

The Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter

St. Michael the Archangel

1703 Jackson Street, Scranton, PA 18504

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday

Low Mass: 8:00am

High Mass: 10:15am

Weekdays

Mon - Thu: 7:45am

Friday: 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 8:00AM 6TH 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, II

Holy Souls—Sica family

SUNDAY 10:00AM 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pro populo

MONDAY 9:45AM 7TH VOTIVE MASS OF THE ANGELS, IV

Doggett & Gristina Families—Doggett family

TUESDAY 7:45AM 8TH NATIVITY OF THE BVM, II

Bill & Cheryl Shields—Susan Shields

WEDNESDAY 7:45AM 9TH ST. PETER CLAVER, CONFESSOR, III

+ Robert Behrens—Sica family

THURSDAY 7:45AM 10TH ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO, CONFESSOR, III

+ Mildred & Carl Schulz—David Smith

FRIDAY 6:00PM 11TH SS. PROTUS & HYACINTH, MARTYRS, IV

Fr. Daniel Nolan

SATURDAY 9:00AM 12TH MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY, III

+ Edward Rzasa—Pheasant family

SUNDAY 8:00AM 13TH 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, II

Stephen LaFata—His family

SUNDAY 10:15AM 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, II

Pro populo

DEVOTIONS

Confession

45mins before

Weekend Masses

Benediction

Fridays: 5:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am

Daily Rosary

Mon-Thu: After Mass

Fri -Sun: Before Mass

Office Hours: Monday by appointment, Friday 9am -3pm.



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

BRING THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST TO THE EMPTINESS OF THE WORLD

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Mass time change for Labor Day: Please note that the Mass time has changed for Monday 7th September (Labor Day). Mass will be offered at 9:45am on Labor Day. The normal Mass time schedule returns on Tuesday 8th September.

Do you love me? (Jn 21:15)

The Greeks understood that the notion of human love is complex and nuanced. To communicate these differences, the language uses different words for love depending on the type of love involved. For example, the type of love that is purely physical in nature, perhaps even lustful, is described as 'eros.' Another type of love is that feeling that two brothers might have for one another – certainly strong, but based on family ties, not physical attraction. The Greeks used the word 'phileo' to describe this type of love. Finally, we come to that last type of love and that is a true eternal love, one that is unconditional and based on self-giving. The Greek word 'agapao' is used to differentiate this true, self-giving love from the others.

If we examine the Gospel of John but insert the specific Greek word [in brackets] just prior to the English translated 'love' used in our modern Bible we find.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you [agapao] love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I [phileo] love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 A second time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you [agapao] love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I [phileo] love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you [phileo] love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you [phileo] love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I [phileo] love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." (Jn 21:15-17)

In the first question, Jesus asks Peter if he [AGAPE – selflessly] loves Him. But Peter responds by saying that yes, he [PHILEO – brotherly] loves Him. The same language is used in the second question by both Jesus and Peter. But in the third iteration, Jesus changes His question. He now asks if Peter [PHILEO – brotherly] loves Him, to which Peter again affirms his brotherly love for Christ. So what do we make of this?

- 1) It seems like Peter didn't really understand what the true Agape. At this point, Peter and the other disciples hardly recognized Christ and didn't really understand the Resurrection. Pentecost and the power of strength of the Holy Spirit is yet to come. The disciples, even Peter, didn't understand the gift of the Cross.
- 2) Jesus, fully intended an Agape relationship with Peter, as evidenced by the use of that word in the first two questions. However, by the third question, Jesus is seemingly willing to settle for the only type of love that Peter is yet capable of giving – a simple friendship. The desire of God and our final destination is revealed. Unfortunately, so is our limited and inadequate human nature.

Jesus does not desire from us simply a *personal* relationship as Lord and Savior. Jesus wants the *selfless* relationship of agape love. But agape love, that love that leads to eternal life, is by its very nature, giving and reciprocal. In the hands of our Redeemer, this agape love involved a walk to Calvary. He gave His life to us on the cross and He continues to give his Body and Blood to us in the Eucharist. The Cross is truly the gift that that keeps on giving. But we are also called to walk in agape love, to pick up our cross and follow Him. We also must make the choice of total surrender of self for the good of the other. As Christ gave His life to us, we must also imitate Him and give our life for Him in return. Jesus wasn't asking Peter if he loved Him, He was using the Gospel to tell us how to love. Christ is drawing us to a spiritual *and* physical relationship, a demonstrable, complete and truly human relationship, where we are prepared to give of ourselves as He has given to us.