

### INTRODUCTION:

There is a quiet truth about love. It is not proved in words alone, but in the choices, we make every day. So, in today's Gospel, when Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments", He is reminding His disciples that their love becomes visible when they are faithful to His commandments. And in the very next sentence He promises to send them the Holy Spirit who will help them live by the commandments. At this Eucharist, we are invited to examine our own love. Do we allow the Spirit to guide us in making this love visible in our lives?

### READINGS:

<b>First Reading</b>	: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	: Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a, 16 & 20
<b>Second Reading</b>	: 1 Peter 3:15-18
<b>Gospel</b>	: John 14:15-21

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** Trusting in the promise of the Lord who never leaves us orphaned, we bring our prayers before our loving Father.

Our response is: *Lord, hear our prayer*

- For Pope Leo, our Bishops, Priests and Religious – that filled with the Holy Spirit, they may boldly proclaim the Gospel and be a living witness of Christ's love in the world ... we ask this in faith.
- For world leaders – that they may work together to end war and bring peace, placing the well-being of their people above personal gains ... we ask this in faith.
- For those who suffer for their faith – that like Christ, they may endure trials with courage and gentleness, and find strength in the presence of the Holy Spirit ... we ask this in faith.
- For our parish community – that by keeping Christ's commandments, our love may be made visible, making us faithful witness of the Gospel in our families and society ... we ask this in faith.
- For the sick and the departed – that the sick may be healed and strengthened by God's grace, and that the faithful departed may share in the fullness of eternal life ... we ask this in faith.
- In silence we bring to the Lord our personal petitions and the needs of people who have asked for our prayers ... (*long silent pause*) ... we ask this in faith.

**Celebrant:** Eternal Father, we thank You for revealing Your love to us through Your Son and guiding us through Your Holy Spirit. Hear these prayers we offer with trust and deepen our love for You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.