

May 23 & 24, 2020

Welcome to St. Joseph Catholic Church- Zwolle St. Ann Chapel- Noble

**Father Joseph C. Ampatt,
Pastoral Administrator**

Parish Staff

Sandy Lovelady
**645-6845/ 315-5092 for after hours &
weekends ONLY**
Secretary

Luci Jo Parrie
Religious Education Coordinator

Diamond R. Adair
Bulletin Editor

Thelma Small
Matrimonial Tribunal Lay
Advocate

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Maintenance

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Pastoral Council Chairperson

Gatha Martinez
Ione Durr
St. Vincent de Paul Society

Colleen Britt
Council of Catholic Women

Andie Sepulvado
Candace Wilson
Altar Server Directors

Kelli Boydston
Liturgy Coordinator

MASSES are suspended until further notice.

Anticipated Mass: Saturday 4:00 PM (St. Joseph)
Sunday: 8:30 AM (St. Joseph)
11:00 AM (St. Joseph)
5:00 PM (St. Ann)
Tuesday-Friday: 7:30 AM (St. Joseph)
3rd Thursday: 10:00 AM at Toledo Nursing Center

Baptism: Children should be baptized within the first few months after birth. Baptism should take place in one's proper parish. Registered parishioners should contact the Office for information about scheduling a baptism class, regarding the selection of Godparents, any required preparations, and the date and time of Baptism.

Reconciliation: Confessions are normally heard on Saturdays before the mass from 3:15—3:40 PM. Other opportunities are possible by appointment by calling Father Ampatt.

Eucharistic Adoration: Spend a refreshing hour before the Lord in prayer in our daily chapel, from the conclusion of morning Mass until 3:00 PM on Thursdays.

Marriages: Either the bride or the groom must be a registered parishioner of St. Joseph/ St. Ann Parish. At least six months of preparation time is required in our Diocese. Weddings are never booked by phone or by third-parties; **a personal interview is required.** Call the office for an appointment.

Funerals: Contact the office to make necessary arrangements for the funeral liturgy.

New Parishioners: Welcome! To register, fill out one of the blue forms located at the church office or in the church foyer and return it to the church office or drop it in the weekly collection basket. Change of address or phone number? Please provide your updated information to the church office as soon as possible.

Parish Office Information

Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM,
Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM

**P.O. Box 8/ 307 Hammond St. (Physical)
Zwolle, Louisiana 71486**

Phone: 318-645-6155

Fax: 318-645-9852

Rectory: 318-645-9198

st_joseph_zwolle@bellsouth.net

Website: www.StJosephZwolle.org

Diocesan Web Site: www.dioshpt.org

The Ascension: Each Sunday we profess through the Creed, "*He ascended into heaven.*" Christ's Ascension was the culmination of God's divine plan for Christ Jesus, by his return to his Father with "Mission Accomplished." Ascension is the grand finale of all his words and - works done for us and for our salvation. It was a culmination, but not the conclusion. As he is now with God in glory, he is now with us in Spirit: "*Lo, I am with you always.*" The feast of the Ascension celebrates one aspect of the resurrection, namely Jesus' exaltation. He did not wait 40 days to be glorified at God's right hand. That already happened at his resurrection. The focus of this feast is the heavenly reign of Christ, not the scientific details of the ascension itself. The Ascension of Jesus does not mean that he literally began to float up into space. Other incidents of the Bible, such as the ascension of Elijah suggested to Luke the spatial imagery he used to tell of our Lord's departure. The Lord would be 'seated at God's right hand', meaning He alone would be in control of the continuing plan of salvation through the Spirit, unrestricted by time, space or culture. Thus the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' passion, death, resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit forms one unbroken reality which is to be understood by faith. Ascension simply means that Jesus is with his Father in glory.

The Ascension account: The biblical accounts of the Ascension focus not so much on the details of the event as on the mission Jesus gave to his disciples. For example, in the accounts narrated in Luke and Acts, the Ascension took place in Jerusalem. In Matthew and Mark, on the other hand, the event occurred in Galilee. All accounts, however, agree that the Ascension took place on a mountain. In Luke and Acts, the Ascension happened forty days after the Resurrection, a period during which Jesus appeared repeatedly to his followers. In Matthew and Mark there is no indication of the time period between the Resurrection and the Ascension. The gospel writers apparently were not aiming at accuracy of historical detail but were more concerned with transmitting Our Lord's message.

The ascension message: "*Preach the good news and be my witnesses:*" Matthew, Mark and Acts record Jesus' last words differently: 1) "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). 2) "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations*" (Matthew 28:19). 3) "*Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation*" (Mark.16:15). All are in agreement that (a) Jesus gave his disciples a mission of bearing witness to him by preaching and living the good news. They are to tell and re-tell the story of Jesus' life, suffering, death, and resurrection. (b) He assured them of the divine assistance of his Holy Spirit in the carrying out of this mission.

Christmas and Ascension: The Ascension is most closely related, in meaning, to Christmas. In Jesus, the human and the divine become united in the person and life of one man. That is Christmas. At the Ascension, this human being – the person and the resurrected body of Jesus – became for all eternity a part of who God is. It was not the spirit of Jesus or the divine nature of Jesus that ascended to the Father. It was the resurrected body of Jesus: a body that the disciples had touched, a body that had eaten and drunk with them, a real, physical, but gloriously restored body, bearing the marks of nails and a spear. This is what ascended. This is what, now and forever, is a living, participating part of God. The Ascension, along with the Incarnation, is here to tell us that it is a good thing to be a human being; indeed it is a wonderful and an important and a holy thing to be a human being. It is such an important thing that God did it. Even more, the fullness of God now includes what it means to be a human being.

How do we apply the Theology of Ascension in our daily lives? 1) **We need to be proclaimers and evangelizers:** In today's gospel, Jesus gives his mission to all the believers: "*Go out to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.*" This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. "*We preach with words, but we proclaim with our lives.*" As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in heaven – His Ascension -- we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. On this day of hope, encouragement and commissioning, let us renew our commitment to be true disciples everywhere we go, beginning with our family and our parish, "*living in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received.*"

2) **We need to live a life of Christian joy in the presence of the ascended Lord.** According to Luke, the disciples "*returned to Jerusalem with great joy.*" Apparently, Jesus' exaltation and final blessing gave them, as it gives us, the assurance that, though absent, he is still present, present even in the pain and sorrow we undergo. That is why St. Augustine assures us, "Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' and when he said: 'I was hungry and you gave me food.' While in heaven he is also with us; and while on earth we are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power, and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love."

3) **We have a teaching mission:** Jesus taught us lessons of faith, hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption, and love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, He is present in his words. We must make his words real in our lives and in the lives of others. Christianity was meant to be a faith in which Jesus' followers would help and care for others, just as Jesus had done. But the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower his messengers with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

4) **The ascended Jesus is our source of strength and encouragement:** Perhaps some of the nagging doubts which inevitably accompany the journey of faith could be lessened by our meditating on the Ascension and its implications. When we are too far from faith to pray on our own, let us remember that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous, praying for us. When the trials of life feel too heavy to bear, we must remember that Christ will come again in glory, the same glory in which he arose from the tomb, the same glory in which he ascended, and the same glory in which he currently abides. Though our limited perception might find him absent, he is fully present, participating in every moment of our lives. By His ascension, Christ has not deserted us but has made it possible for his Spirit to enter all times and places. In this way it is possible for each of us to be transformed by the power of the Spirit into agents or instruments of Christ. We become enlivened with his Spirit. Our actions become animated in a new way by the Spirit of the God we love and serve. We have become Christs in the world.

May 23 & 24, 2020

****During the mandatory suspension of masses, Fr. Ampatt is continuing to say the mass intentions.**

Mass Intentions:

May 23, Saturday

4:00 PM at St. Joseph
For our Parishioners

May 24, Sunday

8:30 AM at St. Joseph
Willie LaRoue †

11:00 AM at St. Ann
Connie Jordan †

5:00 PM at St. Joseph
Billy Ray Ebarb †

May 25, Monday 7:30 AM
Arthur M. Doughty †

May 26, Tuesday 7:30 AM
Jeff and Gloria Faircloth †

May 27, Wednesday
7:30 AM at St. Joseph Steve Knight †
Keith Nimmo †
Anna Nhi †

6:00 PM at St. Ann
Marilyn Meshell †

May 28, Thursday
Doug Remedies †

May 29, Friday
Solan Procell †


May 30, Saturday
4:00 PM at St. Joseph
Deceased Bell and Bowien families †
Ruth Loupe †
Louis and Elizabeth Ebarb †
Jack Parrie †

May 31, Sunday
8:30 AM at St. Joseph
Richard Doggett †

11:00 AM at St. Ann
For our Parishioners

5:00 PM at St. Joseph
Elsie Ezernack †

Readings for this week:

- † **Monday:** St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin
Acts 19:1-8/ Jn 16:29-33/ 
- † **Tuesday:** St. Philip Neri, Priest
Acts 20:17-27/ Jn 17:1-11a
- † **Wednesday:** Easter Weekday St. Augustine of Canterbury
Acts 20:28-38
- † **Thursday:** Easter Weekday
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/ Jn 17:20-26
- † **Friday:** Easter Weekday
Acts 25:13b-21/ Jn 21:15-19
- † **Saturday:** Easter Weekday
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/ Jn 21:20-25
- † **Sunday:** Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11/ 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/ Jn 20:19-23

Please take a moment each day to read and reflect on these passages from Sacred Scripture. It is a wonderful way to join our personal prayer to the public prayer of the church.

We pray for:

Annie Rivers; Amanda David; Raymond L. Ebarb; Juanita Manshack; Delma Rivers; Linda Sepulvado; Paul L. Rivers; Martin Crooks; Greg Crooks; Kathy Ebarb; Boyd Miles; Priscilla Walraven; JoAnna Presseau; Carolyn Cutright; Helen Laroux; Staci Anderson; Catherine Hammon; Marilyn Laroux; Mary Martinez; Benny Remedies; Frances Sepulvado; Gary Bozzell; John D. Ebarb; Elaine Henderson; Pedro Ebarb; Abra Lachaussee; Van Martinez; Elaine Henderson; Wanda J. Rivers; David Louis Moore; Joe Garcia; Doyle Hagieh; Linda Meshell; Draven T. Ebarb; Sue Ellen Remedies; Gerald L. Sepulvado, Jr.' Monica E. McManus; Pedro Ebarb; Derrick Jordan; Allen Ray Garcia; Fr. Williams; Jeanette Garcia; Dage Ebarb; Mattie B. Sepulvado; Kenneth McCormick; Billy Wayne Procell; Sammy Procell; Elsie Ezernack; Robbie Meshell; Tina L. Sepulvado; Phillip & Laura Jones; Vernon & Doris Ebarb; Cheryl Ebarb; Chandler Ebarb; Ann Rivers; Rose Meshell; Yvonne Maskai; Anne Bryant; Laurie & Reinardo Montero; Jimmy Brown; Ace Bowling; Richard Doggett; Ashlie & Eli Nolan; David Nichols; Kevin Leone; Norman & Jeannie Arbuckle; Celena Rivers; Rosella Sepulvado; Michael Dewayne Ebarb; Felicia Whitlow; Jackie Rivers; John Douglas Malmay; Felicia Whitlow; Maggie Manshack; Ronnie Brummerloh; Debbie Rutherford; Judy Ebarb; Tommy Leone; David Meshell; Robert Hersberger; Ricky Cryer; Jacob Wooley; Lucy Burns; Judy Ebarb; Joseph C. Sepulvado; Mark Austin; Benny Ray Sepulvado; Edward Pastureau; Howard Rivers; John LeRoy Meshell; Hosea Meshell; Eddie Remedies; Lula Mae Sepulvado; Anna Sistrunk; Mary Parrie; Punk Ebarb; K.C. Sepulvado; Lula Mae Sepulvado; Harold Ferguson

(The names on the prayer list go through a cycle. Once they make it to the top they are removed as new names are added, to keep the prayer list current. Contact the office to add, re-add, or remove names from the list. Thank you.)

The Ascension of the Lord

- In the near future there will be ad space on the back of the bulletin. If you are interested in advertising your business please leave a name and contact number with the office. Ray from the company has been making calls to some of the local businesses and leaving messages to those he was not able to speak to.

- We will post information as we receive it on our Facebook page and website.
- Although we can not have an actual mass we are leaving the church open from 7 AM until 5 PM at St. Joseph for those to have private Adoration and prayer.
- Thank you to those who have continued to respond with contribution envelopes.
- Anyone in need of spiritual help during this time, Fr. Ampatt can be reached at 318-426-0142.

Week of: May 24

Sanctuary Candle St. Joseph Candle
For
Special Intention


Blessed Mother Candle St. Ann's Candle

Adoration will resume on Thursday, May 28 in the small chapel.

Baptism class for parents and Godparents will be **rescheduled for a later date**. Please call 508-0203 to have your name added to the list and you will be informed at a later time of the date and time. Baptism class must be completed before you can schedule your child's baptism date. Any questions please call or text 508-0203.

Collections:

St. Joseph Church Collection:	\$ 5,645.00
Second Collection:	\$ 575.00
St. Ann Collection:	\$ 1,012.00
Second Collection:	\$ 15.00

Office will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day. 

Please remember as you pray...
The family of:
Maurice Martinez

Diocesan Stewardship Appeal 2020 (5/15/2020)	Fam.	Donors	% Fam. Pledged	Goal	Pledged	% Goal Pledged	Pledge Paid	% Pledge Paid
St. Joseph, Zwolle	750	147	20%	\$62,500	\$52,800	84.48%	\$34,092	64.57%
St. Ann, Ebarb	125	36	29%	\$17,000	\$11,195	65.85%	\$5,280	47.16%

The family of Elsie Ezernack would like to thank everyone for their kind words and gestures during this extremely difficult time. Thanks Fr. Joseph Ampatt for the lovely service. Thank you to everyone who sent flowers and food which brought us comfort. Also, thank you to the loved ones who were with us from a distance at the service. You will be remembered in our prayers and please remember us in yours.