

MAY 24
2020



ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Men of Galilee,
why are you standing there staring at the sky?
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven
will return in the same way
as you have seen him going into heaven.

ACTS 1:11

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St. Bridget Catholic Church

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).

Psalm — God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Psalm 47).

Second Reading — May the Father of glory give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17-23).

Gospel — Jesus instructs the Eleven to baptize and teach people of all nations (Matthew 28:16-20).

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

Very Rev. Simon Peter Engurait, VG

Pastor

Deacon Stephen Brunet

Contact Information

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Youth Formation Office: 446-1985

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Mass Schedules

Daily Masses: Monday to Friday: 8:00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Confession: Saturday 3:00-3:50 pm

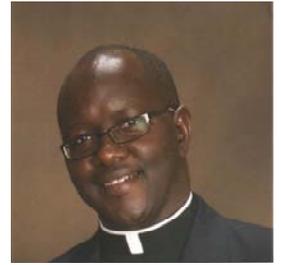
Sunday 7:30- 8:25 am & 10:00-10:25 am

All who attend Mass must wear face masks, use sanitizer on entering the Church and practice social distancing.

My dear St Bridget Family,

Happy Easter!

As we move towards the end of the Easter season, today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord into heaven. The ascension of the Lord is the climax of His victory over sin and death. In celebrating the ascension of the Lord, the good news for us is that what happened to Him is meant to happen to us. Where He has gone, we His follower will go. God wants to bring us to the place where Jesus is, so that we can share His glory.



Jesus embraced human nature in order to redeem it. He became human like all of us, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered and died on the cross. Then He rose from death and in so doing opened for us the door to eternal life. This is foundation of the sure Hope we have in our own being raised to life after death. Just as death did not have the last word on Jesus, so will it not have the last word on us.

After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus spent 40 days manifesting Himself to His disciples. This was to ensure that they experienced and were grounded in the reality of life after death. He wanted them to know clearly that there is life after death. These experiences would then strengthen their faith. The same applies to us who follow Jesus today.

In the gospel of John (chapter 20), there are four significant experiences of the resurrection that re-affirmed the faith of the followers of Jesus. The first is the experience of Mary Magdalene finding the tomb empty and running to tell the disciples. Peter and the John (the beloved disciple) ran to the tomb. They saw and believed. This is the first recorded experience of the resurrection and it lead to their faith in the risen Lord. However, if Jesus had ascended soon thereafter, they probably could have begun to second guess themselves.

In the second experience, after Peter and John had left the tomb, Mary Magdalene stays meets Jesus. Initially she does not recognize Him and thinks she is seeing the gardener. In effect, although the tomb was empty, she is expecting Him to be dead (and his body having been stolen). That is why she says to the angels in the empty tomb: "...they have taken my Lord away.." Then Jesus calls her by name, she recognizes Him and realizes that He is alive. She then rans and tells the others: "I have seen the Lord". But still, that was not enough.

In the third experience, Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room where they were gathered and fearful that what had happened to Jesus could happen to them. With the doors closed, Jesus appears to them with a message of peace and assurance. In order that they may not be mistaken, He showed them His hands and side. This experience led them to a realization that He was truly alive. When they saw this, they rejoiced and believed in Him.

In the final experience, a week later Jesus appears to them again. This time around, Thomas who had missed out on the previous appearances was also with them. Jesus manifests Himself in a special way to Thomas who then explicitly says: "**My Lord and my God**"

(Continued on top of next page)

These Easter experiences are very important, because they give meaning and color to life, to suffering and to death. When we have faith in Christ who rose from the dead, then we have **the sure HOPE** that where He is, we shall be because He said; **“I am going to prepare a place for you so that where I am you also may be”**

At the Ascension, Jesus withdrew His physical presence from His disciples and it marked the end of His earthly physical appearances. However, it left them gazing heavenward with joyful expectation of joining Him.

My dear brothers and sisters, as we celebrate the ascension of the Lord may we be reminded of the reality of life after death and of our destiny with the Lord so that we may live the rest of our lives while gazing heavenward.

Happy Easter and God bless,

Fr Simon Peter

THE ASCENSION

Illustrative Story of President Lech Walesa

Lech Walesa worked for years as an electrician in the Gdansk shipyards in Poland. During those years, he and his fellow workers founded the Solidarity Movement with Lech as its leader. This brought them into open conflict with the Communist government. They were therefore targeted and persecuted. Lech was arrested several times.

Eventually, the Communist regime collapsed and democracy returned to Poland. They had elections and on the 9th of December 1990, Lech Walesa, the shipyard worker and leader of the Solidarity movement was elected the first president of the now democratic Poland.

It was a great honor for Lech as well as for his fellow shipyard workers who were delighted for Him and for themselves. They felt honored because of their relationship with Him. One whom they had known and loved, had now ascended to the highest office in the nation. The shipyard workers now knew and felt that they had a place in the highest office in the land.

After the elections, Lech Walesa went back to the Gdansk shipyard in his official car, a bulletproof Volvo. He emerged from the Volvo and went directly to his former workshop floor. The workers in their overalls celebrated and congratulated him. They expressed their hope that he would not forget them and that he would help them from his new and most influential position.

This real life story helps us understand something about the mystery of the ascension that we celebrate today. Just as after years of humble labor and persecution, Lech achieved the great honor of being elected president of Poland, so after his years of life and ministry on earth, Jesus suffered, died, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Like the shipyard workers and Lech, the followers of Jesus now have heavenly connections!

During the years of His public ministry, Jesus lived, ate and drank in the company of His disciples. They experienced His love and care every day. In reality, He was just like one of them (Hebrews 2:17). The ascension into heaven therefore did not end the intimate relationship they had but rather took it to a different and higher level. He would no longer be physically present to His apostles and followers, but He had not abandoned them. That is why He had said to them; *"I will not leave you orphans"* He had simply attained a new and more exalted position which means that He is in a better position to help His followers.



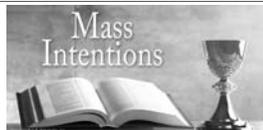
**The Sanctuary Light memory of:
May 24-30**

Leonard Pollet by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya,
Maggie, Owen, Max

May 31-June 6

Wilfred "Biggy" Hebert, Marie "Anna Mae"
Hebert & Tim Hebert by the Hebert family

DA=Death Anniv.
B= Birthday
WA=Wedding Anniv.



May 23 4:00 pm

Jimmie Usey

May 24 8:30 am

Willie Mae (Minnie) Hebert (DA) by family

May 24 10:30 am

Parishioners of St. Bridget

May 26

Leonard Pollet (B) by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya,
Maggie, Owen and Max

May 29

Thelma Duplantis (DA) by Deacon Lloyd & Faie

May 30 4:00 pm

Ernest Mabile by family

Wilfred "Biggy" Hebert, Marie "Anna Mae"
Hebert & Tim Hebert by the Hebert family

May 31 8:30 am

Alicia Weimer by Cindy Poiencot

May 31 10:30 am

Alicia Weimer by Cindy Poiencot

May 10, 2020

Envelopes \$ 4165.00

Loose 311.00

\$ 4476.00

Attendance 84

Thank you for your generosity.

Weekly Offering



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Online Giving

Sure – Safe – Secure

Please consider online giving.

Your donation is safe, secure, and guaranteed. Online giving is a way to ensure that St. Bridget receives your donation even when you're out of town or forget your envelope. Online giving donors can receive financial statements for income tax purposes at the end of the calendar year or whenever necessary. Donations can be recurring (weekly or monthly) or one time. For more information visit our secure website at www.stbridget-htdiocese.org or call the Office at (985) 446-6801.

Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Every human person is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.

In the first reading the followers of Jesus looked up to heaven.

The angels ask them "Why?"

It is as if they are saying:

"Why don't you just look around and then maybe you will see the Christ?"

Look around and you will see the presence of Christ.

Look around and you will hear the call of Christ.

Look around and you will know the power of the Spirit.

Look around and you will be empowered.

Look around and you will be filled with joy.

You will be involved in the struggle for justice and peace.

You will hear the voice of God among the poor and needy of the world.

You will hear God speak in the struggle for peace and justice.

You will see God in the goodness and faith of people.

You will see God in those who struggle to do what is right and good.

You will be led into life and grace.

God dwells in the world.

In the sense the Ascension experience sends the followers of Jesus into the world to "find God in all things." The spirituality of Christ is not a spirituality that looks to get out of the world and its challenges. The spirituality of Christ is a spirituality connected to the world around us.

The disciples are sent out not with a rigid ideology or a fully spelled out set of rules, but rather with a spirit of openness - a spirit that proclaims "repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations."

Even though our world today, on a certain level, is radically different than the world of 2,000 years ago, Christ can still be found. Christ is still alive and present. The Ascension is the key that allows all this to happen. Catholic Social Teaching affirms and supports our involvement with all the richness, diversity, and mystery of human life. We can "find God in all things." We can make a difference in all the big issues of our day.

**CORONAVIRUS
HELPFUL RESOURCES**

Diocesan Website: htdiocese.org (News, Videos, Prayers and More)

St Bridget Website (stbridget-htdiocese.org) and facebook (facebook.com/stbridget) for live steam events.

Youth News

The Youth Mentors, Teachers, Helpers, and Staff are praying for the youth and families of our parish. We know that these unprecedented times may cause fear, doubt, and uncertainty for youth, parents, and families. We are here for you. Please feel free to contact Miss Bernadette at any time.

Daily prayer as a family can be a wonderful learning experience as well as a great way to grow closer to God and family.

Please visit the St. Bridget website (www.stbridget-htdiocese.org) for activity pages and prayers for young people and families. Pray every day!

Please keep our First Communion and Confirmation Candidates in your prayers. Please keep all seniors in your prayers. We congratulate all high school and college seniors. We look forward to working with you as young adults and wish you well in your future endeavors.

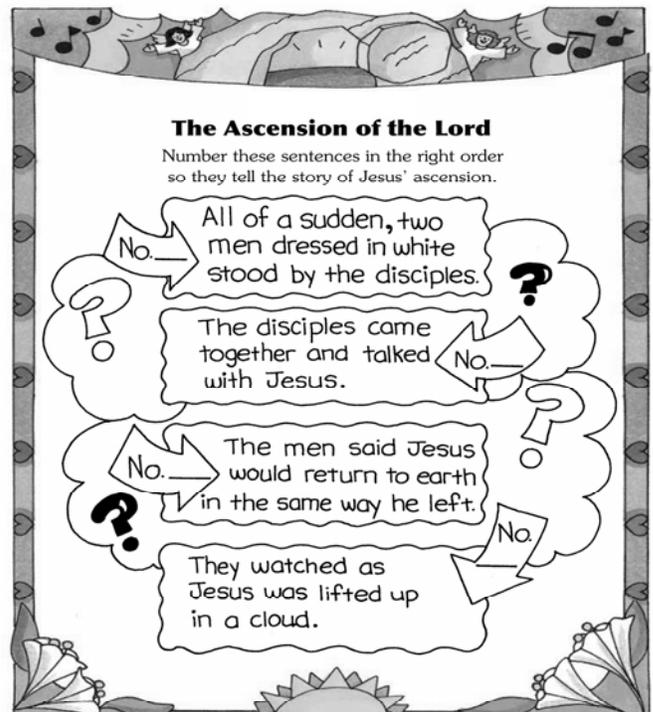
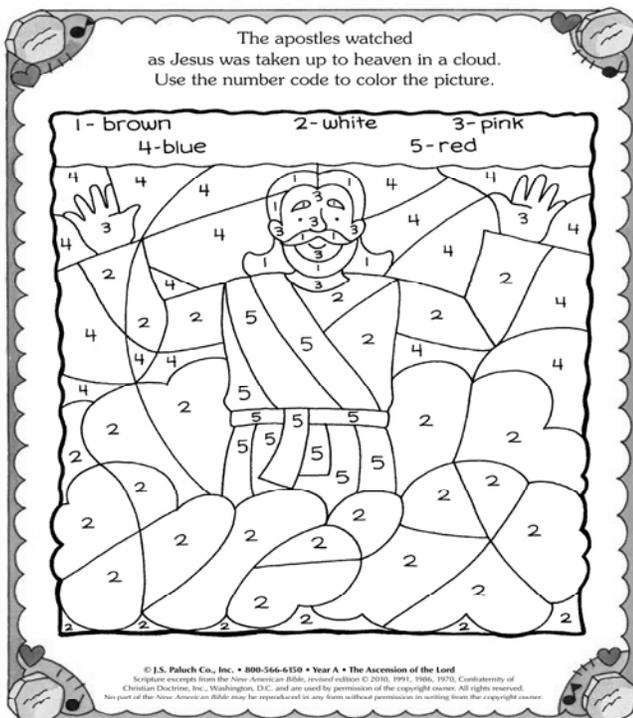
Due to the pandemic, we are cancelling Vacation Bible School 2020. We will post activities to the website every Wednesday beginning June 3rd. These Christian activities will help children and youth follow Jesus on 'Worship Wednesdays'. The current plan is for 3 or 4 levels of activities: 1) Preschool - 2nd grade; 2) 3rd - 5th grade 3) 6th - 8th grade and 4) High School and Beyond. Feel free to download and share any and all levels.

Families are encouraged to join Father Simon Peter, Father Darius, and Davis each evening at 6:00pm as they live stream the praying of the Rosary. This is a beautiful way to pray as a family. Youth who have attended Steubenville on the Bayou in the past should enjoy this prayerful time with their families.

Parents of younger children are encouraged to re-play the live streams of the Mass and stop the feed where needed to 'talk and teach' what is going on in the Mass.

God Bless each of you. Stay safe. Remember to 'keep the main thing the main thing'.

God's Word for Children



Prayer Line

If you or someone needs to be added to the prayer line, call Nina Richard at 446-1206 or the rectory at 446-6801. In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the sick, elderly, and homebound. Please pray for: Elaine Ables, Susan Arceneaux, Heidi Ardoin, Jacob Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Judith Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Rosemary Besson, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Pat Billiot, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Cody Bourgeois, Emile "Jay" Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Troy & Joan Bourgeois, Wade Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Beau Brassette, Dustin Brassette, Mark Brassette, Emma Del Broussard, Richard Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Brad Clement, Bryce Comeaux, Jay & Tiffany Conner, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Alan Dunbar, Linda Ekiss, Avery "Brother" and Sonja Fonseca, Darin Fonz, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Bryan Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Vergie Gros, Kendra Guillot, Elaine Chauvin Hebert, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Judie Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Olivieri, Robert Oncale, Annie Ordoyne, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodrigue, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simmoneaux, Penny Simmons, Brenda Sonier, Deacon Ryan Stawaizz, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Ronnie Thomas, Chris Toups, Joyce Toups, Ricky Turner, Suzanne Usey, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Anna Wooten. *Please notify the office when name can be removed.*

*Love one another
As I have loved you*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab;
Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21;
Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab;
Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;
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, 7;
Jn 21:20-25
Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or
Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; 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, 29-31, 34;
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

In response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux is offering an Outreach Line (formerly known as the Child Protection Contact Line). The Outreach Line is an effort to continue the diocesan commitment to support healing for people who have been hurt or sexually abused recently or in the past by clergy, religious or other employees of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Outreach Line operates from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Monday through Friday. A trained mental health professional responds to the line. Individuals are offered additional assistance if requested. Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Outreach Line Telephone numbers (985) 873-0026 or (985) 850-3172

**For Church Support Envelopes
Call 985 446-6801**

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It has long been a Catholic understanding and practice that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

(As you follow the Mass on facebook, this is the prayer to pray at the time for Holy Communion)

I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now 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 *By St Alphonsus Liguori*

Catholic Charities assists low income workers with the payment of minor car repairs when they are having trouble getting to and from work due to brakes, alternators, belts, starters, etc. that need to be changed. The car must be registered in the name of the person who is employed, they must have insurance on their vehicle, and be receiving SNAP (Food Stamp) Benefits. For more information, please contact Jennifer Gaudet at 876-0490.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Patroness of the Americas

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

