

Saint Paul the Apostle Church

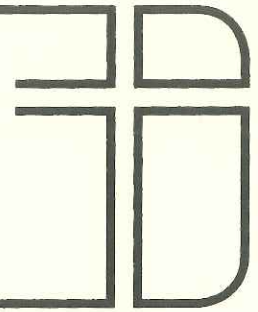
Conventual Franciscan Friars

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Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 1, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We continue our journey through the Easter Season and on this Fifth Sunday of Easter, we begin a month where in addition to celebrating the Glory of Easter, we remember during this month of May, the Blessed Virgin Mary invoking her powerful intercession and motherly protection for us.

This Fifth Sunday of Easter focuses on remaining close to Jesus. It is Jesus who will truly give us the strength to produce much fruit (*John 15: 1 – 8*). One who remains with Jesus and truly bears much fruit is Saul, now Paul who boldly preaches in the Lord's name following his conversion and Baptism (*Acts 9: 26 – 31*). John assures us that if we keep God's commandments we will remain in the Lord and on the vine bearing much fruit (*1 John 3: 18 – 24*).

The scene in today's Gospel from *John 15: 1 – 8*, takes place on Holy Thursday Night as the Lord's Supper is coming to a close. "*Remain in me*" is a plea to the disciples even though the opposite will occur between Judas' betrayal, Peter's three denials, and all of the others abandoning him. The bond that has been established however, will turn out to be so strong that the betrayal painful as it was for Jesus, that it is not the last word nor the end of the line for Jesus and his disciples. All that Jesus taught them and his promises to remain in them will truly lead to them and so many others bearing good fruit that has lasted and will last.

A friendly reminder as we prepare to come into the Church for Mass. Let us keep in mind that the Covid-19 health and safety guidelines are still in place. Therefore, please take the following into consideration. There is no longer a restriction on the number of people allowed into the church however, the following new public health and Diocesan policies are now in place for the good of everyone's health and safety.

BEFORE ENTERING THE CHURCH your temperature will be taken and you must have a face mask on and continue to wear it the entire time you are in the church. The six feet of physical distancing is also to be observed at all times while inside the church.

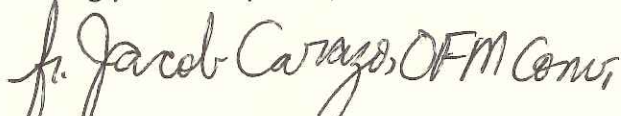
PLEASE NOTE THAT IF ANYONE IS ILL OR OVER THE AGE OF 65 WITH PREEXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT COMPROMISE ONE'S IMMUNITY AND CONCERNED ABOUT BEING IN A LARGE GATHERING OF PEOPLE, THE DISPENSATION FROM THE SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION IS STILL IN EFFECT AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Our parish website <https://www.stpaulspismobeach.com> contains the most recent weekly bulletin, links to the Livestreamed Daily and Sunday Masses, as well as links to my weekly message to you, updates from Bishop Garcia and myself as they become available, and a safe user-friendly option for online giving.

If you need assistance with the online giving system, please contact our Parish Administrative Assistant Christopher Garza at admin@stpaulspismobeach.com as well at his direct telephone extension **(805)773-2219 Ext. 102**.

For those of you unable to make it to Mass at this time and wish to continue sending in your weekly contribution you may continue do so by the US Mail, dropping it off at the Rectory using the Rectory door mail slot, or using the online giving option described above. In order to keep an accurate record of your offerings, please include your weekly contributions envelope as well as write it on the check. No donation is too small and all are joyfully received with great gratitude.

Wishing you God's peace , and continuous Easter Joy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv.

Pastor