

Obedience, Truth and Freedom

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you." John 14:15-17

Imagine a spouse or a friend saying to you, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Such a statement might cause you to react with surprise. Ordinarily, we do not see obedience to another as a sign that we love them. However, what if a parent were to say to a child, "If you love me, you will be obedient." That statement is easier to accept because of the unique role of a parent to their children. In regard to our love of God, obedience to His divine will is the greatest act of love we can offer. This is because God's will is perfect. It's exactly what we need in life. It's what we were made for. And it is the one and only way to achieve the human fulfillment that we seek. Only God can say such a thing to us because only God is God.

Jesus followed up His call to obedience by saying that obedience to Him will result in Jesus and His Father bestowing the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth upon you. The Holy Spirit will remain "with you, and will be in you." This is such a profound statement from our Lord. In fact, so much of what He says within this sermon given at the Last Supper is profound beyond comprehension.

One clear thing this tells us is that obedience to God leads to a discovery of the Truth. And as Jesus says elsewhere, "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" (John 8:31-32). Obedience leads to Truth. Truth leads to freedom.

This begs the question: Do you want to be free? Clearly you do. We cannot not want to be free. Meaning, we are obliged to want freedom, just as we are obliged to want happiness. Why? Because the desire for freedom and happiness is written upon our very nature. It is a desire that we cannot escape. It's how we are wired. However, it is quite possible to become confused about the way we achieve these desires. For many, obedience is not always understood as the pathway to that desired freedom and happiness.

Consider, again, a child. Imagine a parent telling that child not to eat a certain wild berry that grows behind their house because the parent knows the berry is poisonous and will cause the child to become sick. If the child disobeys and eats the berry anyway, he will learn the important lesson that he should have been obedient. Or if the child were to get in a fight with his brother and was angry and crying, the parent may tell him to say he's sorry and reconcile with his brother. If the child refuses, he will remain angry and crying. But if he obeys, then he and his brother will once again be able to have fun together.

On a grand scale, this is what God does for us. He is the perfect Father Who always knows what is best for us. For that reason, we must not only conform to His will, we must desire it, seek it out and desire to be obedient to the greatest degree. This is the path to Truth. It is the path to freedom. It is the path to the happiness we desire.

Continued ... inside



Mary, Queen of Heaven

Website: westplainscatholicparishes.org

(or simply type:) bit.ly/StAnneML

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May 14, 2023 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

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Janet Whipple

Mario Cruz

Danielle Treis

Father Miller

Finance Council:

Rev. Mike Ishida

Eric Hanson

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.

Mary, Queen of Heaven, Sprague, WA

Sunday: 10:30 am *Confession @ 10:00am

12:30 pm English Mass

Daily Mass: 7:00 am Mass

St. Anne, Medical Lake, WA

Sunday: 9:00 am Mass

Monday: 6:00 pm Mass

Tuesday: 9:00 am Mass

Wednesday: 9:00 am Mass

Thursday: 9:00 am Mass

Friday: 6:00 pm Mass

**Confessions 30 minutes before EVERY Mass.*

**Adoration Monday & Friday 5:00pm-6:00pm*

**Adoration Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30am-10:30 am*

St. Francis of Assisi, Harrington, WA

Saturday: 5:30 pm Mass *Confession @ 5:00pm

Sacraments

Penance (Confession):

St. Anne: 30 minutes before EVERY Mass

Mary Queen: Sunday 10:00 am

St. Francis of Assisi: Saturdays 5:00 pm

Baptism and Confirmation:

Contact Parish Office

Marriage:

Contact Parish Office

(requires preparation for at least 6 months in advance)

welcome
to our parish

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LEARNING AND LIVING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Father Ishida will host the following class themes at St. Anne Parish on Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 pm:

- May 24 Historicity of Scripture
- May 31 Faith and Works
- June 7 Sola Scriptura
- June 14 Relics
- June 21 Fasting and Alcohol
- June 28 Jehovah's Witness and Mormons
- July 12 Typology
- July 19 Communion of Saints

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JOIN for free!
Directions on front of the bulletin .

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**

YOU'RE INVITED!

To celebrate Catholic Schoolhouse Children



Sunday, May 21 following 9:00 am Mass @ St. Anne's

Children will be performing a showcase of songs and material they have learned.

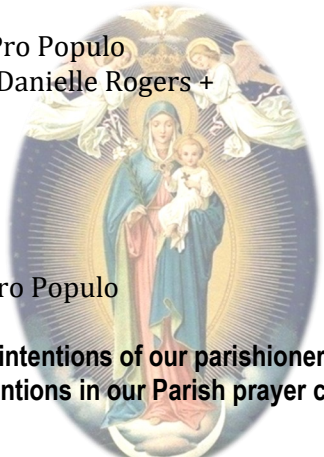
Showcase will be followed by a Mexican themed potluck! Bring a favorite Mexican dish to share. All are invited.

Obedience, Truth, Freedom ~ Continued from back side

Reflect, today, upon your own level of obedience to the will of God and your understanding of the importance of that obedience. Do you realize that God's will is perfect? Perhaps you do intellectually, but how about practically? When you read through the Scriptures and hear Jesus' commands of love, do you seek to follow them without hesitation? For example, do you forgive those who seem undeserving? Can you say, with our Lord from the Cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do?" Reflect upon anything this past year that was difficult for you to embrace from God. Ponder it, pray over it and seek to obey whatever He has revealed to you. Doing so will be the first step toward the fulfillment of your deepest desires in life.

Most glorious Jesus, Your will is perfect in every way. Obedience to Your will leads to the fulfillment of my life and my every desire. Please bestow the Spirit of Truth upon me so that I will always know Your will and embrace it with all my might. Jesus, I trust in You.

Mass Prayer Intentions
May 14—May 21



Sunday, 05-14: Pro Populo
Monday, 05-15: Danielle Rogers +
Tuesday, 05-16:
Wed., 05-17:
Thursday, 05-18:
Friday, 05-19:
Saturday, 05-20:
Sunday, 05-21: Pro Populo

And for all the intentions of our parishioners, especially the intentions in our Parish prayer chain.



Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us!
St. Anne, pray for us!
St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!



Welcome to Mary, Queen of Heaven

Welcome 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.

May 2023 at a glance:

Sunday	M	Tuesday	Wednesday	T	F	Saturday
Happy Mother's Day! 14 St. Anne, Medical Lake, WA 8:30 am Confession 9:00 am Mass <i>Mother's Day Brunch following Mass—St. Anne Hall</i> Mary, Queen of Heaven Sprague, WA 10:00 am Confession 10:30 am Mass 12:30 pm English Mass 6th Sunday of Easter	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays—7:00AM Mass Wednesdays and Fridays—10:15 AM Mass						St. Francis of Assisi Harrington, WA 5:00 pm Confession 5:30 pm Mass
			9:45 am - Quilting Grp in St. Anne Hall			
PRAY FOR BISHOP DALY, FATHER ISHIDA, AND ALL OUR PRIESTS!						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
St. Anne, Medical Lake, WA 8:30 am Confession 9:00 am Mass Fellowship AND Catholic Schoolhouse Children's Showcase St. Anne Hall Mary, Queen of Heaven Sprague, WA 10:00 am Confession 10:30 am Mass 12:30 pm English Mass The Ascension of the Lord	Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays—7:00AM Mass Wednesdays and Fridays—10:15 AM Mass					
			9:45 am - Quilting Grp in St. Anne Hall			
			Diocesan news to your inbox every Friday SCAN TO SIGN UP 			
The Power in the Rosary! Please join St. Joan of Arc Pro-Life Group in saying a Rosary for the unborn @ 12:00 (noon) the 3rd Saturday of each month at Planned Parenthood						
28	29	30	31	June 1	2	3
St. Anne, Medical Lake, WA 8:30 am Confession 9:00 am Mass Fellowship following Mass in St. Anne Hall Mary, Queen of Heaven Sprague, WA 10:00 am Confession 10:30 am Mass 12:30 pm English Mass Pentecost Sunday	Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays—7:00AM Mass Wednesdays and Fridays—10:15 AM Mass					
			9:45 am - Quilting Grp in St. Anne Hall			
			SPOKANE CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS Scan to join the online community via Mighty Networks 			
St. Francis of Assisi Harrington, WA 5:00 pm Confession 5:30 pm Mass						