

# The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



April 29, 2018 Cycle B, Fifth Sunday of Easter

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## Catholic I.D.

"... spirit and matter, in man, are not two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature." (CCC 365)

This special creation is called the *human person*. Our body and spiritual soul are in such a close union that we need to make choices that are good for both aspects of ourselves. In order to do this, we ask the following question:

Am I using my heart, mind and body – my five senses – to feed and nourish my spiritual soul, or only to feed my physical body?

When our bellies are full, we have no room for God's food. When our eyes are always fixed on a tiny, glowing screen, we don't see Him standing right in front of us. When ear buds fill our ears with all kinds of sound, we don't hear the silence deep in our hearts where God waits for us to meet him.

When we are given a choice it is critical that we choose the course of action that nourishes our spiritual soul and allows room for God to fill our senses within.



## Bible Secrets

Last week, Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells us, "I am the vine," and we are the 'branches' to His vine. Even though we bear fruit by knowing Him, he will 'prune' us, or cut back what is not needed so that His grace brings about even more fruit in us.

Whenever Jesus says, "I am," He gives us a clear picture of who we are and how we are to behave. If He is the Good Shepherd, we know we must listen for His voice, come when He calls us, and don't wander off. If He is the Vine, we are to stay connected to His Law and His love. Thankfully, we are given the Holy Spirit for these challenging roles!

# I AM

## Getting Closer To God

In preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit (in just three weeks!), it is important to learn a new prayer, the "Come, Holy Spirit." In Latin, this prayer title is, "**Veni, Sancte Spiritus**" (**vay**' nee, **sonk**' tay **Spear**' ee' toos)!

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of Thy faithful,  
and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

- V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.
- R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

**Let us pray.** O God, Who did instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[And now you even know three Latin words!]

# Witness: Barnabas

In the First Reading today, we heard that Barnabas "...took charge of him (Saul-Paul) and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus." (Acts 9:27) At a time when everyone was still afraid of Saul-Paul, Barnabas took him under his wing and vouched for him to the Apostles. Who is this Barnabas?

Originally named Joseph, Barnabas was given his name by the Apostles when he gave all his possessions to them and joined them in preaching to the nations. He was born a Levite in Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea, and the Bible tells us that his name means "*son of encouragement*." (Acts 4:36) And, encouragement is exactly what he

brought to everyone.

Traveling and evangelizing with Paul, Barnabas was very influential and successful in spreading the Good News. He and Paul were even able to persuade Peter and James that Gentiles should not have to become Jewish in order to become a follower of Christ. Barnabas not only gave witness to Jesus, he was also able to bear witness to authentic followers of Jesus, wherever they came from.

There are a few legends about how Barnabas died, but all agree on one point: he died a martyr for the faith. Barnabas is still an encouraging witness!



## Defective Tugboat Challenge



On the fifth Sunday of *The Great Sunday*, we find evidence of the Presence of the Holy Spirit in how He relates to us. Sit with an adult and read the following passages. Then, write down the evidence you find that the Holy Spirit is present to each one of us. [...only three more Sundays until the Holy Spirit comes in a BIG way!]

1. **Romans 8:26** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **John 16:13** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **John 14:26** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Revelation 2:7** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: The Holy Spirit is present when... 1. we are helped in our weakness, our prayer is lifted up to God, 2. we are guided to the truth and our eyes are opened to what is to come, 3. we are taught and reminded of what Christ taught us, and 4. we hear what the Spirit has said to the Church.

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