

Dear Padre,

My neighbor, a fundamentalist Christian, said I won't be saved unless I accept Jesus as my personal savior. Didn't Jesus become my savior when I was baptized?

Your neighbor is probably referring to John 3:7, when Jesus said, "You must be born anew" (*Common English Bible*). Jesus is talking about a spiritual rebirth; we must have a spiritual birth in order to be saved. As you noted, Catholics believe this happens at baptism. In John 3:5, Jesus says,

"Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom."

We are saved by the waters of baptism. But for Catholics, it's not merely a one-time event. We continue to accept or reject the salvation offered us by the decisions we make every day.

Your neighbor used the words "personal savior." Catholic Christians go even deeper through the sacraments. We develop and nurture a very personal relationship with Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist. In the sacrament of reconciliation, we admit we have sinned and ask Jesus to forgive us. And in the sacrament of confirmation, our relationship is "sealed" with the gift of the Spirit.

Many Catholics also celebrate the sacrament of marriage. The couple's personal relationship with Jesus is deepened through the love the couple shares.

So, tell your neighbor you are indeed saved by Jesus. And because you are saved, you deepen that relationship with Jesus by living a sacramental life.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The Ascension tells us that Jesus, although he ascended to heaven to dwell gloriously at the right hand of the Father, is still and is always among us: this is the source of our strength, our perseverance, and our joy, from the presence of Jesus among us with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

ASCENSION SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

Calendar

Monday
MAY 17

Easter Weekday
Acts 19:1-8
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday
MAY 18

Easter Weekday
Acts 20:17-27
Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday
MAY 19

Easter Weekday
Acts 20:28-38
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday
MAY 20

Easter Weekday
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Jn 17:20-26

Friday
MAY 21

Easter Weekday
Acts 25:13b-21
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday
MAY 22

Easter Weekday
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Jn 21:20-25

Sunday
MAY 23

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
or Gal 5:16-25
Jn 20:19-23
or Jn 15:26-27;
16:12-15

**Know Someone
Overly Anxious About Sin?**
Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.



Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 16, 2021

Ascension of the Lord (B)
Acts 1:1-11
Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13
Mk 16:15-20

Up in Heaven

The message of this feast is that Jesus was taken up into heaven. Just what does this mean? Is heaven "up there" along with the moon and the stars? Cosmology would question that. Today's readings also say that Jesus is seated at God's right hand. Is this science, or is it a concrete image used to explain something more marvelous than words can describe?

Traditionally the place of honor is at the dignitary's right hand (decided by a right-hander, no doubt). That Jesus sits at God's right hand means he enjoys the place of highest honor. The psalm response refers to this exalted place as the throne of God. "Throne" suggests king. Thus, the readings tell us that Jesus, who is now exalted with divine honor, is above everything else. Finally, to say that heaven is above means that it is beyond earth, perhaps not in actual distance but in distinction and glory. Thus, Jesus' ascension means that the risen Lord is no longer limited by the

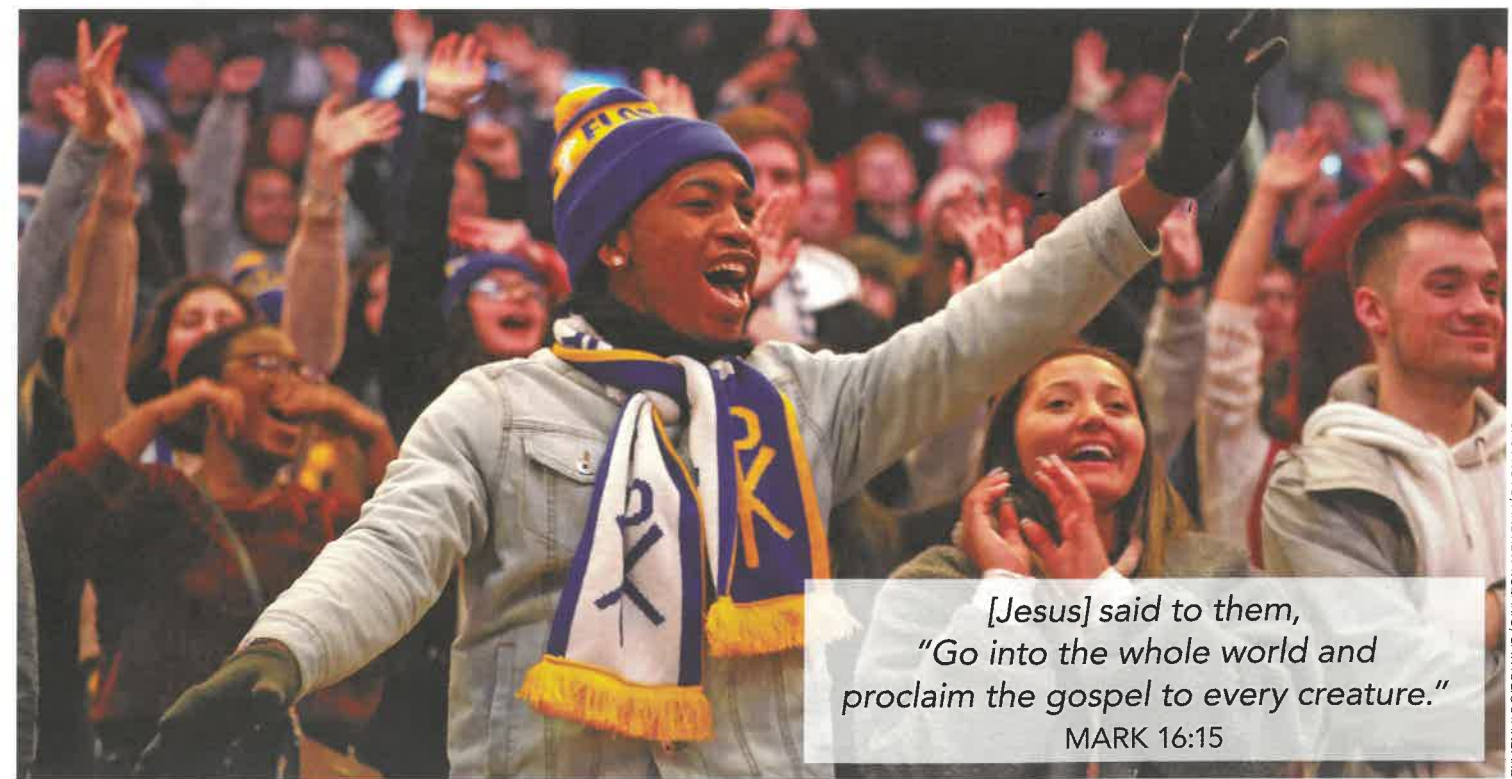
restrictions of earth's space and time but now enjoys the highest honor with God everywhere and always.

This is the message the disciples were sent to preach. This is the message we also are sent to preach. But how are we to do it? By the way we live our lives. Emmanuel Célestin Cardinal Suhard of Paris (1874-1949) wrote: "To be a witness...means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist." Do our lives show that we believe this?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Thank God for people in your life who mirror God's generosity, forgiveness, and kindness to you.
- ★ Think about ways you might mirror God's goodness to others.



*[Jesus] said to them,
"Go into the whole world and
proclaim the gospel to every creature."
MARK 16:15*

CNS PHOTO, ANDREW ROZARIO, CATHOLIC STANDARD



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

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Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Francis Kamau, FMH
Deacon: Michael Sullivan
Parish Secretary: Sheila Royal
Office Assistant: Shirley Rivers
DRE: Jean Rains
Groundskeeper: Michael Beasley
Housekeeper: Pam Little
Music Director: Justin Lincecum

Prayer List: Vivian Halleck, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Jiles Bowling, Tom Hambleton, Bennett King, Norma Bergeron, Clifford Shuff, Roy & Pam Beasley, Ezra Thibodeaux, Bill & Mary Hurd, Donald Behan, Joanna Presseau, Lisa Brown, Bobby Bowen, Piper Rae Pate, Cameron Johnson, Jake & Mary Ann Rivers, Alan Nichols, James Edwards, Addie Procell, Trisha Adams, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks, Marti Vienne, Lexie King, Gary Mitchell, Justin Lincecum, Brooklyn Meshell, Roy Cedars, Betty P Skinner, Mary Jane Olsen, Caitlin Pine, Beth Prejean, Beckie Bayer, Leroy Parrie, Clairiste Byles, Sr., Tia Airhart Fontenot, Marty Starks, Trent Chaney, Ginger Mogedan, Cyndie Eyre, Doug Wages, Margaret Zammit, Debbie Britt, Hannah Salley, Melver Pritchard, Freddie Grappe, Lucille Wagenspack, Seth Freeman, Billie Cass, Millie Craig, Celeste Peacock, Patrick Calais, Tim Richardson, Fr. Juan Garcia, Dr. Jo Beth Miller & Evelyn Bouillion

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns night and day near the tabernacle to honor the presence of Christ. You may arrange to have the Sanctuary Candle at St. John's or Saint Terence burn in memory of a loved one for a week of your choice by contacting the church office. The candle will be booked on a first-come, first-serve basis.

This Week in our Parish

Weekend Masses at St John:

Sat, 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Sun, 11:00 AM

Sunday Mass at St Terence: 8:00 AM

Weekday Masses at St. John:

Wed—Fri, 8:00 AM

The Tuesday Mass is canceled this week.

Sunday May 16th

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

11:00 AM Graduates Honored

5:30 PM Youth Group Meets

Wednesday, May 19th

8:30AM-6:00PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30PM CCD (Last Class of the Year)

Thursday May 20th

6:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday May 21st

8:00AM-3:00PM Rummage Sale

Anointing of the Sick /Ministry to the Sick

Please call the church office if someone is in a hospital, nursing home, shut-in, and would like to be visited or receive the sacraments.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the office in advance to register for seminar.

Funerals

Arrangements may be made by calling the office

Parish calendar online:

<http://www.stjohnmany.org/calendar>

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples are required to call the church office at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date



The Sanctuary Candle

Week of May 16th -22nd, 2021

St. John + Jack Hubley

St. Terence + Richard Dartez

Finance Council

Earl Anderson, Ron Busby, Dale Porche, Matthew Couvillion, Rufus Shuff & Brandy Soileau

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday May 15th

4:00PM 1. + Living & Deceased Members of the Blake, Byrd, Pedersen & Wimer Families

2. + Ben Partida

3. + Peter, Maria Hoa & Maria Loan Nguyen

4. + Janice Murphy

5. + Deacon Michael Sullivan

Sunday May 16th

8:00AM 1. The Parish Family

2. + Christy Wriborg

3. Rufus Shuff (SI)

11:00AM 1. + Ben Partida

2. + Johnny Hungerford

3. + Ann & Phillip Rivers

4. + Kim Bedsole

5. + Soy Augustine

6. + Randy Richter

Wednesday May 19th

8:00AM 1. + Edward Jaber

Thursday May 20th

8:00AM 1. + Ann & Phillip Rivers

2. + Kim Bedsole

Friday May 21st

8:00AM 1. + Living & Deceased Members of the Blake, Byrd, Pedersen & Wimer Families

Please Note: There will be no daily Mass on **Tuesday, May 18th**. The daily Mass schedule remains unchanged the remainder of the week.

Parish Support

(Thank you for your generosity!)
May 8th-9th, 2021

St John	\$ 4625.32
St Terence	\$ 1705.00

Pastoral Council

Clauriste Byles, Angelique Mitchell, Chrislee Moran, James Murphy, Jean Rains, Maggie Bautista, Leonilda Gonzalez & Shirley Rivers

Second Collection

The second collection this weekend is for the Catholic Communications Campaign. Please be generous.

Information Search

For our anniversary souvenir booklet, we are trying to track those who entered the religious life through St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Many. If you know of any besides the following persons, please let us know: Monsignor Norman Buvens, Monsignor John Vandegaer, Rev. Andrew Andries, Sister Clotilda Vandegaer, Sister Theresa Vandegaer, Sister Mary Eulalie Vandegaer and Sister Paula Vandegaer.

Rummage Sale

There will be a Rummage Sale next **Friday and Saturday, May 21st-22nd**, at the Saint John's cafeteria from 8AM to 3PM. The sale will benefit our Youth Group and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Donations and volunteers to help are greatly appreciated.

Altar Server Practice

There will be altar server practice on **Saturday, May 29th**, at **10AM**. Lunch will be served afterwards. All altar servers are asked to attend.



Historical Marker Donations

Saint John the Baptist is applying for recognition through the Louisiana Historical Marker Program. This program commemorates facts, persons, events, or places prominently identified with the history of the nation, state, or region. If approved, a bronze historical marker will be erected at the site of our church. Dr. Cheryl White, professor at LSU-S, has informed us that our church meets the necessary qualifications for this honor and has offered to help us work on and submit the necessary application. The approximate cost to erect the marker is \$2500. Anyone interested in donating towards the cost of the installation of the marker may turn in contributions to the church office or place in the collection basket, marked.

Volunteers Needed for VBS

We are in need of volunteers for our Vacation Bible School program this year which is scheduled for the **week of July 12th**. If you can help, please see Jean Rains or contact the church office.

Message from Father Francis

I am excited to announce that the Papal Representative to the United States, Apostolic Nuncio Christophe Pierre, informed me this past week that he will be attending the 150th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint John the Baptist on June 27th. His Excellency Pierre hails from the same region of France as the first priest to serve Saint John, Father Francois LeVezouet. Bishop Malone will also be with us that day in celebrating this special event in our church's history.

We should all be humbled and proud of this occasion as the Papal Nuncio rarely makes visits to church parishes. He represents Pope Francis in various events and is a very busy person.

We have much planning and preparation in the weeks to come. Anyone who wishes to help may leave their name at the church office or make a donation to help with expenses.

Let us pray for the future of our beautiful church and for a successful celebration of our 150 years! God is good!

Sincerely, *Father Francis*

Congratulations, Graduates!

We are proud of our 2021 graduates and wish them God's blessings as they embark on this next chapter of their lives: *Shelton Eaves, Billy Estrada, Teddy Gowen, Emma McElwee, Maci Ryan, Adelaide Soileau and Robert Lombardino.*

150th Anniversary Celebration

Please help us prepare for our 150th Anniversary celebration by becoming involved! We are currently accepting donations to fund the various activities that will be taking place over the next few months. If you would like to contribute, you may place your donation in the collection and designate it as "Anniversary Expenses." If you would like to volunteer by helping in other ways, please leave your name at the church office. There is some task that each person can do to help. We need you!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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.

Last CCD Class of the Year

Our last CCD class of the year will be held this **Wednesday, May 19th, at 5:30PM** with an ice cream party for the students. Have a safe and happy summer!