

Friendship with God

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

“I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.” [John 15:15-17](#)

Just prior to the passage quoted above, Jesus says, “You are my friends if you do what I command you.” Is that the measure of true friendship? That we do what our friend commands us to do? That depends upon which friend we are speaking about.

There are many images we use for God. We call Him Father, Savior, Master, Lord, King, Redeemer, Spirit and Friend. When it comes to God as our divine Friend, it is important to understand the nature of that friendship properly. Jesus’ friendship is not one that simply makes us “buddies.” Friendship with our Lord is not the same as a friendship between two equals. He is God. And because He is God, our friendship with Him takes on unique characteristics that are not present in other friendships. With that said, there could be no greater friend than the Lord Himself.

Among humans, our friendships have various foundations. It could be that two people have mutual interests and they enjoy engaging in those interests together. It could be that two people have spent much pleasant time together since childhood. Or it could be that two people have endured some difficulty together and that experience has bonded them together. But according to Saint Thomas Aquinas, friendship in its purest form is based on just one thing: mutual charity.

Charity is the form of love that is purely selfless. It’s a way of relating to another in which a person’s sole focus is the good of the other. It is not based on one’s own self interests. It’s not a matter of “what do I get out of it?” In [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#), St. Paul defines the love of charity this way: “Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” This is not only the definition of charity, it is also the only foundation for true friendship.

When you consider all of these qualities of charity, you will find that God relates to us in each of these ways. For that reason, God offers us the purest friendship possible. Whether or not we reciprocate these qualities to God will determine the depth of the bond of friendship that we establish with Him. But there is more. When we love God, we must love Him in a way that is proper and proportionate to Who God is. For example, if we offer charity to God, we seek to fulfill only God’s interests and rejoice in the Truth of Who He is. Thus, the charity we offer to God comes in the form of worship. He is God and is worthy of worship, adoration, surrender, trust and perfect obedience. When it is God we are loving, the very essence of the Person we love requires these responses.

... continued on the inside ...

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Parish Staff:

Parish Office: 509-723-1459

Parish email:

stannemedicallake@gmail.com

Parish website:

www.westplainscatholicparishes.org

Father Michael Ishida, Pastor

Father Peter Miller

Evie Noder, Parish Bookkeeper

Michele Flynn, Office Admin

Sacramental Emergencies – 509-998-7093

Pastoral Council

Father Ishida, Pat Whipple, Janet Whipple,,

Mario Cruz, Danielle Treis, Father Miller

Finance Council

Father Ishida, Eric Hanson

Physical Address: 200 W. Alder, Sprague, WA 99032

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 125, Medical Lake, WA 99022

Holy Mass and Sacraments Schedule

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am

12:30 pm English Mass

Daily Mass During Lent:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays – Low Mass @ 7:00 am

Wednesdays & Fridays—Sung Mass @ 10:15 am

Saturdays—Low Mass @ 7:00 am

Reconciliation: Sundays at 10:00 am

Baptism and Holy Matrimony:

The family should be registered and active at Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish for a least three months prior to Baptism or Holy Matrimony. Couples are engaged to marry need to contact Fr. Ishida at least four months prior to the wedding date for marriage preparation.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please contact Father Ishida.

Parish Office:

Please email or leave voice message.

FORMED.org—“The Catholic NetFlicks

Step 1. **Sign up as a Parishioner (it's FREE)**: search for [St. Anne Medical Lake](#)

Step 2. Then enter your name and create a password.

welcome

to our parish

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Thursday, May 7, 2024, 7:00 PM

Tolton: From Slave to Priest - Cathedral, Spokane
A Saint Luke Production.

A live drama performance on the remarkable life of the Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, America's first African American Priest.

Sunday, May 12 ... 9:00 AM thru 2:00 PM

Annul Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

- Immaculate Heart Retreat Center
Join us for a delightful celebration of Mother's Day

Friday, May 17 @ 5:00-7:30 PM

Women's Adoration & Fellowship

- St. Charles Parish, Spokane
Wholeheartedly dedicated to proclaiming the love and mercy of Jesus and equipping women to fearlessly do the same.

Sunday, May 19 @ 6:30-7:30 PM

Taize Evening Hour of Prayer

-Immaculate Heart Retreat Center
Join us for our last Evening Hour of Prayer before summer.

Good luck Bloomsday Runners!



MASS INTENTIONS FOR MAY

05	Sunday	Pro Populo
06	Monday	
07	Tuesday	
08	Wednesday	
09	Thursday	
10	Friday	
11	Saturday	
12	Sunday	Pro Populo

St. Anne ... Pray for us!
Mary, Queen of Heaven ... Pray for us!

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Continued from back

One beautiful and consoling thing to recognize with this form of charity given to God is that it also establishes a true friendship with God. When we offer our worship to God, we are in a position to receive the very life of God in return. And the giving of ourselves, coupled with the reception of the life of God, establishes a bond of holy friendship that will transform us, unite us with Him and fulfill us to perfection. Friendship with God makes us one with Him and opens us to receive everything that He shares with us—namely, His very Self. Reflect, today, upon the invitation Jesus has offered you to enter into a true friendship with Him. This means that God becomes the center of your life. It means that you seek to give yourself, selflessly and without reserve, to Him Who is deserving of all your love. It means you choose worship and obedience to perfection. The reward of such love is that you are able to enter into a bond that is so holy, so pure and so fulfilling that it completes you, enabling you to become who you were meant to be.

My God and true Friend, You offer me everything in life. You offer me Your perfect love, given fully and without reserve. I pray that I will reciprocate that depth of love and offer to You all that You deserve. I offer You my love, worship and obedience, dear Lord. May this mutual love form a bond that will never end. Jesus, I trust in You.

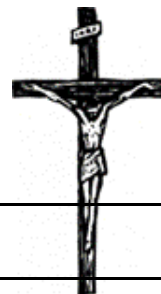
We love
having you as part of our flock

Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

Text the word **westplains**
to the number **84576**

Diocesan news
to your inbox
every Friday

SCAN TO SIGN UP



Welcome to Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish To all visitors who are joining us for worship today. May your time with us be grace-filled and may the Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones today and every day.

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

Weekend Mass Schedule:

During Lent: Low Mass Saturdays @ 7:00 am
Sundays @ 10:30 am - confession @ 10:00 am
12:30 pm

Daily Mass Schedule During Lent:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays – Low Mass @ 7:00 am
Wednesdays & Fridays—Sung Mass @ 10:15 am



St. Joseph the Worker Feast Day Mass
Wednesday, May 1 @ 10:15 AM

The Ascension of the Lord Mass
Thursday, May 9 @ 6:00 PM

Homeschool End of Year Showcase! & Potluck
Friday, May 24 @ 9:30 PM @ St. Anne's Parish
All are Welcome! Please Join Us!!
St. Anne Parish & Hall
708 East Lake Street, Medical Lake

**All Diocesan Priests, including
Father Ishida will be on Retreat
May 6– 9 and May 13-17**

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Amen

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JOIN for free!
Directions on front of

SPOKANE CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

Scan to join the online community via Mighty Networks

Seven Sisters Apostolate

That our prayers may find the heart of every priest and bishop.



A call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a “holy wasting” (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ.

Please contact Linda Pearson if you are interested in joining her at 509-879-0753 or email sookiesue@msn.com

Seven Sisters Apostolate meet after 9:00 am Mass at St. Anne Parish, Medical Lake. For all those interested —Please join us in the Church.

TO -THE- HEIGHTS

DIOCESE OF SPOKANE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP



AUGUST 11-16, 2024

01 LOCATION

Shoshone Mountain Retreat
29216 Coeur d'Alene River Rd.
Wallace, Idaho 83873

02 REGISTRATION

For current 6th-8th grade students.
Registration Opens via Eventbrite on
May 1, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.



REGISTER HERE

03 COST

Total cost is \$400. A \$50 deposit will be collected via Eventbrite (scan QR code). The remaining balance will be payable to the Diocese of Spokane by August 1, 2024

04 ACTIVITIES

Prayers, sacraments, camp fire, singing, archery, zip lining, rock climbing, hiking, swimming, slip 'n slide, giant swing, holy mass, high ropes, adoration, catechesis and more

Questions?

Brian Kraut
509.358.7314
bdkraut@dioceseofspokane.org
www.dioceseofspokane.org

Shoshone Mountain Retreat



Located on the western edge of the ruggedly famous Bitterroot Mountains at the confluence of Shoshone Creek and the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River

WHAT TO EXPECT

01 CHRISTOCENTRIC

Jesus is at the heart of camp. Days will be steeped in prayer, with Mass, adoration and confessions available.

02 SAFETY

All staff and volunteers are specially trained to create a safe environment for all. An RN will always be present on site.

03 ADVENTURE

Life with Christ is an adventure! Campers will be immersed in the natural beauty of the Bitterroot Mountains all week!

04 UNPLUGGED

There is no cell service at camp. Campers can enjoy a week unplugged from phones, and plugged into the Heart of Christ. Emergency camp phone available.

05 FELLOWSHIP

There is an abundance of opportunities to rekindle old friendships, encounter new friends, and grow in friendship with Jesus.

