

**THIS SUNDAY'S COUNSEL**  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

THEME:

We are shepherds in the likeness of Jesus when we witness to His commandment to love one another.

PROMISE:

"... All will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:35)

WORD:

Acts 14:21-27/ Ps 145:8-13/Rev21:1-5a/ Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

ORDER:

1. "Love one another as I have loved you." (Jn13:34)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pray regularly, asking God to fill your heart with His unconditional love.
2. Reflect on God's forgiveness and grace to increase your capacity to love others.
3. Actively participate in the mission activities of our community.
4. 4. Reach out to others who are in need of physical help, emotional support, and prayers.

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**Bukas Loob Sa Diyos**  
Diocese of Trenton

May 16, 2025

# Community News



<http://bldtrenton.com>

"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love,  
but the greatest of these is LOVE" 1 Corinthians 13:13



## LOVE ONE ANOTHER

The season of Easter reminds us that our calling as disciples is to be shepherds in the likeness of Jesus by loving one another. Love is the defining mark of true discipleship, not just a feeling but a way of life that reveals Christ to the world.

Like Paul and Barnabas in the first reading, who endured hardships to proclaim the Gospel of love, this strengthened the disciples by reminding them, "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." Their journey reflects the reality of Christian life, that joy and struggle go hand in hand. However, these trials shape us to shepherd others in faith.

## PSALM:

**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God**

Shepherding is not just for church leaders but for every believer. We are called to reflect Christ's love in our families, workplaces, and communities, ensuring that love remains at the heart of our witness. For this love speaks of God's mercy and faithfulness, "*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*" (Psalm 145:8-13) This divine love is the foundation of our own call to love one another. As recipients of God's grace, we are to extend it to others, reflecting His everlasting kingdom.

The vision of John in Revelation shows a renewed world where God dwells among His people, wiping away every tear. Love is not just a commandment for today but a glimpse of our eternal future. Every act of kindness and sacrifice rooted in the love of Christ contributes to this greater vision of renewal.

The central message of the gospel delivers Jesus' key commandment: "*Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.*" He states that this love will be the true sign of discipleship: "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." This love is not selective or conditional; it mirrors Christ's selfless and sacrificial love. It forgives, it bears burdens, it endures hardships. It is this love that sets believers apart and draws others to Christ.

Prayer is essential in helping us discern what this love looks like in real time. Contemplative silence, reflective prayer to discern God's love and direction, scripture reflection, receiving the Eucharist regularly, and going to confession will give us the grace to love fully.

A clear direct reminder for us to look to Christ daily, our Shepherd who leads us in love. Our joy in Him should be evident not just in words but in action. This may mean checking on a lonely friend or neighbor, offering our forgiveness to a fractured relationship, or being generous with our time for someone in need. Sometimes it is choosing to support our parish or community's mission activities like encounters, LSS, soup kitchen or medical mission. Love within our community gives living witness to our Lord's resurrection. When we gather as a community to serve, encourage, and lift one another, the love of Jesus becomes visible and transforming. It becomes good news in action. When we love as Jesus did, we show the world that Jesus is alive and working through His people and so, we fulfill His promise:

"All will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."

As we continue in this Easter season, may we be renewed in our commitment to love one another, so that through us, the world may see and experience the love of Christ.



People who love each other fully and truly are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we love one another.

— Mother Teresa —

## The Lord's Provision

May 9, 2025

TITHES: \$805

LOVE OFFERING: \$373



Thank you for your generosity

## Online Giving

You can now send your Tithes and Love Offerings via Paypal. Donate link can be found at [www.bldrenton.com](http://www.bldrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

## God's Blessings Anniversary Birthday

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Matthew 19:6

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" Jeremiah 1:5

Boylly & Raquel Arriola May 20  
Jeric & Weddy Balmaceda May 22

Mary Gay Reodica May 16  
Mina Duque May 17  
Irma McCracken May 18  
Mike Belonia May 19  
Charlie Dingerdissen May 20  
Annielette Manuel May 21  
Nicole Touchette May 21  
Dennis Zulueta May 21

### Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's Visit  
For Prayer Service

Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

### Send Prayer Request To:

[www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory](http://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory)

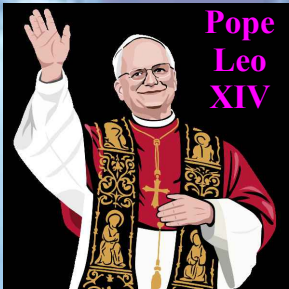
In Christ Jesus,  
we welcome you all to join us every Friday

### Healing Mass

1st Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

### Praise and Worship

2nd, 3rd, 4th (& 5th) Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.



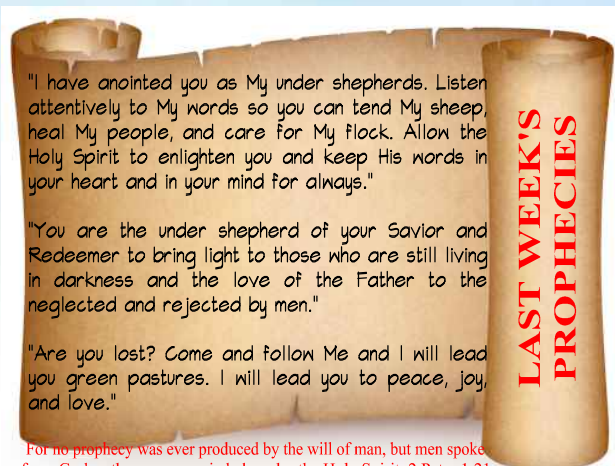
Pope Leo XIV

"Our Mother Mary always wants to walk with us, to be close, to help us with her intercession and her love. So I would like to pray together. Let us pray for this new mission, for the whole Church, for peace in the world."

### HIS WORDS, YOUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

"To all of you, brothers and sisters in Rome, in Italy, throughout the world: we want to be a synodal Church, a Church that moves forward, a Church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close above all to those who are suffering."

"Peace be with you all! This is the peace of the risen Christ, an unarmed peace, a disarming, humble and persevering peace, which comes from God, from God who loves us all unconditionally."  
Pope Leo XIV



"I have anointed you as My under shepherds. Listen attentively to My words so you can tend My sheep, heal My people, and care for My flock. Allow the Holy Spirit to enlighten you and keep His words in your heart and in your mind for always."

"You are the under shepherd of your Savior and Redeemer to bring light to those who are still living in darkness and the love of the Father to the neglected and rejected by men."

"Are you lost? Come and follow Me and I will lead you green pastures. I will lead you to peace, joy, and love."

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21



GOD continues to renew the divine creation. GOD is revealing to us part of the process of making all things new. We can participate in this process by our loving one another as Jesus has loved (and continues to love) us. It means that we must manifest that love by our care and service of others.

The question we must constantly ask ourselves, in every situation we find ourselves, is "How can I bring the newness of GOD's life and love into this situation?" We must contemplate and put into action what it is that we can do to make GOD's presence felt by others (and by ourselves) in each circumstance. It means we must make decision that will not always be easy, but that will further GOD's reign over us and others. We need to be aware of the fresh ruah (breeze, wind, breath, Spirit) blowing into our stuffy lives and then help others to experience that newness through our loving them. When we do that, we will be living out the words of today's psalm: "Let Your faithful ones make known Your might to the children of Adam [including all people], and the glorious splendor of Your reign. Your reign is a reign for all ages, and Your dominion endures through all generations."

The personal question/action for today is: What can I do to bring the newness of GOD's love into a particular situation? Is there a situation today (this week) that can be renewing by my acting in a more loving way? Who needs to experience a sense of renewal that I can help bring about by my loving him/her/them?