



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

May 21, 2023 ▪ Ascension of the Lord

The Ascension is a celebration of two promises



Brother Silas Henderson, SDS

And it's a call to share with others our own experience of the Risen Christ.

While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking 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 1:10-11

My growing appreciation for the feast of the Ascension reminds me of a scene in Marilynne Robinson's novel, *Gilead*, in which Reverend John Ames looks back on a life of pastoral service, love, loss, faith, and hope, and tells his young son:

Sometimes the visionary aspect of any particular day comes to you in the memory of it, or it opens to you over time. For example, whenever I take a child into my arms to be baptized, I am, so to speak, comprehended in the experience more fully, having seen more of life, knowing better what it means to affirm the sacredness of the human creature. I believe there are visions that come to us only in memory, in retrospect.

The New Testament is the story of the expanding vision of the early Church. Having lived alongside Jesus, his followers — including Mary and the Apostles — had to discern what his life, death, resurrection, and return to the Father revealed about who Jesus was and what God was asking of each of them. But, the New Testament also shows us that this process of discovery and discernment didn't take place in a vacuum—it was within the lived experience of the Church that answers to these fundamental questions began to take shape.

An understanding of Jesus' return to the Father—of his ascension into Heaven—was one of those visions "that come to us only in memory, in retrospect," just like the experience of Jesus' resurrection could only be understood after the disciples lived their Easter faith through years of praying, preaching, communion, fidelity, and suffering.

The Solemnity of the Ascension is a celebration of two promises.

First, Jesus has promised that he will send us the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to guide and sustain the growth of the Church. Beyond this, the Ascension also contains a promise about what is now made possible for us in Christ:

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might (Ephesians 1:18-19).

The challenge for us is to live in this promise.

Of course, this feast also celebrates the truth that the Risen Christ took his place in glory, "far above all heavens, that he might fill all things" (Ephesians 4:10). But, when we reflect on the scriptural accounts of the Ascension, we also see how the great Easter themes are also part of this celebration.

Continued on page 2



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM
Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

PARISH OFFICE

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm
1600 54TH AVE S.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712

PHONE

(727) 867-3663

FAX

(727) 864-2679

WEB SITE

<http://btsp.org>
Like us on FaceBook

... Continued from cover

This feast is an invitation for us to reflect on how we are—or are not—continuing this work today, in our communities, parishes, and families. And yet, we also know how easy it is for us to become weighed down by our day-to-day responsibilities and the legion of distractions and diversions that fill our lives.

But the Solemnity of the Ascension reminds us that we are called to greater things: nothing less than sharing with others our own experience of the Risen Christ. This is what the Apostles were about and this is what are called to, as well.

The Ascension of Jesus ultimately prepared the hearts of the Apostles to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. It was grace present in those gifts which inspired their preaching and teaching and which gave life to the Church, even in times of persecution and division.

As Pope St. John Paul II has reflected, “the Holy Spirit makes them *witnesses* and *prophets*. It fills them with a serene courage which impels them to pass on to others their experience of Jesus and the hope which motivates them” (*Redemptoris Missio*, 24). This same Spirit is offered to us in Baptism and Confirmation, missioning us to also be Christ’s witnesses and prophets.

How is God inviting you to share your faith with others? When have you received the gift of someone else’s faith and hope? How did that gift change you? As we look towards Pentecost and the end of the Easter Season, how does this feast invite you to reflect on your own commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus?

Words of Wisdom: “‘Go,’ Jesus tells us, even today. In Baptism he conferred upon *each of us* the power to proclaim. Thus, going out into the world with the Lord is part of the Christian identity. It is not only for priests, nuns or the consecrated. It is for all Christians. It is our identity; going into the World with the Lord is our identity. Christians are not stationary, but on a journey: with the Lord towards others.” —Pope Francis in *Exsultate et Gaudete*, no. 135

Reprinted with permission from Aleteia.org

Journeying Through Grief



“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663



May 21, 2023

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mt 28:16-20

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Actions speak louder than words. How many of us have heard or said this exact phrase? I suspect most, if not all of us are quite familiar with this old adage. In fact, this is exactly what we are being told by Jesus himself in today's Gospel when he says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." Jesus continues his direction of *action* by telling us to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We are not directed to simply speak about Jesus with our families and church communities, we are told to **GO** among all nations and add to Jesus' flock. We continue Christ's mission when we seek to spread his love. Before Jesus joined his Father in heaven, his instructions were very clear. This is an opportunity to think about the commission we were given as part of the baptized community, and how Jesus is asking us to take action in his name.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Easier said than done. We've all heard that one as well. It's hard to feel equipped to spread the word and the will of God. We worry our words will fail us and we will look foolish. We know we are not perfect, and wonder if that means we cannot possibly be Christ's hands and feet on this earth. However, today's reading from Ephesians provides us with the perfect prayer to give us hope and faith in the Holy Spirit as we set out to fulfill the Great Commission given to us in this week's Gospel: "May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him." We are challenged to act for God, but not without being given the tools to do so with confidence.

PRAY Meditate on today's second reading from Ephesians. Read it as if your priest was giving you a blessing before you head out of your house each morning. Let it fill your soul with love and awe for our Father, and let it give you the confidence you need to play an active role in building his kingdom until he comes again.



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

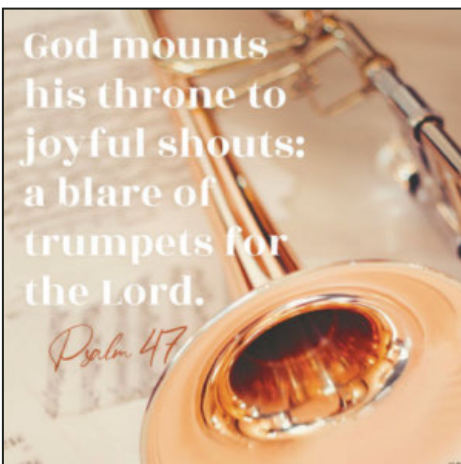
Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 20, Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest, Religious
8:00 a.m. Steve Mercer (Dec)

Saturday, May 20, Vigil for the Ascension of the Lord
4:00 p.m. James Schlander (Dec)

Sunday, May 21, The Ascension of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Art Hanley (Dec)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. John Romani, Jr. (Dec)

Monday, May 22, Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious
8:00 a.m. Gerald Hayman (Dec)

Tuesday, May 23, Easter Weekday
8:00 a.m. John Doheny (Dec)

Wednesday, May 24, Easter Weekday
8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, May 25, Venerable Bede, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Gregory VII, Pope, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, Virgin
8:00 a.m. Rita Heilman (Dec)

Friday, May 26, Memorial of Saint Philip Neri, Priest
8:00 a.m. Theresa & John Cirillo (Dec)

Saturday, May 27, Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
8:00 a.m. JoAnn Marchase (Dec)

Saturday, May 27, Vigil for Pentecost
4:00 p.m. Mary Di Donatis (Dec)

Sunday, May 28, Pentecost
8:00 a.m. JoAnn Marchase (Dec)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Giovanni Romani (Dec)

Finding New “Life in the Spirit”

It is God’s desire that we live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit!



If you feel that you have not been growing in the Life of the Spirit, could it be that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation have been neglected or are lying dormant in you and need to be re-awakened?

You will have the opportunity to receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, experience an intensified awareness of the Presence and power of the Holy Spirit and find “New Life” in the Spirit when you join us...

- Bring “Brown Bag” Lunch. Drinks will be provided. **and**
- On Saturday, May 27 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Parish Center

Call the Parish Office @ 867-3663 to **SIGN IN** or for more information.

All are welcome!

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

05/21 • Rev. Eric Peters
05/22 • Rev. Leonard Plazewski
05/23 • Rev. Vivaja Polamarasetty
05/24 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
05/25 • Rev. Christian Galvan
05/26 • Rev. Kyle D. Smith
05/27 • Bishop Emeritus Robert N. Lynch

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Vocations

Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?

Call Father Chuck Dornquast 727-345-3452 or write: scd@dosp.org

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

We Are Family

I am looking forward to an empty nest. It isn't that I do not love my children or that I will not miss them. I am simply looking forward to catching up on life. I look forward to times when there is no one else there except for my wife. It will be a time to ourselves that I hope will be time well spent. I look forward to the days when my children will visit (with grandchildren, I hope!). There will be occasions we visit them as well (to see grandchildren, I hope!). The truth is, even though we will not be living in the same house, we will never be too far from one another. We belong to each other no matter what.

That is how it is with family. When we become disciples of Jesus Christ, we belong to him. We are family. Our greatest gift to give is our very selves to one another. Jesus gave all of himself to us. Even though he ascended to his Heavenly Father, he remains with us in love and grace, especially in the Holy Eucharist. He has shown us how to love and how to be family. Even when we cannot see him, Jesus remains with us. Hopefully, we can follow in that example and give of ourselves fully and be there for those we love whenever they need us, especially if they need us to watch the grandchildren. (It is a ways away, but I want to plant the seeds now!)

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

Everything you wanted to know about your faith

Discover all the best Catholic content in one place. Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks and audio dramas, and a great selection of popular e-books—all just a click away!

It's free, it's Catholic, and it's our gift to you!

formed.org TJQ622 access code



Seeking Christ in One Another

The funeral luncheon, the Irish wake, the vigil at an ailing loved one's bedside: in times of crisis, people gather. In moments of sadness, fear, and confusion, we gravitate toward one another. For some reason, the feelings are so much more bearable when we are not alone.

I'm sure that the disciples and their companions, gathered in the upper room after the Lord's Ascension, did all of the things we typically do at these functions. I'm sure they hugged and talked and shared food, processing together the remarkable events they had witnessed.

But we don't hear about any of that. We hear only that they prayed — fervently, and together.

Saint John Paul II famously said that "it is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you." And I think that, whenever we gather, in good times or in bad, we think we are seeking companionship — but we are actually seeking God.

As I think back on the last few crisis-gatherings my family has had, I try to remember when we have stopped everything to pray together. I can think of a few times, but to be honest, they are *too* few. We are usually occupied with more practical tasks: planning the funeral, talking to the doctor, making the decisions, ordering the food. Just trying to survive through it.

But this is the busywork of sorrow, and it is a waste of our time. We would do better to follow the example of the disciples and remember that, in these dire moments, God is waiting for us.

"Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks." — Psalm 27

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

GULF COAST CATHOLIC
www.GulfCoastCatholic.org

SIGN UP TODAY ✓

**Your Stories.
Your Life.
Your Faith.**

Sign Up to Receive our Free Weekly Update - The Wednesday Wave

1. Visit www.GulfCoastCatholic.org/Subscribe
2. Text CoastCatholic to 84576 and Follow the Instructions
3. Scan the Code on this ad with your Phone Camera or QR Code Reader App

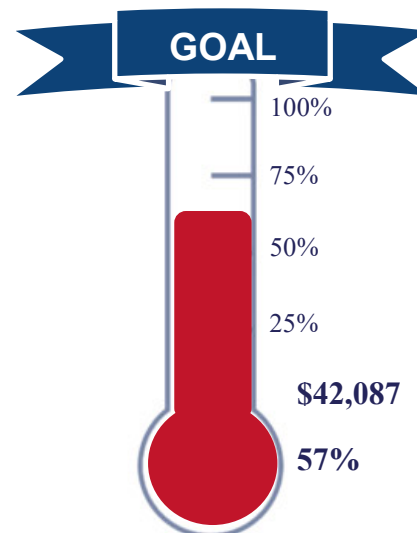


A Ministry of the Diocese of St. Petersburg



DIocese of ST. PETERSBURG
**CATHOLIC
MINISTRY**
Appeal

2023 Goal \$74,446.52



**Thank you for your
prayerful giving!**



Keep in touch with us!

Text BTSP to 84576 or connect
with us online at
btsp.flocknote.com

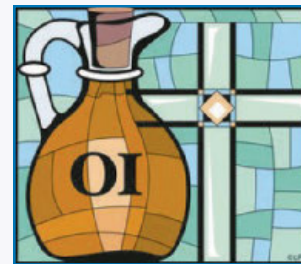
PART-TIME COOK NEEDED

Missionaries of Africa Community Retirement Home (9 men) in St. Petersburg has an immediate opening for a cook, to provide meals for lunch and supper on Saturday and Sunday. If you, or someone you know may be interested in this hourly position, please send an e-mail to star30@verizon.net.

Contact Denise at 813-215-9535 with any questions you may have regarding this position.

Arnold, Barbara
Barr, Bill
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Cavaliere, Lois
Christ, Kathryn
Comeau, Teresa
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
Feldes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt
Irvin, John and Marsha
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana

Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Mays, Susan
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Riley, Marie
Roberts, Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



DEBRA ARCAMONTE

Realtor® | Luxury Property Specialist

(727)409-0754

debra.arcamonte@floridamoves.com
www.DebraArcamonteFloridaRealtor.com

3637 4th Street N. Suite 100
St. Petersburg, FL 33704



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group LLC

Complete Plumbing Services & Supplies Johnnie Jones Plumbing Co.

Founded by Carl H. Jonasson Sr.

Barbara J. Pace CFC 1427395

727-323-2300 27247 23rd Ave. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713-4318

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Become an advocate for long-term care residents today. To learn more call toll-free:

1-888-831-0404

Ombudsman.ElderAffairs.org

 FloridaOmbudsmanProgram



FLORIDA
OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM
ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

THANK YOU!
Johnnie Jones
Plumbing
For all your great and professional work in my Home!!
Cecile Maharne

MARSHALL LAWN & PEST CONTROL
Lawn Spraying • Fertilizing
Household Pests
Serving Pinellas County Since 1983
727-528-3224

catholicmatch®
Florida



CatholicMatch.com/FL

Brett Funeral Home & Cremation Services

4810 Central Avenue
Tel. 727-321-3321
www.brettfuneralhome.net
Catholic Owned & Operated Since 1960



BOSS LAW

PROTECT YOUR FUTURE

Buying or Selling
Your Home?

Let Boss Law Handle
Your Closing
*Blessed Trinity
Parishioners Receive
Friends/Family Discount!*

Christopher W. Boss
Parishioner



727-471-0039 | BossLegal.com



3-D-4-3

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

16-0289