

# Dear Padre,

*I have one daughter and a grandchild who say they are bisexual and very much into the LGBTQ lifestyle, where they feel like they belong. I do not know how to handle all of this. They left the Catholic faith years ago. I do not believe they are atheists. Please help.*

You are not alone in your struggle to know how to “handle all of this.” It’s hard for parents when their children choose a different lifestyle.

Try not to confuse gender expression with faith. Try not to confuse sexual orientation with faith. Just because a person is attracted to someone of the same sex does not mean they are not a person of faith. They may believe in God and even worship God in their own way. It sounds like your daughter and grandchild are honest with you. If they are willing, perhaps talking with them about how they experience God in their lives would be a fruitful conversation.

Whatever you do, the best practice is to love. Love your daughter and grandchild. When they express to you what they believe to be true about themselves, they are not asking for your permission. They are entrusting you with what they believe they have learned about themselves. Perhaps that very openness with you is a lesson that you taught them and a sign that they want to share with you what is important to them. ●

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org**



ANGALOSIBRAM / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*We live in a time that rewards self-sufficiency, efficiency, performance. And yet, the gospel shows us that the measure of our humanity is*

*not given by what we can achieve, but by our ability to let ourselves be loved and, when necessary, even helped. Jesus saves us by showing us that*

*asking is not unworthy, but liberating.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025



SHUTTERSTOCK

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

### Monday

May 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:5–18

Jn 14:21–26

### Tuesday

May 5

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:19–28

Jn 14:27–31a

### Wednesday

May 6

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:1–6

Jn 15:1–8

### Thursday

May 7

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:7–21

Jn 15:9–11

### Friday

May 8

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:22–31

Jn 15:12–17

### Saturday

May 9

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1–10

Jn 15:18–21

### Sunday

May 10

Sixth Sunday of

Easter

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17

1 Pt 3:15–18

Jn 14:15–21

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 6:1–7 / 1 Peter 2:4–9 / John 14:1–12



## Enough?

ANN M. GARRIDO

**W**hen I was a child, my parents taught me to pray with my hands pressed together, fingers pointed upward toward God. But somewhere along the way, I learned a different posture for prayer: seated, with my palms facing upward on my lap. It’s a gesture of openness—an acknowledgment that I come before God in humble need, ready to receive whatever he wants to give.

In today’s gospel, Philip approaches Jesus in a similar stance of openness. “Show us the Father,” he says, “and that will be enough for us” (John 14:8). Jesus responds that Philip has already seen the Father because Jesus’ words and actions are the Father’s words and actions. Philip needs no more—he has already received “enough.”

Sometimes, I need this reminder myself. I long for a new insight into God that perhaps one more book or one more lecture will give me. Don’t get me wrong: lifelong learning is a wonderful thing, and there is always more of God to discover! But it is important to acknowledge that, like Philip, I have already come to know the Father through Jesus, and everything I need to live the Christian life is already in place. Rather than more knowledge, it is a question of putting into action what I’ve been taught.

Of late, when I pray, I have embraced a new prayer posture: turning my hands downward, resting my palms on my knees. It helps me remember that with Jesus as my shepherd, I “shall not want.” I already have all I need. ●



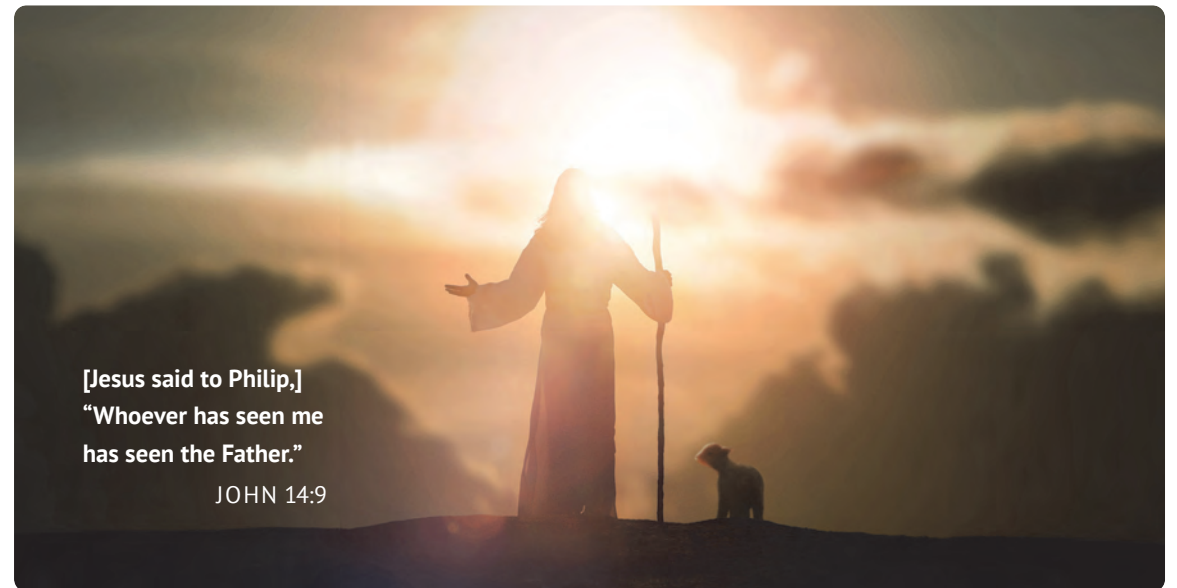
LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

## Reflect

What does “enough” mean to me?

[Jesus said to Philip,]  
“Whoever has seen me  
has seen the Father.”

JOHN 14:9





The  
**Catholic Church**  
in Pocahontas County  
West Virginia

**OUR MISSION**

If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all. (Mark 9:35, NAB-RE)

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH & CHURCH OFFICE, 714 Tenth Avenue, Marlinton WV 24954  
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST MISSION, 92 Catholic Church Road, Rts 250 & 92, Bartow WV 24920  
ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX CHAPEL, 6332 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe WV 26209  
Telephone: St. John Neumann 304-799-6778, St. Bernard of Clairvaux 304-572-0847  
Website: [PocahontasCatholic.org](http://PocahontasCatholic.org)  
E-mail: [Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org](mailto:Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org)



Patty Bryant  
Margaret Bryant  
Ann Burke  
Danielle Cade  
Matt Madruga  
Cynthia Olson  
Quinn Riffle  
Tristan Sizemore

**EUCHARIST THIS WEEK**

Monday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Friday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Saturday	6:30 p.m.	St. Bernard
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	St. John
	11:30 a.m.	St. Mark



St. John Neumann Church is open for private prayer every day during daylight.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered before each Eucharist or by appointment, and at St. Bernard on Saturdays 4:30-5:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available any time upon request.



Please call the Church office (304-799-6778) if you know of a parishioner who is sick, in the hospital or nursing home, homebound, deployed, or in prison.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513.

To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880.

To report suspected cases of sexual misconduct or sexual abuse by a bishop or eparch, please contact [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 800-276-1562.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE**  
*Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life."  
(John 14:6, NAB-RE)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTES**

- Welcome to our new bishop: **Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala** is currently auxiliary bishop of Washington DC. He was born in El Salvador, and came to the USA as a young man, and worked as a janitor and in construction, eventually becoming a priest in DC. He is not new to West Virginia, being an avid hiker and owning a cabin in Hardy County, where he goes for times of retreat. Bishop Evelio will be installed on July 2 in Wheeling. Bishop Brennan will remain in West Virginia, retiring in the Charleston area, and continuing to help out in the diocese.
- The feast of St. Joseph the Worker** (May 1), internationally also celebrated as May Day or Labor Day, celebrates all those who work, especially those we call "blue collar workers." Pope Leo XIII wrote the encyclical letter *Rerum Novarum* (On Human Labor) in 1891 to emphasize



the Church's social teaching and support for the rights of workers, while at the same time combating the teachings

of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, who supported workers, but who also supported violence and atheism. Their "communism" (not to be confused with socialism) became very popular in many countries, but resulted in the suppression of religion, except in countries that had a Catholic majority, and "communism" also resulted in forced labor, loss of individual rights, and oppression by an elite minority.

**LAST WEEKEND**

	<u>attendance</u>	<u>collection</u>
St. John Neumann	49	\$1,525.00
St. Mark the Evangelist	18	\$350.00
St. Bernard of Clairvaux	8	\$125.00
Fund for the Poor		\$9.00
<b>total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>\$2,009.00</b>

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

First Reading (Acts 6:1-7)

As the number of disciples continued to grow,  
the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews  
because their widows  
were being neglected in the daily distribution.  
So the Twelve called together  
the community of the disciples and said,  
"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God  
to serve at table.  
Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men,  
filled with the Spirit and wisdom,  
whom we shall appoint to this task,  
whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer  
and to the ministry of the word."  
The proposal was acceptable to the whole community,  
so they chose Stephen,  
a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit,  
also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,  
and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.  
They presented these men to the apostles  
who prayed and laid hands on them.  
The word of God continued to spread,  
and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem  
increased greatly;  
even a large group of priests  
were becoming obedient to the faith.

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

*Grail translation, 1963*)

*Response:* Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

Second Reading (1 Peter 2:4-9)

Beloved:

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings  
but chosen and precious in the sight of God,  
and, like living stones,  
let yourselves be built into a spiritual house  
to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices  
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it says in Scripture:

*Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion,  
a cornerstone, chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.*

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith,  
but for those without faith:

*The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone, and  
A stone that will make people stumble,  
and a rock that will make them fall.*

They stumble by disobeying the word,  
as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, a people of his own,  
so that you may announce the praises" of him  
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation (John 14:6)

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Gospel (John 14:1-12)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you

that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,  
so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him,

"Master, we do not know where you are going;  
how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

#### Reflection (2020)

"Stay home, stay safe." That's a mantra we are hearing a lot these days. For most people, although not for all, home is a safe place. For most children, although not for all, home is where there is at least one adult who will protect you and provide for you. Home is where mom, or mum if you're from across the pond, will do whatever it takes to take care of you. Home is our dwelling place on earth.

So when the Lord says "there are many dwelling places" and "I am going to prepare a place for you" and "where I am you also may be," that should be comforting to know. As wonderful as home is here on earth, the dwelling place prepared for each of us is better. So do not fear, not that there isn't anything to fear, and not that we should be tempting the Lord, but because, as Christians we know, this really isn't home.

#### Reflection (2023)

Do you ever see the bumper sticker "God is my co-pilot," or the symbol of the fish on the back of a car, or maybe the phrase "in God we trust" in so many places? All of these express a connection to the Lord, or maybe a desire to tell others that this person is a faithful Christian.

But the Lord never asked us to use bumper stickers or fish symbols or banner headlines to profess our faith. Instead, he said "whoever believes in me will do

the works that I do." If our actions are the actions of the Lord, then our Christian faith is proclaimed loud and clear, but if our actions are not the actions of the Lord, then our hypocrisy is proclaimed loud and clear. Hypocrisy turns people away, but faith draws people in.

We hear again today in the Acts of the Apostles that "the number of disciples continued to grow." Contrast that to what we hear over and over again in the news and in polls today, that our numbers continue to decline. What should we do?

At priests' convocation this week, our bishop spoke about the decline in the number of Catholics in West Virginia, and how we need to evangelize. At the same time, he has retained a "marketing" department, increased the size of the finance department, and has closed pastoral centers and decreased the pastoral staff of the diocese.

Some Churches have invested heavily in political affiliation and a focus on the culture wars, and while turning many people away, they have attracted one segment of the population.

Other Churches have tried to attract converts by making their "worship service" more of a concert and more of a social gathering, and that has become popular with many people, including many Catholics.

But none of that is about doing the works of the Lord. And that is the key, and that is the key to experiencing the growth that we saw in the early days of the Church, the days described in the Acts of the Apostles.

#### Reflection (2026)

Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and the life." For those of us who call ourselves Christian, that means we look to Jesus to know what is the truth, not politicians, or entertainers, or conspiracy theorists. From the truth we find in Jesus, we learn the way we should live. And from living that way, we have fullness of life here on earth, and in the life to come in heaven.

**3 May 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year A**

*Penitential Rite*

Lord Jesus, you are the way: Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you are the truth: Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you are the life: Lord, have mercy.  
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

*Prayer of the Faithful*

Almighty Father, you call on us to be holy, and so we call on you to hear our prayers:

- for our newly appointed Bishop Evelio, for blessings as he prepares to minister in West Virginia, we pray
- the leaders of the Church, that they will teach the truth of the Gospel, we pray
- for our civil leaders, that they will follow the way of God, we pray
- for peace in the Middle East, we pray
- for workers everywhere, that they will receive fair living wages and experience safe working conditions, we pray
- for all of us gathered for Eucharist, that we will find our life in Christ, we pray
- for all those who have died, that they will be saved, we pray
- and for your other intentions

*(pause)*

for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, we pray

Merciful Father, you are near to all who call to you, and so we ask you to hear our prayers. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen