

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Intimate details

Near the end of his earthly life Jesus spoke to his disciples about his living on in the Father as well as in them, and them in him. This notion of indwelling is a unique feature of Jesus' message, bringing a deep intimacy to our life in faith. Jesus has taken up residence within us, and we in Jesus. Talk about having a "personal relationship" with our Savior—it doesn't get more personal than that! Take a moment today to appreciate how great it is to be considered worthy of such intimacy.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21 (55). *"I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you."*

Monday, May 11, 2026

Please respond correctly

For all the good that religion has done and continues to do in the world, from time to time all the great religious traditions have been distorted and misused to justify intolerance and violence. Such violence was used against Jesus' early followers, and in every century since it has reared its head in some corner of the world. "In a world where the name of God is sometimes associated with vengeance or even a duty of hatred and violence," says Pope Benedict XVI in his first encyclical *Deus caritas est*, it is good to remember that the appropriate response to God's love is to "love your neighbor as yourself."

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a (291). *"The hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God."*

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Advocating on our behalf

"The gift and presence of the Holy Spirit is the most magnificent and wonderful thing that can happen to us, the human community, all living things, and this Earth," wrote German theologian Jürgen Moltmann. The disciples didn't see it that way at first. They were filled with grief when Jesus told them he would soon be departing from them. They did not understand the gift they were about to receive in the Holy Spirit, the Advocate. An advocate "pleads the cause of another" and "supports or promotes the interests of another." It is nice to know we have a champion at our side. Draw on God's ever-present wisdom each day, with the simple prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit."

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11 (292). *"But if I go, I will send him to you."*

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Wisdom takes time

Fortune-telling is an ancient practice that indicates at least one thing: Some people have always wished they had knowledge of the future. But as every generation learns, knowledge without wisdom is as good as ignorance, if not more dangerous. It takes time for a fact to pass from "knowing" to "understanding"—the way we are first told not to touch a hot burner and later appreciate why. Jesus did not tell his disciples everything at the Last Supper, nor do we gain instant understanding with our reception of the

Holy Spirit. Wisdom deepens with learning and experience. Take time to learn something new every day. The Bible is a good place to start. As Saint Ambrose says, "Divine scripture is the feast of wisdom and the individual books are the various dishes."

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15 (293). *"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now."*

Thursday, May 14, 2026

So far and yet so close

The story of the Ascension of the Lord brings us joy because it tells of how the risen Jesus begins his reign in heaven at the right hand of God. Jesus leaves the physical company of the disciples, but in doing so becomes available to all who believe in him. He goes away, but in his Spirit, he will be closer than ever. Now he fulfills his promise to be with us always. "For although he ascended alone," says Saint Augustine, "we also ascend, because we are in Him by grace." Be mindful that God's Spirit is as close as your next breath.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20 (58). *"Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?"*

Friday, May 15, 2026

Glimpse the Divine

"No one," God says in the Book of Exodus, "can see me and live" (33:20)—almost no one, that is. Moses, for example, used to speak with God "face to face, as a person speaks to a friend" (Exodus 33:11) without undergoing instant vaporization. Christian theology calls this experience the beatific vision: the total heavenly awareness of God that would overwhelm most mortals during their earthly lives. That doesn't mean you can't get a glimpse of the Divine every now and then. The adoration and service you offer as a Christian open a door to the holy and will eventually lead you all the way to complete communion with God.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23 (295). *"I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice."*

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Asked and answered

Jesus constantly urged those he encountered to ask God for what they need. He not only preached that message, he practiced it. Prayers of petition, along with prayers of blessing, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise, constitute the basic forms of Christian prayer. A petitioner, or asking, prayer is simply your part in a conversation that God initiated. At times we will have a lot to say, at others we may simply pray "in sighs too deep for words," as Saint Paul puts it. Yet, no matter how we articulate our needs, we remain confident that God will understand and respond.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296). *"Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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