

## Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A - Sunday, May 3, 2026

St. Pius X church came up with five different themes of dynamic discipleship; BELIEVE, GATHER, LEAD, LOVE and GROW. Since last summer, we have been exploring the first theme which says: BELIEVE: Jesus Christ is God and came into the world for the salvation of all. Jesus invites us today saying; “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me”. And he also said, “I am the way and the truth and the life”.

The Artemis II Mission April 2026: Artemis II pilot Victor Glover publicly shared that viewing Earth from space reinforced his belief in creation. Pilot Victor Glover highlights the awe-inspiring beauty, the far side of the moon, and the breathtaking view of the earth as profound evidence of divine creation and handiwork. “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands”. (Psalm 19: 1) The Artemis II mission and its 2026 Easter events might point to some coinciding mission. *See; Artemis II Mission reveals glory of God — not science-based atheism, from a Nobel laureate to astrophysicists, experts say scientific evidence points to intelligent design.* By [Stephen C. Meyer Fox News](#) April 8, 2026 @ 9:00am EDT.

### **First reading: seven men were chosen to serve the Christian community: Acts of the Apostles (6: 1-7)**

“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.” **Acts of the Apostles (6: 1-7. NIV)**

The early church is inspiring; look at the constant miracles, the sharing of resources, the members' generosity, the fellowship, the strong faith in Christ, and the worship. However, as they increased in size, so did their needs and challenges. We read the internal challenge that developed between the Hebrew-speaking Christians and the Greek-speaking Christians (probably Jews from other lands who had been converted at Pentecost). The Greek-speaking complained that their widows were being unfairly treated. To correct the situation, the apostles

put seven respected, Greek-speaking men in charge of the food distribution program. This solved the problem, and the apostles were able to focus on teaching and preaching the good news about Jesus. The early church had its own shortcomings and challenges along with its amazing growth. Is there a perfect church community out there today? Am not sure. But each of us can do what we can to make our parish community a better place. We deeply appreciate all those who serve or volunteer in one way or another in St Pius X Fellowship Hall, where we encounter one another around the table with food and drinks. The friendships, the connections, the joys, the stories shared, the laughter, and the bonds built over the years in this place are important and remain profound. A church does not have to be perfect to be faithful to Christ.

Second reading: (1 Peter 2:4-9) Those who have faith are chosen in Christ to be a holy priesthood.

The Gospel: (John 14:1–12) Jesus says, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

### **Gospel of John 14: 1-12. (NIV)**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Jesus the Way to the Father Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

**Uncertainty – Faith – and Trusting in Christ:** The disciples of Jesus were obviously worried about death and what happens after. The words of Jesus are comforting and reassuring even for us today. From what the Lord said today, **the way to eternal life, though unseen, remains secure for us if we trust Jesus Christ with the future.** Jesus has already prepared the way for us to eternal life. The only issue that may still be unsettled is our willingness to believe in Christ. **BELIEVE** in Jesus Christ is critically important for our salvation.

Astronaut Pilot Victor Glover highlights the awe-inspiring beauty of the far side of the moon and the breathtaking view of the Earth **as profound evidence of divine glory, divine creation, and handiwork.** “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands”. (Psalm 19: 1)

Jesus also offers us reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “The Incarnation of God's Son reveals that God is the eternal Father and that the Son is consubstantial with the Father, which means that, in the Father and with the Father, the Son is one and the same God.” (CCC 262) Amen.

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