

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 14, 2023

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO  
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER  
ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR 902-366-2927  
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346**

May 14, 2023 • 6th Sunday of Easter • Year A

## The Spirit Disguised

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

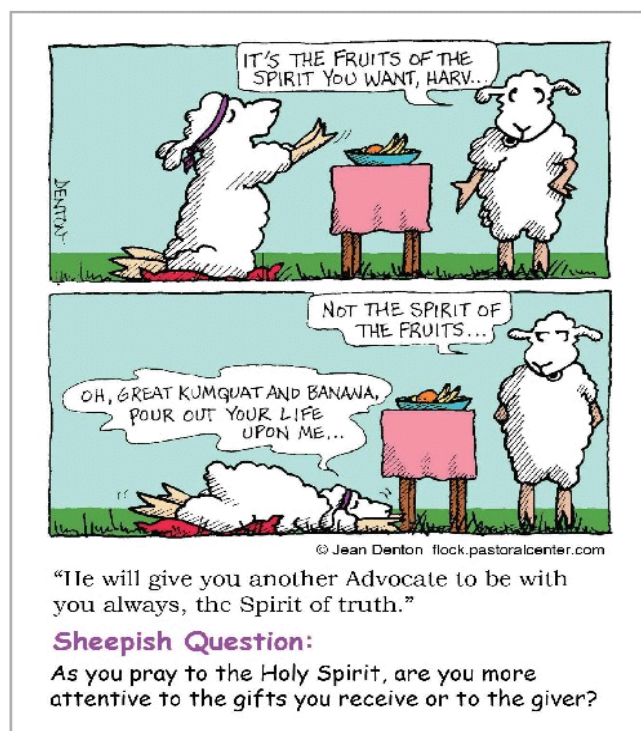
- ▶ Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 - Philip in Samaria
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:15-18 - On Christian suffering
- ▶ John 14:15-21 - Promise of the Paraclete

While much of the book of the Acts of the Apostles follows the work and travels of Peter and Paul, today's passage tells us that other believers were doing healing work in Jesus' name too. In this case, Philip ventured out of the Jewish crowds to go to the city of Samaria, a place that historically many Jews avoided. Samaritans shared some of the history and beliefs of the Jews but were seen as traitors to the faith, partly because they refused to go to Jerusalem for worship. That didn't phase Philip or slow God's work, though, because the Samaritans eagerly received "the word of God" and became believers in Christ too. The story has echoes of the Samaritans who quickly came to believe in Jesus after the woman at the well introduced them to him.

This Gospel reading picks up just a few verses after last week's Gospel left off. Jesus is still speaking to the disciples on the night before he dies. The disciples are still worried and concerned by Jesus' predictions of betrayal and denial. Jesus continues to reassure them, now introducing the promise of the Holy Spirit, sometimes called the "Advocate" or the "Paraclete."

Just as Jesus explained to Philip in last Sunday's Gospel reading (that Philip already knew the Father because Philip knew Jesus), he explains that the apostles also already know the Spirit. Like those confused disciples, we might first protest that we don't know the Spirit either.

If we pay attention to our experiences, though, and think back to times when we have instinctively known the truth or what was the right thing to do, we can spot how the Spirit was



with us. Maybe we had a flash of insight, or someone said something that we instantly recognized as right for us, or we had an unexplained experience of comfort or strength in a difficult situation. Those experiences are experiences of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, present and working within us.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 When have you had an experience of the Holy Spirit's presence or guidance, even if you didn't recognize it at the time?
- 2 When have you had an experience of feeling peace, comfort, or strength despite an outward struggle you were experiencing?

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## **WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

**Saturday, May 20** - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*  
- 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph - †*Ellen Marie Pellerine*

**Sunday, May 21** - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*Isabel Munroe*  
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †*Beattie Horne*

## **WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

**Thursday, May 18** - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

**COMMUNION CALLS** - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

## **REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS** -

### ***Loving God Through His Commandments***

*Jesus tells us, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." A resolute and committed observation of God's commandments leads us to God, who loves us unconditionally. When we are ready to love him with all our hearts, our rewards are great: the Father will show his love for us and the Son will love us and show himself to us. The one who believes and obeys Christ's word is loved by God. To keep alive the love we have for God and get us rooted in it, Jesus offers us his Holy Spirit to be with us forever. The Holy Spirit becomes the advocate between heaven and earth through the Church and its members. Jesus wants to let us know that we have God living within us, through the Holy Spirit who abides in our hearts. Jesus also assures us, "I will not leave you orphaned!" Orphans are people who do not have anyone to support or guard them. Like widows, orphans are usually poor, neglected, and vulnerable. Jesus assures his disciples that they will not be deserted like orphans. The disciples of Jesus will never be cut off from Jesus. On the contrary, he gives them eternal life. Let us believe in the promise of the Lord and pray to him for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that we may not be desolate and orphaned.*

## **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

<b>Star of the Sea</b> (35)	515.00
Loose	10.00
Cemetery (19)	997.00
<b>St. Agnes</b> (20)	400.00
Cemetery (11)	620.00
<b>St. Joseph</b> (20)	222.00
Cemetery (5)	300.00
St. Vincent de Paul (4)	300.00
Initial (2)	20.00

## **STAR OF THE SEA NEWS**

Spring Fling - A very special thank you to all for your support. We could not have any fund-raising event without you! The work of the Ways and Means committee is vital to our parish, we appreciated every thing you do. Profit was \$3,648.00!!  
A very special thank you to St. Agnes Parish for the use of your spinning wheels, it is much appreciated.

Upcoming Ticket Draw - will be held in May and June. There will be two draws,

one for a Barbecue package and the second one for an outdoor pizza oven. Anyone wishing to buy or sell tickets should contact Flo Flemming. - Groundskeeper Position - we are seeking a responsible person to take care of the parish cemeteries and grounds. This is seasonal work and wage can be negotiated. **Please contact the parish office.**

Ministries Schedule, May 21

Lector - Harry Delorey

Cleaners - May 14 - 20 - Harry Delorey

**We are inviting parishioners to serve as Sacristans, Ushers and Altar Servers for Funeral. Please contact Fr. Jonathan for more information.**

## **ST JOSEPH NEWS**

Regular Weekly Bingo continues on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Card Plays - Tuesday at 7:30 p.m

Banana Split and Ice Cream Sundae - will be held Sunday, May 21, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 for a Split and \$3.00 for a Sundae.

Parish Picnic will be held Saturday, July 1, more information to follow.

## **ST. AGNES NEWS**

Bingo - Sundays at 7:00 p.m in the parish hall.

Groundskeeper Required - We are seeking someone to mow and maintain the parish cemetery. Please contact the parish office.

Thank You - to Lloyd and Darlene Keefe for your faithful commitment to mowing the parish cemetery. You did a great job, special thanks extended to you both.

Club 100 tickets - are available from parish volunteers, draw date is May 28. All proceeds to St. Agnes Parish. Thanks for your support.

## **NOTES**

Our Cemeteries - At this time we also wish to remind parishioners & family members of the maintenance fee of \$50.00 (minimum amount) per year. This fee is payable to the parish cemetery where your loved one is buried. It can be placed in the Cemetery Envelope from your box of collection envelopes or placed in an envelope marked "Cemetery" at any time during the year and can be paid in installments. This contribution is used for the upkeep of the parish cemeteries. Thanking you in advance for your support. Please note: Cemeteries are the property of The Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish