

DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

www.bnspcatholic.org

Mission Statement : Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 12TH, 2024

St John Church (SJ) - 415 37th St, Bellaire, OH 43906

St. Mary Church (SM) - 240 E 40th St, Shadyside, OH 43947

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM - SM Saturday 5:30 PM - SJ

Sunday 11:00 AM - SM Sunday 9:30 AM - SJ

WEEKDAY MASS

6:00 p.m. (Mon.) SJ 8:00 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) – SJ 8:00 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) - SM 8:00 a.m.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - SM

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - SJ

Monday: 5:00p.m. - 5:45p.m. - SJ

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 -7:45a.m. - SM

Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:45a.m. - SJ

CENTRAL OFFICE

3745 Tallman Ave., Bellaire, OH 43906

Phone - 676-0051 - Fax - 671-9776

Email: stjohns3745@comcast.net

Office Hours: M,W,F -

8:00am- 12:00pm / 1:00pm-4:00pm

Fr. Daniel Heusel, Pastor (SJ), Pastor (SM)

Cell: (740) 298-4158

Email: dheusel@diosteub.org

Mrs. Tonya Grimm, Secretary

(740) 676-0051

Email: stjohns3745@comcast.net

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal



We use Flocknote to connect with you!

1. Text MISSION2LOVE to 84576 or 2.Go to StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com and sign up there! Receive updates, including the weekly bulletin, via email and text message!



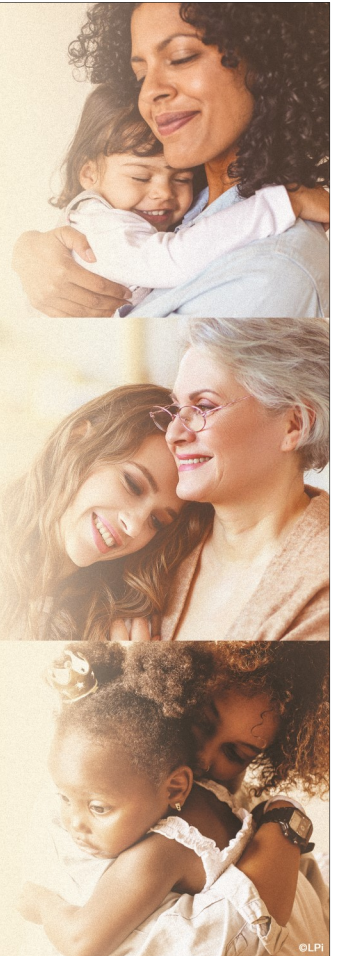
www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs

www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!

MARY IS
THE MOTHER
WHO WATCHES
OVER US,
HER CHILDREN,
ON OUR
JOURNEY
THROUGH LIFE,
OFTEN WEARY
AND IN NEED,
ANXIOUS THAT
THE LIGHT OF
HOPE NOT FAIL.

CHRISTUS VIVIT, NO. 48



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, whose Son today ascended to the heavens as the Apostles looked on, grant we pray, that, in accordance with his promise, we may be worthy for him to live with us always on earth, and we with him in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of The Ascension of the Lord

PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have chosen to entrust the human person to mothers in a special way. We thank and praise you for the gift of mothers; for their tenderness, care, and compassion, for their intuition and encouragement, for commitment and sacrifice. Bless all mothers this day. Keep, strengthen, and refresh them in your loving care. May they be blessed by our open-hearted love and gratitude. Amen.



Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May, 11th, The Ascension of the Lord / Mother's Day

4:00p.m. (SM) + Jeri Boston 8 years anniversary deceased (Husband ~ Mike)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Tom Bonfini (Terriann & Family)

Sunday, May 12th, The Ascension of the Lord/Mother's Day

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Our Mothers (John & Cathy Traylinek)

11:00a.m. (SM) + For the People of St. John's & St. Mary's

Monday, May 13th, Our Lady of Fatima

6:00p.m.(SJ) + Jolene Hodorowski (Judy Hindman)

Tuesday, May 14th, St. Matthias

8:00a.m. (SM) + Mike Petronek (Merryman & Soos Families)

Wednesday, May 15th, St. Isidore

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Sandy Evans (Charlotte Kovalyk & Fam.)

Thursday, May 16th

8:00a.m. (SM) + Richard Silverio Sr. (Belmont Savings Bank Lending Department)

Friday, May 17th

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Nicole & Heather (Mom & Brothers)

Saturday May 18th, Pentecost Sunday

4:00p.m. (SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Richard Cope (Wife & Family)

Sunday, May 19th, Pentecost Sunday

9:30a.m. (SJ) + John, Rose & Cathy Magistro (Bruce & Mary Ann)

11:00a.m.(SM) + Alex Kish (Family)

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of May 4/5

St. Mary's: Adults (48env) \$1,685, Loose \$230, Easter Flowers (1env) \$10, St. Vincent de Paul (3env) \$125, Grade School (2env) \$25, Mt. Calvary Cemetery (1env) \$30, Building Fund (3env) \$60, Food Pantry (1env) \$25, Candles \$50

St. John's: Adults (104env) \$5,512, Loose \$386, Ascension (11env) \$158, St. Vincent de Paul (14env) \$168, Grade School (2env) \$60, Mt. Calvary Cemetery (1env) \$20, Building Fund (4env) \$205, Candles \$68

PRAYER LIST



Please Note: *This prayer list is an important part of our love for our brothers and sisters in need. Names will be included on this list for four weeks at*

a time. After four weeks a person's name will be removed but can be added again the next week simply by calling the office. Please pray for the following: Vicky Oboy, Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, , Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Fr. Sam Saprano, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Magan Nichole Sechrest, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, Isaac Salva, Baby Everett Sommers, Steve Kiss Jr., Lucy Kowalski, John Bires Jr., Shannon Koher, Paul Heagy, Pat Tedeschi, Ed and Rose Grammar, Susan Gray, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Bryan Grimm, Sydney Battistelli, Dr. Matt Sokus, Joe Boston Jr., Camden Brown, Peggy Kotson, Sandy Fijalkowski, Ted Corder, Tom Galinski, Barney Wiley, Susan Vasey, Gilbert Patt, Bob, Bill & Tom, Julie Sharpe, Sally Shopper, Judith Weckbacher, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Sally Traversa, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Eric Allen, Herk Sparachane, Zachary Oboy, Tom & Margie Merryman, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, James Jeter, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, Dan Busack, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich Beau Boston, Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch, Susy Sands, Laine Castello, Theresa Baker, Kevin West, Gwen Brown, Jack Selmon, Brody Beckett, Jeff Stolz, Kay Bambeck, Peg Stipetich, Becky Marsh, Mike & Barbara Marling , David Sechrest, Elaine Patt, Chuck Taylor, Connie Futey, Rebecca Brown, Pam (Schau) Mitchell, Paula Houston, Fr. Chapin, Brian Lawver



Lord, bless and protect those serving our

country, especially: Lt. Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzels, Lance Corporal Zachary

Knowlton, Staff Sgt. Wm. Kayne Melko, HTF Kory Melko, Sgt. Joshua Hall, Staff Sgt. Aaron Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, Staff Sgt. Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, Master Sgt. Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster and Pvt William Clegg , Petty Officer Alex Rader, Pvt. Colton T. Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, Staff Sgt. Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Corporal Vincent J. Kolenich II, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beveridge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook



Ministers for the Weekend of May 18/19

St. John's:

May 18th **EM:** L. Kiss **Lector:** S. Stewart/A. Snedeker

May 19th **EM:** J. Coup **Lector:** M.A. Young

St. Mary's :

May 18th **EM:** J. Ferrelli **Lector:** L Gates

May 19th **EM:** T. Mowery **Lector:** A. Schamp

Readings for the week of May 12, 2024

Sunday: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab,4-5acd,6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-8/Jn 15:9-17

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68: 29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday: *Vigil:* Gn 11:1-9 /Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 *Day:* Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/ Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23



Memorial Donations to St. Mary's Church

In Memory of Patricia Padyjasek by her Sons & George & Katherine Cunningham.



Brother Will's farewell
 Next weekend is Brother Will's last weekend with us before his ordination on June 8th. We will have a farewell reception for him next weekend after the 5:30pm mass at St. John's and the 11:00am Mass at St. Mary's.

Brother Will's ordination

If you would like to attend Brother Will's ordination to the priesthood at 11:00am on Saturday, June 8th in Loreto, PA please call or text Fr. Dan at (740) 298-4158 by this Wednesday! We will carpool. We need to RSVP.



Read Acts of the Apostles for Easter...

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen

Week 7: Acts 24-28:31

"He received all who came to him, and with complete assurance and without hindrance he proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 28:30-31

Summary: Our adventure through Acts draws to a conclusion as we journey with Paul as he is held, questioned, and persecuted by authorities, survives a shipwreck, is unharmed by a snakebite, and travels to Rome. In spite of the obstacles, he continues to minister to all he encounters. Many are healed and converted to Christ.

Reflection Questions:

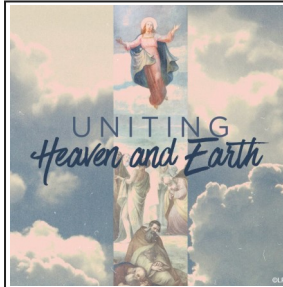
1. As part of his defense, Paul recounts his conversion story. When have you shared about an encounter that you had with Jesus?
2. In spite of all the hardships, Paul remains at peace and continues to serve the Lord. Who in your life is an example of this trust and faith? How can you emulate Paul in your life?
3. How has journeying through Acts enriched you this Easter Season?



HELP WANTED—TEACHING POSITION

St. Mary Central School in Martins Ferry is looking for a middle school Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher for grades 6-8. Proper licensure to teach in the state of Ohio or the willingness to obtain licensure is required.

Salary is based on experience. Health insurance and retirement benefits available. Please send your resume to Principal Theresa Young at : theresa.young@smcmartinsferry.com by June 2, 2024 or contact the school at 740-633-5424 for more information.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Ascension of the Lord

When I was a kid, my parents took me to the circus, and I was mesmerized by the acrobats. I recall one show in which the trapeze artists would swoop down just above the ground and then launch up into the air, flinging their bodies seemingly to the top of the tent, all at dizzying speeds. It wasn't just their height but their dangerous proximity to the ground that thrilled me.

Perhaps that's a little how St. Mark wants us to feel as he describes the Ascension of Jesus. He tells us that Jesus "sat down at table with them" and then, just a few lines later, "he ascended into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God." He dies, he rises! He sits down, he ascends! What do these divine acrobatics teach us?

The depth and height on display are a show of his love for us. When Jesus "sat down" he "upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness of heart." He dangerously swoops down into our lowly place of fragmentation, disbelief, and death. When he ascends, he confirms their preaching with signs of powerful healing. The height of heaven is the place from which God brings wholeness, faith, and life. The point is the Ascension of Jesus is not about his departure. It is about the feat by which he unites the heavens and the earth, the highest and the lowest.

We are meant to relive this spiritually dizzying experience in every Mass, when Jesus sits down with us at his Eucharistic table and then offers himself up to the Father with and for us. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls: welcome to the great tent of the Church! Feast your eyes on the divine and human acrobat whose saving feat is the great thrill of our lives.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

This Week

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord/ Pentecost Novena Day 3 / Mother's Day

Monday: Pentecost Novena Day 4

Tuesday: 9:00am-5:00pm - Eucharistic Adoration (SM)
 6:00p.m. Pastoral Council (SJH)
 Pentecost Novena Day 5

Wednesday: 7:00p.m. BHS Baccalureate (First Methodist Church, Bellaire)
 Pentecost Novena Day 6

Thursday: *No OCIA tonight!* Pentecost Novena Day 7

Friday: Pentecost Novena Day 8

Saturday: Pentecost Novena Day 9

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- * Caring Crafters collecting white cotton crew socks the veterans at VA Clinic in St. C. Bins at church entrances. Next meeting May 22, St. John Church Hall. All welcome
- * Mass honoring our graduating HS seniors on May 19th. Senior bios due by May 15. See church entrances

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

Week of May 12, 2024



Deuteronomy | Old Testament: Book Overviews | The Bible Project
Watch our overview video on the book of Deuteronomy, which breaks down the literary design of the book and its flow of thought. In Deuteronomy, Moses gives final words of wisdom and warning before the Israelites enter the promised land, challenging them to be faithful to God.



The Book Swap | Episode 1 | Benjamin Cello
It's time to read a book! Benjamin Cello, Annie Appleseed, and Miss Gretchen, the Music Teacher, go to the Bookendless Book Tower for a book swap party, hosted by Professor Wordsworth and the Bookworms. Along the way they explore classics of literature and the one Holy Book that stands above all others, the Book that can change your life forever.



Finding Fatima
Produced by the award-winning filmmakers of the highly acclaimed feature film The 13th Day, this powerful and in-depth documentary combines archival footage, dramatic reenactments, original interviews with Fatima experts, and stunning visuals to tell the whole story of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pentecost Sunday / May 19, 2024

First Reading: And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2:4)

Psalm: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104)

Second Reading: In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Gal 5:22-23)

Gospel: "But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth." (Jn 16:13)

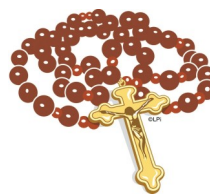
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

CCC 696, 726, 731-732, 737-741, 830, 1076, 1287, 2623: Pentecost

CCC 599, 597,674, 715: apostolic witness on Pentecost
CCC 1152, 1226, 1302, 1556: the mystery of Pentecost continues in the Church

CCC 767, 775, 798, 796, 813, 1097, 1108-1109: the Church, communion in the Spirit

OUR LADY OF FATIMA ROSARY PROCESSION



Join faithful from throughout the area in a Rosary Procession on the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima – Monday, May 13 at 7pm. The procession will begin at St. Alphonsus Church, 2111 Market Street, Wheeling, and end at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling.

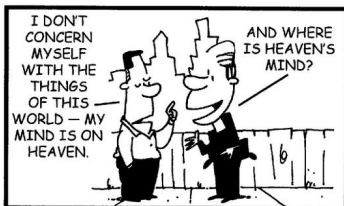
A brief prayer service will occur upon arrival at the Cathedral including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For those who are unable or would prefer not to walk in the 0.6 mile procession, the rosary will be prayed at the Cathedral, awaiting the arrival of those in the procession. An optional shuttle bus from the Cathedral to St. Alphonsus will be available from 6:15pm to 6:50pm to allow participants to park at the Cathedral where the procession will end.

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THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

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ASCENSION



PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer of Mission

Dear Lord,

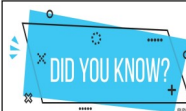
Grace us with courage and zeal as we go forth in Your name, speaking your Word, offering Your love, and bringing Your healing to a world in need. Amen.

©LPi



MASSTIMES.ORG

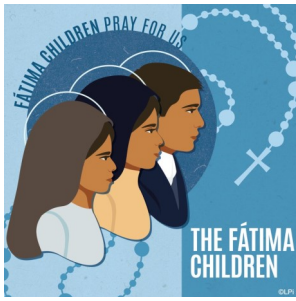
Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to masstimes.org and enter the city, state or zip code of the place you'll be visiting. And bring Fr. Dan back a bulletin!



CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Question: What is the name of the creed that begins with "I believe in God, the Father Almighty"?

Answer: The Apostles' Creed. ©LPi



**SAINT OF THE WEEK –
EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH**

The Fátima Children

The Fátima children, Francisco Marto, Jacinta Marto, and Lucia dos Santos, were three young shepherds, ranging in age from 7 to 10 years old, from the small village of Fátima, Portugal. On May 13, 1917, their lives changed when all three saw an apparition of Mary while tending to their flocks. The apparitions of Mary continued for six months, culminating in the famous Miracle of the Sun, or Miracle of Fátima, on October 13, 1917, which was witnessed by thousands of people.

During the apparitions, Mary conveyed messages to the children and asked them to pray the rosary. She petitioned the children to pray for world peace, the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. She also gave them three secrets — predicting the end of World War I and the start of World War II, a vision of those suffering in Hell, as well as a prediction the persecution of Christians and a man dressed in white, probably a Pope, being shot. The Church officially recognizes this as the assassination attempt on St. Pope John Paul II's life in 1981.

Tragically, both Francisco and Jacinta fell victim to the Spanish flu pandemic, with Francisco passing away in 1919 at age 10 and Jacinta in 1920 at age 9. Lucia, the eldest of the three, grew up to become a Carmelite sister. She spent her life spreading the messages of Fatima and authored six memoirs that detailed the apparitions and the secrets she and her the others had received. She lived a very long life and passed away in 2005 at the age of 97.

On May 13, 2017, the centennial of the first apparition, the Marto siblings, who died in their youth, were canonized as saints and Sister Lucia was declared a Servant of God. Lucia was elevated to Venerable on June 22, 2023. Saints Francisco, Jacinta, and Venerable Lucia, pray for us!

© LPi

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD
IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

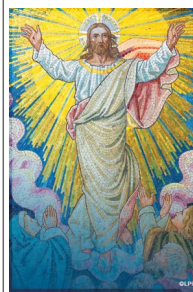
Commissioned & Sent

Have you heard the Good News? If you're reading this, chances are you probably have. You've heard the good news that God became man and that Jesus suffered, died, and rose for you, me, and everyone in between. Do you know you're part of it?

This week, we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. When Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave specific directions to his Apostles. "Go and make disciples of all nations." They listened! They made disciples, who made disciples, who made disciples, who made disciples, on down the centuries. And here we are! So what's next? The truth is that we're all commissioned and sent. It happened at our baptism, when we were made sharers in this sacred mission of Jesus. Who will make the next disciples? I hope it's you!

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Where did he go? Many times when we think of those who have died, we imagine escape from this world to a purely spiritual place. Jesus' Ascension can leave us in a place of confusion. What happens to Jesus? And why does this matter to us?

The Ascension has been confirmed in the Creed for two millennia. In Jesus' Ascension, we're invited to consider our own ultimate end. Regardless of death's reality now, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the reunification of body and soul. One day, earth and heaven will meet perfectly and without end. We anticipate this "new heaven and a new earth" at every Mass and throughout the beauty, truth, and love of the Church and her members. Today, celebrate a foreshadowing of the fullness we all await! ©LPi



**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK -
REFLECT AND RESPOND TO
SCRIPTURE**

First Reading: Luke closes his Gospel (24:50-53) and opens Acts of the Apostles with the Ascension of

Jesus, indicating Luke saw this event as critically important to the early Church. *Can you think of events that have shaped or defined your life?*

Second Reading: Paul prays that the believers in Ephesus come to fully understand what God has accomplished in Jesus and in the Church. *What do you find yourself praying for?*

Gospel: Mark tells us that even after Jesus ascended into heaven, he continued to work through those who believe in him. *Have you ever felt Jesus at work through you?* ©LPi



**ST. JOHN'S AND ST. MARY'S
DISCOVERY TOOL**

POWERED BY MINISTRY ARCHITECTS
VOLUNTEER ACCELERATOR

We offer to all our parishioners a short but powerful survey— what are calling our Discovery Tool! In just a few minutes, you'll have your results and a better sense of how your interests and gifts align with the service opportunities and ministries of our church. When we understand more about our God-given talents and what brings us joy and a sense of purpose, we are better equipped to walk in love -- serving God, our parish, and our community as Jesus calls us to do. Scan the QR code to find the link to the survey, or on our website - bnspcatholic.org

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Ideal Candidate

The Ascension always makes me think of what a job listing on Indeed.com would look like for the position of Disciple of Jesus Christ.

“An exciting opportunity for the go-getter who loves a challenge. Multilingual skills a must. Animal handling experience preferred. The ideal candidate will have a strong stomach and an enthusiasm for travel.”

In all seriousness, I find the Ascension a little depressing, a little intimidating. This day forces me to confront how few are the qualifications I possess to carry out the Great Commission.

Proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Hold on — do I have to talk to people? I don't even really like calling my friends on their birthdays. Can I send a text instead?

Go into the whole world. All of it? Everywhere? Even the places where it's really, really humid? Could I possibly schedule a Zoom call?

Speak new languages ... pick up serpents ... drink any deadly thing ... Okay, full disclosure: I have never even been camping. I don't think I'm the right fit for this job. Thank you for your consideration, but you can lose my resumé.

Of course, I know that in the year 2024 God does not expect me to pick up a serpent to proclaim the Gospel. But He might expect me to do something far more stomach-churning. He might expect me to talk about Him — in public, in front of strangers. He might expect me to take a stand against something that I know is sinful, even though it means I lose every friend I have. He might expect me to say “no” when everyone wants me to say “yes,” or “yes” when everyone wants me to say “no.”

He might expect me to be different. He will expect me to be different.

But on the Ascension, I also remember this: it's okay. No one who ever did the work of God was the ideal candidate. They were all scared. They were all ill-equipped. Every single one of them.

They did it anyway. And despite the weakness and hesitancy of my mortal flesh, despite everything that seems logical, despite the recommendations of any hiring committee this temporal world might make — I can, too.

“I am with you always, until the end of the world.” — Matthew 28:20

©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Ascension of the Lord

Question: *Couldn't Jesus have done more good if he stayed on earth, rather than ascended into heaven?*

Answer: This is an interesting question! During his earthly life, Jesus gave sight to the blind, healed paralytics, drove out demons, and fed thousands with only a few loaves of bread. Imagine what he could have done if he'd never ascended into heaven! Imagine what our world could be! It's an interesting thought to consider, especially as the world faces challenges that only seem to deepen and expand. Yet at the Last Supper, Jesus says, “It is better for you if I go.” Why? His response must have seemed strange to the Apostles at the time. In his place, Jesus says, he will send the Paraclete, the Comforter, the Advocate. He promises to send the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' departure allows the Apostles to become the leaders he has formed them to be. Jesus is no longer situated in only one geographical location, and his Church will never be a political kingdom. Soon after the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost — the descent of the Holy Spirit and the radical empowerment of the followers of Jesus. We share in that empowerment and in that mission. Jesus is present in the sacraments, and he is present in us. Through our faith, hope, and love, we are called to be the good he does here on earth! ©LPi



MEMORIAL MASS FOR BABIES WHO DIED BEFORE BIRTH

The FertilityCare™ Center of the Upper Ohio Valley, Inc. and the Weirton Catholic Pro-Life Group will be sponsoring a Memorial Mass for babies who died before birth (by miscarriage, abortion, ectopic (tubal) pregnancy) at any time in the past. The Mass will be celebrated on Friday, May 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 200 Preston Avenue, Weirton, WV. Confession will be available at 5:30p.m.

So that we may best honor your child please call 304-723-0478 or 304-748-0688 to RSVP. If you do not want your child/grandchild acknowledged in the program, you do not need to RSVP. All family members and friends are welcome.

**LIVE THE LITURGY -
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Jesus was taken into Heaven, but the work he leaves us is here on earth. Here on earth, we must speak the truth in every language and confront evil wherever we find it. Here on earth, we must get to work — remembering always that we do not work alone. ©LPi

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

We are planning a mission trip to Kentucky with Sr. Luke Boiarski, SCN, July 22-26. Adults 18+ are invited. Cost is \$200 per person for food/lodging. Call or text Fr. Dan at (740) 298-4158 if interested.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Commit to the Journey

In the Church, we observe a liturgical calendar that takes us through the life of Jesus and highlights fundamental doctrines of our faith. Starting with this Sunday, our observance of the Easter Season continues for one more week until the celebration of Pentecost. While many outside of the Church only see Easter as a one-day celebration, we celebrate for an entire season, much like we do during Christmas as well. Of course, this calendar only serves to remind us and point to greater realities.

We are not called to be more generous at Easter or Christmas than we are on other days. We do not choose to love more during one time of the year. The fact is that Jesus is alive right now and at all times is calling us to give of ourselves.

When we make an intentional decision to follow Jesus and adopt a stewardship way of life, we commit ourselves to this journey 365 days a year. We are an Easter people at all times. The high and low points of our journey are not tied to a liturgical year, but instead to our own experiences of life and shortcomings. A season or holiday may make it easier to have a giving attitude, but we need to do the same when little around us is pointing us in that direction. It is sometimes when few are paying attention that love and generosity are most needed.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

“ HE DEPARTED FROM OUR SIGHT, THAT WE MIGHT RETURN TO OUR HEART, AND THERE FIND HIM. ”

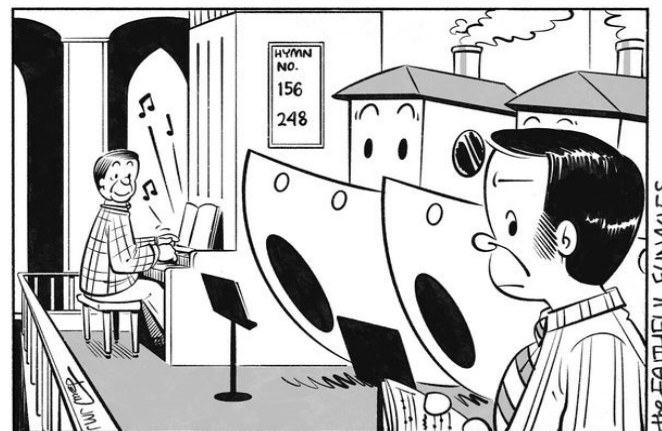
-ST. AUGUSTINE ©LPi



BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE
The Glory of the Ascension

Jesus prayed on the night before he died, "Father, give me the glory I had with you before the world began." How is the glory he has in the Ascension different from the glory he had "before the world began?" It differs only in that now, he has it in a human nature. Our humanity has been taken to the heights of heaven, fulfilling the destiny God intended for human life from the beginning. Revelation 3:21 declares, "To the one who gains the victory, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne." God's plan for us is not just that we will gather around the throne or fall down before the throne, but that we will sit with him on the throne! This hope extended to the human family by the Gospel is directly contradicted when the same human beings destined for the heights of heaven are attacked by violence, degraded in their dignity, or put to death by things like abortion. The human nature Jesus brings to glory in the Ascension is the same human nature you and I share, and the same human nature that the babies in the womb share. Celebrating the Ascension in daily life means treating each human life as one destined to sit with Christ on his throne.

"What type of boats are the music minister's favorites?"



"WorSHIPs!"



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By Bruce & Mary Ann*

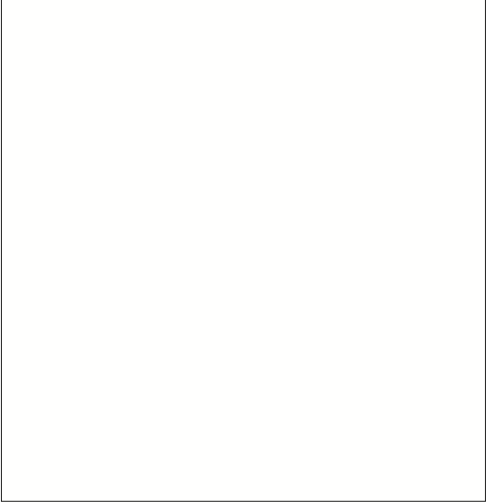
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