



# Holy Spirit

## OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**28 April 2024**

[www.HolySpiritOCC.org](http://www.HolySpiritOCC.org)

727.754.9758

### **Welcome!**

Are you seeking...

To belong to a community of faith  
to provide you with something deeper?

A place to be oneself, warts and all?

A place to taste diversity?

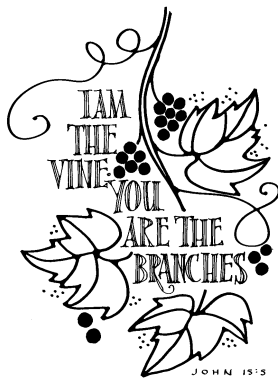
A place to weep?

A place to sing?

A place to weep while singing?

A place to feel the depth of life? A place to know God?

We now welcome you home. Christ's peace be with you!



### **Celebrating Life and Love...**

Please, be sure to stop in the parish center  
*to sign and send your love* in our Greeting Cards!

**Happy Birthday to:** Sr. Linda 04/29, Fr. Jacques 05/01, Mary M. 05/15, Lorraine W. 05/22, and George R. 05/27.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Ken & Tony 05/10, and Bp. Steven (priesthood) 05/27.

***We are progressive people professing an ancient Faith!***

## When We Gather Next...

Sunday, 05 May 2024, 10:30am

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**



*Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48*

*Psalm 98:1-4*

*1 John 4:7-10*

*John 15:9-17*

**Presider:** Fr. Daniel

**Homilist:** Fr. Daniel

**Greeters:** Mindy C. & Lee W.

**Welcome:** Steve M.

**Acolyte:** David B.

**Intercessions:** Steve M.

**Lectors:** (1) Paula T. (2) Mary M.

**Altar Bread Baker:** David B.

**Ministers of the Cup:** Mthr. Sharon, Fr. Jacques, & David B.

**Coffee Social Hosts:** Parishioner Last Names A-D

*Thank YOU for your faithful and loving service at the altar of the Lord in community. You bless us!*

### **Lord, Hear Our Prayer!**

*“Always pray in the Spirit, with all your prayers and petitions.*

*Pray constantly and attentively for all God’s holy people.” (Ephesians 6:18)*

✠Ralph C., R.I.P. 04/12/2024, father of Carter ✠Dennis

Underwood, R.I.P. 02/19/2024, Bp. Gordon’s spouse of 47 years.

•Bro. Tom, hospitalization cardiac health •For peace in Palestine, Ukraine and throughout our world •For our parish community, our growth and faith •Toni S., friend of Mthr. Sharon, liver cancer

•Jack, chemotherapy •Ken S., healing •For all who struggle with mental health in our community and families •For those deeply impacted by severe weather •For vocations to ministry and consecrated life from among us. ✠All victims of war. ✠For our deceased clergy and parishioners. ✠For the victims of gun violence.

## **The Road Ahead Together...**

### **TWELVE STEP MEETINGS at Holy Spirit:**

- Sex/Love Anonymous, Thursdays, 12PM, conference room.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Thursdays, 7PM, social hall.

### **MUSIC MINISTRY PRACTICE**

- Thursday evenings, 7-8:30pm, chapel

### **DIOCESAN HOUSES MEET at HSOCC**

- Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, House of Clergy, 9am-12pm
- Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, House of Laity, 1pm-4pm

### **SHARING SUNDAY**

- Next Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

Our charity and prayer in May is focused on the victims of domestic violence, particularly those served by **CASA Pinellas**. Stay.

### **ASCENSION of the LORD**

- Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

We gather to celebrate the Eucharist for the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter, the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. Come, share our joy!

### **BLESSING of MOTHERS**

- Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, Mothers' Day, 10:30am

We pray for, remember and give thanks for our mothers.

### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

- Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm, conference room

### **PARISH FEAST DAY**

- Pentecost Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Wear your "red" and let us give thanks and celebrate together.

## **Pastoral Perpendiculars**

**to perpendicular, verb.** *"to weigh carefully in the mind."*

Good morning, dearest Community and Friends!

What are the "secrets" of being a successful believer as an Old Catholic? What makes it work? We are only successful, and thus prophetic in our witness, if our Old Catholic Christian faith is a framework for our lives and actions. I have seven "secrets" that come to mind easily. See if these seven secrets apply:

Successful Old Catholics stay close to the Eucharist. Without the Sunday Eucharist in their lives, these individuals feel impoverished, isolated, empty. They are members of a faith community; they know they need the company of others on their life journey toward God. They rely on their conscience and good judgment—but never alone; life is a pilgrimage, not a prepackaged trip. They regularly do things that call them out of themselves—ministry, or some volunteer effort. They live in the moment, recognizing daily opportunities for holiness, and they use their sacramental imagination to discover God in everyday events.

Successful Old Catholics always remember that God, Who Is Love, is ever merciful and always forgiving; they are no strangers to self-reflection: they recognize all too well their shortcomings and fallibility, but they are confident that no matter how miserably they have behaved, they can never, ever exile themselves beyond the reach of God's love. They believe in prayer and pray regularly. Whatever their spirituality, successful Old Catholics consider prayer crucial to their very fiber and well-being.

Life is not easy, God only knows. There are so many decisions to make and problems to solve. Am I fair, honest and unifying at

work, in my home, in my parish community? Do I balance love, expectation and discipline? Do I *both* affirm and challenge my friends? Do I truly know that God's love has saved me. Bu that is only the beginning; I need to know how to live. May I have God's grace for wisdom that I may find the secrets to a successful life of Christian love.

Please, if you have had any changes to your address, phone number or email address within the last year, we encourage you to share those changes that we may update and reflect accurately the changes in your contact information. Please email them this week to Bp. Steven at [bp.steven.roszczewski@gmail.com](mailto:bp.steven.roszczewski@gmail.com) . The new **Parish Directory** will then be able to be emailed to you for you to stay in touch with your parish family.

Our **Sharing Sunday** next weekend will be focused upon our compassionate care for the women, men, children and pets who are victims of domestic violence and are assisted by CASA Pinellas ([casapinellas.org](http://casapinellas.org)). The most needed items are: **Baby diapers, baby formula, baby powder, baby wipes, diaper rash cream, and pacifiers**. Please, bring your generous gifts with you to Mass next Sunday and place them under the altar.

Thank you for your warm, compassionate and lavish response for those most in need.

*With my love and prayer for you, in Christ.*

*bp. Steven*

## *A Prayer for Vocations*

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:36-38)*

God Who dwells within human desires,  
You have generated the religious calling  
as a particular witness to goodness and grace.

Move the hearts and minds  
of women and men today  
to respond to this calling.

Draw them to a life  
of contemplation, service and witness,  
for the praise of Your Name,  
and the good of all the churches.  
You are our God for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*



## **New Spring Offerings...** **at the Institute for Old Catholic Studies**

Be sure to check out the latest offerings at the OCC Institute of Old Catholic Studies!

-On Tuesdays, May 7<sup>th</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm a new scripture study series will be offered entitled “Scripture and Social Justice” looking at the prophets.

-On Tuesdays, June 4<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> a new book study exploring social justice by our OCC Deacon, Karen Fossan. FMI, be sure to visit and register at: **[www.the-iocs.com](http://www.the-iocs.com)**. Don't delay as classes begin soon on May 7<sup>th</sup> and enjoy growing faith and friendship with other Old Catholics.

## **U.S. Church Foundations Shaking**

Gallup poll results released March 25 showed that church attendance has generally been on the decline since 2009, when 42% of respondents said they had attended a service in the past week. After 2009, attendance rates have mostly been in the 30s, with only two exceptions: 40% attendance in 2012 and 29% attendance in 2021.

Post-pandemic church attendance rates declined more sharply among Catholics than it did among Protestants. The 2016-2019 average among Catholics was 37%, compared with a 2020-2023 average of only 30%. Protestants in the same time frame fell from 44% to 40%.

Church attendance was at its height in the mid- to late-1950s. The highest points were 49% in 1955 and 49% again in 1958.

The number of U.S. nuns and sisters has plummeted to fewer than 42,000 in 2022 representing a 76% decline since 1972. The average age of U.S. nuns is 80 with less than 1% is under the age of 40.

## **This Morning's Sacred Liturgy**

Today's Intention: *For an Increase of Vocations in our Diocese*

Welcome and Announcements	Mthr. Sharon
<b>Gathering Song: Open My Eyes</b>	<b>GC2 569</b> (omit bridge)
Kyrie Litany	Dcn. Jan
Opening Prayer	Bp. Steven
Reading I: <i>Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31</i>	Bro. Walt
Psalm Response: <b>℟ I will praise You, Lord,</b> <b>in the assembly of Your people.</b>	Bro. Walt Psalm 22
Reading II: <i>1 John 3:18-24</i>	Wayne C.
<b>Gospel Acclamation: sung</b>	
Holy Gospel: <i>John 15:1-8</i>	Dcn. Jan
Homily	Bp. Steven
Profession of Faith: <b>Nicene Creed</b> (cf. inside back cover hymnal)	
<b>Intercessions: ℟ Christ our Life, hear us!</b>	Dcn. Jan
Kiss of Peace	
<b>Preparation of the Gifts: Whatsoever You Do</b>	<b>GC2 656</b>
<b>Eucharistic Prayer: Mass of Creation</b>	<b>GC2 147, 148A; 149</b>
<b>Lord's Prayer: Our Father</b>	<b>GC2 15</b>
<b>Lamb of God Litany: Mass of Creation</b>	<b>GC2 152</b>
Invitation to Holy Communion	Dcn. Jan
	<i>Cup Ministers: Fr. Jacques, Dcn. Jan &amp; Fr. Daniel</i>
<b>Communion Procession: Eat This Bread</b>	<b>GC2 806</b>
<b>Song of Praise: One Bread, One Body</b>	<b>GC2 813</b>
Prayer after Communion	Bp. Steven
Solemn Blessing and Easter Sending	
<b>Sending Song: Rain Down</b>	<b>GC2 505</b>
<b>Coffee Social:</b>	<i>Parishioner Last Names S-W</i>