

The reading from Acts describes the ascension of Jesus. It also shows how Jesus, now in the glorious presence of his Father, continues to act through the Holy Spirit and through his followers.

The Gospel is concerned with the Lord's ascension and the missionary charge he gave his apostles. The preaching of the apostles was to have the same effect as the preaching of Jesus. The reference to picking up snakes and drinking poison is not to be taken literally. According to the Middle Eastern mentality hyperbole is an accepted way of making a point – through the power of Jesus the apostles will triumph over all evils.

The apostles are to challenge people of all times and places either to believe or reject the Gospel. The statement that equates belief in Christ with salvation and disbelief with condemnation, can't be preached as bluntly as that. Today unbelief springs from many factors, not least from the poor witness given by those who claim to believe in Jesus.

The theological meaning of the feast is expressed in the Second Reading: God has glorified Jesus, raising him above all earthly powers, and making him head of the Church and Lord of creation.

The ascension of Jesus is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not represent his removal from the earth, but his constant presence everywhere on earth.

--New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies, by Flor McCarthy, SDB



To date 136 pledges (out of 1267 registered families) have been made which total \$67,683. **This leaves us a balance of \$5,265 to make our parish goal of \$72,948.**

Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. We thank those who have already responded to help the less fortunate in our community. Please make checks payable to the Catholic Sharing Appeal and mail directly to the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi at 1790 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi 39532. You may also donate online at www.biloxidiocese.org/giving.



You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass on Monday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Adoration, Rosary, and Consecration



Practice for First Holy Communion will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15th in the Church. **The Sacrament of First Holy Communion** will be held during the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 19th.



XLt...Exalt! Spend an hour adoring our Lord. Come join us for praise and worship music along with confession on Thursday, May 16th, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the church.



The Lord Is My Help needs volunteers to pack take-out lunches from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. and/or to serve lunch from 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (no cooking involved) the week of May 20th – 24th, 2024.

If you are able to volunteer your time on any of these days at either/both of the times, please call Jamie Lloyd at 713-818-6071. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



The Bookstore and Gift Shop is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and after all weekend Masses.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:

Reverend Msgr. Patrick J. Carey, May 1, 1979
 Reverend Msgr. Patrick K. Bambrick, May 1, 2002
 Reverend John T. O'Brien, May 18, 2009
 Reverend Dominic Phan – May 28, 2019

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

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| MONDAY | MAY 13 |
| Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Mathilde and Fernand Latour |
| 8:15 a.m. | Mr. Warren Strayham |
| TUESDAY | MAY 14 |
| Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Mr. John Porterfield |
| 8:15 a.m. | Ms. Brenda Smith |
| WEDNESDAY | MAY 15 |
| Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Mr. Ed Dietrick, Jr. |
| 8:15 a.m. | Ms. Susie Jurich |
| THURSDAY | MAY 16 |
| Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Ms. Marilyn Hille |
| 8:15 a.m. | Int. Dr. Anna Bettois |
| FRIDAY | MAY 17 |
| Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 | |
| 6:30 a.m. | Mr. Gerry Porche |
| 8:15 a.m. | Int. Mr. Trent Hartzog |
| SATURDAY | MAY 18 |
| Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25 | |
| 8:15 a.m. | Mr. David Cole |
| SUNDAY | MAY 19 |
| Genesis 11:1-9; Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b; Ezekiel 37:1-14 | |
| Joel 3:1-5; Romans 8:22-27; John 7:37-39 | |
| 4:00 p.m. | Congregation |
| Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23 | |
| 7:30 a.m. | Ms. Jackie Endt |
| 9:00 a.m. | Int. Deacon Jim & Toni Gunkel |
| 11:30 a.m. | Int. First Communicants |
| 5:30 p.m. | Mr. Billy Cruthirds |



Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends: Beckett Bassenger, Christopher Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Betty Bodin, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Michael Bosarge, Bryleigh Brochard, Kay Brochard, Jeff Brochard, Roland Broussard, Roxie Buckles, Arlene Burns, Mildred "Tootsie" Caillavet, Benny and Carol Lee Cantin, Marshall Car, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Allene Chatham, Clifford Claverie, Scott Claverie, Pat Cronin, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Jeannine Dionne, Marjorie DuBois, Rose Mary Eagan, Nija Fountain, Ray Frazier, Gordon Gaethe, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Josh Hamilton, Trent Hartzog, Margaret Hebert, Olivia Hood, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Ashley Jensen, Lora Jordan, Otis Kaufman, Jack Kelly, Bill Kortman, Mary Krystosek, Sawyer Kuljis, Daisie Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Gordon Mathieu, Mrs. McKinney, Iva Misko, Edward Necaie, Donna and Edward Necaie Jr., Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, The Petitjean Family, Jean Petricca, Richard Potash, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Julia Sarpy, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor Jr., Jerry Schneider, Dale Seymour, Bridgett Shepard, Glenn Sigurnjak, Myrt Talbott, Brittany and John Thornton, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, Ashley Vickers and Glenn Williams, Sr.

WEEKLY OFFERING

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|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday Collection..... | \$14,050.50 |
| Weekly/Monthly Online Collection..... | \$ 6,670.00 |
| Poor Collection..... | \$ 5,196.00 |



God's Personal Love

What makes God's love so much stronger and more powerful is that it is personal, given particularly to every one of us as if there is no one else in all the world. God loves you personally; for you alone he created the world and all its wonders; for love of you alone he became man and desired to be your guide, your servant, your friend, your defender, and your companion in the journey from time to eternity.
 ~St. Peter Julian Eymard

When you come to understand the profound love that God has for you and that the greatest expression of his love for you is in the Blessed Sacrament, you will come to understand just how much he loves you personally. Don't you want to know that? Don't you want to experience such love from the all-powerful God that it appears as if you are the only object of his love? Well, you can. The Eucharist is the divine fire of God's personal love for you. You will never find a greater love anywhere else.

~Fr. Donald Calloway, 30 Day Eucharistic Revival

Come and experience Jesus' love for you, any day or hour of the week. He is ready to pour out his love and mercy to anyone who seeks him! Visit stalphonesus.weadorehim.com to view the adoration schedule and sign up for an hour.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS: You are invited to come and join us for the 8:15 Mass followed by the recitation of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows (a rosary of repentance) on the third Saturday of each month. (i.e. May 18). The purpose of our coming together is threefold: 1) To pray for all victims of sexual abuse 2) To pray, in reparation for all the vile sins committed against the Body of Christ, and 3) To pray for the graces of repentance, healing, conversion and salvation of ALL SOULS!



An anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, May 18th at 3:30 p.m. (before the 4:00 p.m. Mass) in the Church. This is for all elderly parishioners, anyone with an illness, or parishioners with elderly or homebound family members that may wish to receive this Sacrament.



Evening of Intercessory Prayer - Let us all please come and join together in prayer. May is the month of Mary. Our Blessed Mother needs your prayers and intercessions now more than ever! Because Jesus chooses to come to us through Mary, we also return to Him through her. We are assured that going to Jesus through Mary is the most perfect and secure way of obtaining union with our Lord; she is the sure means, the perfect guide and immaculate way to Jesus, it is through her that souls who are to shine forth in sanctity must find him. Being a witness to Mary for Jesus is our duty! When you grow in an authentic knowledge of the faith revealed by our Lord, you must also share it with others. Real faith must be shared! Please come and participate with us on Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Church and please bring your rosary, if you do not have one, one is available for you to keep. "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God. (Philippians.4:6)



Walking With Moms In Need Ministry (WWMIN) is hosting a Baby Shower the entire month of May. To continue the success of the ministry, they are asking for donations of diapers (all sizes), formula, baby toiletries, bottles, blankets, etc. and new and/or gently used infant/toddler clothes and baby necessities (car seats, high chairs, etc.) Donation boxes will be located at all entrances to the church. For questions or comments, contact Mary @228-348-6092 or Donna @228-218-1799.

**To All our Moms – Happy Mother's Day
 May you have a Blessed Day**



Today as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples...and now through us.

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and into the hearts of those who are poor.



Looking to deepen your faith? Discipleship Quads are groups of either 4 men or 4 women who journey together as disciples with weekly gatherings of fellowship, ongoing conversion, and learning.

For more information or if you would like to sign up for a Quad, contact Christy Geissinger at (228) 219-6189.



National Eucharistic Pilgrimage May 17 - July 16, 2024 The Fire Is Spreading

Throughout the National Eucharistic Revival, local communities are gathering tinder in response to God's invitation for renewal, calling on the Holy Spirit to bring the flame. In keeping with this vision, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will accompany Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire along the way. Then at the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024, all these flames will blaze together.

The St. Juan Diego Route is the Southern route that starts in Brownsville, TX and travels into Mississippi on June 10th with stops at Our Lady of the Gulf, Holy Family Parish (June 11th), St. Thomas the Apostle (June 12th), Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral (June 13th) and St. Alphonsus (June 14th). For more information on this historic journey and how you can sign up to join the pilgrimage, go to eucharisticpilgrimage.org.

"The Pilgrimage will be a powerful, once-in-a-lifetime witness of how Jesus Christ comes close to us and invites all to encounter him in the Eucharist." ~Bishop Andrew Cozzens



You are invited to join a Special Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Terri Smith and Fr. Mike Snyder June 3 – 11, 2024. This special Medjugorje Pilgrimage Tour spends one week in the peaceful mountain hamlet

where the Virgin Mary has been appearing since June 25, 1981. You will attend Mass, pray the Rosary daily, have the opportunity to climb Apparition Hill where Our Lady first appeared, and to make the Way of the Cross as you ascend Cross Mountain. Our Lady calls all her Children to Medjugorje and invites them to a closer relationship with Her Son, Jesus, and she exhorts us to Pray for Peace in our hearts, in our homes, and in our communities. How will you answer Our Lady's call? Reserve your place on this special Medjugorje Pilgrimage today by calling 800-715-6670 or online at www.catholicjourneys.com/tour/medjugorje-pilgrimage-tour and scroll down to June 3 departure. \$2,995 per person.



Catholic Charities of South Mississippi Grieving and Growing Series June 17-21 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Are you struggling with the loss of a loved one? Catholic Charities invites you to join their 5-part series presented by therapist Brooke Peleaz, "Grieving and Growing". This series is designed to guide you through the journey of grief and facilitate personal growth. The workshop is open to individuals ages 55 and up.

In this series, you will: Connect with others who understand your pain; Learn healthy coping strategies; Explore the spiritual dimensions of grief; Gain tools to navigate the grieving process.

This series offers a safe and nurturing environment to process your emotions, find comfort, and embark on a path towards growth and acceptance. For more information or to register call 228-219-5595 or email Meleuterius@biloxidiocese.org.



**The Flowers on the Altar are in
 Memory of Monica Goretski**