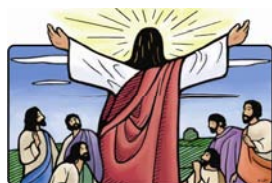


**JUNE 5, 2011: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
(SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER)**



“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” — Mt 28:19-20

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS



Sunday, June 5, Ascension of the Lord (Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family
10:30 am- James Meisner

Mon., June 6, St. Norbert, bishop (Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33)

7:00 am- Clemence Leopold
10:00 am- Henry J. Schneider, III (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, June 7 (Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a)

7:00 am- I. B. Krejci

Wednesday, June 8 (Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19)

7:00 am- Leon & Leona Grahmann
8:05 am- Arnold Rother

Thursday, June 9, St. Ephrem, deacon & doctor of the Church (Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26)

7:00 am- Rudy & Dorothy Petru
10:00 am- For Rain (Stevens)

Friday, June 10 (Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19)

7:00 am- Allan Louis Janecek
8:05 am- Georgia Bohuslav

Saturday, June 11, St. Barnabas, apostle (Morning: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3/Jn 21:20-25. Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39)

5:30 pm- Delaine Kolacny

Sunday, June 12, Pentecost Sunday (Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23)

8:00 am- Maggie Timm
10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: Carl & Patsy Klmitchek Family.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Allan & Evelyn Lanik Family.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,081; Loose-\$952; Children-\$38.

Flowers this weekend at the Altar of Sacrifice are in memory of Marie Voelkel Holy by Dave & Lind Ward.

Anniversaries:

Michael & Janice Jares	25 years	June 7
Harvey & Doyleen Drozd	50 years	June 11

May Baptisms: Heidi Marie, daughter of Bradley & Stephanie Anzel Grahmann; Emilie Gene, daughter of Craig & Brandy Sebesta Tolson; and, Samuel John, son of John & Ashley Henneke Patlovany.

Welcome to the Parish: Bill & Cindy Caraway, children Brannen, Courtney & Joseph; and, Frank Chovanetz.

Perpetual Adoration – adorers are needed at 4:00 pm on Wednesdays. If you are able to spend this hour in adoration with our Lord, call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

-Sacred Heart Church Picnic, Flatonía.

-BBQ Calf Group Supper, KC Hall Pavilion. Social - 5:30 p.m. Meal - 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dessert.

MONDAY, JUNE 6

-Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.

-Women's ACTS meeting, 7:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Family Center.

-K.C. General meeting, 7:30 p.m., KC Hall.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

-V.B.S. Crew Leader meeting, 6:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

-KJT #40 Czech Kolache Klobase Festival, Riverside Hall, East Bernard. BBQ Chicken & Sausage Dinner 11 am. Kolaches, music, arts/crafts, cake walk, kiddie games.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

-St. Mary's Church Picnic. Stew & Sausage Dinner 10:30 am (dine in or drive thru). Auction 1:00 pm. Bingo, raffle, cake & plant walk, country store, game booths & kiddie rides. Music by Texas Sound Check, Tony Janak Band & Red Ravens. Delicious hamburgers, ice cream, snowcones, popcorn, & cold refreshments all afternoon!

-St. Rose Church Picnic, KC Hall, Schulenburg. Fried Chicken/Sausage Dinner 11 am. Auction, bingo, cake walk, country store, games, live music & more.

Among our sick: Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Helen M. Appelt, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Hubert & Mary Grahmann, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Dr. Michael Moore, John D. Henneke, Bill Gohlke, Monica Barnes, Sterlin Ritchie, Brenda Grahmann, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Robert Butschek, Derrick Berger, Anita Bohuslav, Anita Kallus, Daniel Wick, Josephine Janak, Paul & Leona Najvar, Betty Hernandez, Gene Drozd, Irene Bordovsky, nursing home residents & the homebound.

All are invited to celebrate Holy Mass in honor of Rev. Msgr. Thomas McLaughlin's 55th Anniversary of Ordination & 80th birthday, Friday, June 10, 12:00 noon, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. Principal celebrant is Bishop Fellhauer. Reception to follow at the Chancery.

The Serra Clubs of the Diocese of Victoria are holding a car raffle with proceeds benefiting vocation efforts in the diocese. Current cost to educate one seminarian is \$25,000 per year. Total education cost per seminarian is \$225,000. Currently we have 10 seminarians. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and extremely necessary to the church. A 2010 Toyota Corolla Sport car is scheduled to be given away on July 14. The raffle tickets sell for \$5 each or 3 for \$10, and are available for purchase at the Rectory or from Ed Scherer 798-3414.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our parish picnic last Sunday a very successful event. Many people helped in a variety of ways from working before, during and after the picnic to cleaning up afterwards.

June 29 will mark the sixtieth anniversary of the priestly ordination of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, which took place on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul in 1951. This is a particularly appropriate occasion for us to rally around the Supreme Pontiff, to demonstrate to him our gratitude, our affection, and our communion with him, both in his service to God and to the Church and above all in that "Truth which shines upon the world" to which he continually calls us through his teaching.

As a means of a spiritual observance of this anniversary in a way that would be pleasing to the Holy Father, we are warmly invited to offer at least sixty hours of Eucharistic Adoration in observance of the Holy Father's sixtieth anniversary. These sixty hours are intended for the sanctification of the Clergy and for obtaining from God the gift of new and holy priestly vocations. We can exceed sixty hours by each adorer offering one of our regular hours of adoration during the month of June.

**Religious Education (CCD) -- Office 798-3124
Angela McConnell, Coordinator**

June 8: VBS Crew Leader meeting, 6:00 p.m., Cafeteria.
June 13: VBS Crew Leader meeting, 6:00 p.m., Cafeteria.
June 20-24: Vacation Bible School (4 yrs old – 5th Grade)
The fun begins June 20-24, 8:30 am-12pm. Forms may be picked up in church or at the Rectory. We are going to have an awesome week! All youth that signed up should plan to attend a crew leader meeting. Call Angela at 798-3124 or cell 741-8730 to volunteer or for more information. Fee is \$12 per student.

PRAYER FOR RAIN – Heavenly Father, we believe that it is You who created our world with all of its beauty and life. We believe that it is You who put into place the systems of nature that sustain, nurture and renew this work of Your hands. We believe that it is You who hears Your children when they call upon You. Hear, then this prayer which comes from a heart filled with confidence and trust. Grant to us and to all Who seek it, the gift of a bountiful rain. Water our lands so that they may once again spring to life and reflect the beauty of your creation. Fill our lakes and rivers with sufficient rain so that they may continue to provide life giving and refreshing water to all who depend upon it for their livelihood and well being. Please do not let many more days pass without sending us this most needed blessing of rain. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.



Camp David: A few spots are still available. Go to www.victoriadiocese.org for registration forms.

Young Adult ACTS Retreat: Forms available in the church foyer this weekend. Register ASAP. Space is limited. This retreat is for 20-30 year olds.

Notice: We are making plans to attend NCYC in Indianapolis (Nov. 17-20). High school youths interested in attending should contact Greg & Kris at 798-0655.

Thank you all for supporting the youth group at the Spring Picnic!

Calendar Membership: May 26: Jack Zamykal, Victoria -\$100; **May 27:** Beverly Machac, Sheridan-\$100; **May 29:** Gene & Bettye Bujnoch-\$500.

Ascension of the Lord



The Broadway musical, Spider-Man, Turn Off the Dark, is filled with high-flying aerial stunts that astounded audiences when they worked correctly. A significant part of the buzz

surrounding the production, with its music by Bono and Edge, comes from the fact that the spectacular aerial displays don't always work. Actors have ended up being suspended in midair while stage crews hastened to untangle cables and pulleys. Sometimes, instead of Spiderman flying through the air with the greatest of ease, he ends up hanging helplessly above the stage.

From Icarus to NASA, humankind has imagined ways of leaving the earth. Watching birds soar aloft has provoked our imaginations into thinking that we too could one day lift ourselves to the heavens. The Scriptures for the feast of the Ascension leave us with the same vision as Jesus was lifted up in a cloud. Two men in white ask the apostles, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?"

Why, indeed? Jesus is no superhero, despite having His own rock musical, Jesus Christ Superstar. Looking to the heavens is not what this feast is about. As the Gospel for today reminds us, we are given a great commission: to make disciples of all nations, baptizing people and teaching them to observe what Jesus has commanded. We are not spectators like the audience at a Broadway musical, looking up to see what might happen. We are, instead, actors, taking our roles in the great story of salvation history. The commission Jesus gives in the Gospel is not only addressed to the eleven disciples who gathered with Him on a mountain in Galilee. That commission is given to all of us, to go out into the world and to make disciples. Much of the language during this Easter season has an upward movement. Now Christ has commanded us to lift up others so they may be raised to new life in Him.

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

Acts 1:12–14
1 Peter 4:13–16
John 17:1–11a

MONDAY

John 16:29–33

"I have conquered the world!"

TUESDAY

John 17:1–11a

"Father, the hour has come."

WEDNESDAY

John 17:11b–19

"... protect them from the evil one."

THURSDAY

John 17:20–26

"The glory that you have given me I have given them."

FRIDAY

John 21:15–19

"Tend my sheep."

SATURDAY

John 21:20–25

"Follow me!"

The God Within Us

A college student landed a summer job working on the street department in a small rural community where they directed him to paint the yellow line down the center of the highway by hand. After three days of this work his supervisor called him in. "The first day on the job, you painted three miles of the yellow line. The second day you painted two miles. But today you only painted one mile. We can't accept this. You're fired." As the young man left the office, he looked back and he said, "You know, it's not entirely my fault. Each day I got farther away from the paint can."

Sometimes we imagine God as a paint can, as a presence outside of ourselves. We see God as closer or farther away from us, depending on where we stand. We think we are closer to God when we pray or when we do what is good. We limit God's presence to a church or the beauty of nature. We imagine God dwelling in saintly people like Mother Theresa or in church leaders like Pope Benedict. Of course God is present in these people and places. But prior to any of these presences, God is present in us. God is in our hearts.

This truth is powerfully expressed in today's Gospel. Jesus prays to his Father, revealing that even as he returns to the Father, both the Father and Son remain in us. The glory of the Gospel is that we abide in God's very life. God is not like a paint can exterior to ourselves. God lives within us.



The Faith of the Church

The bishops of the Second Vatican Council assert that Christ is at work in human hearts through the energy of his Spirit. He animates, purifies, and strengthens every noble longing of humanity by which men and women strive to make life more human and render the whole earth submissive to God's purpose (Cf. *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* 38).



Questions of the Week

Today's gospel is taken from the Farewell Discourse of Jesus which the Fourth Gospel presents at the conclusion of the Last Supper. Jesus' powerful words assure us that we share in the very life of God.

Adults

What simple steps can I take to remind myself that God is always with me and that I can always trust in God's guidance and love?

Children

Do I realize that God knows me better than anyone else and is always here to help me?

Responding to God's Word . . .

When we acknowledge the abiding presence of God within us, we will understand that God is present to us in every situation.

God is with us when we succeed, when we love generously, and when we serve faithfully. God rejoices in our goodness and calls us to love even more deeply, to give more generously. He knows the more giving we are, the happier we will be. God is with us when we sin. He waits for us to see the wastefulness of our selfishness, the destructiveness of our anger, the foolishness of our prejudice. God calls us to change.

He is with us in our suffering—when our world falls apart, when the people we love leave us, when sickness and death surround us. God is with us, affirming us and calling us to patience and to courage.

God is with us forever. He is closer to us than we are to ourselves. It is only when we know and accept this truth that we can be people of hope. Hope flows from believing that there is a power greater than our strength and cleverness. God is the one who is with us, supporting us, guiding us, leading us to life.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. At a family meal or gathering, ask each member to share a time when he or she realized that God was present and how such a presence can bless others.

In the workplace or in school. When facing a difficulty at school or work, pause and ask for help from the God who dwells within you.

In the community. Encourage someone who is coping with sickness, divorce, or any other trouble that God is close at hand.



Meditation Moment

Mark Twain's wit and charm made him popular not only in America but also in Europe. On one European trip, he was invited to dine with a head of state. When Twain's little daughter learned of the invitation, she said, "Daddy, you know every big person there is to know, except God." She was referring to the fact that her daddy was not a religious man, at least in the formal sense.

For reflection . . .

An example of Twain's irreligious wit is this sentence from his Notebook: "If Christ were here now, there is one thing he would not be—a Christian." What is Twain's point and to what extent might it be valid today?

RELIGION IS NOT A WAY OF LOOKING AT CERTAIN THINGS. IT IS A CERTAIN WAY OF LOOKING AT EVERYTHING.

ROBERT E. SEGAL

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

A Prayer to the God Within Us

God of Love,
there are times when
I feel alone, when those I love
ignore me, when those who dislike
me gloat, when even friends do not
understand, when my usual burdens
become too great to bear. In these empty
moments, remind me of your faithfulness.
In these times of despair, console me
with your grace. In these deserts
of isolation, support me with
the truth that you are abiding
in my heart. Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land.

Deuteronomy 34:10–11

Profile in Faith

Moses

The closeness of Moses to God is unparalleled in the history of Israel. Unlike others who received revelation, Moses spoke to God "face to face, as one speaks to a friend" (Exodus 33:11). Moses' intimacy with God was an anticipation of the remarkable closeness that God shares with every Christian believer.

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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
January 26, 2011

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June 2011

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Baptismal bargain

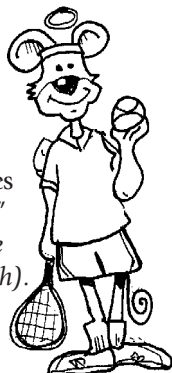
When we are baptized, God forms an unbreakable covenant with us promising his unconditional love. *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:38-39). Our part of the bargain is to obey him and love him, and put him first in our lives. At Baptism, we are marked as God's for life. That can never change.

A perspective check

"Do not lose your inward peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset."
St. Francis de Sales.

Adoration

"The acknowledgment of God as God, Creator and Savior, the Lord and Master of everything that exists ... The first commandment of the law obliges us to adore God"
(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*).



What's the big deal about sin?

Dealing with sin is uncomfortable and following God's rules is hard. The world tells us that sin doesn't exist, so isn't it enough to just try to be good people? Frankly, just doing that makes us better than most.

God's rules rule. While we may think we are "good" and others may look up to us, eventually God will decide if we have been what he considers "good." Since his opinion is the one that matters, his rules rule.

Sin is real. The world tells us that sin doesn't exist but Catholics know that "sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the eternal law of God." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

The law can be found in the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and in Scripture. The law says sin is real.

No guilt, no forgiveness.

Unconfessed sin separates us from God. *"For you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt"* (Isaiah 64:6). Avoiding guilt means missing God's forgiveness.

The plan. Each evening, examine the day's actions and ask if they would please God or not. Resolve to do better and take steps to change. Seek absolution through

the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Then when you finally meet God he will say, *"Well done, my good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:23).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we celebrate the "Sabbath" on Sunday?

The first Christians were Jews who observed the traditional Sabbath Friday night and then celebrated the Eucharist in homes on Sunday in honor of the Resurrection (Acts 20:7). Eventually, they were excommunicated from Judaism and expelled



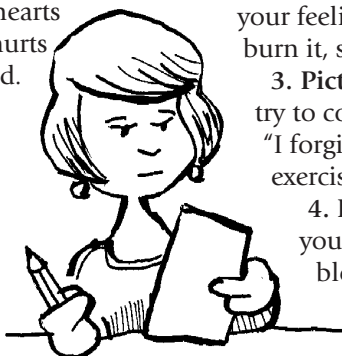
from the temple and synagogue.

No longer permitted to practice the Hebrew faith, they moved the Sabbath to Sunday. Thus the first Christians transformed the Sabbath service into the Liturgy of the Eucharist or the Mass that eventually evolved into the Lord's Day we observe today.

A few minutes a day to greater happiness

Resentment or anger takes up space in our hearts that is meant for love and happiness. And it hurts us more than the ones for whom it is intended. One sure way to be happier right now, is to spend a few minutes offering forgiveness to anyone who has hurt you.

1. **Make a list** of those who have hurt you and whom you still resent.
2. **Acknowledge the hurt** you feel toward each person. Try writing a letter describing



your feelings. Don't send the letter but put it in a drawer, burn it, shred it, or lock it away.

3. **Picture the face** of each person and instead of anger, try to conjure feelings of understanding and warmth. Say, "I forgive you," as you picture him or her. Repeat this exercise every day until the feelings become genuine.
4. **Retrain your brain.** When you see or think of your former "enemies," ask God to rain down blessings on him or her. It's hard to hate someone you bless.

from Scripture

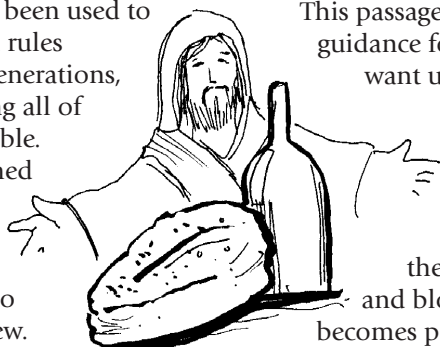
John 6:51-58, Christ as food for body and soul.

Jesus shocked his listeners with the instructions he gave in this passage. To people who had been used to living by prescribed rules handed down for generations, the idea of scrapping all of that was inconceivable. Their rules established clear, safe boundaries and compliance was all that was necessary to be seen as a good Jew.

But Jesus wanted more from them. He wanted them to stop honoring the letter of the law and to start living its spirit. In fact, he wanted

them to disregard the old ways and follow the new ones he described.

This passage is also meant as guidance for us. Jesus doesn't want us to just follow the formulas of our Catholic faith, he wants us to let it live in us and become part of us. By giving us the Eucharist – his body and blood – he lives in us and becomes part of us. In return, he demands active participation in our faith; he wants us to live his words, not just hear them. We must consume them and make them part of us.



Q & A Was Mary Magdalene a prostitute?

What did Mary Magdalene do to earn such an undeserved reputation? It has long been incorrectly thought that Mary



Magdalene was the adulteress threatened with stoning and forgiven by Jesus in John 8:1-11, but Scripture doesn't support that theory.

We do know that Jesus drove out seven demons from her (Mark 16:9).

What we also know about her is that she was one of a group of women who, of gratitude and generosity, helped to finance his ministry. "Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources" (Luke 8:1-3).

We know, too, that Mary Magdalene was loyal and courageous. Although the Apostles fled, Mary and some of the other women stayed with Jesus during his crucifixion. Perhaps that is why Jesus chose Mary to be among the first witnesses of the Resurrection.

Feasts & Celebrations

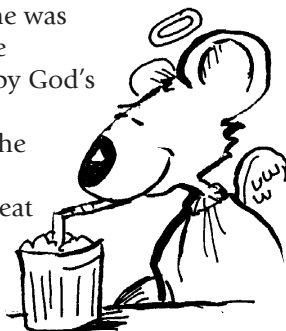
June 11 - St. Barnabas (1st Century). The Apostles changed his name from Joseph to Barnabas, meaning "son of encouragement," because he sold his property and gave the funds to the new Church.

June 21 - St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1591). St. Aloysius prayed and fasted from age 7. Upon joining the Society of Jesus, he was told to cut back and spend time with other students. He died nursing the sick.

June 24 - Nativity of St. John the Baptist (1st Century). The only saint whose birth and death we observe, St.

John was Jesus' cousin. He baptized and prepared the people for Jesus' ministry. He even baptized Jesus but was executed for denouncing Herod's immoral marriage.

June 29 - Saints Peter and Paul (1st century). Jesus chose Peter to lead the Church. The Gospels include some unflattering details about Peter, showing that he was ordinary, made extraordinary by God's grace. An early persecutor of the Church, Paul became the Great Apostle, also transformed by grace.



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