

# *St. Philip the Apostle*

Roman Catholic Church



## **Tuesday, May 2, 2023**

- Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Easter
- Memorial of St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Special Intentions of Joey Fritz & Sons, Joey B & Julius***

### **First Reading: Acts 11:19-26**

Those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose because of Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but Jews. There were some Cypriots and Cyrenians among them, however, who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks as well, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the Church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to go to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the Church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 87:1-3, 4-5, 6-7**

***All you nations, praise the Lord.***

His foundation upon the holy mountains  
the Lord loves:

The gates of Zion,  
more than any dwelling of Jacob.  
Glorious things are said of you,  
O city of God! ***R/.***

I tell of Egypt and Babylon  
among those who know the Lord;  
Of Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia:  
"This man was born there."  
And of Zion they shall say:  
"One and all were born in her;  
And he who has established her  
is the Most High Lord." ***R/.***

They shall note, when the peoples are enrolled:  
"This man was born there."

And all shall sing, in their festive dance:

"My home is within you." *R/.*

### **Gospel: John 10:22-30**

The feast of the Dedication was taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

### **Reflection**

*The Father and I are one.* (John 10:30)

"Jesus, you have told us that you are one with your heavenly Father. This was a shocking idea to the Jews who heard you say it. But for us who live in the age of the Church, this truth opens up so many wonderful mysteries!

*"You and the Father are one.* That means that when we see you, Jesus, we see the almighty, invisible God! You show us his heart, his desires for us, his people, and his priorities. In your words of forgiveness, healing, and peace, we experience the tenderness God has for us. We stand in awe that in you, almighty God has come close to us. So our hearts overflow with thanks that you came to earth to show us your heavenly Father — our heavenly Father!

*"You and the Father are one.* Jesus, not only do you show us the Father, but you have opened the way for us to come to the Father! By taking on our flesh, you have torn asunder the veil of sin that separated us from God. Thank you that we no longer have to be estranged from our Creator — all because you have reconciled us to him!

*"You and the Father are one.* Because you accepted us as your brothers and sisters, Jesus, you have brought us into God's family. Through you, we can now experience the mercy and acceptance that God has always wanted to share with us. In you, we can see that we are beloved children of God. What an awesome truth!

*"You and the Father are one.* Jesus, when you returned to your Father, you took us with you. We can now begin to experience unity with you here on earth, and we will one day experience complete unity when we enter heaven. We are no longer shackled by our weaknesses or faults. Because you have sent your own Spirit to live in us, we can live in holiness. We can become a living witness to the Father in our world!

*"You and the Father are one.* We worship you, Jesus, for filling us with hope and joy because you have come to make us one with the Father."

*Lord, help me to see how 'shocking' — and wonderful — it is that you and the Father are one and that you are in me.*

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

### **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.