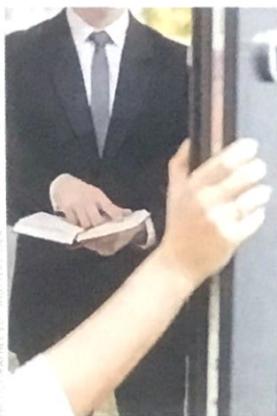


Dear Padre,

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



Words of 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



Rectory & Parish Office

600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860

Mailing Address: PO Box 983

Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405

Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

Website: saintanthonylakin.org

May 15, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
May 16, 9:00 a.m.	K of C
May 22, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
May 23, 9:00 a.m.	Fred Jones
May 29, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
May 30, 9:00 a.m.	Alvin Bergkamp
June 5, 4: 00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
June 6, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
June 12, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
June 13, 9:00 a.m.	K of C
June 19, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
June 20, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman

Molly Shelden DRE	451-0548
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 17	8:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff+
Tuesday, May 18	8:00 a.m.	Ron Gorges+
Thursday, May 20	8:00 a.m.	Private Intention Conv.
Friday, May 21	12:15 p.m.	Private Intention
Saturday, May 22	4:00p.m.	Bamburger Family
Sunday, May 23	9:00 a.m.	For Rain

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD—MAY 19 2021



GO INTO THE WHOLE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE (MARK 16:15)

Friends, how do we fulfill Jesus’ instruction “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature?”

The best ways to “proclaim the Gospel” I think, is to provide people the kind of experiences Jesus provided people time and time again as with his miracles and his Resurrection and his Ascension--- experiences that make people pause and wonder if there isn’t something more to this life than what we can see, that there is a reason to believe in a God who loves us and saves us and is with us always. And what are these experiences, these “wow” moments that are hard to deny?

Forgiving someone who has hurt us deeply. Giving generously --- even when we have little. Reaching out with patience and kindness and compassion to those who have a hard time believing that anyone loves them. Refusing to accept common prejudices and biases and judgments about others. Facing our tragedies and disappointments and sorrows with hope and trust. Putting others’ needs before our own.

These are the kinds of things that speak volumes about who we are and what we believe is important. These are the experiences that can truly impact others in a positive way, help others understand that a life of faith is one that truly makes a difference --- for the believer and for all the people they encounter. May we truly take these words of Jesus to heart, and understand them not narrowly, but in the broadest sense possible. The truth is, it took some incredible things from Jesus for his friends to believe. May our lives also show some pretty incredible things to others --- show them a goodness and holiness and kindness and compassion that can’t do anything but help them believe a little more deeply, trust a little more confidently, and embrace a life of love a little more tightly. That’s the Good News people need to hear and see and experience.

Fr. Peter Tran

COLLECTION for May 9, 2021: Envelopes: \$480; Loose: \$65; Online Giving: \$2226.15; Total \$2771.15; +Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under (+1009.98)

Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

THANK YOU Molly Sheldon will be stepping down next year as the Director of Religious Education. A profound THANK YOU for her many years of faithful service to our parish as DRE. Her generous time, talent, patience, kindness, and love for our children to learn more about the Lord and His Church are greatly appreciated. May the loving God reward her and pour down many blessings upon her.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS we would like to extend your congratulations to your newly Baptized, Layne Saathoff, daughter of Mark and Kristin Saathoff who was baptized on May 9, 2021. Welcome to God's family in the Church! May our Loving God continue to pour down His abundant blessings upon Layne and her family.

SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you, Twila and your family on the passing of your beloved husband, Harold Smith. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May He Rest In Peace!

MASS DISPENSATION Apostolic Administrator Gerald Vincke has announced the dispensation from attending Mass will be lifted on Pentecost weekend, which is May 22 to 23, in our diocese. The dispensation will still be in place for the elderly, those who are immune-compromised, those who are sick, etc.

DIACONATE ORDINATION Bishop Gerald Vincke will ordain John Stang to the order of Deacon 10 O'clock in the Morning on Saturday, June 19, 2021 at Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge city. Please pray for him.

RUMMAGE SALE Plans are to have your Rummage Sale this Summer. There has not been a date set at this time. We would like to start collecting items. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact any of the following:

Jana Jenkinson	290-5201	Janet Rooney	640-1946
Tressa Powers	260-6247	Jane Sullivan	355-5118
Carolyn Robertson	290-5569	Gwen Waechter	272-1030

VOCATION VIEW We are called to live in accord with the calling we have received, whether as priest, religious, married or single; encouraging one another by the example of our lives. (Eph. 4:1)

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Jesus is the perfect steward – watching carefully over all who had been entrusted to Him by the Father and then sending them all out into the world in service. May I similarly protect and wisely use the gifts entrusted to me!

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (Adapted from a prayer by St. Bernard of Clairvaux) Lord Jesus Christ, to complete your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, you ascended through the air into the heavens before the very eyes of the apostles. In this way you showed that you are the Lord of all and the fulfillment of all creation. May every human being and every living creature bow down at your name. Give us the eyes of faith to see that all creation proclaims your greatness. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - ASCENSION OF THE LORD (MARK: 16:15-20)

Extra ending Mark ended his Gospel with verse 8. Later editors, perhaps uncomfortable with Mark's abrupt ending, added verses 9-20. Although these verses are very different from Mark's writing style and his themes, they've been part of this Gospel since the second century.

Proclaim & baptize Jesus' command to his followers that they proclaim the gospel and baptize those who come to believe in him echoes Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20. Whoever added verses 15-16 to the end of Mark's Gospel probably had these two passages in mind.

Signs that accompany them Some of the signs promised here are mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament. • Earlier in Mark's Gospel Jesus sends his disciples to preach, drive out demons, and heal the sick (3:13-18; 6:7-13) • Speaking in new languages is a sign of the holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-12 • Acts 28:3-6 is a brief story in which Paul is bitten by a venomous snake but isn't harmed The New Testament doesn't, however, contain references to Jesus' followers consuming poison (www.oursundayreadings)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Acts 1: 1-11)

The prologue Luke begins his second book according to literary custom. He briefly sums up what happened in his first book (the Gospel). Then he prepares his hearers for what will happen in his second book. **Theological geography** Luke also connects his two works geographically. Jesus goes up to Jerusalem, then up to heaven. The holy Spirit comes down from heaven upon the disciples, who then go from Jerusalem to the rest of the known world. Jesus' mission ends in Book One. The church's mission begins in Book Two. **Restoring Israel** When the disciples ask if Jesus is going to restore Israel (v.6), they seem to expect a physical change like the end of Roman rule. This isn't the kingdom that Jesus came to establish, however. Throughout Acts Luke notes the peace, unity, and joy that prevails in the church as it grows. Exactly how the church spreads and when everyone will become believers isn't for the disciples to know. They should concentrate instead on following the Spirit, for the Spirit is bringing about the kingdom they seek. **Ascension** In both Jewish and Gentile writings people who were revered were sometimes portrayed as having been taken up into heaven. Their ascension was a metaphor for divine approval. Luke draws on this imagery to show not only that God approves of Jesus but that Jesus shares God's power. • In the Book of the Prophet Daniel one like a Son of Man comes on the clouds of heaven to exercise judgment (Daniel 7:13-14) • The prophet Elijah is caught up to heaven in a whirlwind, after which his successor, Elisha, shares his power to speak in God's name (2 Kings 2:9f). Jesus is like Elijah, and his disciples are like Elisha. **Empowerment** The disciples are witnesses of Jesus' ascension, just as there were witnesses of his empty tomb. In both cases two men appeared to confirm what happened to Jesus and to redirect his followers. Once Jesus ascends he is no longer physically constrained, so he can be spiritually and sacramentally present everywhere. He now empowers his disciples to continue his mission. Just as the holy Spirit guided Jesus during his ministry, so now the Spirit leads his followers during theirs. (www.oursundayreadings)

CATHOLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus? Why was she so young?

A. These two questions are actually hard to answer with accuracy. In many ways, the answers remain a mystery. But here are some thoughts.

From a theological perspective we can say that God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus because she, herself, was the Immaculate Conception. This means that she was the only fitting mother for God in the flesh. Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother in a miraculous way in that she was conceived without sin. God chose to bestow upon her a “preservative grace,” meaning, God preserved her from all stain of sin, including Original Sin, at the moment of her creation in the womb of her mother. Of course, He did this so that she would be a fitting vessel for God the Son to become incarnate in her womb. The grace that preserved her came from the Cross of her Son Jesus, but it transcended time so as to free her at the moment of her conception. Thus, her Son was her Savior even though He had not yet been born in time. If that’s confusing, try to ponder it for a while. It’s a great mystery of faith and a deep one also.

Additionally, Mary chose to remain free from sin throughout her life. Just as Adam and Eve were born without sin, so was Mary. But unlike Adam and Eve, Mary never freely chose to sin throughout her life. This made her the perfect vessel for the Son of God. Her body and soul were perfect making her the perfect instrument.

But this only answers your question from one perspective. You may also be wondering, “But why Mary?” This is a question that is hard, if not impossible, to answer. It’s most likely a matter of God’s mysterious will. Perhaps God, who can see all things and knows all people even before they are born, looked at all women from all time and saw that Mary was the one who would never freely choose to sin. And perhaps for that reason God chose to gift her with the Immaculate Conception. But this is ultimately a mystery of faith that will be revealed only in Heaven.

As for your second question, “Why was she so young,” this may be easier to answer from a historical perspective. Today, in the twenty-first century, it’s uncommon for a fifteen-year-old girl to marry and have a child. But it wasn’t that way back then. When Mary had Jesus, she was not seen as being a dependent child but as a young woman ready to start a family. So it’s always important to try to understand the culture of the time when considering questions of history. (www.mycatholic.life)

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD RISE TO THE OCCASION

Today’s Feast of the Ascension gives wide recognition to a rather complex idea—that Christ both ascended to heaven *and* remains with us. In fact, we get a taste of heaven when we unify ourselves with Jesus in spirit and action. Saint Augustine taught “although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace.” From attending Mass to aiding the needy, on this feast day we can all take a step toward unity with Christ. (Prepare the Word)

LA ASCENSION DEL SEÑOR LAS COSAS BUENAS VIENEN DE LUGARES INESPERADOS

Puede que nos haga sonreír escuchar el motivo por el que estamos obligados a amar a los demás: porque Dios nos ama primero. Y si Dios puede amarnos (¡seamos sinceros!), está claro que no es necesario ganarse el amor. En esta Jornada Mundial de las Comunicaciones Sociales, el Papa Francisco nos invita a considerar cómo el futuro apóstol Nathaniel desestimó una vez a Jesús debido a sus orígenes: “¿Puede salir algo bueno de Nazaret?” Para amar realmente a las personas, tenemos que empezar por no categorizarlas: por género o raza, nacionalidad o religión, lengua materna o partido político. ¡Incluso Nazaret guarda sorpresas!