This is the heart of true evangelization, to point the listeners to Jesus Christ.

In his first letter to the Corinthians the Apostle expresses this foundational principle of evangelization in these words, " To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews; to those under the law I became as one under the law—though not being myself under the law—that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law—not being without law toward God but under the law of Christ—that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." (1 Cor 9:20-23)

How do we view our duty to share the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, with those in our own life? Do we even do so? If the early Christian believers had not shared the Gospel, none of us would even be listening to these readings today. What about future generations? Will we respond to the call to share the Gospel given to every one of us at our Baptism?

2. The Psalmist David is used repeatedly as a prophetic messenger of the Holy Spirit. Notice in the sermons recorded for us in the Acts of the Apostles, how often the Psalms are quoted by the Apostles as they present Jesus Christ to everyone who will listen.

So, in the excerpt we have in today's Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 2, we hear these words "You are my son, today have I fathered you..." Or, in another translation "Today I have begotten you?"

Who is speaking? To whom are these words being addressed?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

In the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews, the author makes it clear, quoting these very words: "So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten you" (Hebrews 5:5)

These words are spoken by the Father to His Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is speaking prophetically through David. As we read the Psalms as Christian, we need to keep in mind a principle of Biblical interpretation. The seeds of the New Testament are present in the Old and the seeds of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New. Read and Pray the Psalms the way the early Church did, and they will come alive.

3. Jesus gives these consoling and hope filled words to His beloved disciples, immediately after His sad words to Peter, given after Peter said he would lay down his life for him. Jesus tells Peter that before the cock crows, he will deny him three times (John 13:38) And, indeed, that is exactly what happened. Yet, even knowing the weakness which will be exhibited by Peter, and the others, Jesus still uses them as His instruments to continue His redemptive mission after He ascends to the father.

He also promises them and us that He has prepared a place for them in the eternal communion of love called Heaven. Thomas is once again used as a wonderful teaching tool by the Master. His innocent comment, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" prompts these beautiful words from the Master:

"I am the Way;
I am Truth and Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me."

Jesus is still the Way, the Truth and the Life". For each one of us. For every man, woman and child on the face of the earth. We celebrate Easter for fifty days. At its end, we celebrate the next great Feast, the Feast of Pentecost. Alleluias will permeate our worship - but they are also meant to inform our lives. That is because, in those often-quoted words of the great western Church Bishop, Augustine, "we are an Easter people and alleluia is our song."

Everything really is different because that Tomb is empty. We are different because we have been raised up with Christ. (Col.3) When we cooperate with grace, we can begin to live this difference in a new lifestyle.

Christianity is meant to become a new way of being a human person, a new way of living in Jesus. We are not only saved from - sin and death - but saved for - a new way of living!

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

We really are meant to become an Easter people. The phrase is more than a nice sentiment. In an age which is steeped in darkness, we are the light of the world because the Risen Jesus lives His life now, in, through and with us. (Matt. 5:14) We bring Goodness Himself to the earth which was created through Him and is now being recreated in Him.

Because Jesus has been raised, heaven has come to earth and earth can now come to heaven. Because Jesus has been raised, the new creation has already begun. The seed of the kingdom is manifested in the Church which is His Risen Body, the sign of the new heaven and new earth.

The Church is meant to become the home of the whole human race. In her, all men and women can be set free from the Law of sin and death. At her altar we can graze, being fed on His Word and nourished on His Body and Blood, healed by His Oil of Mercy and prepared for eternity, in the Fathers House.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 2, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 13:44-52

44 The next Sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God.

45 When they saw the crowds, the Jews, filled with jealousy, used blasphemies to contradict everything Paul said.

46 Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out fearlessly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, here and now we turn to the gentiles.

47 For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light to the nations, so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of the earth.'

48 It made the gentiles very happy to hear this and they gave thanks to the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers.

49 Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

50 But the Jews worked on some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city; they stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their territory.

51 So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went off to Iconium; but the converts were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 [Psalm] Sing a new song to Yahweh, for he has performed wonders, his saving power is in his right hand and his holy arm.

2 Yahweh has made known his saving power, revealed his saving justice for the nations to see,

3 mindful of his faithful love and his constancy to the House of Israel. The whole wide world has seen the saving power of our God.

4 Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth, burst into shouts of joy!



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, John 14:7-14

7 If you know me, you will know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.

8 Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' Jesus said to him,

9 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father, so how can you say, "Show us the Father"?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? What I say to you I do not speak of my own accord: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his works.

11 You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe it on the evidence of these works.

12 In all truth I tell you, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, and will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.

13 Whatever you ask in my name I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 2, 2026

1. Notice the courage demonstrated by Paul and Barnabas. As they continue their missionary work, preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus, they are not always well received. After all, Jesus had made it clear to the Apostles, they would be persecuted, even as the Lord Himself was persecuted. In John's Gospel we read these words of the Lord:

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant[d] is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; (John 15:20) And, indeed they did. To the point, for some, of the shedding of their blood. But they did not stop. They knew they were obligated to share the Good news. In a letter he would later write to the Corinthians Paul explains: "For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Cor 9:16b)

Jesus also instructed the Apostles, after commissioning them and sending them out to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, "And if any one will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town." (Matt 10:14) Paul and Barnabas knew this, and they did just that.

When we face opposition for sharing and living our Catholic Christian faith, how do we respond? Do we stay faithful, do we exhibit Christian courage, or do we give up? Notice, the converts, those who received the words of God, were "filled with Joy". So were Paul and Barnabas. The Goodness of the News we proclaim to the whole world does not change. And we proclaim that Good news in word and lifestyle. Our circumstances simply present us with an invitation as to how we will respond to them. Living faith gives us the means.

Christian Joy finds its root in the relationship we now have in and through Jesus Christ, with the Father, in the Holy Spirit. That relationship not only survives struggle, it thrives in struggle. That is, for those who have living faith.

2. Our Responsorial Psalm continues this theme of joy, challenging us to "Sing a new song to Yahweh, for he has performed wonders, his saving power is in his right hand and his holy arm." And, David continues, "Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth, burst into shouts of joy!"

St. Paul writes to the Galatians about the fruits of the Holy Spirit. They are set forth in chapter five of this wonderful letter in the New Testament, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law." (Gal. 5:22,23) Fruit is cultivated, it grows over time when we cooperate with God's grace.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Joy is a fruit of the presence of the Holy Spirit in a believer. It is meant to be reflected in a new way of living. It reveals the character of Christ being formed in a believer. It does not mean smiling all the time - though for many of us a bit more smiling would be a good idea. Rather, Christian joy, Gospel Joy, means living as though we know that Jesus never leaves us. He meant it when he said, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Mt. 28:20)

Are we JOYFUL? Do we cultivate the fruit of joy?

3. Jesus continues his beautiful discourse in the Gospel appointed for today, encouraging the disciples, and encouraging us. After all, we are His Disciples in this age. And remember, His words are eternal, they are still being spoken by Him to all who have ears to hear. He tells them, He tells us, that He and the Father are One. To see Him is to see the Father. This is a direct teaching on the unity of the Father, Son in and through and with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity. One God, in three divine persons. The Central Mystery of the Christian Faith.

The Catholic Catechism states it with crystal clarity and authority: "The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith". The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men "and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin."

In this Gospel, Jesus He is telling them, and He is telling us, that we are invited into the very Trinitarian communion, through our Baptism into Him. We become sons and daughters in the Son. This is called divine filiation. His Father is now Our Father. And, He promises them, and us, that when we pray in His Name, the Father will answer our prayers.

He is the Only Son of the Father. But, in Him, we are adopted Sons and Daughters. St Paul wrote to the Ephesians:

"He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. (Eph 1:5) In His letter to the Galatians He explains that Jesus came to "redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:5-7)



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

We really are, right now, adopted sons and daughters of God the Father, through His Son Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. And we stand in Jesus. We are identified with Him. That is what it means to pray in His name.

In the Bible, to name someone conferred a special relationship of identification and purpose. When we pray and live our lives in the name of Jesus, we stand in that privileged relationship and have a special place in His mission. There is no place more secure, precious, powerful or profound. We live our lives now in Him, by living in His Body, the Church, of which we are members through Baptism.

He lives His life now in us and continues His saving mission through us. This relationship is at the heart of the Church. He is identified with us, and we are identified with Him, at the name of Jesus all of life can be transformed.

In the name of Jesus all the promises of God find their fulfillment and response. He is the answer to every human question, the fulfillment of every authentic human need, the balm of healing for every human wound, the satisfaction of every authentic human desire, and the way to authentic human freedom and flourishing.

Do we pray and live, in the Name of Jesus?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 3, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, May 3rd, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 6:1-7

1 About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked.

2 So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food;

3 you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom, to whom we can hand over this duty.

4 We ourselves will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.'

5 The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

6 They presented these to the apostles, and after prayer they laid their hands on them.

7 The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

1 Shout for joy, you upright; praise comes well from the honest.

2 Give thanks to Yahweh on the lyre, play for him on the ten-stringed lyre.

4 The word of Yahweh is straightforward, all he does springs from his constancy.

5 He loves uprightness and justice; the faithful love of Yahweh fills the earth.

18 But see how Yahweh watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his faithful love,

19 to rescue them from death and keep them alive in famine.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Reading 2, First Peter 2:4-9

4 He is the living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him

5 so that you, too, may be living stones making a spiritual house as a holy priesthood to offer the spiritual sacrifices made acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 As scripture says: Now I am laying a stone in Zion, a chosen, precious cornerstone and no one who relies on this will be brought to disgrace.

7 To you believers it brings honour. But for unbelievers, it is rather a stone which the builders rejected that became a cornerstone,

8 a stumbling stone, a rock to trip people up. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the Word; it was the fate in store for them.

9 But you are a chosen race, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, a people to be a personal possession to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel, John 14:1-12

1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me.

2 In my Father's house there are many places to live in; otherwise I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you,

3 and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you to myself, so that you may be with me where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going.

5 Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

6 Jesus said: I am the Way; I am Truth and Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

7 If you know me, you will know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.

8 Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' Jesus said to him,

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

9 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father, so how can you say, "Show us the Father"?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? What I say to you I do not speak of my own accord: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his works.

11 You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe it on the evidence of these works.

12 In all truth I tell you, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, and will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 3, 2026

1. Our first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the selection of the first Deacons of the early Church, and their ordination at the hands of the Apostles. Personally, this is a particularly moving reading. On the Feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ in 1996, the hands of the Bishop were imposed on me and I was ordained to the Order of Deacon, a member of the Clergy of the Catholic Church. My life was never the same.

There are three orders in the Sacrament of Holy Orders, Bishop, Priest and Deacon. Therefore, Deacons are clergy in the Catholic Church, not laymen. Deacons are ordained to be an “icon” (an image which makes present what it reflects) of Jesus the Servant, for the Church and the world. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, citing the Bible, ancient Christian sources and the documents of Church Councils, explains that Deacons are ordained, not to the sacramental priesthood, but “to the ministry.”

Pray for the deacons of the Church, St Stephen, the first Martyr, was a Deacon. St Philip, the one whom the Lord used to help bring the Ethiopian Eunuch to faith and baptize him, was a deacon...Early Church history was filled with the ministry of Deacons. We need holy, Spirit filled Deacons for this new missionary age of the Church.

2. In our second reading, the Apostle Peter writes to the early Christians, and to us, today. Like those early Christians, we are called to be living stones, built up unto a spiritual household. Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone. The world which the early Christians were sent into was very much like the world of our own time. The religious leaders, at least many of them, had fallen away from the faith and were corrupted.

Many of the civil leaders were hostile to the Gospel and the Church. But those early believers had a dynamic, living, personal relationship with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. They experienced and lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. Do we? We can. Jesus Christ is Risen. The Holy Spirit has been poured out. We are being invited to take our place as living stones and help to rebuild the Church of this hour.

3. In the Gospel appointed for this Fifth Sunday of Easter, Jesus teaches his followers, his disciples, that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the Way to the Father. That, He and the Father are One. That to have seen Him is to have seen the Father.

The Apostle Philip does not get it. He says, "show us the Father". Truths such as this require living faith. Living faith is a gift from the Lord. Have we asked for that kind of living faith? Now is the time to do so. Lord Jesus, open our eyes. Open our hearts. Give us the gift of living faith.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 4, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Monday, May 4th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 14:5-18

5 but eventually with the connivance of the authorities a move was made by gentiles as well as Jews to make attacks on them and to stone them.

6 When they came to hear of this, they went off for safety to Lycaonia where, in the towns of Lystra and Derbe and in the surrounding country,

7 they preached the good news.

8 There was a man sitting there who had never walked in his life, because his feet were crippled from birth;

9 he was listening to Paul preaching, and Paul looked at him intently and saw that he had the faith to be cured.

10 Paul said in a loud voice, 'Get to your feet-stand up,' and the cripple jumped up and began to walk.

11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done they shouted in the language of Lycaonia, 'The gods have come down to us in human form.'

12 They addressed Barnabas as Zeus, and since Paul was the principal speaker they called him Hermes.

13 The priests of Zeus-outside-the-Gate, proposing that all the people should offer sacrifice with them, brought garlanded oxen to the gates.

14 When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard what was happening they tore their clothes, and rushed into the crowd, shouting,

15 'Friends, what do you think you are doing? We are only human beings, mortal like yourselves. We have come with good news to make you turn from these empty idols to the living God who made sky and earth and the sea and all that these hold.

16 In the past he allowed all the nations to go their own way;

17 but even then he did not leave you without evidence of himself in the good things he does for you: he sends you rain from heaven and seasons of fruitfulness; he fills you with food and your hearts with merriment.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

18 With this speech they just managed to prevent the crowd from offering them sacrifice.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16

1 Not to us, Yahweh, not to us, but to your name give the glory, for your faithful love and your constancy!

2 Why should the nations ask, 'Where is their God?'

3 Our God is in heaven, he creates whatever he chooses.

4 They have idols of silver and gold, made by human hands.

15 May you be blessed by Yahweh, who made heaven and earth.

16 Heaven belongs to Yahweh, but earth he has given to the children of Adam.

Gospel, John 14:21-26

21 Whoever holds to my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me; and whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and reveal myself to him.'

22 Judas -- not Judas Iscariot -- said to him, 'Lord, what has happened, that you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?'

23 Jesus replied: Anyone who loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make a home in him.

24 Anyone who does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not my own: it is the word of the Father who sent me.

25 I have said these things to you while still with you;

26 but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 4, 2026

1. As we continue through the Fifty days of Easter, headed toward the celebration of Pentecost, it is important to recall that these accounts from the Acts of the Apostles occurred after Pentecost. The Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the early Christians, as Jesus promised, and His very own ministry was continuing through them.

Even though St Paul had not been in the upper room, he was profoundly converted on his Damascus Journey, Baptized and received the Holy Spirit. He refers to himself as an apostle "born out of the ordinary course" or "untimely born" in his first letter to the Corinthians, he met the criteria for an Apostle in that he was a witness to the Resurrection (Acts 1:22) This is how he refers to himself in his letter to the Corinthians:

"Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." (1 Cor. 15:8)

And, as we hear in this powerful account, the miracles performed by Jesus Christ, such as healing a crippled man, now occur through Paul. That same Holy Spirit has been given to the Church in our time as well.

Do we believe this?

2. When the crowd saw the power of the Spirit at work through the Apostle Paul in our first reading, they wanted to worship him as a "god", falling back on their pagan deities, even offering sacrifice. Paul says "We are only human beings, mortal like yourselves. We have come with good news to make you turn from these empty idols to the living God who made sky and earth and the sea and all that these hold."

And, David the Psalmist carries on the theme in the excerpt appointed as our response today. The true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is alone to be worshipped. David sings of the truth that He alone is the Creator and all other idols must be rejected. In our day, the idols may not be cast out of gold and silver, but they are as lethal, if not more so. They must all be rejected.

3. In these wonderful words of Jesus, presented in the excerpt from the Gospel of St John, we are told that God wants to come and abide, actually live within us, make His home within us. Remaining, living, abiding in Jesus, calls us to find our home in His Church. The Church is meant to be the home of the whole human race.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

The early Christians believed that to belong to Jesus was to belong to His Church. They believed that just as we were all born from our mother's womb - so we are invited by God, in and through Jesus Christ, to be born again into the Church, the new humanity which is being re-created in Him. The Baptismal font was even spoken of as a second womb.

The process of redemption began when we passed through the Sacramental Waters of the font of Holy Baptism. It continues as we cooperate with the Grace given to us in our life within the Church. It will be fully completed when the Lord Returns and we are raised in Resurrected Bodies and live in a new heaven and a new earth!

This understanding of the Church as a participation in Christ and entry into the Trinitarian Communion runs throughout the writings of the early Church Fathers. Here two snippets.

First, from Origen: "Christ has flooded the universe with divine and sanctifying waves. For the thirsty he sends a spring of living water from the wound which the spear opened in His side. From the wound in Christ's side has come forth the Church, and He has made her His bride"

Then, from Bishop Irenaeus of Lyons, a disciple of Polycarp who was himself a disciple of the Apostle John: "We need to take refuge with the Church, to drink milk at her breast, to be fed with the scriptures of the Lord. For the Church has been planted in the world as a paradise"

Do we view the Church this way? Have we asked the Lord to come and live within us today?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 5, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Tuesday, May 5th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 14:19-28

19 Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and turned the people against them. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the town, thinking he was dead.

20 The disciples came crowding round him but, as they did so, he stood up and went back to the town. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

21 Having preached the good news in that town and made a considerable number of disciples, they went back through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch.

22 They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith, saying, 'We must all experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God.'

23 In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

24 They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia.

25 Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia

26 and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

27 On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the gentiles.

28 They stayed there with the disciples for some time.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:10-11, 12-13, 21

10 All your creatures shall thank you, Yahweh, and your faithful shall bless you.

11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingship and tell of your might,

12 making known your mighty deeds to the children of Adam, the glory and majesty of your kingship.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

13 Your kingship is a kingship for ever, your reign lasts from age to age. Yahweh is trustworthy in all his words, and upright in all his deeds.

21 My mouth shall always praise Yahweh, let every creature bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Gospel, John 14:27-31

27 Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

28 You heard me say: I am going away and shall return. If you loved me you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

29 I have told you this now, before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.

30 I shall not talk to you much longer, because the prince of this world is on his way. He has no power over me,

31 but the world must recognise that I love the Father and that I act just as the Father commanded. Come now, let us go.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 5, 2026

1. "The 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church." With these words, taken from an apostolic letter he wrote entitled "The Door of Faith", Pope Benedict XVI welcomed a Year of Faith in 2011.

He referenced the missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas to the Gentiles at the beginning of the First millennium of Christianity. Upon their return, "They called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith..." (Acts 14:27). That same door of faith is opening for you and me, the disciples Jesus has called on mission to the world of the Third millennium of Christianity. However, we need to knock, enter in and learn to live in the House.

The image of the door invites us to reflect on the invitation we each were given when we entered into the Church, through the waters of the second womb of Baptism. Faith is a Verb, a call to a dynamic participation in the life of God; a call to be a part of His ongoing loving plan for the whole world as it continues through the Risen Christ who walks with us now in His Body, the Church, of which we are members. (1 Cor. 12:27)

This call engages our freedom. We must choose to knock, to enter into the House and then learn to live there. Jesus gives us the example of knocking on the door of the house of a friend in which the owner acts because of persistence. He then explains the relational context behind our own persistence in prayer. We are sons and daughters of "His Father and Our Father". (John 20:17).

Have we entered through the "Door of Faith?"

2. In our responsorial Psalm we can join with David and cry out: "All your creatures shall thank you, Yahweh, and your faithful shall bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your kingship and tell of your might, making known your mighty deeds to the children of Adam, the glory and majesty of your kingship."

Do we speak of the glory of His Kingship? Do we make known His mighty deeds? The Lord has moved in each of our lives. Stop for a moment today and reflect on those times when you have experienced answered prayer. When have you encountered the Lord powerfully moving in your life? If you have, share it, give it away to others. Keep the song of the Psalmist alive today! If you have not, today is the day. Just turn to Him and ask Him!

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3. The Gospel text appointed for today follows immediately after Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit. Jesus promises his disciples, and remember that includes you and me, PEACE. But he explains that it is a peace the world cannot give. It is not an absence of conflict or struggle. That is a part of the life of discipleship. Rather, it is a relationship with Him which enables us to remain, even in the midst of struggle, serene and filled with living faith. We need more and more of the Holy Spirit.

Let's be honest. Life is often difficult, painful, and filled with obstacles. Yes, even when you are praying, being as faithful as you can be, cooperating with grace and really trying to believe in the Lord and all that he teaches through His Church. Pain, failure, opposition, hardship, struggle, disappointment all just seem to be a part of the program. The saints of old, such as St. Paul, grew so accustomed to difficulties they began to "boast" of them. The question that we should ask ourselves when we face struggle, difficulty, failure, disappointment, and the frequent pain of real life is how do we respond to the invitation that they offer to us?

Every difficulty, struggle and experience of opposition or pain can become an invitation to exercise our freedom, informed by our faith, to truly believe in and embrace the loving plan of God. To the man or woman who is sincerely committed to following the Lord, embracing these experiences in the surrender of authentic discipleship can pave the path to holiness, form the raw material for continued conversion and equip him/her more fully for the work of the Gospel.

It is not the difficulties, struggles and hardships which lessen in life as we age. Rather, they just change their complexion. We change in and through them. They can become the vehicle for some of the greatest growth in our relationship with the Lord. What had been intended for our demise can become the path to our restoration.

Let's hear the promise of Jesus today. He is the Prince of Peace. He offers us this kind of peace. Not only is it true that "this world" cannot offer such a fruit of the Spirit. But it is also true that when it is cultivated in our life, as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, "this world" cannot take it away.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 6, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, May 6th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 15:1-6

1 Then some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.'

2 This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was decided that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the question with the apostles and elders.

3 The members of the church saw them off, and as they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria they told how the gentiles had been converted, and this news was received with the greatest satisfaction by all the brothers.

4 When they arrived in Jerusalem they were welcomed by the church and by the apostles and elders, and gave an account of all that God had done through them.

5 But certain members of the Pharisees' party who had become believers objected, insisting that gentiles should be circumcised and instructed to keep the Law of Moses.

6 The apostles and elders met to look into the matter,

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

1 [Song of Ascents Of David] I rejoiced that they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of Yahweh.'

2 At last our feet are standing at your gates, Jerusalem!

3 Jerusalem, built as a city, in one united whole,

4 there the tribes go up, the tribes of Yahweh, a sign for Israel to give thanks to the name of Yahweh.

5 For there are set the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, John 15:1-8

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

3 You are clean already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

4 Remain in me, as I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, unless it remains part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a branch -- and withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire and are burnt.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for whatever you please and you will get it.

8 It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit and be my disciples.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 6, 2026

1. In our first Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the book which details the Way of Life and missionary activity of the early Church, we are presented with a vital historic moment in Church history, the Council of Jerusalem. Jesus promised He would send the "Spirit of Truth" who would guide the Church in all truth. And this is an example of Him fulfilling that promise. The first Council of the Church is a sign of the continuing work of the Holy Spirit, guiding the Church, the Body of Christ, into all truth.

Some of the early Jewish believers insist that all Gentile converts must first be circumcised and embrace and abide by all the Law of Moses. They are sometimes referred to as "the Judaizers". But remember most of the early Christians were Jews. It was a segment of those from the party of the Pharisees. Paul and Barnabas are sent to Jerusalem to submit the issue to Peter and the apostles and elders in Jerusalem.

How do we view the Councils of the Church? Do we see them as a sign of the Lords continued care for His Body, the Church? Do we know the importance of the early Church Councils? Have we taken the time to study them? We should. Do we really believe the Church is God's plan and that we can trust her judgement?

2. David the Psalmist loved to go to Jerusalem, to the House of the Lord. Notice how he sings of it with great joy? "I rejoiced that they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of Yahweh. 'At last, our feet are standing at your gates, Jerusalem!'"

How about you and me? Do we rejoice when we have the privilege to go to the House of the Lord and participate in Holy Mass? Think about it. We hear the Word of the Lord and are instructed from it. We enter into the Mystery of Mysteries in the Holy Sacrifice at the Altar and receive Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

Do we view our attendance at Mass as only an obligation, which it is, or do we go further and see it as an invitation, a gift, a cause for rejoicing?



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3. The Image of the Vine runs throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament, to refer to the people of Israel, the people of the Covenant, God's people. Jesus uses this same Image in our Gospel to describe how we must be joined to Him to form the New Israel, the Church, of which He is the Head. There, the sap of the Vine that gives life, the grace we need, is given to us.

The Church is not some-thing but SOME-ONE, in whom we now live. Jesus. In Catholic theology and practice, we teach -and we are called to practice - the truth that the early fathers, Saints and Councils throughout the ages have affirmed; to belong to Jesus is to belong to His Body.

Our membership in the Church is a very real participation in the very life of God; what the Apostle Peter referred to as a "participation in the Divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4) This kind of real, tangible experience of life in the Church is meant to be the lived experience of every Baptized Christian. For that to happen, we need, above all else, to pray.

In its treatment of this "mystery" of the Church, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

"845 To reunite all his children, scattered and led astray by sin, the Father willed to call the whole of humanity together into his Son's Church. The Church is the place where humanity must rediscover its unity and salvation. The Church is "the world reconciled." She is that bark which "in the full sail of the Lord's cross, by the breath of the Holy Spirit, navigates safely in this world." According to another image dear to the Church Fathers, she is prefigured by Noah's ark, which alone saves from the flood. [St. Augustine, Sermon 96, 7, 9: PL 38, 588; St. Ambrose, De virg. 18, 118: PL 16, 297B; cf. already 1 Pet 3:20-21] [30, 953, 1219]"

Of course, until the Lord returns, this Church is still composed of human members and thus, she is both human and divine. She is wounded and in need of healing.

However, she is the means through which we participate in the very life of God and the balm for healing the Nations. To her has been entrusted the Sacraments and the Word, the gift of a teaching office and the very means of salvation. The Church is the Body of Christ.

The Church is not an optional "extra" that we add on to our lives. She is our life now because we live in Christ, from whose wounded side she was birthed at the tree of Calvary, the altar for the new world. We are joined to Him as unto a Vine.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 7, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Thursday, May 7th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 15:7-21

7 and after a long discussion, Peter stood up and addressed them. 'My brothers,' he said, 'you know perfectly well that in the early days God made his choice among you: the gentiles were to learn the good news from me and so become believers.

8 And God, who can read everyone's heart, showed his approval of them by giving the Holy Spirit to them just as he had to us.

9 God made no distinction between them and us, since he purified their hearts by faith.

10 Why do you put God to the test now by imposing on the disciples the very burden that neither our ancestors nor we ourselves were strong enough to support?

11 But we believe that we are saved in the same way as they are: through the grace of the Lord Jesus.'

12 The entire assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul describing all the signs and wonders God had worked through them among the gentiles.

13 When they had finished it was James who spoke. 'My brothers,' he said, 'listen to me.

14 Simeon has described how God first arranged to enlist a people for his name out of the gentiles.

15 This is entirely in harmony with the words of the prophets, since the scriptures say:

16 After that I shall return and rebuild the fallen hut of David; I shall make good the gaps in it and restore it.

17 Then the rest of humanity, and of all the nations once called mine, will look for the Lord, says the Lord who made this

18 known so long ago.

19 'My verdict is, then, that instead of making things more difficult for gentiles who turn to God,

20 we should send them a letter telling them merely to abstain from anything polluted by idols, from illicit marriages, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

21 For Moses has always had his preachers in every town and is read aloud in the synagogues every Sabbath.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 10

1 Sing a new song to Yahweh! Sing to Yahweh, all the earth!

2 Sing to Yahweh, bless his name! Proclaim his salvation day after day,

3 declare his glory among the nations, his marvels to every people!

10 Say among the nations, 'Yahweh is king.' The world is set firm, it cannot be moved. He will judge the nations with justice.

Gospel, John 15:9-11

9 I have loved you just as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

11 I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 7, 2026

1. Peter's address at the first Church Council, the Council of Jerusalem, is decisive. He shares his profound experience and shows how it all fulfills the promises of the Scripture. The Lord Jesus had told Him he would serve in such a vital role and the earliest witness, in both the Biblical texts and the writings of the early Fathers and Church sources, confirms it. The Holy Spirit which Jesus promised was indeed leading the Church and has, since then.

And, the resolution of the dispute was accepted and sent out as a decree, a letter, to the early Christian communities. An encyclical of sorts.

The word "encyclical" simply means circulating letter. They had no internet. This decree, with the authority of the Apostles behind it, went out to all the churches and was circulated. The Gentiles were full heirs with the Jews, by grace through Faith. This first General Council was probably held in the year 49 or 50 AD. It is also a prototype of all ecumenical councils to follow.

This is a turning point in the history of the Church and a wonderful example of the Lord at work through His Body, the Church, of which He is the head.

2. "Sing a New Song to the Lord" the Psalmist exhorts us!

Saint Augustine, in a beautiful homily he preached during the Easter Season, explained: "We are urged to sing a new song to the Lord, as new men who have learned a new song. A song is a thing of joy; more profoundly, it is a thing of love. Anyone, therefore, who has learned to love the new life has learned to sing a new song, and the new song reminds us of our new life. The new man, the new song, the new covenant, all belong to the one kingdom of God, and so the new man will sing a new song and will belong to the new covenant."

He continues, connecting the singing to a way of life:

"My dear brothers and sons, fruit of the true faith and holy seed of heaven, all you who have been born again in Christ and whose life is from above, listen to me; or rather, listen to the Holy Spirit saying through me: Sing to the Lord a new song. Look, you tell me, I am singing. Yes indeed, you are singing; you are singing clearly, I can hear you. But make sure that your life does not contradict your words. Sing with your voices, your hearts, your lips and your lives: Sing to the Lord a new song'."

Let us sing that new song, with our words and our witness of life!

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3. Remaining, living, abiding in Jesus, calls us to find our home in His Church. The Church is meant to become the home of the whole human race. The early Fathers had this kind of relational view of the Church. Here are two more examples:

"Let us love the Lord our God; let us love His Church. Let us love Him as our Father and her as our mother." (St. Augustine) "No one can have God as his Father who does not have the Church as his Mother." (St. Cyprian)

"For where the Church is, there the Spirit of God is also; and where the Spirit of God is, there the Church is, and all grace. And the Spirit is truth." (St. Irenaeus of Lyons)

Have we experienced this kind of communion with the Church? Do we view her as a mother? Do we understand that we actually don't just go to Church we live in the Church and go into the world? Have we come to perceive the Church as Some - One more than some-thing?

Or is this all supposed to only be the experience of the mystics, the talk of the Saints and Fathers? The answer is clear. It is supposed to be the common experience of every Christian. By the power of the Holy Spirit, it can be.

Catholic theology teaches what the early fathers, Saints and Councils throughout the ages have all affirmed; to belong to Jesus is to belong to His Body, the Church. Our membership in the Church is a participation in the life of God; what the Apostle Peter referred to as a "participation in the Divine nature". (2 Peter 1:4)

The Church is not some - thing - outside of us, which we try to fix or have our issues with. Through our Baptism the Church becomes our home, our mother, the place in which we now live our lives in Christ. That is not to say we do not sometimes have struggles with our mother. However, she always remains our mother.

To live this understanding of life in the Church requires a continuing and dynamic conversion. We are sons and daughters of the Church.

In living our lives in her we carry forward in time the continuing redemptive mission of Jesus Christ who is the Head of His Body. In its treatment of this mystery of the Church, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

"To reunite all his children, scattered and led astray by sin, the Father willed to call the whole of humanity together into his Son's Church. The Church is the place where humanity must rediscover its unity and salvation. The Church is "the world reconciled."

"She is that bark which "in the full sail of the Lord's cross, by the breath of the Holy Spirit, navigates safely in this world." According to another image dear to the Church Fathers, she is prefigured by Noah's ark, which alone saves from the flood."(CCC #845)

We are all called to live in the heart of Church for the sake of the world. This is how we remain in the Lord. Then, we are sent on a rescue mission, to bring the whole world back home, into Him.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 8, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, May 8th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 15:22-31

22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose delegates from among themselves to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas, known as Barsabbas, and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood,

23 and gave them this letter to take with them: 'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of gentile birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia.

24 We hear that some people coming from here, but acting without any authority from ourselves, have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds;

25 and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with our well-beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 who have committed their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written.

28 It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to impose on you any burden beyond these essentials:

29 you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from illicit marriages. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

30 The party left and went down to Antioch, where they summoned the whole community and delivered the letter.

31 The community read it and were delighted with the encouragement it gave them.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 57:8-9, 10-12

8 Awake, my glory, awake, lyre and harp, that I may awake the Dawn.

9 I will praise you among the peoples, Lord, I will make music for you among nations,

10 for your faithful love towers to heaven, your constancy to the clouds.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

11 Be exalted above the heavens, God! Your glory over all the earth!

Gospel, John 15:12-17

12 This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

13 No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

15 I shall no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

16 You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

17 My command to you is to love one another.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 8, 2026

1. "It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves..." the Apostles said in the letter which was to be delivered by the delegates who would accompany Paul and Barnabas. What a claim!

Yet, how powerful an assertion. Jesus promised he would send another paraclete, an Advocate, who would lead the Church in all truth. And, a part of His fulfilling that Promise is this letter, summarizing the decision of the first Church Council, the Council of Jerusalem. This is a part of what is called the "Magisterium", a Latin word for Teaching office. From the Latin "Magister". The Church is mother and teacher.

The Catholic Catechism explains about how, what it calls the "heritage of faith entrusted to the whole of the Church" is passed on in these words:

"84 The apostles entrusted the "Sacred deposit" of the faith (the depositum fidei in Latin),⁴⁵ contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, to the whole of the Church. "By adhering to [this heritage] the entire holy people, united to its pastors, remains always faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. So, in maintaining, practicing, and professing the faith that has been handed on, there should be a remarkable harmony between the bishops and the faithful."⁴⁶

The Magisterium of the Church:

85 "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ."⁴⁷ This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.

86 "Yet this Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God but is its servant. It teaches only what has been handed on to it. At the divine command and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it listens to this devotedly, guards it with dedication and expounds it faithfully. All that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed is drawn from this single deposit of faith."⁴⁸

87 Mindful of Christ's words to his apostles: "He who hears you, hears me",⁴⁹ the faithful receive with docility the teachings and directives that their pastors give them in different forms."

Do we recognize the authority entrusted to the Church by Christ? Do we receive it with joy as the early Christians did in our first reading?

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

2. In this beautiful Psalm 57 which we use as our responsorial today, David sings of "awakening the dawn" with Songs of Praise to God. How do we begin our days? An older holy Melkite Catholic Bishop friend of mine, from Lebanon, once told me "Deacon Keith, there are two types of people in the world. Those who wake up and say, "Good Morning Lord"....and those who wake up and say, "Good Lord its Morning!"

Which type are we?

3. Jesus calls us to be His Friends in the powerful passage appointed for our Gospel lesson today. And He tells us the way to become His friends, by loving as He loves. To lay our lives down for Him and for One another.

Listen to Him:

"I shall no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. My command to you is to love one another."

How are we doing? Are we proving ourselves to be friends of the Lord Jesus?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 9, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, May 9th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 16:1-10

1 From there he went to Derbe, and then on to Lystra, where there was a disciple called Timothy, whose mother was Jewish and had become a believer; but his father was a Greek.

2 The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him,

3 and Paul, who wanted to have him as a travelling companion, had him circumcised. This was on account of the Jews in the locality where everyone knew his father was a Greek.

4 As they visited one town after another, they passed on the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, with instructions to observe them.

5 So the churches grew strong in the faith, as well as growing daily in numbers.

6 They travelled through Phrygia and the Galatian country, because they had been told by the Holy Spirit not to preach the word in Asia.

7 When they reached the frontier of Mysia they tried to go into Bithynia, but as the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them,

8 they went through Mysia and came down to Troas.

9 One night Paul had a vision: a Macedonian appeared and kept urging him in these words, 'Come across to Macedonia and help us.'

10 Once he had seen this vision we lost no time in arranging a passage to Macedonia, convinced that God had called us to bring them the good news.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5

1 [Psalm For thanksgiving] Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth,

2 serve Yahweh with gladness, come into his presence with songs of joy!

3 Be sure that Yahweh is God, he made us, we belong to him, his people, the flock of his sheepfold.

5 For Yahweh is good, his faithful love is everlasting, his constancy from age to age.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, John 15:18-21

18 If the world hates you, you must realise that it hated me before it hated you.

19 If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you do not belong to the world, because my choice of you has drawn you out of the world, that is why the world hates you.

20 Remember the words I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you too; if they kept my word, they will keep yours as well.

21 But it will be on my account that they will do all this to you, because they do not know the one who sent me.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 9, 2026

1. As we continue on in our readings taken from the Acts of the Apostles, we follow the Apostle Paul as he is guided by the Holy Spirit. In today's account, he selects Timothy, a disciple who will later play a very significant role in the early Church. Paul will disciple this young man, and later establish him over an early Christian community as an elder and write two pastoral epistles or letters to him which become a part of the New Testament Canon.

Paul is passing on the Letter of the decision of the first Church Council, the Council of Jerusalem, to the early Christian communities. And He is relying on the Holy Spirit to guide him. And, that reliance was well placed. Noticed how Paul, using the spiritual gift of discernment, hears the Holy Spirit actually direct him where to preach and where not to preach.

That same Holy Spirit is at work today in the Church. That same Holy Spirit was given to us in Baptism and Confirmation. Do we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us on who we share the Gospel with? It was an encounter with the Holy Spirit many years ago which led me back home to the Catholic Church into which I had been baptized as a child. The Holy Spirit is all too often treated like the forgotten Person of the Holy Trinity.

Chapter 19 of the Acts of the Apostles begins with these words, "While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior of the country and came (down) to Ephesus where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." (Acts 19: 1, 2)

Too often we live our lives like those disciples in Ephesus. We act as though we did not realize there even is a Holy Spirit, still at work, still pouring out gifts and still making it possible for us to bear spiritual fruit. The same Holy Spirit still changing each one of us, individually and collectively, into the Image of Jesus Christ. The same Holy Spirit calling us to make disciples of all the Nations.

Do we believe this?

2. As we sing our Psalm of Praise, we are praising the One God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In a few days, we will commemorate the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church on Pentecost. An examination of the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament reveals the essential role of the Holy Spirit in the life and mission of the Church - and in the life and mission of every individual believer. A study of the Tradition, the magisterial teachings of the Church and the Catholic Catechism underscores that this reality is meant to continue. It was not a onetime event.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

The purpose of Pentecost was - and still is - the empowering of the Christian Church, with the same power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead! The Holy Spirit draws us into communion with the Lord and a participation in His Divine Life and mission. That communion is lived in the Church. The Catholic Catechism, quoting St Augustine, affirms "What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, which is the Church." (CCC # 797)

Do we understand what this really means?

3. Our Gospel text immediately follows upon the admonition and teaching Jesus gives the disciples about becoming His friends by loving one another with the same love with which He loves us. In other words, a self-emptying love, a love which will be poured out for the other. Now he tells them - and us, - remember, we are His Disciples in today's world - they will be hated and persecuted.

This is an excerpt from the fourth Gospel, the Gospel of Saint John. The last to be written, it reflects the deepest theological reflection on the sayings and actions of Jesus. The fourth Gospel contains a stirring promise of the Bible. It is rarely recounted by some contemporary preachers who often refer to the "promises" of the Bible in a manner that seems to imply we can all be "healthy, wealthy and wise" if we simply "claim" them. However, this promise is found in all of the Gospel accounts and comes right from the mouth of the Lord Himself:

"If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:18-20)

There is no doubt; we are living in an age of growing persecution against Christians. This is an age of martyrdom. The Greek word from which we derive the English word martyr means witness.

In some places, our brothers and sisters are literally shedding their blood for the faith. In others, there is a growing soft martyrdom, where those who bear the name Christian are suffering under a soft persecution, a growing discrimination which seeks to squeeze them out of the public square and compel them to bend the knee to a new Caesar. The Holy Spirit will give us the power and grace we need to embrace this promise of the Bible as well if we ask.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 10, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, May 10th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

5 And Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them.

6 The people unanimously welcomed the message Philip preached, because they had heard of the miracles he worked and because they saw them for themselves.

7 For unclean spirits came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured.

8 As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

15 and they went down there and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit,

16 for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

1 [For the choirmaster Song Psalm] Acclaim God, all the earth,

2 sing psalms to the glory of his name, glorify him with your praises,

3 say to God, 'How awesome you are! 'Your achievements are the measure of your power, your enemies woo your favour,

4 all the earth bows down before you, sings psalms to you, sings psalms to your name.

5 Come and see the marvels of God, his awesome deeds for the children of Adam:

6 he changed the sea into dry land, they crossed the river on foot. So let us rejoice in him,

7 who rules for ever by his power; his eyes keep watch on the nations to forestall rebellion against him.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

16 Come and listen, all who fear God, while I tell what he has done for me.

20 Blessed be God who has not turned away my prayer, nor his own faithful love from me.

Reading 2, First Peter 3:15-18

15 Simply proclaim the Lord Christ holy in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have.

16 But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their accusations.

17 And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

18 Christ himself died once and for all for sins, the upright for the sake of the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life,

Gospel, John 14:15-21

15 If you love me you will keep my commandments.

16 I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete to be with you for ever,

17 the Spirit of truth whom the world can never accept since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

18 I shall not leave you orphans; I shall come to you.

19 In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see that I live and you also will live.

20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

21 Whoever holds to my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me; and whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and reveal myself to him.'

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 10, 2026

1. In our first reading for this sixth Sunday of the Easter season we hear of the Spirit led and empowered ministry of one of the seven deacons of the early Church, St. Philip the Deacon. He preaches the Gospel with holy boldness and the signs of the kingdom of God accompany his ministry, just as Jesus promised. We will soon come to the end of our Easter Season. We will celebrate the great Feast of the Ascension of the Lord and the Feast of Pentecost, where the Lord, as promised, sent the Holy Spirit on the early Church.

Our readings are evidence of the very real Power of the Holy Spirit at work. Too often, the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, seems to be forgotten by believers. Yet, we have received the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation. We need to ask the Lord to awaken the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Today. When we do, we will begin to see the transformative effects in our own lives.

2. The Psalmist David urges us to always glorify and praise the Lord. He promises that when we do we will see his marvels and wonders. Yet, how often do we actually do that? In our second reading, we have an excerpt from the Apostle Peter's first letter to all of the early Church. In it he is encouraging the early Christians - and you and me - to do what the Psalmist said, to glorify, reverence and praise the Lord in our hearts.

We are Christians, we know that Jesus Christ is the Lord. The word heart in the Bible refers to the seat of the moral personality as the Catechism says. The place where we make our choices. Peter urges us to put Jesus Christ first in our lives and stand up for the faith we profess, in the midst of opposition. That is what Christians are called to do. To be witnesses to the Lord. How are we doing?

3. And, in the Gospel text for today's Holy Mass, Jesus says He will send the Spirit of Truth, the HOLY SPIRIT. And He did. His Ascension is not Him leaving us, but rather, Him with us in a new way. By sending His Spirit and working through His Mystical Body, the Church, He is present in His Eucharistic Presence, His Body and Blood. He is with us in His Word. He is communicating grace, divine life, through the Sacraments. He is with us by the presence of the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit which raised Him from the dead is poured out now on His Church.

But, in many respects, the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, seems mysterious to many Christians in our own day.

When I consider this reality, I am reminded of one of the many missionary stories recounted in the Acts of the Apostles.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Chapter 19 of the Acts of the Apostles begins with these words, "While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior of the country and came (down) to Ephesus where he found some disciples.

He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." (Acts 19: 1, 2)

Too often we live our lives like those disciples in Ephesus. We act as though we did not realize there even is a Holy Spirit, still at work, still pouring out gifts and still making it possible for us to bear spiritual fruit. The same Holy Spirit still changing each one of us, individually and collectively, into the Image of Jesus Christ and forming us into His Body. The same Holy Spirit calling us to make disciples of all the Nations.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 11, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Monday, May 11th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 16:11-15

11 Sailing from Troas we made a straight run for Samothrace; the next day for Neapolis,

12 and from there for Philippi, a Roman colony and the principal city of that district of Macedonia.

13 After a few days in this city we went outside the gates beside a river as it was the Sabbath and this was a customary place for prayer. We sat down and preached to the women who had come to the meeting.

14 One of these women was called Lydia, a woman from the town of Thyatira who was in the purple-dye trade, and who revered God. She listened to us, and the Lord opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying.

15 After she and her household had been baptised she kept urging us, 'If you judge me a true believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay with us.' And she would take no refusal.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 9

1 Alleluia! Sing a new song to Yahweh: his praise in the assembly of the faithful!

2 Israel shall rejoice in its Maker, the children of Zion delight in their king;

3 they shall dance in praise of his name, play to him on tambourines and harp!

4 For Yahweh loves his people, he will crown the humble with salvation.

5 The faithful exult in glory, shout for joy as they worship him,

6 praising God to the heights with their voices, a two-edged sword in their hands,

9 to execute on them the judgement passed -- to the honour of all his faithful.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, John 15:26--16:4

26 When the Paraclete comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness.

27 And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning.

1 I have told you all this so that you may not fall away.

2 They will expel you from the synagogues, and indeed the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is doing a holy service to God.

3 They will do these things because they have never known either the Father or me.

4 But I have told you all this, so that when the time for it comes you may remember that I told you. I did not tell you this from the beginning, because I was with you;



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 11, 2026

1. This account of the Apostle Paul meeting in Philippi with a group of local women, preaching the Gospel to them, and baptizing Lydia and her whole household is a great example of the special role that women played in the ministry of the early Church. Contrary to the mistaken claim, put forth too often, that the Church has no real regard for women, this is an example of just how uniquely the Church reached out to women and included them in the mission.

In fact, the first fruit of Christianity in Europe is the response of Lydia to this encounter. In 1988 now Saint John Paul II released a beautiful apostolic letter on the Dignity of Women (Mulieris Dignitatem in Latin). He wrote this about the women who became disciples of the Lord:

"In the history of the Church, even from earliest times, there were side-by-side with men a number of women, for whom the response of the Bride to the Bridegroom's redemptive love acquired full expressive force. First, we see those women who had personally encountered Christ and followed him. After his departure, together with the Apostles, they "devoted themselves to prayer" in the Upper Room in Jerusalem until the day of Pentecost.

"On that day the Holy Spirit spoke through "the sons and daughters" of the People of God, thus fulfilling the words of the prophet Joel (cf. Acts 2: 17). These women, and others afterwards, played an active and important role in the life of the early Church, in building up from its foundations the first Christian community - and subsequent communities - through their own charisms and their varied service...

He continued, "The same thing is repeated down the centuries, from one generation to the next, as the history of the Church demonstrates. By defending the dignity of women and their vocation, the Church has shown honour and gratitude for those women who - faithful to the Gospel - have shared in every age in the apostolic mission of the whole People of God. They are the holy martyrs, virgins, and mothers of families, who bravely bore witness to their faith and passed on the Church's faith and tradition by bringing up their children in the spirit of the Gospel."

2. The Psalmist proclaims that we should "sing a new song to the Lord." In a beautiful sermon on this Psalm, Saint Augustine once proclaimed these words:

"Sing to the Lord a new song; his praise is in the assembly of the saints. We are urged to sing a new song to the Lord, as new men who have learned a new song. A song is a thing of joy; more profoundly, it is a thing of love. Anyone, therefore, who has learned to love the new life has learned to sing a new song, and the new song reminds us of our new life. The new man, the new song, the new covenant, all belong to the one kingdom of God, and so the new man will sing a new song and will belong to the new covenant."



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

As new men and women, redeemed and being re-created in Christ, let us join in the song today!

3. Jesus promised to send the Paraclete, an English version of a Greek word which means Counselor and Advocate. And He did, the Holy Spirit. And soon, on the Feast of Pentecost, we will commemorate that great event. But note, after that promise, he told the disciples that the persecution will become so great that even some would take their lives, thinking they were doing a good thing.

We need the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit capacitated the early followers of Jesus to go from being a frightened fraternity to a band of brothers and sisters of whom it was said "they turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) They were empowered to carry forward in time the ongoing mission of Jesus Christ until he returns to complete the work of redemption.

A few verses later in the Gospel of John, Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit will help them and keep them from falling away when such difficulties come. He tells them,

"...it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in me; of righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. " (John 16:7-11)

The sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was not a thing of the past. We need the Holy Spirit NOW! We need to pray for a New experience of Pentecost for the WHOLE Church in this hour! We need more of the Holy Spirit for the work of the New Evangelization within the Church so she can take the mission to the whole world. We need to be Baptized afresh in the Holy Spirit in order to take our role as a member of the Body of Christ in this new missionary age.

The Church needs to rise up in this hour with the same power with which she transformed the world of the first centuries. She can...by the power of the Holy Spirit!



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 12, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Tuesday, May 12th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 16:22-34

22 The crowd joined in and showed its hostility to them, so the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be flogged.

23 They were given many lashes and then thrown into prison, and the gaoler was told to keep a close watch on them.

24 So, following such instructions, he threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 In the middle of the night Paul and Silas were praying and singing God's praises, while the other prisoners listened.

26 Suddenly there was an earthquake that shook the prison to its foundations. All the doors flew open and the chains fell from all the prisoners.

27 When the gaoler woke and saw the doors wide open he drew his sword and was about to commit suicide, presuming that the prisoners had escaped.

28 But Paul shouted at the top of his voice, 'Do yourself no harm; we are all here.'

29 He called for lights, then rushed in, threw himself trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas,

30 and escorted them out, saying, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

31 They told him, 'Become a believer in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, and your household too.'

32 Then they preached the word of the Lord to him and to all his household.

33 Late as it was, he took them to wash their wounds, and was baptised then and there with all his household

34 Afterwards he took them into his house and gave them a meal, and the whole household celebrated their conversion to belief in God.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 7-8

1 [Of David] I thank you, Yahweh, with all my heart, for you have listened to the cry I uttered. In the presence of angels I sing to you,

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

2 I bow down before your holy Temple. I praise your name for your faithful love and your constancy; your promises surpass even your fame.

3 You heard me on the day when I called, and you gave new strength to my heart.

7 Though I live surrounded by trouble you give me life -- to my enemies' fury! You stretch out your right hand and save me,

8 Yahweh will do all things for me. Yahweh, your faithful love endures for ever, do not abandon what you have made.

Gospel, John 16:5-11

5 but now I am going to the one who sent me. Not one of you asks, 'Where are you going?'

6 Yet you are sad at heart because I have told you this.

7 Still, I am telling you the truth: it is for your own good that I am going, because unless I go, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

8 And when he comes, he will show the world how wrong it was, about sin, and about who was in the right, and about judgement:

9 about sin: in that they refuse to believe in me;

10 about who was in the right: in that I am going to the Father and you will see me no more;

11 about judgement: in that the prince of this world is already condemned.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 12, 2026

1. In spite of being brutally flogged and thrown in chains into the inner prison, we read "In the middle of the night Paul and Silas were praying and singing God's praises, while the other prisoners listened." WOW!

How is that possible? By the power of the Holy Spirit. In fact, these two followers of Jesus demonstrated another sign of the Holy Spirit at work in them when they actually reached out to the Jailer, their persecutor, who was so upset when they were rescued by the power of God that he sought to take his own life. They preached the Gospel to him and his whole family and baptized them all. Then, look what happens. The family made them a meal, which they shared, and they spend the night, as brothers and sisters in Christ, as a new family together in the Holy Spirit!

This kind of story continues to be told across the millennia because the same Holy Spirit which worked in and through Paul and Silas is at work in the Church. As the hostility toward Jesus Christ and His Church continues to grow in the West, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to fall afresh upon the Church. We are increasingly being placed at risk for living our faith - at least when we do so in fidelity to the Gospel and the teaching office of the Church. The same Holy Spirit which has protected and led the Church throughout the ages is at work in the Church today. Do we believe this?

I believe that miracles are constantly occurring. The real question is do we see them? Do we have the eyes of living faith which recognize the hand of the Lord at work? Do we ask for them? If we do see and experience miracles, are we responding to these great acts of Love and signs of the kingdom? Are we living life differently as a result? Are we finding the true joy and freedom which comes from repentance and conversion?

Are we sharing our living faith in Jesus Christ with those around us who hunger for meaning in their lives? Do we believe that the same Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead is at work in the Church which is His Body? Do we pray for miracles?

2. In our Responsorial Psalm David sings "In the presence of angels I sing to you". Does God still visit men and women? Does he still send "angels" or messengers to reveal His plans? Does he send them to us to speak His words to specific people? The answer to all these questions is "Yes"!



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

The Latin word translated "angel" is angelu and the Greek is aggelos. Both are found in the ancient translations of the Jewish and Christian scriptures. They are variations of a more ancient word found in the Hebrew texts of the Bible. It is literally translated as "one going," or "one sent".

Angels "go" for God. They carry His word and initiate His actions. We could also call them messengers and ministers.

Angels are mentioned throughout the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible. They are also found throughout the Christian Tradition and the teaching of the Church. In our contemporary age there is a "rediscovery" of angels and a growing interest in their actions in our midst. This is evidenced in our popular culture on television, at the Movies and in our bookstores. This interest reflects a deepening hunger for God and a desire to hear his message.

The public life, ministry and words of Jesus Christ are filled with references to the Angels. Even more present are the tales of their actions. They ministered to the Lord Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, where He suffered his anguish before the final act of selfless love at Calvary. They attended to Him in the Victory of the Resurrection and announced the meaning of the event to His followers who came to the empty tomb.

In the earliest account of the New Testament Christian community called the "Acts of the Apostles" and in the letters to the early Churches, found after the Gospel accounts in the New Testament, the presence and actions of the angels are everywhere.

Finally, in the last Book of the Bible, the Book of the Revelation, they are woven throughout the Biblical texts and in a very unique way their territoriality is explained and revealed. For example, there are Angels delegated for each one of the early Churches.

If one were to remove the references to angels from the sacred texts of the Old and New Testament, not only would substantial amounts of the Bible be removed but even more of its meaning would be lost due to the role the very understanding that the existence of Angels plays in the world view that lies at the heart of the Christian revelation.

Let us join with David and sing to the Lord in the presence of the Angels.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3. In an ancient and beautiful prayer of the Catholic Church we pray these words:

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

"O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen."

In the Gospel appointed for today's Mass, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit. He is still sending the Holy Spirit, to all who ask.

The Church was empowered by the Holy Spirit to live differently in the midst of a world awaiting the fullness of redemption; to lead the world back to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. Can we live this kind of transformed Christian life in the stuff of our own daily lives? Yes, by living them, right now, today, in the heart of the Church and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Do we ask for the Lord to fill us with the Holy Spirit every day?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection May 13, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 17:15, 22--18:1

15 Paul's escort took him as far as Athens, and went back with instructions for Silas and Timothy to rejoin Paul as soon as they could.

22 So Paul stood before the whole council of the Areopagus and made this speech: 'Men of Athens, I have seen for myself how extremely scrupulous you are in all religious matters,

23 because, as I strolled round looking at your sacred monuments, I noticed among other things an altar inscribed: To An Unknown God. In fact, the unknown God you revere is the one I proclaim to you.

24 'Since the God who made the world and everything in it is himself Lord of heaven and earth, he does not make his home in shrines made by human hands.

25 Nor is he in need of anything, that he should be served by human hands; on the contrary, it is he who gives everything -- including life and breath -- to everyone.

26 From one single principle he not only created the whole human race so that they could occupy the entire earth, but he decreed the times and limits of their habitation.

27 And he did this so that they might seek the deity and, by feeling their way towards him, succeed in finding him; and indeed he is not far from any of us,

28 since it is in him that we live, and move, and exist, as indeed some of your own writers have said: We are all his children.

29 'Since we are the children of God, we have no excuse for thinking that the deity looks like anything in gold, silver or stone that has been carved and designed by a man.

30 'But now, overlooking the times of ignorance, God is telling everyone everywhere that they must repent,

31 because he has fixed a day when the whole world will be judged in uprightness by a man he has appointed. And God has publicly proved this by raising him from the dead.'

32 At this mention of rising from the dead, some of them burst out laughing; others said, 'We would like to hear you talk about this another time.'

33 After that Paul left them,



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

34 but there were some who attached themselves to him and became believers, among them Dionysius the Aeropagite and a woman called Damaris, and others besides.

1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth,

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14

1 Alleluia! Praise Yahweh from the heavens, praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his host!

11 kings of the earth and all nations, princes and all judges on earth,

12 young men and girls, old people and children together.

13 Let them praise the name of Yahweh, for his name alone is sublime, his splendour transcends earth and heaven.

14 For he heightens the strength of his people, to the praise of all his faithful, the children of Israel, the people close to him.

Gospel, John 16:12-15

12 I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you to bear now.

13 However, when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking of his own accord, but will say only what he has been told; and he will reveal to you the things to come.

14 He will glorify me, since all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine.

15 Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 13, 2026

1. In this account of the Apostle Paul's visit to Athens we encounter a powerful lesson for our work today, living as we do in an age which has all but forgotten God, the true God, and fashioned for itself new idols. Paul could have entered the Athenian temple, smashed the idols, and left, kicking the dust off of his feet. And maybe felt somehow "justified". But he did not. Instead, he followed the Holy Spirit. He engaged the Athenians in a dialogue, trusting that the Holy Spirit would lead him and draw those who were sincerely seeking the true God toward the truth.

This is an example of what is called "apologetics". The word does not mean apologizing. Rather, it means defending the truths of the faith. The Apostle Peter would later explain in the letter which bears his name: "in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you yet do it with gentleness and reverence." (1 Peter 3:15)

Paul finds the statue to the "unknown god" and uses it to proclaim the Gospel message. This required of Paul, and it requires of us, a belief that the Lord has planted within every man and women a hunger for Him. And a deep conviction that truth is attractive. The Catholic Catechism teaches: "The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for..." (CCC# 27)

How do we reach out to "modern pagans" in our own day? Do we show reverence and respect? Do we seek to engage them in this kind of dialogue? Do we know how?

2. As the Psalmist reminds us, all Nations are called to worship the One and True God. That is His loving plan.

"Alleluia! Praise Yahweh from the heavens, praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his host!

kings of the earth and all nations, princes and all judges on earth,
young men and girls, old people and children together.

Let them praise the name of Yahweh, for his name alone is sublime, his splendor transcends earth and heaven.

For he heightens the strength of his people, to the praise of all his faithful, the children of Israel, the people close to him."

Do we believe this? Do we live as though we do?

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3. Jesus speaks to his disciples, including us, in the Gospel of today's Mass, "...when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you to the complete truth." In fact, Truth is available to all men and women and is made completely revealed and visible in Jesus Himself who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (John 14:6)

Yet, today, we live in an age which rejects the very idea that Truth exists and can be known. In a homily given on April 18, 2005, by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger at the eve of the convocation which would elect him to be the successor of Peter, he made this astute observation concerning this age:

"...How many winds of doctrine we have known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking... The small boat of thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves - thrown from one extreme to the other: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism, and so forth.

"Every day new sects are created and what Saint Paul says about human trickery comes true, with cunning which tries to draw those into error (cf Eph 4, 14). Having a clear faith, based on the Creed of the Church, is often labeled today as a fundamentalism. Whereas relativism - which is letting oneself be tossed and "swept along by every wind of teaching" - looks like the only attitude which is acceptable in today's standards. We are moving towards a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one's own ego and one's own desires."

St. John 8:32 records these words of Jesus concerning the indispensable connection between true freedom and believing that truth exists and can be known, "Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

As Christians, we are called to expose and reject the dictatorship and proclaim afresh the Truth revealed in Jesus Christ. It is the only path to true freedom in a world which is enslaved by sin.

Do we believe this? Will we do it?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 14, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Thursday, May 14th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 1:1-11

1 In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning

2 until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven.

3 He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God.

4 While at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is', he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about:

5 John baptised with water but, not many days from now, you are going to be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

6 Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

7 He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority,

8 but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.'

9 As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight.

10 They were still staring into the sky as he went, when suddenly two men in white were standing beside them,

11 and they said, 'Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go to heaven.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

2 For Yahweh, the Most High, is glorious, the great king over all the earth.

3 He brings peoples under our yoke and nations under our feet.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

6 Let the music sound for our God, let it sound, let the music sound for our king, let it sound.

7 For he is king of the whole world; learn the music, let it sound for God!

8 God reigns over the nations, seated on his holy throne.

9 The leaders of the nations rally to the people of the God of Abraham. The shields of the earth belong to God, who is exalted on high.

Reading 2, Ephesians 1:17-23

17 May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him.

18 May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, how rich is the glory of the heritage he offers among his holy people,

19 and how extraordinarily great is the power that he has exercised for us believers; this accords with the strength of his power

20 at work in Christ, the power which he exercised in raising him from the dead and enthroning him at his right hand, in heaven,

21 far above every principality, ruling force, power or sovereignty, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

22 He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as he is above all things, the head of the Church;

23 which is his Body, the fullness of him who is filled, all in all.

Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20

16 Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them.

17 When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated.

18 Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

19 Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 14, 2026

1. Throughout most of the Catholic Church we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord this Thursday. In some places, the Feast is transferred to Sunday. In the Acts of the Apostles verses we heard in our first reading; St. Luke gives an eyewitness account. However, the Feast has lost its meaning in the experience of too many Catholic Christians. Does the Ascension affect our lives in the here and now? Is it a commemoration of an event which occurred 2000 years ago? Or could it help unlock the meaning of our lives and reveal the plan of God for the entire created order?

The great western Bishop Augustine proclaimed these words on the Feast: "Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies."

When we went down into the Font of Baptism we were incorporated into Jesus Christ, made members of His Mystical Body, the Church. Therefore, as Augustine also wrote, "Where the Head is, there is the Body, where I am, there is my Church, we too are one; the Church is in me and I in her and we two are your Beloved and your Lover."

2. In our second reading, taken from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we hear the Apostles prayer for the early Christians living in Ephesus. He prays that the "eyes of their mind may be enlightened". In other words, that they would be given the gift of living faith to see all of life differently now, because Jesus is at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for them.

Paul reminds them, at the end of this beautiful prayer "He has put all things under his (Jesus') feet, and made him, as he is above all things, the head of the Church; which is his Body, the fullness of him who is filled, all in all. The Ascension of Jesus is not an intermission. He is still with us, and we are with Him. The Head and the Body are one. May the Lord open the eyes of our mind as well, so that we can begin to see the implications of all of this and live our lives by faith.

3. What the early Church believed, and the early Christian fathers taught, was that, in a spiritual sense, we have also ascended with the Lord. We are now joined with Him and He lives His Life through us. He is the Head and we are members of His Mystical Body. We cannot be separated. Augustine, reflecting the clear teaching of the early Church Fathers reminds us that the Head and the Body are the "One Christ."



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

So, this Feast of the Ascension of the Lord is our Feast as well! We now live in Christ by living in His Body, the Church, of which we are members. We are invited to live in the heart of the Church for the sake of the world.

Pope St Leo the Great reflected on the joy the disciples experienced on that glorious day in these words: "(T)hat blessed company had a great and inexpressible cause for joy when it saw man's nature rising above the dignity of the whole heavenly creation, above the ranks of angels, above the exalted status of archangels. Now would there be any limit to its upward course until humanity was admitted to a seat at the right hand of the eternal father, to be enthroned at last in the glory of him to whose nature it was wedded in the Person of the Son."

Both of these great Christian Saints and Bishops point us to the deeper meaning of this Feast. The Ascension does not mark the end of Jesus' relationship with His Church but the beginning of a new way of His relating to the world - in and through His Church. This way includes every one of us who bear His name and are Baptized into Him. We have also ascended - with the Lord. When viewed with the eyes of living faith, the Ascension is capable of transforming the way we view ourselves and live our daily lives in Jesus, with Jesus, for Jesus.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 15, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, May 15th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 18:9-18

9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, 'Be fearless; speak out and do not keep silence:

10 I am with you. I have so many people that belong to me in this city that no one will attempt to hurt you.'

11 So Paul stayed there preaching the word of God among them for eighteen months.

12 But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a concerted attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, saying,

13 'We accuse this man of persuading people to worship God in a way that breaks the Law.'

14 Before Paul could open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, 'Listen, you Jews. If this were a misdemeanour or a crime, it would be in order for me to listen to your plea;

15 but if it is only quibbles about words and names, and about your own Law, then you must deal with it yourselves -- I have no intention of making legal decisions about these things.'

16 Then he began to hustle them out of the court,

17 and at once they all turned on Sosthenes, the synagogue president, and beat him in front of the tribunal. Gallio refused to take any notice at all.

18 After staying on for some time, Paul took leave of the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut off, because of a vow he had made.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

2 For Yahweh, the Most High, is glorious, the great king over all the earth.

3 He brings peoples under our yoke and nations under our feet.

4 He chooses for us our birthright, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

5 God goes up to shouts of acclaim, Yahweh to a fanfare on the ram's horn.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

6 Let the music sound for our God, let it sound, let the music sound for our king, let it sound.

7 For he is king of the whole world; learn the music, let it sound for God!

Gospel, John 16:20-23

20 'In all truth I tell you, you will be weeping and wailing while the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy.

21 A woman in childbirth suffers, because her time has come; but when she has given birth to the child she forgets the suffering in her joy that a human being has been born into the world.

22 So it is with you: you are sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy, and that joy no one shall take from you.

23 When that day comes, you will not ask me any questions. In all truth I tell you, anything you ask from the Father he will grant in my name.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 15, 2026

1. In our first reading, taken from the 18th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, the Apostle Paul is in Corinth, and the Lord speaks to Him in a vision. The early believers were so close to the Lord, they expected such things. Do we? The Lord is with us to guide us every day, if we are open to His presence and ask Him to speak to us.

What did the Lord say to Paul? "Be fearless; speak out and do not keep silence: I am with you. I have so many people that belong to me in this city that no one will attempt to hurt you."

These are words we should take to heart today - for ourselves. We are His contemporary disciples, and we should "be fearless, speak out and not be silenced. The message we bring is the only message that can truly set men and women free. The message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. The Psalmist David was fearless for the Lord. All of us remember him, as a young man, slaying the giant Goliath with a slingshot. As his life went on, he sinned and made some horrid mistakes. But he always repented and turned back to the Lord. One of the keys to his resiliency was his continual praise and worship. Let us join his song today "God goes up to shouts of acclaim, Yahweh to a fanfare on the ram's horn. Let the music sound for our God, let it sound, let the music sound for our king, let it sound.

For he is king of the whole world; learn the music, let it sound for God!"

3. Our Gospel for today is taken from the 16th chapter of John's Gospel. The Lord is preparing His disciples for His coming passion, and death, and resurrection. He is telling them that they will be hated and persecuted, but that their sorrow will turn into joy.

He compares what is to come to a woman in childbirth. Hear the words of Jesus "A woman in childbirth suffers, because her time has come; but when she has given birth to the child, she forgets the suffering in her joy that a human being has been born into the world. So, it is with you: you are sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy, and that joy no one shall take from you.

When that day comes, you will not ask me any questions. In all truth I tell you, anything you ask from the Father he will grant in my name."

So, it can be with us. As followers of the Lord, we will be rejected as He is being rejected. But our joy comes not from the approval of men, but rather, the approval of the Lord.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

The older I get, the more I realize that word - Joy - had a special meaning when used by Jesus to address the disciples. It still does. After all, we are his contemporary disciples. He still walks with us, instructs us and leads us in the Way.

Difficulties, stress, and painful experiences which, at first glance, can cause us to respond with anything but joy, can be transformed in the life of a believer when we have living faith. They can become its very source through the power of the Holy Spirit. They can contribute to what I am calling Gospel Joy. That is, if we invite the Holy Spirit to enlighten us in the midst of them, opening our eyes to find their purpose and lesson. Yes, also pray for them to either be removed or, if they are not, trust that the Lord Jesus Christ will accompany us through them.

Remember, the word translated Gospel in English literally means Good News. Are we living in a way which gives testimony to the fact that living for Jesus Christ brings joy?



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 16, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, May 16th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 18:23-28

23 where he spent a short time before continuing his journey through the Galatian country and then through Phrygia, encouraging all the followers.

24 An Alexandrian Jew named Apollos now arrived in Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, with a sound knowledge of the scriptures, and yet,

25 though he had been given instruction in the Way of the Lord and preached with great spiritual fervour and was accurate in all the details he taught about Jesus, he had experienced only the baptism of John.

26 He began to teach fearlessly in the synagogue and, when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they attached themselves to him and gave him more detailed instruction about the Way.

27 When Apollos thought of crossing over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote asking the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived there he was able by God's grace to help the believers considerably

28 by the energetic way he refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating from the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 47:2-3, 8-9, 10

2 For Yahweh, the Most High, is glorious, the great king over all the earth.

3 He brings peoples under our yoke and nations under our feet.

8 God reigns over the nations, seated on his holy throne.

9 The leaders of the nations rally to the people of the God of Abraham. The shields of the earth belong to God, who is exalted on high.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, John 16:23-28

23 When that day comes, you will not ask me any questions. In all truth I tell you, anything you ask from the Father he will grant in my name.

24 Until now you have not asked anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and so your joy will be complete.

25 I have been telling you these things in veiled language. The hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in veiled language but tell you about the Father in plain words.

26 When that day comes you will ask in my name; and I do not say that I shall pray to the Father for you,

27 because the Father himself loves you for loving me, and believing that I came from God.

28 I came from the Father and have come into the world and now I am leaving the world to go to the Father.'



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 16, 2026

1. Before they were called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26) the early followers of Jesus Christ were often referred to as “the Way”. The Apostle Paul, in recounting his own conversion, speaks of having persecuted “this Way” (Acts 22: 3-16) prior to his encounter with the Risen Lord on the Road to Damascus. This expression “the Way” reveals a profoundly important aspect of the understanding of the early Christians. They believed and proclaimed that the Christian faith was to be expressed in a new way of living.

It still is. Our relationship with Jesus Christ and membership in His Body, the Church, is meant to effect change in every aspect of our lives as human persons.

In our first reading, we read of Apollos, a new disciple, receiving more and more instruction about "The Way". Too often, Christians, baptized as children, do not receive a lot of instruction on living Christianity as a Way of Life. Our relationship with Jesus Christ and membership in His Body, the Church, is meant to effect change in every aspect of our lives as human persons and influence the way in which we participate in our families, our associational groups, our work, commerce, civil society.

All too often, we can approach our lives in a manner that fails to understand the implications of the Incarnation. For example, this occurs when we assign the teaching of the Scriptures and Magisterium of our Church to only the perceived “religious” or “spiritual” part of our lives. Faith is meant to be a light which presides over the entirety of our life. How do we understand our vocation as Christians? Is it just to go to Mass on Sunday and try to live a good life? Or do we understand it as a call to a whole new way of life?

2. David sings of the Lord as the Great King over all the earth. In the New Testament, Jesus speaks regularly about the "kingdom of God". He uses image after image to communicate to the disciples the meaning of that poignant and powerful phrase. The phrase Kingdom of God can also be translated Reign of God in English. I have always found that translation very helpful.

In Jesus Christ, the Reign of God has already come and is coming. It will come in its fullness only upon His glorious Return. In the interim, we are invited to live in, anticipate and spread that kingdom. We do so most fruitfully when we live in the heart of the Church, which is a seed of the kingdom, for the sake of the world.

In the back of the Catechism of the Catholic Church there is a Glossary with a helpful summary of the phrase Kingdom of God (Kingdom of Heaven). It contains citations to the sections in the Catechism which break open the deep meaning of the phrase:

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

"KINGDOM OF GOD (OF HEAVEN): The reign or rule of God: "the kingdom of God is . . . righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom 14:17). The Kingdom of God draws near in the coming of the Incarnate Word; it is announced in the Gospel; it is the messianic Kingdom, present in the person of Jesus, the Messiah; it remains in our midst in the Eucharist.

"Christ gave to his Apostles the work of proclaiming the Kingdom, and through the Holy Spirit forms his people into a priestly kingdom, the Church, in which the Kingdom of God is mysteriously present, for she is the seed and beginning of the Kingdom on earth. In the Lord's Prayer ("Thy Kingdom come") we pray for its final glorious appearance, when Christ will hand over the Kingdom to his Father (CCC# 541-554, 709, 763, 2816, 2819).

So, this kingdom, this reign of God, has already come, it is coming and, when the King returns, it will be finally and fully revealed. So, where is it now in our daily lives? Does the Lord reign as King in every area of our lives?

3. In the Gospel passage offered for our reflection this day, Jesus tells us that we can speak directly to the Father. In fact, as we regularly pray, He teaches us to address God as "Our Father". We can have the same relationship Jesus has with the Father, the intimate communion the disciples witnessed when they came upon Him in prayer. The same relationship they witness as they walked with Him daily. We also walk with Him daily.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that "Grace is a participation in the life of God. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his Body. As an "adopted son" he can henceforth call God "Father," in union with the only Son." He receives the life of the Spirit who breathes charity into him and who forms the Church." (CCC#1997)

As we stand in Jesus, we stand in the relationship which He has with His Father. We become partakers of the Divine Nature. (2 Peter 1:4) We actually become sons (and daughters) in the Son. This is called Divine Filiation.

By receiving Jesus, we receive "the power to become the sons (and daughters) of God." (John 1:12) This gift of Divine filiation is the heart of the Christian message. God is our Father. His fatherly love invites us to continual transformation, as we cooperate with grace, into the Image and likeness revealed fully in the Beloved Son.

Do we speak to God as our Father? Do we see ourselves as sons and daughters, in the Son?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 17, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, May 17th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 1:12-14

12 So from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, they went back to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk;

13 and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James.

14 With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 27:1, 4, 7-8

1 [Of David] Yahweh is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? Yahweh is the fortress of my life, whom should I dread?

4 One thing I ask of Yahweh, one thing I seek: to dwell in Yahweh's house all the days of my life, to enjoy the sweetness of Yahweh, to seek out his temple.

7 Yahweh, hear my voice as I cry, pity me, answer me!

8 Of you my heart has said, 'Seek his face!' Your face, Yahweh, I seek;

Reading 2, First Peter 4:13-16

13 but in so far as you share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, so that you may enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed.

14 If you are insulted for bearing Christ's name, blessed are you, for on you rests the Spirit of God, the Spirit of glory.

15 None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer;

16 but if any one of you should suffer for being a Christian, then there must be no shame but thanksgiving to God for bearing this name.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, John 17:1-11

1 After saying this, Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you;

2 so that, just as you have given him power over all humanity, he may give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him.

3 And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

4 I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

5 Now, Father, glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world existed.

6 I have revealed your name to those whom you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

7 Now at last they have recognised that all you have given me comes from you

8 for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have indeed accepted it and know for certain that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me.

9 It is for them that I pray. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you.

10 All I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified.

11 I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 17, 2026

1. In our first readings, the disciples are returning to Jerusalem, after the Ascension of the Lord Jesus. He told them that they will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon them. So, they returned and went to the upper room, with Mary, the Mother of the Lord and his relatives. Next Sunday, we will celebrate that great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, on the day Pentecost. Notice what they did "With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer..." On Pentecost the early followers of Jesus gathered as their Lord had instructed them, expecting the fulfillment of the promise he had made to send the Holy Spirit. We refer to Pentecost as the birthday of the missionary church for a good reason. Their encounter with the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room changed them.

They were filled with the same Holy Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead. The Apostle Paul would later explain the experience. Even though he was not at that first Pentecost, he certainly experienced the same encounter, and came to know of its powerful, transformative effects! (Romans 8:11)

The Holy Spirit capacitated the early followers of Jesus to go from being a frightened fraternity to a band of brothers and sisters of whom it was said "they turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) They were empowered to carry forward in time the ongoing mission of Jesus Christ until he returns.

2. In our second reading, the Apostle Peter is instructing all of the early churches on Suffering as a Christian. The Christian tradition instructs us that even undeserved and unmerited suffering, when joined in love to the sufferings of Jesus Christ, can produce extraordinary fruit within us - and then through us, as we change. This is a part of the teaching on the mystery of suffering in the Christian life.

Saint Jose Maria Escriva once wrote "The great Christian revolution has been to convert pain into fruitful suffering and to turn a bad thing into something good. We have deprived the devil of this weapon; and with it we can conquer eternity." WOW. What a different way of viewing suffering. How do we deal with suffering in our own lives? Do we join it the suffering of the Lord?

3. In this beautiful 17th chapter of the Gospel of St John, Jesus is praying for the Church. The disciples who are with Him, and all those to come. The intimate communion He has with the Father is evident in this beautiful prayer. He is praying for you and for me. He knows we will be in "the world" after he ascends. But, He is asking the Father keep us "in His name". So identified with Him, that in Jesus Christ, in His mystical Body, the Church, we are joined to His Father, and protected from the evil one.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

These words of Jesus are also not just a one time prayer. As we profess in the ancient creed, Jesus is seated at the Right Hand of the Father. He is praying for his disciples, right now. And, we are his contemporary disciples. The author of the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that He is our High Priest who "...always lives to make intercession." for His own. Do we believe that Jesus is praying for us? Do we speak to Him regularly? We can. We should. He is waiting to hear from us.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 18, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Monday, May 18th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 19:1-8

1 It happened that while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul made his way overland as far as Ephesus, where he found a number of disciples.

2 When he asked, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' they answered, 'No, we were never even told there was such a thing as a Holy Spirit.'

3 He asked, 'Then how were you baptised?' They replied, 'With John's baptism.'

4 Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance; but he insisted that the people should believe in the one who was to come after him -- namely Jesus.'

5 When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus,

6 and the moment Paul had laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they began to speak with tongues and to prophesy.

7 There were about twelve of these men in all.

8 He began by going to the synagogue, where he spoke out fearlessly and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God. He did this for three months,

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 68:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

2 You disperse them like smoke; as wax melts in the presence of a fire, so the wicked melt at the presence of God.

3 The upright rejoice in the presence of God, delighted and crying out for joy.

4 Sing to God, play music to his name, build a road for the Rider of the Clouds, rejoice in Yahweh, dance before him.

5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, such is God in his holy dwelling.

6 God gives the lonely a home to live in, leads prisoners out into prosperity, but rebels must live in the bare wastelands.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

7 God, when you set out at the head of your people, when you strode over the desert,

Gospel, John 16:29-33

29 His disciples said, 'Now you are speaking plainly and not using veiled language.

30 Now we see that you know everything and need not wait for questions to be put into words; because of this we believe that you came from God.'

31 Jesus answered them: Do you believe at last?

32 Listen; the time will come -- indeed it has come already -- when you are going to be scattered, each going his own way and leaving me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

33 I have told you all this so that you may find peace in me. In the world you will have hardship, but be courageous: I have conquered the world.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 18, 2026

1. Too often we live our lives like those disciples in Ephesus we heard about in our first reading for today's Mass. We act as though we did not realize there even is a Holy Spirit, still at work, still pouring out gifts and still making it possible for us to bear spiritual fruit. The same Holy Spirit still changing each one of us, individually and collectively, into the Image of Jesus Christ. The same Holy Spirit calling us to make disciples of all the Nations. That same Holy Spirit giving us the promised Spiritual gifts.

In many respects, the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, seems mysterious to many Christians in our own day. When I consider this reality, I am reminded of one of the many missionary stories recounted in the Acts of the Apostles.

Chapter 19 of Acts begins with these words, "While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior of the country and came (down) to Ephesus where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." (Acts 19: 1, 2)

What characterized the experience of the early Church after experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit can still be our experience. The Holy Spirit is at work, RIGHT NOW. The Acts of the Apostles begins with these words Jesus spoke to the disciples right before He ascended:

"So, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power (GREEK - DUNAMUS) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:6-8)

The Greek word for power is the root of our English word DYNAMITE. It connotes a DYNAMIC encounter with the Holy Spirit. Have you asked the Lord to give you that kind of experience of the Holy Spirit? NOW IS THE TIME TO DO SO. Come, Holy Spirit!

2. As is often the case, only portions of the particular Psalm are used as the Responsorial Psalm. Today, we have portions of Psalm 68. The Psalm is one of the most ancient compositions. It begins with these words:

"Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee before Him" Then, we pick up with "You disperse them like smoke."

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Israel knew the reality of being opposed. sometimes violently, by the enemies of Israel and Israel's God. They also knew that God fought for them! He still does!

We are living in an age of growing hostility toward Christianity. Often, the hostility we face is what could be called a "soft persecution". Although, in many places around the world people who proclaim the name of Jesus, or those who stand in the Covenant God made with Abraham, are shedding their blood. We must always remember that God will fight for us.

We need to learn from David and keep turning to the Lord. Keep Praising Him. Keep trusting Him. As we do, the joy becomes the wind that moves us forward.

3. Jesus tells His disciples they will be scattered and face great struggles. And indeed, they were. But He assures them that He has conquered, or in another translation, overcome the world. He is not speaking of the created order. It was fashioned through Him, as the Father spoke the word. And it is good. He was - and is - speaking of a system which has squeezed God out of the center, a system which has rejected Him.

There is a lot of confusion about how Christians, followers of Jesus, should relate to "the world" Some of the confusion concerning our relationship to the world comes from the remnants of one of the early heresies in Christian history, Manichaeism. The followers of this error believed that all matter itself was evil. That is NOT a Christian belief. We profess in our Creed a belief in a bodily resurrection and the coming of a new heaven and new earth! Yet this error of viewing matter as evil still infects and can lead to a kind "ghetto mentality" whereby Christians withdraw from the world. Some confusion also comes from ways the term or phrase "the world" is used in the New Testament.

There is "the world" that God created and looked upon and said, "it is good". (See e.g. Genesis, chapter 1). That world is still good. It is filled with beauty and reflects the Divine artist and architect who made it. That world He entrusted to the crown of his creation - man and woman.

Then there is a system, that culture of death and use, which has squeezed God out of His rightful place and substituted idols.

That system is also called "the world" in the bible. (See, e.g. James 4:4). We are not to "love" that world, in the sense of giving ourselves over to its dominion. We are to reject that system in order to free those enchained by its lies. However, the Father wants to bring the entire human race back into a relationship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Those of us who live in Christ are sent on that mission into the world.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

The power to effect redemptive change in the world comes from the life of God within us. It is amazing how little leaven it takes to raise a loaf of bread. That is because within those little particles of yeast is found the power to ferment, to change the lump of wet dough into a loaf of aromatic, tasty, nourishing bread. However, the power contained within that yeast is not activated unless it is mixed and kneaded into the dough.

Once you work the leaven in, it is still hidden to the eye but how it transforms that loaf! So, it is with Christians within human culture! The power within us is the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead (See Romans 8:11)! All we are asked to do is to mix it up. We have to get in the loaf. We must be in the world - where Jesus is - in order to be used by Him to accomplish His ongoing work of redemption.

Leaven or yeast that is not used in time spoils and loses its capacity to ferment that dough; it must be active, or it becomes useless. That leaven must be in the dough to effect its extraordinary change. So, it is with us. We must be "in the world" to effect its transformation. Once hidden in the loaf, leaven always raises the dough. It also takes human effort - it must be kneaded and worked into the loaf.

So, it is with our lives of faith. Faith is a verb; it must be exercised. By living in the heart of the Church in the center of the world we bring the world back to God. This kind of missionary mindset has inspired great missionary ages in the past and brought extraordinary changes to entire cultures. It can once again! However, it always begins one person, one grain, at a time.

The seed of the kingdom, the living Word, has been planted within us. And now, we become the seed, the salt and the leaven for the Divine Sower who continues His redemptive mission in a world waiting to be reborn in Him. He now spreads us in the field of the world to bear a harvest for the Kingdom to come. We are called to live at the crossroads of that world and become missionaries of the new world, of which the Church is a seed and sign.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 19, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Tuesday May 19th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 20:17-27

17 From Miletus he sent for the elders of the church of Ephesus.

18 When they arrived he addressed these words to them: 'You know what my way of life has been ever since the first day I set foot among you in Asia,

19 how I have served the Lord in all humility, with all the sorrows and trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews.

20 I have not hesitated to do anything that would be helpful to you; I have preached to you and instructed you both in public and in your homes,

21 urging both Jews and Greeks to turn to God and to believe in our Lord Jesus.

22 'And now you see me on my way to Jerusalem in captivity to the Spirit; I have no idea what will happen to me there,

23 except that the Holy Spirit, in town after town, has made it clear to me that imprisonment and persecution await me.

24 But I do not place any value on my own life, provided that I complete the mission the Lord Jesus gave me -- to bear witness to the good news of God's grace.

25 'I now feel sure that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will ever see my face again.

26 And so on this very day I swear that my conscience is clear as far as all of you are concerned,

27 for I have without faltering put before you the whole of God's purpose.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 68:10-11, 20-21

10 Your family found a home, which you in your generosity provided for the humble.

11 The Lord gave a command, the good news of a countless army.

20 This God of ours is a God who saves; from Lord Yahweh comes escape from death;

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

21 but God smashes the head of his enemies, the long-haired skull of the prowling criminal.

Gospel, John 17:1-11

1 After saying this, Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you;

2 so that, just as you have given him power over all humanity, he may give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him.

3 And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

4 I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

5 Now, Father, glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world existed.

6 I have revealed your name to those whom you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

7 Now at last they have recognised that all you have given me comes from you

8 for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have indeed accepted it and know for certain that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me.

9 It is for them that I pray. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you.

10 All I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified.

11 I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 19, 2026

1. In the first reading, the Apostle Paul speaks from his heart to the elders of the churches the Lord had founded through his apostolic work. He speaks to them as a father to his children, a Shepherd to the Sheep. The address is reminiscent of the words of Jesus to the Apostles at the Last Supper. We see in this discourse the humility of this great Apostle. A onetime persecutor of the Way, as the Christians were called before Antioch, he has now become their brother and father in the Lord Jesus.

Then he tells them he is "captive by the Spirit" and must go to Jerusalem. Hear these words:

"And now you see me on my way to Jerusalem in captivity to the Spirit.

I have no idea what will happen to me there,

except that the Holy Spirit, in town after town, has made it clear to me that imprisonment and persecution await me.

But I do not place any value on my own life, provided that I complete the mission the Lord Jesus gave me -- to bear witness to the good news of God's grace."

This is the heart of a true Apostle, a true Bishop. How we need such successors of the Apostles today, in this new missionary age. Pray for the Bishops of the Church.

2. David's song in Psalm 68 continues today. In this translation, the New Jerusalem, the word "family" is used. In others it is "flock". Both words connote the roles in the relationship. The Lord is a Father and a shepherd. Israel, and through Jesus, the Church, which is the New Israel, grafted onto the Vine, is His family and His flock. He guards, protects, saves, and cares for us.

How do we view God? Do we really believe He is a Father? Do we truly believe that He protects and cares for us?

In Him we have found a home. We need no longer fear the enemies who seek to undermine His work in our lives. But, the key, and David understood this, is prayer. We need to stay in continual dialogue with Him.

3. In the Gospel appointed for Holy Mass today we read more of the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus to the Father. In biblical language "name" connotes identity. It also confers a relationship. Jesus has revealed the Father. Jesus is the human face of God. That expression is one of the favorites of now Pope Emeritus Benedict. In a General Audience message of January 16, 2013, he said:



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

"In Jesus of Nazareth God really visited his people, he visited humanity in a manner that surpassed every expectation: he sent his Only Begotten Son: God himself became man. Jesus does not tell us something about God, he does not merely speak of the Father but is the Revelation of God, because he is God and thus reveals the face of God. In the Prologue to his Gospel St John wrote: "no one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known" (Jn 1:18) ...

He continued "I would like to dwell on the phrase: "reveals God's face". In this regard St John, in his Gospel, records for us a significant event that we have just heard. When he was approaching the Passion, Jesus reassured his disciples, asking them not to be afraid and to have faith; he then begins a conversation with them in which he talks about God the Father (cf. Jn 14:2-9). At a certain point the Apostle Philip asked Jesus: "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied" (Jn 14:8).

"Philip was very practical and prosaic, he even said what we ourselves would like to say: "we want to see him, show us the Father," he asks to "see" the Father, to see his face. Jesus' answer is a reply not only to Philip but also to us and it ushers us into the heart of Christological faith; the Lord affirmed: "he who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). These words sum up the newness of the New Testament, that newness which appeared in the Bethlehem Grotto: God can be seen, God has shown his face, he is visible in Jesus Christ.

Jesus showed us the Father. And, in Him, we enter into a relationship with the Father. We are given His relationship with the Father as our own. God is not distant "other". He is Father. And, in the Son, Jesus, we become sons and daughters. Do we experience this? We can. Ask the Lord, He is ever present when we turn to Him.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 20, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 20:28-38

28 'Be on your guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you the guardians, to feed the Church of God which he bought with the blood of his own Son.

29 'I know quite well that when I have gone fierce wolves will invade you and will have no mercy on the flock.

30 Even from your own ranks there will be men coming forward with a travesty of the truth on their lips to induce the disciples to follow them.

31 So be on your guard, remembering how night and day for three years I never slackened in counselling each one of you with tears.

32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace that has power to build you up and to give you your inheritance among all the sanctified.

33 'I have never asked anyone for money or clothes;

34 you know for yourselves that these hands of mine earned enough to meet my needs and those of my companions.

35 By every means I have shown you that we must exert ourselves in this way to support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, who himself said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving." '

36 When he had finished speaking he knelt down with them all and prayed.

37 By now they were all in tears; they put their arms round Paul's neck and kissed him;

38 what saddened them most was his saying they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 68:29-30, 33-35, 35-36

29 from your temple high above Jerusalem. Kings will come to you bearing tribute.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

30 Rebuke the Beast of the Reeds, that herd of bulls, that people of calves, who bow down with ingots of silver. Scatter the people who delight in war.

33 the Rider of the Heavens, the primeval heavens. There he speaks, with a voice of power!

34 Acknowledge the power of God. Over Israel his splendour, in the clouds his power.

35 Awesome is God in his sanctuary. He, the God of Israel, gives strength and power to his people. Blessed be God.

Gospel, John 17:11-19

11 I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us.

12 While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except one who was destined to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures.

13 But now I am coming to you and I say these things in the world to share my joy with them to the full.

14 I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world.

15 I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the Evil One.

16 They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.

17 Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth.

18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world,

19 and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 20, 2026

1. We hear more of the Apostle Paul's goodbye address to the elders and faithful of Ephesus. You can sense the genuine fatherly love this great Apostle has for the Church. You can also feel the bonds of genuine affection the faithful have for him. This was characteristic of the early Christian communities. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, the love you have for one another." (John 13:35)

Love was the binding force of the relational identity of the early church. Tertullian wrote that the Romans would exclaim, "See how they love one another!"

Justin Martyr wrote of this love: "We who used to value the acquisition of wealth and possessions more than anything else now bring what we have into a common fund and share it with anyone who needs it. We used to hate and destroy one another and refused to associate with people of another race or country. Now, because of Christ, we live together with such people and pray for our enemies."

Paul, as their father in the faith, also warned of the hardships they would suffer. He warned of the "wolves" who would come with false teachings. And his warnings were accurate. One of the greatest dangers to the Church of the first three centuries was such false teaching. It is still one of the greatest dangers to the Church in our time.

The Church is a relational reality. Christianity is not "Me AND Jesus". Rather, its "Me in Jesus, and in Jesus with you, for the sake of the world." Do we view our relationships with other Christians in this way? Do we have genuine affection for them as brothers and sisters? Do we guard the teaching we have received from the Scriptures, the Catechism, and the teaching office of the Church? How important is it to us to be Catholic Christians?

2. Do we, like the Psalmist David regularly "Acknowledge the power of God"? Do we look to Him to receive the strength and power that we need? What role does God actually have in our daily lives? Is He Central? Or do we have a sort of "God on the shelf", someone we turn to when we feel incapable of handling things. Do we take Him off the shelf and call on Him?

The Church reminds us, in the Catholic Catechism, "Of all the divine attributes, only God's omnipotence is named in the Creed: to confess this power has great bearing on our lives. We believe that his might is universal, for God who created everything also rules everything and can do everything." (CCC #268) and, in the next paragraph, "...He is the Lord of the universe, whose order he established, and which remains wholly subject to him and at his disposal. He is master of history, governing hearts and events in keeping with his will."



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

We need to acknowledge the omnipotence of God and begin to realize more and more who He truly is. Only then will we come to understand who we are.

3. Jesus continues His heartfelt priestly prayer to the Father in the Gospel text appointed for today's Holy Mass. He knows what is coming as he walks toward the day when He will stretch His arms out on the Cross and embrace the fallen world. He knows that He will defeat Death, Rise and that He will return to the father. He wants those whom He loves to experience unity with Him, and with the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom He loves includes you and me!

He prays: "I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the Evil One.

They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth."

To be consecrated is to be set apart, to be dedicated. Jesus asks the Father to set us apart from this world by setting us apart for the Truth. Jesus set us apart by giving Himself to us completely, redeeming us from the grip of the evil one and freeing us from the penalty of sin, the separation it brings. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He also invites us to continue on in the Truth, to take an active role by living a consecrated life, a life set apart for God. Hear his words, "'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'" (John 8:32)

Do we understand what it means to be set apart for God? To be consecrated in Truth? Do we stay in His word?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 21, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Thursday, May 21st, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

30 The next day, since he wanted to know for sure what charge the Jews were bringing, he freed Paul and gave orders for a meeting of the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin; then he brought Paul down and set him in front of them.

6 Now Paul was well aware that one party was made up of Sadducees and the other of Pharisees, so he called out in the Sanhedrin, 'Brothers, I am a Pharisee and the son of Pharisees. It is for our hope in the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.'

7 As soon as he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was split between the two parties.

8 For the Sadducees say there is neither resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, while the Pharisees accept all three.

9 The shouting grew louder, and some of the scribes from the Pharisees' party stood up and protested strongly, 'We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit has spoken to him, or an angel?'

10 Feeling was running high, and the tribune, afraid that they would tear Paul to pieces, ordered his troops to go down and haul him out and bring him into the fortress.

11 Next night, the Lord appeared to him and said, 'Courage! You have borne witness for me in Jerusalem, now you must do the same in Rome.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

1 [In a quiet voice Of David] Protect me, O God, in you is my refuge.

2 To Yahweh I say, 'You are my Lord, my happiness is in none

5 My birthright, my cup is Yahweh; you, you alone, hold my lot secure.

7 I bless Yahweh who is my counsellor, even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I keep Yahweh before me always, for with him at my right hand, nothing can shake me.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

9 So my heart rejoices, my soul delights, my body too will rest secure,

10 for you will not abandon me to Sheol, you cannot allow your faithful servant to see the abyss.

11 You will teach me the path of life, unbounded joy in your presence, at your right hand delight for ever.

Gospel, John 17:20-26

20 I pray not only for these but also for those who through their teaching will come to believe in me.

21 May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

22 I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one.

23 With me in them and you in me, may they be so perfected in unity that the world will recognise that it was you who sent me and that you have loved them as you have loved me.

24 Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 Father, Upright One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me.

26 I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 21, 2026

1. The courageous witness of the Apostle Paul continues as we follow along in the Acts of the Apostles. This former persecutor of the early Church knew well what could happen to him for preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus. But His living faith overcame his fear, and he exhibited the holy boldness which was characteristic of the early Church.

In these verses, he is hauled before the Chief Priests and the council of elders, the Sanhedrin. Knowing of the split in their ranks concerning whether or not they believed in the Resurrection of the dead, Paul exercises discernment and sets his own mistreatment in a context which he knew would further advance his objective. And that objective was clear, to preach the full Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who would listen.

And, that night, the Lord appears to him and said "'Courage!

You have borne witness for me in Jerusalem, now you must do the same in Rome.'" And indeed, that is what happens. The same Holy Spirit which gave the Apostle Paul the courage, the "holy boldness" has been given to each one of us. Are we choosing to put Jesus and preaching His Gospel first? Or are we falling for one of the what the Fathers of the Last Council, the Second Vatican Council, called the "separation between faith and life"?

2. In our Psalm response, we are invited to join David in extolling the Lord as the very source of our true happiness. His intimate communion with the Lord is clear in all of his Psalms. He sings these words: "You will teach me the path of life, unbounded joy in your presence, at your right-hand delight forever."

An old priest friend, who is now with the Lord, use to tell me as a young man that the source of true joy could be found in the turning the word JOY into an acronym. J. O. Y.

Jesus, Over, You

When we put Jesus, the fullness of Gods revelation of Himself, over us, in every area of our life. When we choose to make Him the LORD of every area of our lives. When we invite Him to reign in every area of our lives...then we find the true joy of living in an intimate communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Will we do that today?

3. The Gospel text appointed for today's Holy Mass is one more portion of the beautiful Priestly prayer of Jesus for those who follow Him, for His disciples. That includes you! That includes Me!



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

In fact, the portion of the prayer which we heard at Holy Mass today makes it very clear. Hear the words of the Master: "I pray not only for these but also for those who through their teaching will come to believe in me. May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me."

We believe because the Apostles, down through the ages, stayed faithful to teaching and passing on what scripture and the catechism call the "deposit of faith". The Catholic Catechism teaches:

"The apostles entrusted the "Sacred deposit" of the faith (the depositum fidei), contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, to the whole of the Church. "By adhering to [this heritage] the entire holy people, united to its pastors, remains always faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. So, in maintaining, practicing, and professing the faith that has been handed on, there should be a remarkable harmony between the bishops and the faithful." (CCC #84)

And it goes on to explain the term "Magisterium" or "teaching office", and its importance with these words.

"The Magisterium of the Church"

"The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ." This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.

"Yet this Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God but is its servant. It teaches only what has been handed on to it. At the divine command and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it listens to this devotedly, guards it with dedication and expounds it faithfully. All that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed is drawn from this single deposit of faith."

"Mindful of Christ's words to his apostles: "He who hears you, hears me", 49 the faithful receive with docility the teachings and directives that their pastors give them in different forms." (CCC #85-87)

As we profess in the Creed, we believe that the Church is "Apostolic". Part of what that means is that the Apostolic office of the Bishops, established by the Lord Himself, continues in our midst. Do we believe and receive this great gift as Catholic Christians?

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 22, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, May 22nd, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 25:13-21

13 Some days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus.

14 Their visit lasted several days, and Festus put Paul's case before the king, saying, 'There is a man here whom Felix left behind in custody,

15 and while I was in Jerusalem the chief priests and elders of the Jews laid information against him, demanding his condemnation.

16 But I told them that Romans are not in the habit of surrendering any man, until the accused confronts his accusers and is given an opportunity to defend himself against the charge.

17 So they came here with me, and I wasted no time but took my seat on the tribunal the very next day and had the man brought in.

18 When confronted with him, his accusers did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected;

19 but they had some argument or other with him about their own religion and about a dead man called Jesus whom Paul alleged to be alive.

20 Not feeling qualified to deal with questions of this sort, I asked him if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem to be tried there on this issue.

21 But Paul put in an appeal for his case to be reserved for the judgement of the emperor, so I ordered him to be remanded until I could send him to Caesar.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20

1 [Of David] Bless Yahweh, my soul, from the depths of my being, his holy name;

2 bless Yahweh, my soul, never forget all his acts of kindness.

11 As the height of heaven above earth, so strong is his faithful love for those who fear him.

12 As the distance of east from west, so far from us does he put our faults.

19 Yahweh has fixed his throne in heaven, his sovereign power rules over all.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

20 Bless Yahweh, all his angels, mighty warriors who fulfil his commands, attentive to the sound of his words.

Gospel, John 21:15-19

15 When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.'

16 A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.'

17 Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that he asked him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'

18 In all truth I tell you, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.'

19 In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 22, 2026

1. Next, this wonderful Apostle named Paul, appeals to Caesar. He knew, once again, that because he was a Roman citizen, he had certain "civil rights". And he used that fact to further the real mission, to preach the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. He exercised prudence, a gift of the Spirit, and was strategic. A true Christian leader.

In 1991, as a practicing Constitutional Lawyer, dedicated to the defense of Pro-Life, Pro-Family and Religious Liberty causes and cases, I accepted an invitation to build the American Center for Law and Justice, or A.C.L.J, a public interest law firm which would defend the rights of believers. First, I knew the Lord was inviting me after much discernment. But I also knew the importance of using the courts to ensure that Christians would be free to do their missionary work in this current age.

I spent seven years at the helm of that Law Firm. In the last year, I was ordained as a Deacon, and everything began to change. The Lord had a new mission for me, and I was happy to once again say yes. But during those years, I had the privilege of joining with great lawyers, like Jay Sekulow, the Chief Counsel, in defending Pro-Life and Religious Freedom cases, all the way through to the Supreme Court. To keep the door open for the Church to do her work. Helping Christians to, like Saint Paul, use their Civil Rights, to appeal in a sense to the new Rome.

Fortunately, the ACLJ continued, and many other Christian groups have taken up this important mission. All of us who bear the name Christian have an obligation to use every opportunity to proclaim the Truth which will set all men and women free and to use everything, including the Courts, when necessary, to keep the doors open for the witness of Christians in this age. I believe we need some of Saint Paul's Holy Boldness in this hour. Do you agree?

2. The Psalmist David affirms the most important truth - for every man and woman in the whole world to hear - in these wonderful words taken from today's responsorial Psalm:

"As the height of heaven is above the earth, so strong is his faithful love for those who fear him.
As the distance of east from west, so far from us does he put our faults."

When the Lord forgives us, he puts our faults away, as far as the East is from the West!

As Catholics, we have a wonderful vehicle through which to experience this forgiveness on the deepest way, the Sacrament of Confession, also called Penance or reconciliation.

In the last chapter of his Autobiography entitled The Man with a Golden Key, one of my favorite writers, GK Chesterton, a Catholic convert, wrote: "When people ask me, or indeed anybody else,

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

"Why did you join the Church of Rome?" the first essential answer, if it is partly an elliptical answer, is, "To get rid of my sins."

"For there is no other religious system that does really profess to get rid of people's sins. It is confirmed by the logic - which to many seems startling - by which the Church deduces that sin confessed and adequately repented is actually abolished; and that the sinner does really begin again as if he had never sinned."

"When a Catholic comes from Confession, he does truly, by definition, step out again into that dawn of his own beginning and look with new eyes across the world to a Crystal Palace that is really of crystal. He believes that in that dim corner, and in that brief ritual, God has really remade him in His own image."

"He is now a new experiment of the Creator. He is as much a new experiment as he was when he was really only five years old. He stands, as I said, in the white light at the worthy beginning of the life of a man. The accumulations of time can no longer terrify. He may be grey and gouty; but he is only five minutes old."

When was the last time you went to confession? The door of freedom is always open.

3. Among the Post-Resurrection accounts of Jesus in the New Testament, this is the one from the Gospel of St John which challenges me the most. It comes at the end and involves an encounter between the Risen Jesus and Peter. We are most familiar with the first part:

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

He then said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." Jesus said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep".

However, it is what follows in this encounter between Peter and the Lord which has come to mean so much to me as I have grown older. I have shared a perspective on this text with many people I care about. Many were passing through difficult times. Others were trying to understand trouble and failure in the Christian life. Jesus continued speaking to Peter,

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

"Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, follow me." (John 21:1-19)

Another translation says, "when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will tie a belt around you and lead you where you do not want to go." It is from this translation that I have derived my often-used expression in my teaching and writing on this passage, the brotherhood of the belt.

As the years have unfolded, this encounter between Peter and the Risen Lord has taken on a deeper meaning for me. Reflecting upon it invites me into an examination of how I respond to the struggle, failure, disappointment, and difficulties which happen in daily life. Let's be honest, we will make wrong choices, we will fall, fail, and face struggles in life. The only question is how we will respond. Will we get up - and allow these experiences to change us? Will we join Peter in this brotherhood of the belt? Will we allow ourselves to be pulled along by the Lord - affirming that He knows what is best?

John's Gospel was the last to be written and reveals the mature reflections of the early Church concerning the deeper meaning of the Incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and teaching of Jesus Christ the Messiah. In his treatment of this post-resurrection appearance of Jesus, he focuses us on Peter for many reasons. The early Fathers of the Church drew beautiful insights from the three questions asked by the Risen Lord, as well as from Peter's three-fold response.

They taught that though this dialogue represented the undoing of his former threefold denial, it was also about much more. It was an affirmation of his specific call to leadership Peter would be given over the Church, the Body of Christ. It was about how he would die a martyr's death. It also shows the real mettle of the man. His response to Jesus becomes our invitation.

The encounter reaches down to the depths of the mystery of human freedom. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church so succinctly expresses "Mortal sin is a radical possibility of human freedom, as is love itself" (CCC #1861) Sin is an abuse of freedom, a wrong choice. Peter's wrong choices were not the end of the story of God's plan for his life.

Peter's denial crippled Peter emotionally and spiritually. He lost his way. That was until he encountered the Risen Christ. There, in that encounter, he allowed the belt of discipleship to be tied around him. It led him through life and pulled him even to death, on a cross, in imitation of the Savior whom he loved.

We will lose our way as well. We will make wrong choices. We will fall. However, what matters most is what we do afterward.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Will we respond to the invitations of grace to get up and begin again? Peter shows us the way into the brotherhood of the belt. By encountering the Risen Lord and letting him pull us forward and toward His loving plan in our own lives.

The only path out of Peter's plight was repentance and then, making a new choice - one rooted in faith and trust rather than fear and failure. The Risen Jesus came and stood in front of Him, gazing upon Him in love, showing Him the way of new life, inviting him into the brotherhood of the belt.

The same Risen Jesus does the same thing for each one of us. Are we ready to be led about by the Lord? To join Peter in the "brotherhood of the belt"?



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 23, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, May 23rd, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

16 On our arrival in Rome Paul was allowed to stay in lodgings of his own with the soldier who guarded him.

17 After three days he called together the leading Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, 'Brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.

18 They examined me and would have set me free, since they found me guilty of nothing involving the death penalty;

19 but the Jews lodged an objection, and I was forced to appeal to Caesar, though not because I had any accusation to make against my own nation.

20 That is why I have urged you to see me and have a discussion with me, for it is on account of the hope of Israel that I wear this chain.'

30 He spent the whole of the two years in his own rented lodging. He welcomed all who came to visit him,

31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ with complete fearlessness and without any hindrance from anyone.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 11:4, 5, 7

4 Yahweh in his holy temple! Yahweh, his throne is in heaven; his eyes watch over the world, his gaze scrutinises the children of Adam.

5 Yahweh examines the upright and the wicked, the lover of violence he detests.

7 For Yahweh is upright and loves uprightness, the honest will ever see his face.

Gospel, John 21:20-25

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them -- the one who had leant back close to his chest at the supper and had said to him, 'Lord, who is it that will betray you?'

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

21 Seeing him, Peter said to Jesus, 'What about him, Lord?'

22 Jesus answered, 'If I want him to stay behind till I come, what does it matter to you? You are to follow me.'

23 The rumour then went out among the brothers that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus had not said to Peter, 'He will not die,' but, 'If I want him to stay behind till I come.'

24 This disciple is the one who vouches for these things and has written them down, and we know that his testimony is true.

25 There was much else that Jesus did; if it were written down in detail, I do not suppose the world itself would hold all the books that would be written.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 23, 2026

1. As the book of the Acts of the Apostles comes to an end, we find the Apostle Paul continuing his passionate preaching and ministry. Here he is in Rome, having appealed to Caesar to have his case heard. He is guarded by a Roman soldier, living in a home which he secured and paid for. Paul was a tentmaker, a profession he often picked back up so he would never be seen as a burden by any of the churches which he visited.

His seemingly boundless energy and fidelity to sharing the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, is a model which every Christian believer should seriously consider and, imitate. Again, this reading is a periscope, an extract from a biblical text. It skips from verse 20 to verse 30. In that section, we read that Paul continually received crowds of people in his rented lodgings on a daily basis.

For example, we read in verses 23-25:

"When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in great numbers. And he expounded the matter to them from morning till evening, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, while others disbelieved..."

What was it that gave Paul, Peter, Barnabas, Stephen, Phillip... and so many others whom we encounter in the Acts of the Apostles such conviction, such power, such perseverance? The Holy Spirit, the very power Jesus promised they would receive. They not only knew ABOUT THE LORD. They KNEW the Lord. They lived their life in Him and let Him live His life through them.

What about us? Do we know ABOUT the Lord? Or do we really KNOW the Lord?

Religious Education - Family Education - Bible

Daily Readings

May 23, 2026

Lesson Plan



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection:

2. The Psalmist David also encountered the Lord and knew Him. In fact, the Psalms are the greatest hymnal, the greatest songbook, ever offered to the People of God. That is why it has informed the formal worship of both the Jewish people, and the Christian Church. Collectively it is called "The Psalter" which means "Praises". Speaking of the Psalms as the Prayer of the Assembly, the Catholic Catechism explains:

"From the time of David to the coming of the Messiah texts appearing in these sacred books show a deepening in prayer for oneself and in prayer for others. Thus, the Psalms were gradually collected into the five books of the Psalter (or "Praises"), the masterwork of prayer in the Old Testament.

"The Psalms both nourished and expressed the prayer of the People of God gathered during the great feasts at Jerusalem and each Sabbath in the synagogues. Their prayer is inseparably personal and communal; it concerns both those who are praying and all men. The Psalms arose from the communities of the Holy Land and the Diaspora but embrace all creation. Their prayer recalls the saving events of the past, yet extends into the future, even to the end of history; it commemorates the promises God has already kept and awaits the Messiah who will fulfill them definitively. Prayed by Christ and fulfilled in him, the Psalms remain essential to the prayer of the Church.

"The Psalter is the book in which The Word of God becomes man's prayer. In other books of the Old Testament, "the words proclaim [God's] works and bring to light the mystery they contain." The words of the Psalmist, sung for God, both express and acclaim the Lord's saving works; the same Spirit inspires both God's work and man's response. Christ will unite the two. In him, the psalms continue to teach us how to pray.

"The Psalter's many forms of prayer take shape both in the liturgy of the Temple and in the human heart. Whether hymns or prayers of lamentation or thanksgiving, whether individual or communal, whether royal chants, songs of pilgrimage or wisdom meditations, the Psalms are a mirror of God's marvelous deeds in the history of his people, as well as reflections of the human experiences of the Psalmist. Though a given psalm may reflect an event of the past, it still possesses such direct simplicity that it can be prayed in truth by men of all times and conditions."

The Catechism continues:

"Certain constant characteristics appear throughout the Psalms: simplicity and spontaneity of prayer; the desire for God himself through and with all that is good in his creation; the distraught situation of the believer who, in his preferential love for the Lord, is exposed to a host of enemies and temptations, but who waits upon what the faithful God will do, in the certitude of his love and in submission to his will. The prayer of the psalms is always sustained by praise; that is why the title of this collection as handed down to us is so fitting: "The Praises."

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Collected for the assembly's worship, the Psalter both sounds the call to prayer and sings the response to that call: Hallelu-Yah! ("Alleluia"), "Praise the Lord!"

Finally, quoting St Ambrose, the Catechism offers us this powerful insight:

"What is more pleasing than a psalm? David expresses it well: "Praise the Lord, for a psalm is good: let there be praise of our God with gladness and grace!" Yes, a psalm is a blessing on the lips of the people, praise of God, the assembly's homage, a general acclamation, a word that speaks for all, the voice of the Church, a confession of faith in song".

(CCC# 2585-2589)

Faithful Jews and the early Christians committed the Psalter to memory. For two millennia the Church has used the Psalter as the framework for its Liturgy of the Hours, its formal prayer. Do we read the Psalms? Do we pray the Psalms?

3. The Beloved disciple, John the Apostle, wrote his Gospel last. It reflects the maturation of the understanding of who Jesus was and is - and what His message really means. It is the most profound of the four gospels theologically and it is assembled in a very different manner than the other three Gospels. Collectively, the other three are called the "Synoptic Gospels", from a word which means similar. The Gospel of John is quite unique.

Throughout the whole of John's account, He is teaching the deeper understanding of the Paschal Mystery, a phrase which means the entirety of the conception, birth, saving life, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even the miracles John selects to recount, and the manner in which he recounts them, was deliberate and theological. They were presented as "signs" of the Kingdom of God breaking through in History through Jesus Christ.

The last sentence of the last chapter of the last Gospel reads as follows:

"There was much else that Jesus did;
if it were written down in detail, I do not suppose the world itself would hold all the books that would be written."

John explains in the chapter right before this one:

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name."

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

We should regularly and prayerfully read this beautiful Gospel. It has inspired and led men and women throughout the history of the Church into a deep and transformational relationship with the Risen Lord. Do we want that kind of relationship? If we do, as the young St. Augustine heard the Lord say: "take up and read."



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 24, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, May 24th, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 2:1-11

1 When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together,

2 when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting;

3 and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.

4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.

5 Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven,

6 and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.

7 They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely,' they said, 'all these men speaking are Galileans?

8 How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?

9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome-

11 Jews and proselytes alike -- Cretans and Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

1 Bless Yahweh, my soul, Yahweh, my God, how great you are! Clothed in majesty and splendour,

24 How countless are your works, Yahweh, all of them made so wisely! The earth is full of your creatures.

29 Turn away your face and they panic; take back their breath and they die and revert to dust.

30 Send out your breath and life begins; you renew the face of the earth.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

31 Glory to Yahweh for ever! May Yahweh find joy in his creatures!

34 May my musings be pleasing to him, for Yahweh gives me joy.

Reading 2, First Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

3 Because of that, I want to make it quite clear to you that no one who says 'A curse on Jesus' can be speaking in the Spirit of God, and nobody is able to say, 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit.

4 There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit;

5 there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord.

6 There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all.

7 The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good.

12 For as with the human body which is a unity although it has many parts -- all the parts of the body, though many, still making up one single body -- so it is with Christ.

13 We were baptised into one body in a single Spirit, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as free men, and we were all given the same Spirit to drink.

Gospel, John 20:19-23

19 In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,'

20 and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord,

21 and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

22 After saying this he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 24, 2026

1. On Pentecost, the early followers of Jesus gathered as their Lord had instructed them, expecting the fulfillment of the promise he had made to send the Holy Spirit. We refer to Pentecost as the birthday of the missionary church for a good reason. Their encounter with the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room changed them. The Holy Spirit capacitated the early followers of Jesus to go from being a frightened fraternity to a band of brothers and sisters of whom it was said "they turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6)

In the encounter with the Holy Spirit, they manifested "charisma", a Greek word that simply means "gifts of grace". One of these gifts, the gift of tongues. Another, the gift of prophecy. They were empowered to carry forward in time the ongoing mission of Jesus Christ until he returns to complete the work of redemption. Every year, this celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost is an invitation to each one of us to have the very same encounter.

The Second Vatican Council in the Catholic Church began with a prayer for a New Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost and continues to be poured out on, in, and through the Church, for the sake of her mission in the world. Pentecost was and is the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church and the source of her power for mission.

We need to pray for a New Pentecost for the Church in this hour! We need more of the Holy Spirit for the New Evangelization of the Church - so that a renewed Church can engage in the missionary task of the Third Christian Millennium. We each need to be Baptized afresh in the Holy Spirit in order to take up our role as a member of the Body of Christ in this new missionary age. The whole Catholic Church needs to rise up in this hour, clothed with the same power with which she transformed the world of the first centuries. We, through our Baptism, are now members of that Church. We need to ask the Lord to Baptize us afresh with the Holy Spirit and send us on mission.

2. The gifts of the Holy Spirit were clearly manifested in the early churches. That includes the "charismatic" gifts, such as the gift of tongues and prophecy. In addition, as the church spread, the miracles of Jesus, including healing and deliverance from evil, continued, at the hands of the Apostles. They were signs of the Kingdom. Jesus promised that would happen, and it did happen.

In our second reading, we heard a portion of the Apostle Paul having to correct some abuses of the use of the "charismatic" gifts in the Assembly. He offers a vital principle which is still taught by the Church - all spiritual gifts are given for the "common good" of the Body of Christ. To build up the Church.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

There was some disordered and disruptive use of these gifts occurring in the Church at Corinth. Also, Paul taught, and the Church still teaches, that the greatest gift of all, and the only one that will endure eternally, is the gift of Love.

Often, I am asked whether I still believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available for ordinary Christians? Yes. In fact, they are emphasized in the catechesis, the teaching given in preparing young men and women for the Sacrament of Confirmation, called Chrismation in Eastern Christianity, both Catholic and Orthodox. But we emphasize two sets of spiritual gifts. The gifts set forth in the Prophet Isaiah, of which the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, "The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. (Is. 11:1-2) They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations."

And, additionally, what are called the charismatic gifts, which the same Catholic Catechism explains with great insight and lived maturity in a section entitled "the Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit" which should be read by every who wants to grow in understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit.

This excellent teaching source is full of the biblical texts, quotes from the early fathers of the Church (what is meant by patristic sources) and good, solid teaching from the centuries of the history of the Church. It reflects on these gifts and their role in the life of a Christian, as well as the mission of the whole Body of Christ. (See, Catholic Catechism #797-801)

In its section on the Charisms, we read:

"Whether extraordinary or simple and humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men, and to the needs of the world.

"Charisms are to be accepted with gratitude by the person who receives them and by all members of the Church as well. They are a wonderfully rich grace for the apostolic vitality and for the holiness of the entire Body of Christ, provided they really are genuine gifts of the Holy Spirit and are used in full conformity with authentic promptings of this same Spirit, that is, in keeping with charity, the true measure of all charisms.

"It is in this sense that discernment of charisms is always necessary. No charism is exempt from being referred and submitted to the Church's shepherds. "Their office [is] not indeed to extinguish the Spirit, but to test all things and hold fast to what is good," so that all the diverse and complementary charisms work together "for the common good."



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Do we ask the Holy Spirit to give us spiritual gifts in order to serve the work of the Church? We should.

3. In the Gospel text appointed for today's Feast of Pentecost, we are given John's account of a post resurrection appearance of Jesus. He shows them his glorified wounds. He then commissions them to continue His Mission and go into the whole world.

Then, he confers the Holy Spirit on them by breathing on the Apostles and saying "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." The Church continues the mission of Jesus by forgiving sins and bringing men and women, through the waters of Baptism, into new life in Christ Jesus. The Sacraments are the continuing ministry of Jesus the Head, administered through the Body.

Once again, this deep insight set forth in the Fourth Gospel reflects the deeply theological nature of John's Gospel. The image of the Holy Spirit as the Breath of God, the life of God, hearkens all the way back to the creation of our first parents. In the creation account in the second chapter of the Book of Genesis, the first Book of the Bible, we read these words, "the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7)

The Catholic Catechism explains:

"The One whom the Father has sent into our hearts, the Spirit of his Son, is truly God. Consubstantial with the Father and the Son, the Spirit is inseparable from them, in both the inner life of the Trinity and his gift of love for the world. In adoring the Holy Trinity, life-giving, consubstantial, and indivisible, the Church's faith also professes the distinction of persons. When the Father sends his Word, he always sends his Breath. In their joint mission, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable. To be sure, it is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Spirit who reveals him. "

(CCC #689)

the names given to the Holy Spirit and the symbols which reveal the actions of the Holy Spirit. Further opening the beautiful use of the word "breath" in John's Gospel the Catechism says:

"Holy Spirit" is the proper name of the one whom we adore and glorify with the Father and the Son. The Church has received this name from the Lord and professes it in the Baptism of her new children.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

"The term "Spirit" translates the Hebrew word "ruah", which, in its primary sense, means breath, air, wind. Jesus indeed uses the sensory image of the wind to suggest to Nicodemus the transcendent newness of him who is personally God's breath, the divine Spirit. On the other hand, "Spirit" and "Holy" are divine attributes common to the three divine persons. By joining the two terms, Scripture, liturgy, and theological language designate the inexpressible person of the Holy Spirit, without any possible equivocation with other uses of the terms "spirit" and "holy."

Breath is the symbol of life. The Life of God is breathed into us by the Holy Spirit! Let us regularly ask the Holy Spirit to resuscitate us and breathe afresh the very life of God into us - and into the whole Church.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 25, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Monday, May 25th, 2026

Reading 1, First Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

4 and into a heritage that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you

5 who are being kept safe by God's power through faith until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the final point of time.

6 This is a great joy to you, even though for a short time yet you must bear all sorts of trials;

7 so that the worth of your faith, more valuable than gold, which is perishable even if it has been tested by fire, may be proved -- to your praise and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8 You have not seen him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him you believe in him and so are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described;

9 and you are sure of the goal of your faith, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10

1 Alleluia! I give thanks to Yahweh with all my heart, in the meeting-place of honest people, in the assembly.

2 Great are the deeds of Yahweh, to be pondered by all who delight in them.

5 He gives food to those who fear him, he keeps his covenant ever in mind.

6 His works show his people his power in giving them the birthright of the nations.

9 Deliverance he sends to his people, his covenant he imposes for ever; holy and awesome his name.

10 The root of wisdom is fear of Yahweh; those who attain it are wise. His praise will continue for ever.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Mark 10:17-27

17 He was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

18 Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.'

19 You know the commandments: You shall not kill; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not give false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'

20 And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these since my earliest days.'

21 Jesus looked steadily at him and he was filled with love for him, and he said, 'You need to do one thing more. Go and sell what you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'

22 But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

23 Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!'

24 The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!'

25 It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the kingdom of God.'

26 They were more astonished than ever, saying to one another, 'In that case, who can be saved?'

27 Jesus gazed at them and said, 'By human resources it is impossible, but not for God: because for God everything is possible.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 25, 2026

1. In the first reading, Saint Peter speaks of trials, so that our faith having been tested may be proven. Does this passage help you to look at the trials in your life in a new way? How can trials become productive? How can our persevering through them contribute to our progress in the Christian life and help us in our journey to Heaven? Through faith. Faith is like a muscle. It grows when it is used. It atrophies when it is not used. We are called to walk by faith and not sight. (2 Cor. 5:7) How are we doing?
2. Our Responsorial Psalm tells us one of the ways we can grow in faith. By regularly giving thanks and praise to the Lord. By recounting the great things he has done for us and thanking Him. Do we do this?
3. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark both describe an encounter between Jesus and a wealthy young man.

This young man had followed the commandments since his youth, but Jesus told him it was not enough. He instructed the young man to give up his possessions and follow Him. We read that the man refused and went away sad because his possessions possessed him.

Consider these sobering words which follow this encounter:

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again, I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, 'Who then can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.' (Matthew 19, Mark 10).

The problem this young man faced was not his wealth. It was his heart. He made his possessions the center of his life, rather than the Lord. His possessions possessed him. The Gospel speaks about 'getting into Heaven' being difficult. How can keep your eyes on Heavenly treasures more and on Earthly treasures less? By keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 26, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Tuesday, May 26th, 2026

Reading 1, First Peter 1:10-16

10 This salvation was the subject of the search and investigation of the prophets who spoke of the grace you were to receive,

11 searching out the time and circumstances for which the Spirit of Christ, bearing witness in them, was revealing the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow them.

12 It was revealed to them that it was for your sake and not their own that they were acting as servants delivering the message which has now been announced to you by those who preached to you the gospel through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even the angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.

13 Your minds, then, must be sober and ready for action; put all your hope in the grace brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

14 Do not allow yourselves to be shaped by the passions of your old ignorance,

15 but as obedient children, be yourselves holy in all your activity, after the model of the Holy One who calls us,

16 since scripture says, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 [Psalm] Sing a new song to Yahweh, for he has performed wonders, his saving power is in his right hand and his holy arm.

2 Yahweh has made known his saving power, revealed his saving justice for the nations to see,

3 mindful of his faithful love and his constancy to the House of Israel. The whole wide world has seen the saving power of our God.

4 Acclaim Yahweh, all the earth, burst into shouts of joy!



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Mark 10:28-31

28 Peter took this up. 'Look,' he said to him, 'we have left everything and followed you.'

29 Jesus said, 'In truth I tell you, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel

30 who will not receive a hundred times as much, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land -- and persecutions too -- now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.

31 Many who are first will be last, and the last, first.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 26, 2026

1. Our first reading for today's Holy Mass is an excerpt from the first letter of the Apostle Peter to the "exiles of the dispersion" (1 Peter 1: 1b). This letter (also called an epistle) is one of the "catholic Epistles) named after its author. That is because it was addressed to Christians in many of the early churches.

The early Church had already come under horrid persecution. As a result, many Christians were "dispersed". The Apostle is writing to encourage them. He does so by reminding them that this kind of treatment is a part of following the Lord. By the way, it still is.

The Apostle seeks to give them hope by reminding them that their faith is precious, and it is being tried so it may grow even stronger. In these particular verses, the Apostle encouraged the faithful to "...gird up the loins of their mind, live soberly, and set your hopes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

We live in an age which is increasingly persecuting faithful Catholics and other Christians. In some cases, like in the West, it has not yet meant the shedding of blood. It is often called a "soft" persecution. But, in other places it has led to the shedding of blood.

We need to hear these words from St Peter and learn from our brethren in the early Church. How are we facing the growing hostility in the cultures in which we live? How do we deal with people opposing us with hostility because we stand for the truth of the Gospel and the teaching of the Church?

2. David the Psalmist, in Psalm 98, our Responsorial Psalm or canticle, reminds us that we "sing to the Lord a New Song..." - when we praise Him continually for all of His wondrous deeds. We not only honor Him, we lift our own spirits toward heaven and we are set free by doing so.

Praise is a powerful weapon against despair. It is a powerful weapon against the devil who seeks to discourage us. How often do we praise God? Have we done so today?

3. I have a dear friend, a Melkite Catholic Bishop. I haven't seen him in many years. But he used to tell me, in his heavy Lebanese accent, "Deacon, there are two types of people in this world, those who wake up in the morning and say "Good Morning Lord!", and those who wake up in the morning and say "Good Lord, Its Morning".

Let's choose the way of gratitude.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

In the Gospel appointed for today's Holy Mass, after Jesus had encountered the rich young man and told him to "give away all of his possessions and follow Him". And, after Jesus had told those listening, "How hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God", Peter said to Jesus "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus tells him "... everyone who gives up everything will receive more, in this life and in the life to come."

Once again, Jesus is speaking to the heart. The Rich young man went away sad, not because he had possessions, but because they had him. When we put possessions, or even our natural and good family relations before the Lord, our hearts are not given over completely to the Lord and His Kingdom. We were made for the Lord and, in the words of St Augustine "Our hearts are restless, until they rest in Him"

How are we doing? What is first in our lives?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 27, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Wednesday, May 27th, 2026

Reading 1, First Peter 1:18-25

18 For you know that the price of your ransom from the futile way of life handed down from your ancestors was paid, not in anything perishable like silver or gold,

19 but in precious blood as of a blameless and spotless lamb, Christ.

20 He was marked out before the world was made, and was revealed at the final point of time for your sake.

21 Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for this very purpose -- that your faith and hope should be in God.

22 Since by your obedience to the truth you have purified yourselves so that you can experience the genuine love of brothers, love each other intensely from the heart;

23 for your new birth was not from any perishable seed but from imperishable seed, the living and enduring Word of God.

24 For all humanity is grass, and all its beauty like the wild flower's. As grass withers, the flower fades,

25 but the Word of the Lord remains for ever. And this Word is the Good News that has been brought to you.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

12 Praise Yahweh, Jerusalem, Zion, praise your God.

13 For he gives strength to the bars of your gates, he blesses your children within you,

14 he maintains the peace of your frontiers, gives you your fill of finest wheat.

15 He sends his word to the earth, his command runs quickly,

19 He reveals his word to Jacob, his statutes and judgements to Israel.

20 For no other nation has he done this, no other has known his judgements.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Mark 10:32-45

32 They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem; Jesus was walking on ahead of them; they were in a daze, and those who followed were apprehensive. Once more taking the Twelve aside he began to tell them what was going to happen to him,

33 'Now we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man is about to be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the gentiles,

34 who will mock him and spit at him and scourge him and put him to death; and after three days he will rise again.'

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him. 'Master,' they said to him, 'We want you to do us a favour.'

36 He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?'

37 They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.'

38 But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I shall drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I shall be baptised?'

39 They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I shall drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I shall be baptised you shall be baptised,

40 but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

41 When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John,

42 so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the gentiles those they call their rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt.

43 Among you this is not to happen. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant,

44 and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all.

45 For the Son of man himself came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 27, 2026

1. In our first reading, St. Peter reminds us that we have been ransomed from death by the precious blood of Christ, the innocent Son of God made man, the spotless lamb offered on the cross for our salvation.

Peter tells us that through faith in Christ, our hope now lies in God. But what is that hope, exactly? It is hope in the promises of Christ, which include the resurrection of our bodies from the dead, everlasting life, and heaven as our happiness. This hope, which we call the virtue of hope, is a gift that God himself infuses into our soul through repentance, faith in Christ, prayer, and the sacrament of baptism. It is this hope that keeps us from discouragement and directs our focus to the kingdom of God.

How strong is your hope?

2. Our responsorial Psalm calls us to praise the Lord, who first revealed himself to his chosen people, the people Israel. The Psalmist tells us that God sent his word to the earth and he has revealed his judgments.

When we think of the Lord sending his word to the earth, we recall that the eternal Word, the Son of God, became man in the Virgin Mary's womb and was born into the little village of Bethlehem. Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh and the fullness of revealed truth, for he is the perfect image of God the Father. We must be obedient to the commands of Christ, live our life in him, and walk in his ways.

3. In today's gospel, Jesus takes his disciples aside and gives them shocking news: the gentiles will torture him and put him to death. But after three days, he will rise again from the dead.

It is in this context that James and John ask Jesus to allow them to sit at his right and left in his kingdom of glory. Jesus addresses their bold request by pointing out that they fail to understand what they are asking. Are they prepared to follow Jesus? Do they understand the suffering it will require? Do they truly grasp the fact that Jesus came to offer up his life as a ransom for all?

The other disciples began to feel indignant with James and John. Perhaps they thought these two brothers wanted to rule over everyone, including them! Jesus then reminds them that those who enter the kingdom of heaven do not do so as earthly rulers who lord themselves over others as the Gentiles do. Those who desire true greatness must take a different path, which is one of service and sacrifice to others.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Jesus tells them, "Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of man himself came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The message here for us is this: If we desire to follow Jesus and be called great, we too must offer up our lives in service to others. We must love Christ and we must love others in Christ. The point is, our perspective on life must be based on the life and mission of Christ, not on worldly standards.

Is this your perspective?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 28, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Thursday, May 28th, 2026

Reading 1, First Peter 2: 2-5, 9-12

2 Like new-born babies all your longing should be for milk -- the unadulterated spiritual milk -- which will help you to grow up to salvation,

3 at any rate if you have tasted that the Lord is good .

4 He is the living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him

5 so that you, too, may be living stones making a spiritual house as a holy priesthood to offer the spiritual sacrifices made acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

9 But you are a chosen race, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, a people to be a personal possession to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were a non-people and now you are the People of God; once you were outside his pity; now you have received pity.

11 I urge you, my dear friends, as strangers and nomads, to keep yourselves free from the disordered natural inclinations that attack the soul.

12 Always behave honourably among gentiles so that they can see for themselves what moral lives you lead, and when the day of reckoning comes, give thanks to God for the things which now make them denounce you as criminals.

Responsorial Psalms, Psalm 100: 2, 3, 4, 5

2 serve Yahweh with gladness, come into his presence with songs of joy!

3 Be sure that Yahweh is God, he made us, we belong to him, his people, the flock of his sheepfold.

4 Come within his gates giving thanks, to his courts singing praise, give thanks to him and bless his name!

5 For Yahweh is good, his faithful love is everlasting, his constancy from age to age.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Mark 10:46-52

46 They reached Jericho; and as he left Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus -- that is, the son of Timaeus -- a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road.

47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and cry out, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.'

48 And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.'

49 Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man over. 'Courage,' they said, 'get up; he is calling you.'

50 So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus.

51 Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'Rabbuni, let me see again.'

52 Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And at once his sight returned and he followed him along the road.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 28, 2026

1. In our first reading Peter urges us to long for pure spiritual milk, that we may grow into salvation. In other words, we must long to receive, abide by, and live the life of Christ. This entails living a life of virtue and holiness and persevering in the faith, that we may attain spiritual maturity.

Peter admonishes us to keep away from worldly desires. As attractive as these things may be, they wage war against the soul and are thus incompatible with life in the kingdom of heaven. Live the gospel life and walk in fellowship with Christ.

Is that your life?

2. Our responsorial psalm urges us to take joy in the Lord. For it is the Lord who made us, fashioning us for a very great purpose: to share in his own blessed life. We must live as his people, as the flock he tends, for he is our God. Finally, the Lord is good and his plan for us is indeed the very best plan. We should therefore place ourselves in the hands of our loving God, for he is faithful forever.

How strong is your trust in God?

3. In our gospel reading, the blind man Bartimaeus sits by the roadside, distressed, and calls out, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." Hearing this, the disciples rebuke him. Apparently they think he's being obnoxious and bothering Jesus. Nevertheless, he calls out all the more until Jesus notices him and tells his disciples to bring him over to see him.

The disciples go to Bartimaeus and tell him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He then throws his cloak aside, springs up, and goes to Jesus.

There are several important points we can learn from this exchange. First, just as Jesus called Bartimaeus, he calls each and every one of us. At this very moment, he calls you. What is your response? Will you spring up, set what is unimportant in your life aside, and rush to meet Jesus? On the other hand, is your response indifferent or sluggish?

Notice also that Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants him to do. This is immensely important to understand: our Lord does not impose himself on anyone. If we truly desire him, he will give himself to us. If we desire other things, he will let us have our own way. What do you want Jesus to do for you?



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Bartimaeus asks Jesus to heal him, saying, “Master, I want to see.” Of course, we all desire physical healing if we’re suffering from an illness or an injury. And there’s nothing wrong with that. But what is most important? Physical healing or life with Christ?

Jesus then responds to Bartimaeus in a way that gets to the heart of the matter, saying: “Go on your way; your faith has saved you.” Mark tells us that Bartimaeus received his sight and followed Jesus.

Faith in Christ saves. Set your sights on what is most important in life: Jesus is calling you. Rush to him and cling to him in faith that you may be saved. Then, follow him in his way, setting aside your own ways.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 29, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Friday, May 29th, 2026

Reading 1, First Peter 4:7-13

7 The end of all things is near, so keep your minds calm and sober for prayer.

8 Above all preserve an intense love for each other, since love covers over many a sin.

9 Welcome each other into your houses without grumbling.

10 Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it at the service of others.

11 If anyone is a speaker, let it be as the words of God, if anyone serves, let it be as in strength granted by God; so that in everything God may receive the glory, through Jesus Christ, since to him alone belong all glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

12 My dear friends, do not be taken aback at the testing by fire which is taking place among you, as though something strange were happening to you;

13 but in so far as you share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, so that you may enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 96:10, 11-12, 13

10 Say among the nations, 'Yahweh is king.' The world is set firm, it cannot be moved. He will judge the nations with justice.

11 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad! Let the sea thunder, and all it holds!

12 Let the countryside exult, and all that is in it, and all the trees of the forest cry out for joy,

13 at Yahweh's approach, for he is coming, coming to judge the earth; he will judge the world with saving justice, and the nations with constancy.

Gospel, Mark 11:11-26

11 He entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple; and when he had surveyed it all, as it was late by now, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

12 Next day as they were leaving Bethany, he felt hungry.

13 Seeing a fig tree in leaf some distance away, he went to see if he could find any fruit on it, but when he came up to it he found nothing but leaves; for it was not the season for figs.

14 And he addressed the fig tree, 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again.' And his disciples heard him say this.

15 So they reached Jerusalem and he went into the Temple and began driving out the men selling and buying there; he upset the tables of the money changers and the seats of the dove sellers.

16 Nor would he allow anyone to carry anything through the Temple.

17 And he taught them and said, 'Does not scripture say: My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples? But you have turned it into a bandits' den.'

18 This came to the ears of the chief priests and the scribes, and they tried to find some way of doing away with him; they were afraid of him because the people were carried away by his teaching.

19 And when evening came he went out of the city.

20 Next morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered to the roots.

21 Peter remembered. 'Look, Rabbi,' he said to Jesus, 'the fig tree that you cursed has withered away.'

22 Jesus answered, 'Have faith in God.

23 In truth I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, "Be pulled up and thrown into the sea," with no doubt in his heart, but believing that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.

24 I tell you, therefore, everything you ask and pray for, believe that you have it already, and it will be yours.

25 And when you stand in prayer, forgive whatever you have against anybody, so your Father in heaven may forgive your failings too.'

26 * [11:26] This verse, which reads, "But if you do not forgive, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your transgressions," is omitted in the best manuscripts. It was probably added by copyists under the influence of Mt 6:15. (USCCB)



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 29, 2026

1. In the first reading from the First Letter of St. Peter, the Apostle reminds the early Christians that “the end of all things is near.” These words were not meant to create fear, but to encourage believers to live every moment with purpose, prayer, and love. St. Peter urges them to remain calm and sober in mind so they may pray well, and above all to maintain a deep and sincere love for one another.

Love, he tells us, “covers a multitude of sins.” When we forgive, serve others generously, and use the gifts God has given us for the good of others, we become faithful stewards of God’s grace. Even our trials and sufferings can become a participation in the sufferings of Christ when they are united to Him in faith.

Every Christian has been given particular gifts and graces meant to build up the Body of Christ. The question is not whether we have received them, but whether we are using them.

Are we living our lives with prayerful awareness of God’s presence? Are we using the gifts God has given us to serve others and bring glory to Him?

2. In today’s Responsorial Psalm, the psalmist proclaims that “The Lord is king.” Because God reigns with justice and truth, all creation is invited to rejoice. The heavens, the earth, the sea, the fields, and even the trees are described as praising the Lord in joyful anticipation of His coming.

This beautiful image reminds us that all creation points to the glory of God. The world itself bears witness to His justice, His order, and His loving care. Yet this Psalm also reminds us that the Lord will come to judge the world. For those who trust in Him, that judgment is not something to fear, but something to welcome, because His judgment is rooted in truth and saving justice.

When we recognize that God truly reigns over all creation and over our lives, fear begins to lose its power over us. Instead, we learn to live with hope, confidence, and trust in His providence.

Do we recognize God as the true King of our lives? Do we trust in His justice and rejoice in His presence in the world around us?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

3. In the Gospel, Jesus performs two dramatic actions that reveal an important spiritual lesson. First, He curses the fig tree that has many leaves but no fruit. Then He enters the Temple and drives out those who had turned God's house into a place of commerce and corruption. Both actions point to the same message: God desires authentic faith, not empty appearances.

The fig tree looked healthy and full of life, but it produced no fruit. In the same way, a life that appears religious on the outside but lacks true faith, prayer, and love cannot fulfill its purpose. Jesus reminds His disciples that the Temple is meant to be a "house of prayer for all nations," and He calls His followers to a deeper and more sincere relationship with God.

Jesus then teaches about the power of faith and prayer. When we pray with true trust in God, believing in His power and goodness, our hearts are transformed. But He also reminds us that forgiveness is essential. We cannot approach God in prayer while holding resentment or bitterness toward others.

Is our faith producing real spiritual fruit in our lives? Do we approach God in prayer with trust and a willingness to forgive others as He has forgiven us?



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 30, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Saturday, May 30th, 2026

Reading 1, Jude 1:17, 20-25

17 But remember, my dear friends, what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

20 But you, my dear friends, must build yourselves up on the foundation of your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit;

21 keep yourselves within the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you eternal life.

22 To some you must be compassionate because they are wavering;

23 others you must save by snatching them from the fire; to others again you must be compassionate but wary, hating even the tunic stained by their bodies.

24 To him who can keep you from falling and bring you safe to his glorious presence, innocent and joyful,

25 to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, authority and power, before all ages, now and for ever. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6

2 Thus I have gazed on you in the sanctuary, seeing your power and your glory.

3 Better your faithful love than life itself; my lips will praise you.

4 Thus I will bless you all my life, in your name lift up my hands.

5 All my longings fulfilled as with fat and rich foods, a song of joy on my lips and praise in my mouth.

6 On my bed when I think of you, I muse on you in the watches of the night,



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Gospel, Mark 11:27-33

27 They came to Jerusalem again, and as Jesus was walking in the Temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him,

28 and they said to him, 'What authority have you for acting like this? Or who gave you authority to act like this?'

29 Jesus said to them, 'And I will ask you a question, just one; answer me and I will tell you my authority for acting like this.

30 John's baptism, what was its origin, heavenly or human? Answer me that.'

31 And they argued this way among themselves, 'If we say heavenly, he will say, "Then why did you refuse to believe him?"'

32 But dare we say human?' -- they had the people to fear, for everyone held that John had been a real prophet.

33 So their reply to Jesus was, 'We do not know.' And Jesus said to them, 'Nor will I tell you my authority for acting like this.'



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 30, 2026

1. Our first reading is from Jude, chapter 17. The author of Jude is commonly understood to be the brother of James. Jude urges us to remain in friendship with God and wait patiently for Jesus Christ to give us eternal life. The key to doing this is first of all to nourish our faith in Christ by living the Catholic life to its fullest. In combination with that, we must repent of sin, live virtuously, and keep the commandments of God.

Jude's letter is addressed to a Christian community threatened by false teachers. We see a hint of this in Jude's exhortation to be compassionate toward those who are wavering in their faith, but also to be wary of others. These are false teachers who have inserted themselves into the Christian community. Jude points out that we have a duty to speak the truth and apply fraternal correction when necessary, to "snatch" from the fire those who have placed themselves in peril.

2. In our responsorial psalm, the focus is on developing a thirst for God. The Psalmist proclaims: "On my bed when I think of you, I muse on you in the watches of the night."

Developing a thirst for God is largely a matter of frequently thinking about God and giving him praise for his love, glory, goodness, and truth. Striving for a life of constant and unceasing prayer is key to this endeavor.

It's helpful to speak to Jesus as often as possible throughout the day. You might simply say in the silence of your heart, "Jesus, I love you. Have mercy on me and remain with me."

3. In our gospel from Mark, we see a clash between the Jewish leaders and Jesus. These leaders, as they so often did, challenged the authority of Jesus, and wanted to know where his authority comes from.

Interestingly, Jesus offered to give them a straight answer, provided that they were also honest with him. However, they were ultimately dishonest in their reply to Jesus. They would not admit to their real motives, nor would they put away their closeminded, stubborn attitude.

There's a lesson in this for all of us. Do we really accept Jesus' authority? Is he truly the Lord of our life, or, on the other hand, do we cling to our own presuppositions, desires, and wishes?

At the same time, do we accept the authority of the Church, or, on the other hand, do we find excuses to dismiss it because we prefer our own views, attitudes, or immoral behavior?

If we desire to truly know Christ, we must be honest about our stubborn or rebellious tendencies. Then, we must subject ourselves completely to his authority in every facet of our lives. This includes conforming our lives to his teaching, which is articulated by the Magisterium of the Church.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading and Questions for Reflection

May 31, 2026



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Daily Reading for Sunday, May 31st, 2026

Reading 1, Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

4 So he cut two tablets of stone like the first and, with the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up Mount Sinai in the early morning as Yahweh had ordered.

5 And Yahweh descended in a cloud and stood with him there and pronounced the name Yahweh.

6 Then Yahweh passed before him and called out, 'Yahweh, Yahweh, God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in faithful love and constancy,

8 Moses immediately bowed to the ground in worship,

9 then he said, 'If indeed I do enjoy your favour, please, my Lord, come with us, although they are an obstinate people; and forgive our faults and sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

52 May you be blessed, Lord, God of our ancestors, be praised and extolled for ever. Blessed be your glorious and holy name, praised and extolled for ever.

53 May you be blessed in the Temple of your sacred glory, exalted and glorified above all for ever:

54 blessed on the throne of your kingdom, exalted above all, glorified for ever:

55 blessed are you who fathom the abyss, enthroned on the winged creatures, praised and exalted above all for ever:

56 blessed in the expanse of the heavens, exalted and glorified for ever.

Reading 2, Second Corinthians 13:11-13

11 To end then, brothers, we wish you joy; try to grow perfect; encourage one another; have a common mind and live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with the holy kiss. All God's holy people send you their greetings.



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Gospel, John 3:16-18

16 For this is how God loved the world: he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 For God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

18 No one who believes in him will be judged; but whoever does not believe is judged already, because that person does not believe in the Name of God's only Son.



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

Questions for Reflection for May 31, 2026

1. This is Trinity Sunday. The Holy Trinity, the Catechism affirms, is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.

"The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith". The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men "and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin" (Par 234)

In our first reading from the 34th chapter of the Book of Exodus, we hear of the Lords revealing Himself to Moses as tender and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in faithful love.

The context helps. The Lord had already given the ten words, the ten commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. But, when he came down from the encounter, he found the people of Israel worshipping a golden calf, an idol. In his anger, Moses smashed the tablets. Now, he is again before the Lord, seeking forgiveness, for himself, yes, but also for the people. And the Lord reveals Himself as full of mercy. He also gives them to Moses on two new tablets, giving the people another chance. Do we believe that God is rich in compassion? He is. He simply asks us to repent and turn to Him.

2. The Psalm Response is taken from the Book of Daniel, a wonderful hymn of praise sung by the three young men who refused to worship the Golden Image King Nebuchadnezzar commanded them to worship and were thrown into the furnace. There, they sang songs of worship to the Lord. And, they were spared, even winning the pagan King to acknowledge the true God whom they worshipped.

And, in our second reading, the Apostle Paul, getting ready to leave Corinth, implores the Christians there "grow perfect", by staying faithful, living in fidelity to the Gospel, supporting one another. And making right choices. What choices are we making in our own lives? Are we worshipping the true God, or are there idols which have taken His place?

3. And, in our Gospel, taken from St John, we read the words of Jesus spoken to Nicodemus "For this is how God loved the world: he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be judged; but whoever does not believe is judged already, because that person does not believe in the Name of God's only Son."



Catholic Online School
catholiconline.school
customerservice@catholiconline.school

Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

In Jesus Christ, The Father is revealed, and the Spirit is revealed because, the Father, Son and Spirit, are one.

God fully revealed His compassion and Mercy in and through His Son, Jesus Christ, who was sent not to condemn but to save, and give new life and the fullness of salvation to all who turn to Him, repent of sin, and follow Him. That message is spoken to you and me, today. How will we respond?



Catholic Online School

catholiconline.school

customerservice@catholiconline.school