



**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
Harlowton, Montana  
**Missions:**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut**  
**Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap**  
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## Sixth Sunday of Easter May 10, 2026

When Philip “proclaimed the Christ” to the crowds, “with one accord” they “paid attention to what was said.” Their full acceptance of the Word of God inspired Peter and John to go to them and lay hands on them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. This fulfills what Jesus promised us the night before he died: “The Father will give you the Spirit of truth. He will be in you.” The “reason for our hope” is a Person we have met: Christ the Lord, whom we sanctify in our hearts and whose commandments we keep. Just as the crowds are transfixed by the attraction of Philip, so we are captivated by the One who has loved us and revealed himself to us. He is the source of our “great joy.”

*Peter and John laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

**First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17** <sup>5</sup>Philip went down to a city of Samar’ia, and proclaimed to them the Christ. <sup>6</sup>And the multitudes with one accord gave heed to what was said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs which he did. <sup>7</sup>For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice; and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup>So there was much joy in that city. <sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samar’ia had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup>who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; <sup>16</sup>for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Psalms 66:1-7, 16, 20** R/ Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

<sup>0</sup>To the choirmaster. A Song. A Psalm. <sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; <sup>2</sup>sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! <sup>3</sup>Say to God, “How terrible are thy deeds! So great is thy power that thy enemies cringe before thee. <sup>4</sup>All the earth worships thee; they sing praises to thee, sing praises to thy name.” Selah <sup>5</sup>Come and see what God has done: he is terrible in his deeds among men. <sup>6</sup>He turned the sea into dry land; men passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, <sup>15</sup>I will offer to thee burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah <sup>19</sup>But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

*Put to death in the flesh, Christ was raised to life in the Spirit.*

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18** <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup>and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God’s will, than for doing wrong. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit;

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him. Alleluia, Alleluia I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*

**Gospel: John 14:15-21** <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. <sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

### Mother’s Day Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of mothers, who nurture our faith and guide us with love.

May their hearts be filled with joy and strength as they fulfill their sacred calling.

Bless them with Your grace and let them feel our appreciation for their sacrifices and unwavering devotion.

May they continue to inspire us in our journey of faith.

Amen.

**12:00 noon Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.**

**Daily Mass on Thursdays at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.**

**\*\*\*Confessions before Sunday Mass beginning at 11:30 am or by appointment. Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.**

**Sunday Mass at 9 am at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs & 4:30pm at Holy Cross, Townsend.**

**\*\*\*Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays – join us anytime between 12:30–3:30 pm.**

**Youth Group meets each Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm.**

**Please join us for our monthly parish potlucks on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Mass - 6/28/26; 7/26/26; 8/23/26**

**Please pray for our seminarians:**

Riley Helgoe

Bret Rotz

Carter Anderson

James Semling

Ryan Frampton

*Congratulations to Fr. Dillon Armstrong on his ordination to the priesthood! Please keep him in your prayers.*

Jake Smith

Anthony Olmes

Shae Bills

Carson Gorton

Mason Yochum

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell

Jamie Severson

Matt Keck

Liam Aippersbach,

**Mark Your Calendars:**

**The final Chosen Movie night is this Thursday at 7 pm at the Harlowton Theater.**

**Bishop Vetter is coming to visit for the Thursday noon Mass on Thursday, May 21st. If you are willing to help with the lunch to follow, contact Fr. Cody**

**The Church Fathers series has ended. If you would like the notes from that series or any other series that I have led, they are available on the table at the entrance to the Church.**

**The last night of Youth Group is Thursday, May 21st at 7pm. Youth Group this Thursday is at the theater for the Chosen Movie Night.**

**Potluck Farewell Barbeque for Fr. Cody Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Chief Joseph Park. Meat provided. Community invited. Our Parish Potluck on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> will be a Farewell Potluck for Fr. Cody.**

**No potluck this month due to Memorial Day weekend.**

**Father Cody's Corner: Basics of Catholicism Part 134: The Basis for the Anointing of the Sick**

The biblical foundation for the Anointing of the Sick comes from two primary sources. The first, and most obvious, is the Gospels. Jesus healed so many people that we should expect some element of the Church to express this focus on healing. Yet, we can expand the ministry of healing beyond the ministry of Jesus. When Jesus sent out his disciples to prepare for his entry into the surrounding towns, he gave them power to heal the sick and to cast out demons. Part of his charge to them is that whatever house they enter, they should heal the sick in it as they proclaim the mystery of the Kingdom. Jesus' healing ministry extended to his disciples even before Jesus died and rose. The same applies to other disciples. At one point James and John come up to Jesus with a problem. Some of his disciples were casting out demons in Jesus' name who are not with the disciples. Already, before all the major events happened, the power of Jesus' name was being used to heal and cast out demons.

The passage used to defend the Sacrament but also as part of the rite for the Anointing of the Sick is James 5:13-15. This passage contains several elements that describe the Sacrament from the perspective of the earliest Christians. First, it starts by stating "if there are sick among you." Clearly, the process of becoming Christian didn't eliminate sickness or diseases. Yet, the passage could have stopped there by stating to pray over them or to pray for them. It doesn't. The second part of the passage says, "send for the priests of the Church." Clearly the earliest Christians understood that the priesthood contains a greater strength or power than the ordinary Christian. Therefore they needed the ministry of the priests for the sake of the sick. What do the priests do? The third part says, "let the priests pray over them anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." Again, prayer is not sufficient. The ministry of healing came through two sources: the priests and the anointing with oil. Lastly James says, "the prayer of faith will save the sick persons and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven." This action of prayer and anointing by the priests confers so much more than the request of God to bring healing. This Sacrament, this ritual, the event, brought healing from sins as well as a share in the Resurrection of Jesus. James is clearly describing something more than a prayer event and something more than a request for healing. The early Church already had a Sacrament set apart from the rest simply to continue the ministry of Jesus through his priests to bring both healing of body and soul.

From these two sources come our justification for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. We didn't invent the Sacrament nor did we create it simply to help those who are sick. The Sacrament was already part of the early church and understood as the continuation of Jesus' healing ministry and the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. ~ Fr. Cody

## Alive in the Spirit: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Listen Here: [Alive in the Spirit: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday of Easter - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17; Psalm 66:1–7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15–18; John 14:15–21

Jesus will not leave us alone. He won't make us children of God in Baptism only to leave us "orphans," He assures us in today's Gospel (see Romans 8:14–17).

He asks the Father to give us His Spirit, to dwell with us and keep us united in the life He shares with the Father.

We see the promised gift of His Spirit being conferred in today's First Reading.

The scene from Acts apparently depicts a primitive Confirmation rite. Philip, one of the first deacons (see Acts 6:5), proclaims the Gospel in the non-Jewish city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God (see Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13) and are baptized.

It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptized—that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our Sacrament of Confirmation (see Acts 19:5–6), by which the grace of Baptism is completed and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord.

We remain in this grace so long as we love Christ and keep His commandments. And, strengthened in the Spirit whom Jesus said would be our Advocate, we are called to bear witness to our salvation - to the tremendous deeds that God has done for us in the name of His Son.

In today's Psalm, we celebrate our liberation. As He changed the sea into dry land to free the captive Israelites, Christ suffered that He might lead us to God, as we hear in today's Epistle.

This is the reason for our hope - the hope that sustains us in the face of a world that cannot accept His truth, the hope that sustains us when we are maligned and defamed for His name's sake.

Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit, Paul tells us today. And as He himself promises: "Because I live, . . . you will live." ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

### Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 126 May Magnificat

*(Each local community should compose its own Universal Prayer but may find inspiration in the texts proposed here.)*

**The Lord has promised not to leave us orphans. Counting on the boundless mercy of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we now pray:**

*That the Church will stand before the world without stain or blemish, holy and obedient to God's Word.*

*For all civil leaders: that they may govern according to the true good of the human person and promote a culture of life.*

*For all mothers: that through the intercession of the Mother of God, the Lord will bless them and reward them for their sacrifices and love.*

*For blessings on police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and all who protect us at the risk of their own lives.*

*That God will strengthen and preserve our parish in his holy service, strengthening us through the Holy Spirit to keep his commandments.*

*For the grace this week to keep Christ as Lord in our hearts, ready to suffer for the sake of righteousness.*

**Heavenly Father, we know that you hear our prayers and attend to our needs. Increase in us the virtues of faith, hope, and love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Intercessions page 129 May Magnificat

**The Lord comes to rule the whole earth; to him we pray:**

**R/ You bring us salvation!**

*You came to dwell among us in human flesh through the Virgin Mary:*

*– teach us to love all humanity in you. R/*

*You died to draw into one the people of every place and time:*

*– teach us to respect people of every age, of every race, of every nation. R/*

*You arose to rule in fairness over all peoples: [I/*

*– teach us to pursue justice and peace among nations. R/*

**Personal intentions**                      **Our Father....**

**God of all the earth, you sent your only Son to redeem all peoples from sin and death and to make all one in love. May his saving presence tear down the walls we have built between us, that the whole world may dwell together in his peace, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### MEDITATION OF THE DAY    Union With the Advocate pages 134-135 May Magnificat

[The] union between God and my soul, effected by grace, is real and true. It is something more than faith can secure; a nearer relationship; a deeper, more personal knowledge; a more ardent and personal love.... [This] is not merely given to chosen souls whose sanctity is so heroic as to qualify them for canonization; it is the heritage of every soul in a state of grace.

When I step outside the confessional after due repentance and the absolution of the priest, I am in a state of grace. At once, then, this blessed union takes effect. Within me is the Holy Spirit, dwelling there - sent, given. As the object of knowledge, he can be experienced by me in a personal and familiar way. I can know him even as I am known. As the object of love, he becomes my friend, stooping to my level, lifting me to his. At once, then, although still in a merely rudimentary way, the glories of my ultimate reward can dawn upon me. Even upon earth, I have already crossed the threshold of heaven....

Here on earth I have so much to distract me that I cannot possibly devote myself [to God] in the same way as I shall be able to do then [in heaven]. There are things here that have got to be done, and there is the body itself, which can only stand a certain amount of concentration and intensity. If strained too much, it just breaks down and fails. All this complicates and hampers me. But in heaven I shall take on something (of course, a great deal intensified) of the consciousness and alertness of youth. A child can thoroughly enjoy himself, for he has got the happy faculty of forgetting the rest of life, all his troubles, anxieties, and fears. Heaven, then, means the

lopping-off of all those menaces, and the consequent full appreciation of God in knowledge and love. Hence I must not be disturbed if, here on earth, all these wonderful things which I learn about concerning the indwelling of the Holy Spirit do not seem to take place. It is very unfortunate that I do not appreciate them, but it is something at least to know that they are there. It is a nuisance that I do not see him, but it is something at least to be certain he is within me. ~ Father Bede Jarrett, o.p. Father Jarrett († 1934) was a Dominican friar from England widely esteemed for his preaching, his lectures, and his many books on theology and spirituality.

**Intercessions** *page 137 May Magnificat*

***With faith in Christ's promise we pray:***

***R/ Come to rule the earth!***

*You have made the world firm in its place:*

*– come to judge all peoples in justice. R/*

*You have brought us joy and gladness:*

*– come to bring us fullness of life. R/*

*You have come to banish death for ever:*

*– come to raise all the dead to life for ever. R/*

***Personal intentions***                      ***Our Father....***

***May the Lord strengthen our hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen. (cf. 1 Thes 3:13)***

***Marian Antiphon***

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT – PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

The Diocese of Helena is firmly committed to the health, protection, and safety of our children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

To report allegations of sexual abuse, contact the Diocese of Helena Victim's Advocate at (406)-459-0513 or [VictimAssistant@diocesehelena.org](mailto:VictimAssistant@diocesehelena.org).

To obtain information about the Diocese's implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People through our Safe Environment policies and programs, visit: <https://diocesehelena.org/safe-environment>

*We are all called to be great saints,  
Don't miss the opportunity.  
~ Mother Angelica*